

THE HILLS OF YAKIMA.

The Yakima Republic in its issue of two weeks ago contained a good article showing that the apparently sterile hills of the Yakima valley are really capable of being made quite productive, and cites a number of instances where farming is being successfully carried on at tributary high-land points.

We extract the following from the article:

"There has been a practical demonstration this week of the soundness of our argument. On Saturday a contract was entered into by eleven Hollanders and two Frenchman, whereby government land there will be immediately settled upon and improved.

"The thirteen heads of families agreed to put into a pool \$25 each, which money is to be used in boring an artesian well just this side of the Tucker Leach ranch, near the Columbia river. The Spratt & Haines well-boring apparatus has been leased for the work, and the drilling will be kept up night and day until water is struck.

"The colonists left on Monday for their new home, which is about 25 miles from this city. They number fully 60 people. There are forty-four younger and older children in the party, all being married but two. This little nucleus of a colony will no doubt soon be heard from as growing and thriving second to no other community in the county."

The Republic, however, has overlooked bringing out the fact that the brown hills of Central Washington have, for a third of a century, furnished pasturage for hundreds of thousands of livestock. The immense range area within and tributary to Yakima county give an income in surplus cattle, horses, sheep and wool that makes up a very large part of the circulating medium of its people. Were it not for those "precipitous hills" stockraising would by no means have the importance it does, and it is doubtful if the immense and constantly increasing quantity of hay would find such a ready winter consumption right on the farms. We note that alfalfa in Yakima valley is now selling for \$5@6 in the stack for sheep and cattle feeding. In such a district, where there are raised three to four crops of alfalfa and six, seven and even ten tons per acre secured (this latter amount having been harvested on the Roselawn farm, at Parker, this year, according to the letter of R. D. Read, published in our columns two weeks ago) it will be seen that such a brisk demand means much to the producers. Those hills are not waste land, and the respect of all citizens of this state for them will increase when their full value becomes known.

AT ITS OLD TRICKS.

This section is at its old trick of growing wheat to the neglect of the side industries of agriculture. It is again importing eggs, butter, poultry, meats and pork products by the carload, and paying distant states for them with the gold washed from its placers and taken from its veins. This practice is responsible for the draining away of practically all the gold and silver the West has taken from its mountains for the past half century. Will it ever end?

When hard times came knocking at the door in 1893-4, the Pacific Northwest quit the evil practice. Spokane not only ceased bringing in eggs, but shipped eggs in carload lots to the Montana mining camps. Imports of poultry, butter and pork products practically ceased, and the people were delighted with the change from the gross, corn-fed pork of the Mississippi valley to the sweeter and more wholesome wheat-fed product of the Palouse.

In that way the country tided over the hard times, and this section, by reason of its superior resources, was the first portion of the United States to come out into the sunshine of better times. Now we are off again on the wrong road.

It is hard to induce the American people to weigh things in true balances. Five or six million dollars have been brought out of the Klondike country the past year, and the whole nation is carried away with the glamour of gold. Yet this yellow dust from Alaska is not a tithe of the value of the egg product of the United States in a single year. The census returns show that the United States, in 1890, produced 819,722,116 dozen eggs. At 10 cents a dozen, these would have a market value of more than \$81,000,000, or \$20,000,000 more than California's gold yield in its years of greatest production.

In the same year the United States produced 1,024,200,468 pounds of butter. At 20 cents per pound, this would have a value of more than \$204,000,000. In other words, the value of the butter product of the United States alone was greater in 1890 than the entire yield of the world's gold mines.

The safe and easy way to get Klondike gold is to grow food products from the fertile soil of the Pacific Northwest, and exchange it for the miner's money.—Spokane Review.

BARBED WIRE—BRANDING.

I frequently see inquiries in your paper about how to treat horses that have been injured by barbed wire. In the past two years there have been several colts and matured horses in this part of the country badly cut, some across the breast more than a foot in length—so bad that the cut would be four or five inches wide and evidently from two to three inches deep. It would seem as if the only successful treatment for cuts of this kind would be to stitch the separated parts together, but this was not done. Other horses were cut in the back part of the fore pastern, two to three inches wide, and others on the back of the knee. Many of these injuries were inflicted in the heat of summer, during fly time. The treatment for all the above cuts was this: As soon as discovered, and in some instances after months of treatment with liniments, salves, etc., without a healthy healing, the cuts were washed with castile soap, then they were sprayed with a weak solution of carbolic acid, and then I dusted on fresh air-slacked lime, all that would adhere. I treated cuts in this way daily. Cuts treated in this way do not require wrapping up or covering in any way. All have healed without leaving any rough callous or enlargement—only a slight scar or mark. I think this treatment would be good where horses get their hind pasterns burned or cut by a stake-rope or otherwise.

There is a constant complaint being made about the injury done to cattle hides by having the very best parts of the skin burned by the branding iron—the iron being used largely on the side, hip or shoulder. In order to avoid this and still have a first-class brand put the brand on the jaw. The hair is shorter there and it will always show plainer; besides this is not a valuable part of the hide—at least, so harness makers inform me. For years I have branded my horses and cattle on the jaws. The branding iron should be made with a sharp edge where it leaves its print. Iron should be made open; that is, it should not close all round like a letter O or like the letter P, for the inclosed part is liable to scald or blister and make a bad brand.—W. C. Myer, Jackson Co., Ore., in Breeder's Gazette.



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