

RANCH AND RANGE.

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EVERYTHING PROSPERING.

From every section of the state without exception reports come in of a brilliant outlook and very prosperous crop conditions. This is very gratifying, first to the farmer and secondly to all other classes, because when the former prospers every one else is benefited. We give several of these reports below, from various sections, and we could give many more like them if space would permit:

Garfield, Whitman county—The people in our part of the state are in good humor over the prospects in general. We expect that the yield of grain will average from thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre, while the fruit crop will go away beyond the wildest expectations of everybody. We never had such a favorable spring before. We have had just sufficient rain, and the reservoir of moisture below the surface of the ground is just adapted for a large yield of both grain and fruit.

Castle Rock, Cowlitz county—All people engaged in agricultural pursuits are prospering and are firmly of the belief that the crops this year will be a record breaker.

Colfax, Whitman county—If we have another rain one week from now, and the weather after that time is favorable, the crop will be the largest in the history of the state. The average yield will be about twenty-five bushels to the acre, but some sections will run as high as forty and fifty bushels. Of course, we are never sure of our grain until we get it in the sacks and warehouse. We may yet have the ruinous hot winds about the first of July, but we all hope for the better.

Kalama, Cowlitz county—We are perfectly contented with the condition of the fruit crop.

Walla Walla county—I have never seen the wheat fields look more promising than they do today. The yield will be fully as large as the big crop of last year. Nearly all of the Walla Walla wheat is fall sowing, and the grain is now ripening rapidly. Harvest will come in July and August—about our usual time. The acreage is about the same as last year. Walla Walla county's ordinary yield of wheat is about 30,000 tons and it may go even higher this season. Conditions in Columbia county and in Umatilla county, Oregon, are just as favorable.

THE COLVILLE RESERVATION.

In a little while one more rich district will be ready to add its thousands of dollars—indeed, its millions—to the wealth of Washington. Slowly but surely the government is clearing away the obstacles that have shut out farmers from the great Colville reservation. Yards and yards of red tape have been unwound and enough remains to hang two or three dozen department clerks; but it can't last much longer anyway.

Inspecting the Surveys.

"I met Capt. Morris from the land department at Washington, D. C., on the trail in the reservation a few days since," writes John C. Fisher, formerly secretary of Spokane Mining exchange, to the Spokane Chronicle. "He is here for the purpose of examining the section surveys of townships on the north half of the reservation. If he finds them to be

correct that part of the reservation will be thrown open to settlers very soon after his approval is given.

Good as the Palouse.

"In the northwest corner of the reservation a thousand families—more than a thousand—can find farms of 160 acres each. Nor is it arid or scab land. It is land fully equal to that famous region, the Palouse valley—fine, rich, black loam. Last fall I passed through the farming districts on the British Columbia side of the boundary line that adjoins this land. There I saw fields of wheat as fine as any I ever saw in Whitman county and I have seen a great deal.

"Nor is it all wheat land. Vegetables and fruit grow here with little care. There are several fine orchards within a few miles of our camp. The stock range is magnificent—bunch grass of the best quality grows in abundance. All the stock looks in first class condition."

FEEDING PUMPKINS TO PIGS.

Below are given some of the results obtained by Prof. H. T. French, of the Oregon Experiment Station in some experiments on feeding pumpkins.

Six Berkshire pigs were selected for the experiment from two litters raised on the College farm. The pigs were eight months old when the feeding of pumpkins was begun. They were fed for a week before they were weighed and were then weighed once every two weeks for a period of eight weeks. The pumpkins were cut up, the seeds removed, and then cooked. When thoroughly cooled the pumpkins were dumped into a vat and mixed with the day's rations of shorts. The pigs were fed at 8 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. During the period of eight weeks the pigs ate 7,523 pounds of pumpkins and 924 pounds of shorts and gained 499 pounds. Figuring shorts at \$12 per ton, and pumpkins at \$2.50 per ton, the food cost of the gain in weight would be 2 cents per pound.

The average daily gain per pig during the period was one and one-half pounds, which compares favorably with that made from grain rations. The results were quite satisfactory when compared with previous work in feeding grain rations alone. During the last four weeks the pigs consumed the astonishing quantity of twenty-six pounds of pumpkins each per day. The pumpkins were weighed before cooking. It was found necessary to increase the amount of shorts fed toward the end of the feeding period. The pigs were healthy throughout the experiment and were not off their feed at any time.

Experienced butchers pronounced the meat product from these pigs the best they had ever seen. The bacon was not overfat, and was firm in texture.

L. K. Cogswell and partner, Mr. Maynard, who is lately from Wisconsin, have decided to go into the creamery business at Olympia. They expect to put in a plant with a capacity of handling the milk of 1,000 cows. We hope they will make a success of their venture.—Chehalis Bee.

THE SOIL IN OKANOGAN COUNTY.

We reprint below an article taken from that newsy little paper, the Chelan Leader. It deals with the soil there and how it is thought it may be improved, etc., but we will let the article do its own talking:

The manuring of virgin soil, i. e., that which has never had a crop planted in it, may seem, at first thought, like "carrying coal to Newcastle," but when we come to examine the soil with a view of ascertaining its chemical properties, and then compare those chemical ingredients with the elements necessary for the most favorable growth of certain crops, we may be surprised at the result.

Soil Used As a Fertilizer.

We have here, in Okanogan county, a soil which, taken from certain localities, would be used, if available, by the farmer of New England as a fertilizer on his well tilled but worn out farms. It is undoubtedly of volcanic and glacial origin, and in the mineral elements necessary to good crops it is surprisingly rich. From analyses which I had made at Pullman, Wash., it is shown that the soil contains iron, alumina, lime, magnesia, sulphuric acid, chlorine, soda and potash. The water from local springs also contains these elements and carbonic acid gas.

Humus Is Necessary.

Now potash is recognized as the fruit grower's best friend. The analyses of rye and tobacco show that those crops are nearly 50 per cent. lime and potash. But these elements, while present in our soil, are not wholly available without proper cultivation and management of the soil and the admixture of nitrogen, humus, etc., in order to make a "balanced food" for the plant life desired. The most important are nitrogen and humus (decaying vegetable matter), and the way to get these into the soil is to apply barnyard manure liberally and plow under green leguminous crops, such as clover, corn, buckwheat, or in fact any good green crop. It may seem like destroying good property to plow under a thrifty crop, but we will surely get it all back again with big interest and better quality if we give the soil what it needs.

A good way to do this is to raise rye for hay. It makes excellent hay if cut in bloom, and if cut when in bloom it will grow a second crop, which can be plowed under. A better way, though, is to grow a crop of drilled corn or buckwheat and plow under when at its best.

Humus Is Lacking.

Our soil is deficient in humus and nitrogen for the reason that it is untimbered, and the bunch grass and sage brush have never furnished any considerable quantity of decaying vegetable matter.

Now it is shown that we have a soil very rich in mineral elements valuable to the farmer. We can easily add the vegetable elements without expense, and these is no reason why, with coupling a little reasoning with our hard work, we should not beat the world for quality and quantity of crops produced. And again, if the soil is furnished with a proper amount of humus, it will be