

RANCH AND RANGE.

Vol. 3, No. 50.

SEATTLE and SPOKANE, WASH., MARCH 19, 1898.

\$1.00 Per Year.

The Prospect for Western Washington Farmers in 1898.

The season at present is almost ideal for farm work. The great bulk of our products of last fall are now disposed of, and at reasonable prices, the great Alaska demand having been, and still being of great benefit to us. The mild season enables us to get our land in cultivation early, enabling us to have a chance to harvest early. Let us not forget, the first and last in the market generally obtain the best prices; for such there is almost a certainty for demand.

Our last crop prices compare well with those of a few former years. Potatoes have averaged about \$9 per ton; baled hay, \$10; onions, \$40 a ton; milk, 10c a gallon, and best of all, there has been a demand for it, and still is.

Alaska is being carried "by storm." Thousands are going in, weekly adding to the thousands already there. Those will have to be supplied. Vegetables are in demand and will be in great demand, and out evaporators can put up, and will put up, large quantities. Every kind of garden produce will be required and our Condensed Milk company must keep up the pace.

How essential, therefore, for us producers to deliver the very best quality, so that our patrons can see and supply the best article, thereby giving their goods that reputation desirable to establish a preference, and thus add to our certainty of a market.

Let our creameries have the milk of right quality and delivered in good condition, so as to effectually compete with the "oleo" going up in original packages, for unless our dairy products are superior to the "tallow fat" and "dead horse" products we cannot expect to sell at higher prices. The "oleo" people will try and compensate for lack of quality by excellence in packing and "fine clothes," but our fellow citizens can tell, even in Alaska, a good cheese branded "full cream," Wash., from a "skim deck" or filled, and I want them to be able to instantly select our "Washington Dairy butter" from "tallow jack."

If our legislature (national) could only be induced to pass a law coloring "oleo" black (if black is a color), as the United States courts have held in Minnesota, that the state law can compel "oleo" to be colored "pink," what a great benefit it would be to our Washington dairy men.

Our canneries should put up our fruits and berries, our evaporators should put up our garden products, including onions, cabbage and potatoes; our dairies the best of butter, cheese and cream, and we should be zealous in giving them the best our soils can produce.

Let us try for a "great stake" on our farms and do all we can to assist ourselves, our products, counties and beloved state.

It is worthy of our best efforts.

JAMES HART,

Vice-Pres. State Dairymen's Association.
Christopher, King Co., Wash., March, 1898.

PRESIDENT HILL, THE STOCKMAN.

James J. Hill, the man who, by the sheer force of his own efforts, has become recognized as one of the greatest railroad magnates of the world, takes deep interest in the right development of the agricultural resources along the line of road controlled by him, which

reaches far over three thousand miles across the continent. At the recent stock breeders' convention at St. Paul, Mr. Hill delivered the following address in his capacity of fellow breeder and demonstrated his right to be classed with the most scientific and practical breeders of the day. We regret that lack of space forbids the publication of his speech in full. A very interesting interchange of questions and replies occurred after his speech, in which Mr. Hill was the center of attraction. Among other salient points dwelt upon by Mr. Hill, he spoke particularly upon the subject of the breeder feeding and preparing his stock for the market. Mr. Hill said:

"A farmer feeding his wheat to stock can get 1 cent per pound for his wheat and \$10 per ton for his hay. That is much more than the average farmer sells his product for. The farmers in Minnesota ship their steers to other states where they are fed for beef and sent to Chicago or Omaha and killed. The same beef comes back and is distributed throughout the Northwest. The farmer pays the freight on the difference in the price of his dressed beef and at the same time sells his steers at a lower figure because they are not ready for killing. I have tried since 1883 to get the farmer to diversify his farming. I feel encouraged after all these years that my efforts were not entirely in vain. When I commenced to distribute cattle in 1883, I do not think there was a milch cow in the whole Red River valley district. The estimate of our agent at Minot showed last year that 40,000 more cattle had been shipped from that district than from all the country between Minot and the Pacific. Some years ago I bought some prize-winning pigs in England, and brought them to this country, and I discovered that we had just as fine stock in this country.

"The successful farmer feeds as much of the product of the farm on the ground as possible. I sent a man to Northern England and Scotland some time ago, and he brought back some of the hardy beef-making Shorthorn cattle of that country. There they had, to a great extent, stopped milking the better class of cows, thus adding to the price of the stock.

"I found the Scotch Shorthorns excellent milkers. I have had Shorthorn cows who gave thirty quarts of milk a day. One cow in particular I fed for seven months on grass, with a little bran mixed in, and she gave twenty-eight quarts of milk daily for seven months. We can raise as good cattle here as any place in the world."

For Better Paris Green.

One of the grossest frauds being practiced on the farmers of the Northwest states is the palming off by the druggists to them of adulterated spraying ingredients. We have touched upon this matter before, and mean to keep up the protest until this condition of things will be change and our subscribers can get what they pay for.

Nothing shows more closely the degree to which this adulteration is carried on than the report of the Oregon Experiment Station in Bulletin No. 4, on analyses of eighteen samples of Paris green obtained last year from various sources in Oregon. Nearly one-half of these were adulterated. The common adulter-

ants are gypsum and sodium sulphate (Glauber salts). The effect of the adulterants on the appearance of the Paris green is to render the color lighter. With a microscope capable of magnifying 200 diameters it is comparatively easy to detect the admixture of these materials. There is no easy and sure chemical test which can be applied by everyone for detecting adulterations of Paris green. The following method will often give some idea as to the purity of the article: With the point of a knife place a small pile of the Paris green on a piece of glass held slanting; tap the glass lightly with the knife and the pile will move across the glass leaving a streak on the glass. If the Paris green is pure this path will be a bright green, otherwise it will be more or less white.

Sound Talk.

Many evaporating establishments are now projected in cities and towns throughout the Pacific Northwest. While it is well to have these built, the wise fruit grower will not depend upon them, but will have an evaporator of his own. No prune grower, in particular, can depend upon realizing a reasonable return for his crop unless he is prepared to dry the fruit himself. When he is so prepared, he can either cure his crop at home, or sell the fruit fresh, as seems best at the time, provided there be then a market for the fresh fruit. When a prune grower is obliged to hire some one else to dry his fruit he is very likely to have a troublesome time of it, and to find that there is very little profit in his crop. If he can sell his fresh prunes outright to some person or company engaged in the business of drying, the returns may be more satisfactory.—Oregon Agriculturist.

From W. D. Hoard,

In a letter to the editor of Ranch and Range W. D. Hoard, of Hoard's Dairyman, writes:

"I need not say to you that the National Dairy Union, of which I have the honor to be president, is very grateful for the donation your state association raised, at your meeting, of \$30 for its treasury. The fight that we have been carrying on without salary and paying our own expenses is, I think, warrant enough for the dairymen all over the United States to give us strong, hearty encouragement and helping hand. It would be a very pleasing thing to me if another year I could meet with your association. If some arrangement could be made whereby the trip could be taken without expense, I have no doubt, if my health remains good, but what I would be glad to embrace the opportunity.

"Yours sincerely,

"W. D. HOARD."

The farmers in the neighborhood of Sumner are organizing a co-operative creamery. We understand that the capital stock is \$2,000.

A letter has been received by the council of Spokane, from the Brown Paper Manufacturing company, of Fort Madison, Ia., stating that they are of the impression that Washington straw would make excellent paper, and it is stated that conditions are good for starting a paper factory there.