

Ranch and Range

With which is consolidated

THE WASHINGTON FARMER,
THE PACIFIC COAST DAIRYMAN,
THE FARMER AND TURFMAN.

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The outlook is good for big stock displays in connection with all the leading fairs this fall. There is more prize money hung up than ever before and the competition promises to be spirited. No stock grower having pure-bred stock can consistently remain away from the ring this year.

WHERE SHOULD THE FARMER TRADE.

The increasing tendency of farmers to patronize the supply houses that exist in large cities, in preference to the home merchant, is a subject that the country press is giving considerable attention to. In a late issue of the *Ellensburg Dawn* appears the following communication, and while the correspondent becomes extreme in his statement that local merchants willfully do injustice to the farmers, still the latter has good cause for complaint on the ground that the average merchant is a purchaser of the farmer's products only when he can buy at home cheaper than he can obtain same from outside points. He will buy bacon from Omaha, butter from Minnesota, eggs from the east or south, and vegetables and fruits from California, whenever it is profitable for him to do so, and the fact that if he patronized the local farmers, even if he paid a little more, would encourage home industry, does not influence him a particle. Here is the letter:

Editor Dawn: Some time since your paper contained an article concerning a gentleman from San Francisco who was in our midst taking orders for groceries, dry goods, hardware, etc., etc. You entered a strong protest against us farmers giving him our orders, and said that we should patronize home merchants, as they helped us pay our taxes and were justly entitled to our trade. Now, this is all very well to talk about, but does the home merchant really stand by the farmers? He says he does, but, on the contrary, we say that he does not. The merchants of Ellensburg have, it seems to us, combined to simply freeze us out, and hence we are sending to Seattle and Tacoma thousands of dollars every month for the various classes of goods which we use and consume on the ranch.

You said further that those business men abroad of whom we ordered, bought not of our farm products. This is not true. More than one house in Seattle is today handling our butter and eggs, and offer to take any of our products. We get better prices in Seattle than your merchants offer, in fact, your merchants refuse to handle any more of our goods than they can possibly help. They ought to look out for markets for such of our products as they think can be sold at a

profit and be prepared to handle the same, but on the other hand they do not do so, and hence we are forced to find a market in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco or St. Paul.

Whenever your merchants are willing to do the fair thing and become satisfied with a fair profit, they will get our trade, and not before. We can stand it as long as they can.

RANCHER.

GOVERNMENT CROP REPORT.

U. S. Department of Agriculture, climate and crop bulletin of the weather bureau, Washington section, for the week ending Monday, August 7, 1899.

Although a trifle warmer than the normal, the week was by no means so hot and oppressive as the preceding one. In the western section there was considerable cloudiness, and in the eastern there were several thunderstorms in different localities. There was a heavy rain and hail storm in Douglas county, and Waterloo, Stevens county, reports a severe hailstorm on the 1st inst., which did much damage to crops over a limited area about four miles square.

In the west the weather was favorable for the completion of haying; an immense hay crop has been secured. Potatoes and root crops are greatly in need of rain; the potato crop will probably be short. Hops are looking well, and quite free from lice. Barley has proven a good crop this year, and has been harvested. Wheat harvest is in general progress in the eastern and southern counties, the cutting being finished in some localities. No threshing has been done yet. Neither the fall nor spring wheat crops are uniform this year, but the consensus of reports appears to show that the yield, especially of spring wheat, is far below the average, both in quality and quantity, except in favored sections. These are where there was abundant moisture, absence of drying winds, and great heat, or where the grain was more than ordinarily advanced early in the season. Clarke county reports well of fall wheat, spring wheat not so good. Walla Walla reports the yield better than was expected a short time ago. From Spokane and Adams counties the reports are mostly unfavorable.

The following selections are made from some of the reports of correspondents:

WESTERN SECTION.

Straits and Lower Sound.—Boston—Heavy thunder showers and rain did much good. Hay is a splendid crop. Potatoes are light. Brinnon—A good crop of hay all saved in first-class order. Pastures fair. Orcas—Cooler. Haying nearly done. Wheat and oats filling nicely. Newhall—Hot, and some grain ripening too fast, and not filling well. Some pease mowed. Doe Bay—Hay all in. Cherries and raspberries plenty. Garden vegetables are looking well. Coupeville—Grain is ripening rapidly; cutting oats begun the 1st. Arlington—Another week will finish haying. Wheat and oats are doing well. Early potatoes poor; late ones doing well.

Upper Sound Country.—Kent—Haying about finished; quality and yield first-class. Hops looking well. Bellevue—Vegetables need rain badly. Pastures getting dried out. Sumner—Potatoes on upland half a crop. Pastures very poor. Gig Harbor—Weather too dry for garden stuff, and pastures are becoming short and dried up. Roy—Haying still in progress. Harvest will begin next week. The grain crop will be light. Hops looking well; picking

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will be late. Marion—Haying finished; a good average crop. Hops are looking fairly well; with a little rain they would make a good crop. Charleston—A relief from the oppressive heat of last week. No rain, but frequent clouds and cool breezes. Colby—Oats and wheat are being harvested; a fair crop. Potatoes are maturing too fast on the uplands. Delphi—Rain is greatly needed. Some potatoes starting to dry up too early. Some gardens are doing real well; root crops on uplands not so well. South Bay—Pastures drying up and getting bare. Potatoes are suffering for want of rain, and will be a very short crop unless it comes soon. Apples would be much benefited by rain. Union—Good week for hay-makers. Cherries nearly all picked; a fair crop. Ballou—Gardens are burning badly. Oats, wheat and barley are all harvested; the crop is good. Blackberries are ripe; the crop is splendid.

Southwest Counties.—Melbourne—Poor weather for haying; one-third of the hay is yet in the field: heavy crop. Ethel—Grain ripening very uneven. Potatoes not over half a crop. Late garden truck in need of rain. Fulton—Haying finished. Early grain ready to harvest. Mossyrock—Fine hay crop saved. Too dry for late sown wheat, peas and garden vegetables. Wildwood—Haying all finished; crop heavy. Potato crop is going to be very light. Skye—Haying finished; good crop. Oats short, but heading well. Potatoes all right, but late. No fruit but blackberries. Cowlitz—Harvesting fall grain begun; will be all ripe next week; heads well filled, and large, plump kernels. Spring grain ripening very fast; will make light crop on account of heat and dry winds. Potatoes doing poorly; ground too dry. Hops growing fine; few lice. Etna—Grain cutting will be general next week; a few fields cut this week. Barberton—Haying finished and grain harvest in full progress. Wheat and oats about a normal crop.

EASTERN SECTION.

Big Bend Country.—Chelan—Farmers cutting grain, which will not be as good as last year. Apricots and peaches getting ripe. Douglas—On August 1 heavy rain, and hail which

did quite a bit of damage; it lay in piles for 36 hours. St. Andrews—Fore part of week hot, and wheat burning. Latter part of week cloudy and cooler, with showers. Crescent—Wind and heat ripened grain fast. Grain is light, with few exceptions. The thunderstorm did not reach our district.

Spokane Country.—Loon Lake—Fine showers; high wind from west. Good for oats and potatoes. Waterloo—Heavy hailstorm on 1st inst., the hardest that has struck this country since settlement. It was local, covering a strip about four miles square. Much garden stuff was destroyed, ripe grain was threshed out, and unripe grain much damaged. Medical Lake—Haying in full progress; timothy pretty poor. Wheat short and thin. East Spokane—Nearly all through harvesting. Threshing now in order. Fairfield—Harvesting winter wheat in full progress. Haying nearly over; a very light crop. Sugar beets doing quite well. Peone—On 30th ult. the heaviest rainfall from a single shower for the past several years. Garden truck and late grain seemed to take on new life.

Adams County.—Bemis—Harvest in full progress; combines and headers running; steam threshers will start next week. Delight—Wheat harvest in full progress; crop according to reports of other parts is fair, but is not of the best here. Fletcher—Grain ripening very slowly. Wheat poor in quality and yield. Barley is fairly good. Griffith—Harvest commenced; threshing will commence next week. Ritzville—Weather has been favorable for harvest, which is now in general progress. Wheat yield is below average in quantity and quality.

Palouse Country.—Hooper—Showers have fallen five miles to the north.

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