

Ranch and Range.

ISSUED EVERY WEEK

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OUR PERPETUAL EXPERIENCE MEETING.

The following questions are addressed to every subscriber whose experience will enable him or her to give a reply. Answers should be made out as promptly as possible and forwarded to the Seattle office of RANCH AND RANGE.

1. What fruit pests are found in your neighborhood?
 2. What spraying solutions do you use?
 3. (a) How many times a year and at what periods do you spray? (b) Do you prune before spraying?
 4. How do you prepare the different spraying solutions? Read over carefully the different solutions printed in this issue that are recommended by the Washington State Board of Horticulture and see if you follow directions given in making up your solutions. If not tell in what respect and why. If you see any point in these solutions that you think is not right please say so.
 5. What kind of spray apparatus do you use? Do you think the pump you use is the best and most economical?
 6. If you are troubled with codlin moth what success have you had in exterminating same? Describe remedies tried.
 7. What treatment have you applied for San Jose scale?
 8. (a) If you have not succeeded in ridding your orchard of these pests see if any of your neighbors have? (b) If so describe the remedies used.
 9. Do you find that any spraying compound you or your neighbors have used injured the leaves, fruit, limbs or body of your trees?
 10. It is claimed that lye scalds the trees. Have you noticed any evidences of this?
 11. If you have learned anything of value by your own experience about fighting insect pests describe same fully.
 12. There have been many patent spraying compounds placed on the market. Have you ever tried any of them?
 13. Do you believe that spraying pays? Answer this question fully, stating why and in what ways.
- If you have any questions to ask, write them out, send them in at once, and replies by the best authorities will be promptly given.

By request we give below a list of questions regarding alkali land:

1. Does alkali seem to increase on irrigated soils?
2. What do you think is the cause of its spreading?
3. What methods have you used in fighting it, and with what success?
4. What crops, tame or wild, grow best on alkali soils?
5. Do you want to know the cause and cure for alkali?

In all irrigated districts throughout the universe this subject of alkali is to be confronted. Alkali in mild forms is to be found in the irrigated districts of the Northwest and the questions asked are for the purpose of gathering complete information about same and bringing out the most efficient remedies for removing it from the land.

FUTURE OF HORSE BREEDING.

In common with the great and protracted depression in all lines of business throughout our great country, horse breeders have come in for their full share of misfortune, and many fine breeding studs and importing and breeding companies have been driven to the wall and out of existence in the past few years, until the common workhorse was nearly worthless and would not sell for as much cash as would buy his keep for the winter, and some had said the days of his glory had passed and he is only a back number, to live only in fond memory and historical recitations. But to my prophetic eye man's best friend and servant has a far different role to play in the world's great drama of life, progress, civilization and humanity. What will the call of Japan for 20,000, of China for 30,000 light cavalry horses; the 50,000 heavy cavalry and 20,000 heavy draft horses for Europe mean; and still again a call for 20,000 to 30,000 light horses for various purposes in Alaska and 10,000 draft horses on the west coast, added to continual demand east of from 1,200 to 1,500 a week of the best horses the world can produce? What does all this mean to us? It means such a call for horses at such prices as we have not seen for several years. And, think of it! This and much more within six

to ten months. There will be a grand good change in those few months. Let it come. We can stand all such changes and not grumble. But what must we do to get the best out of what we have on hand and be ready for future calls, which will be made for more horses as time goes by? First, get up all the good colts from three years up and tame and break them.

Now, as to the various breeds of horses, I think the best all-around general purpose horse that my fifty years' experience has known was the saddle horse of Kentucky, a combination thoroughbred Messenger Hambletonian and Kentucky stamp. For uniform size, color (bay), endurance and intelligence I have never seen their equal. You could make 100 matched teams in a week with not more than two shades difference in the color of them all, and all round, compact, smooth, ivory-legged, that never stock, and kind and intelligent enough to learn and do as you wish much sooner than any other horse that I ever met.

The draft breeds are Clydesdale, a Scotch horse of great bone, muscle, endurance and good common sense. In many hot contests in Scotland, in England and in shows in the Eastern states and Canada he has won the first and sweepstake prizes when and wherever shown, and the supreme test of hoof and legs on the rock pavements of the great cities of Europe and America, where the Clyde stands the chief of draft horses. The English Shire horse is a Clyde bred in England, and sometimes a cross of Clyde with English draft or Belgian blood. Both are mongrels and are fairly good horses, but are not the equal of the Clyde in his purity by a long way.

The Percheron, mis-called Norman oftentimes by those not posted in the history of horses and the several names of different breeds, is a native of La Perche, and superior to those of Normandy or Bulona. The Percheron is a strong, heavy horse, with a light bone for his flesh, and a fiery, nervous temperament in too many of them; and that dirty gray is too common a color with them for my eye. And then the hips seem tucked in and the stifle not filled down as it should be. Often the hind legs are too crooked for strength or beauty, and the bone too light from hock and knee down, and many of their hoofs are so brittle that they break, split and cripple easily—then you have no horse. The feet, the legs, the disposition and constitution make the horse's value.

And now the cayuse and mongrel that for a few years has been considered a curse rather than blessing has found his place. For two or three years Alaska will be his field of action, and many are already being bought for that destination. As winter closes and the demand will be urgent, prices will go up. Catch them all up, break them to ride or pack, as they seem most fit, but let them go Klondiking. We don't want them here.

Give them all good keeping, so they will show up well, and then we can ask and get a good price, according to the quality, of whatever we have on the market. Next, breed only our best mares to the best stallions in our vicinity. The price of service should count but little in the consideration. Breed for a purpose; the horse you want for your own use or the horse that is sure to pay you best to sell. Now this must depend on each man's own judgment and his surrounding circumstances. If he has well-bred driving or trotting mares, the best driver or trotter in his locality is the one he should patronize. The medium to heavy draft mares should be bred to the best draft stallions obtainable. Medium to heavy draft horses are the quickest sellers at the most uniform prices. They are the farmer's horse to raise.

As coming events cast their shadows before, I try to look into the future along this line, and, knowing certain facts and causes, try to see what effect they will produce, and I have come to the conclusion that before we can raise colts of a proper working size and age the prices will be amply remunerative, very particularly on this coast, where it costs so little to bring them to maturity.

Now, if I have said anything that may do any one any good, may cheer some poor man with more horses than feed or money, or help some one to hope and look for a market for his surplus stock, or shall help some one to decide to breed for some certain purpose a certain type of horse, my object is accomplished and I am rewarded amply.