

Ranch and Range

With which is consolidated

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

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Washington State Livestock Breeders' Association.

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In the assessment of farm machinery in Minnesota the equalization board struck some hard problems. A representative on the board of the county known as Fillmore fought the proposition to raise the county's assessment on farm machinery from a hundred thousand to a hundred and thirty thousand. He struck a chord that may be applied to very many sections when he objected to the raise on the ground that Fillmore was a dairy county and the board would find a liberal return in the dairy and cattle column and not in the wheat or grain column. The raise was not decided on.

The oleomargarine law in Minnesota has been tried and found unconstitutional, according to the legal reasoning of Judge Lochren. This decision is a hard blow to the Minnesota state dairy and pure food commission, at whose instance the St. Paul agent of the Hammond Packing Company was prosecuted for selling oleomargarine colored in imitation of butter. The commission will not let the matter pass, but expects to take it to the United States supreme court.

The new beet sugar factory at Fairfield, in Spokane county, is assuming a true business air and if rightly managed in every detail cannot fail to be of great financial benefit to those who have ground in beets. The factory cost about \$400,000, and this season is expected to consume the product of 2,500 acres, 1,400 of which are in one body. The towns of Pullman, Oakesdale, Garfield and Tekoa are tributary to this factory.

The state fair at North Yakima opened last Monday under the most favorable auspices and is now in full swing. In addition to Washington's exhibit a large number of entries from the fair at Salem were also included in the North Yakima exposition and helped to enlarge its attractions.

The passenger traffic between Portland and Astoria must be heavy these days. The Columbia River & Astoria railway company and the O. R. & N. Co.'s boat lines are having a little bit dignified with the title of a rate war. You can make the round trip for one cart-wheel.

At the convention of the National Association of State Dairy and Food Commissioners at Denver the opening address on "Fraud in Food Products" was made by J. W. Bailey, state dairy commissioner of Oregon.

In conformity with a ruling made by the United States treasury department no stamps will hereafter be required on receipts for goods to be shipped to British North America or any other foreign country.

A Policy of Selfishness.

Complaint has been made that the irrigated section under the Prosser ditch, in Yakima county, is being injured through the smallness of a few parties who own land under the ditch. It is claimed these parties, evidently with the idea of benefitting themselves, have made out that there is not a sufficiency of water for all the ranches that are or will be entitled to that running in the Prosser ditch—and these reports, set in circulation and reaching the ears of prospective settlers, tend to retard immigration. It is not true that there is an insufficiency of water for all the settlers along the ditch, as would be readily seen by looking over the ground and visiting the numerous farms that draw water from that ditch and which are now harvesting immense crops that were irrigated. An additional evidence of the plentiful supply of water it is claimed, may be found in the waste of water that is going on at the outlet of the ditch, where there is a small lake which begins to fill as soon as the pumps are started in the spring and from a small puddle grows into a good sized lake. Our informant says the irrigation company is furnishing every drop of water that the contract calls for and they also make it a point to allow new settlers the first year twice the amount demanded by the contract, besides encouraging them in every way possible. Under these circumstances it is a small man, indeed, who will decry the advantages of settling upon the Prosser ditch—or upon any other irrigation ditch, for that matter—and especially is it surprising that any one who owns property under the ditch and naturally wants to see it enhanced in value, would deliberately attempt to discourage immigration. If the parties said to be pursuing these tactics on the Prosser ditch do so in the hope of having all the water to themselves and building up their own property they are very much mistaken in the means taken to secure the end in view. They are pursuing the "dog in the manger" policy and are sure to injure their own interests far more than did they pursue the opposite course and encourage settlers to come into the district.

The Sugar Beet Industry.

The sugar beet industry is not well enough understood by the average farmer to make it take hold rapidly and become an universal industry, but it is gaining advocates all the time over the whole country. Before sugar beet raising is to be made a permanent feature in the agricultural line in any section, however, the question as to whether or not such section has the requirements in soil and climate best adapted to the raising of sugar beets must be decided. Should it be found that the soil and climate are not favorable to the raising of the beets it would be a waste of money to erect a factory and attempt to make it a profitable business. But where all conditions are favorable the farmers who engage in sugar beet raising need have no fear that, rightly managed, the business will be a paying one. It is argued by many that inasmuch as a beet sugar factory is not in operation during the entire year, employs less than 200 men and uses the product of less than ten thousand acres, its benefits are too local and too limited to make it worth while to interest remote neighborhoods in such a factory. This line of arguing is all wrong. A beet sugar factory that may be in operation eighty days the season would be able to bring into the community a big pile of good money. To refute the claims

of those who say factories do not prove of great benefit for the reasons outlined, we take the following report from the Chino, California, factory, some seasons since:

"The manufacturing campaign commenced on August 2 and continued with no material interruption until October 18, a season of 78 days. During that time there were sliced 43,773 tons of beets, net, for which the factory paid \$202,694.54. Of this amount, \$155,455.31 was for Chino beets, and \$47,239.23 for beets from Anaheim and Buena Park, Orange county, shipped in by rail. This shows an average price of \$4.63 for the entire crop, being based upon an average sugar percentage of 15. This is a most remarkable showing for the quality of the beets for the entire season—better, we believe, than has ever been made at any sugar factory in this country or in Europe. The total sugar output for the season was 9,471,672 pounds, or 4,736 tons—473 carloads. In shipping this to the market both barrels and bags were used, about 12,000 of the former being turned out by the cooper shop in connection with the factory. In the operation of the factory this campaign there have been used 1,554,000 gallons, or 37,000 barrels, of oil in the furnaces, 1,350 tons of coke in the lime kilns, and 4,485 tons of limestone, besides 250 tons of burned lime received.

"During the campaign an average of 300 men have been on the pay roll, and the total wages paid were \$65,000. The factory has, therefore, put in circulation direct, for beets and labor alone, \$267,684.64 during the past 80 days. Besides this, the industry has put large sums of money into circulation in payment for oil, coke, bags, barrels, chemicals, transportation, etc., the influence of which has reached and been felt in many localities all over Southern California. The channels of trade have been reached and commerce quickened by the vivifying touch of this, the greatest industrial enterprise of Southern California."

More About Station Bulletins.

Editor RANCH AND RANGE: I notice in your edition of September 14th a complaint in regard to the non-receipt of bulletins from the Experiment Station, and your comment thereon. In looking up the matter I find a letter from M. L. Matterson, of North Yakima, under date of August 26th, 1897, asking for bulletins. In the letter book I find a reply to that under date of August 31st, informing Mr. Matterson that his name is placed on the mailing list and that bulletins 25 and 27 are sent to him. I do not know that this is the Matterson referred to in your editorial, but would say that if it is, all bulletins from 28 to 38 have been sent to his address. While it is possible that a clerical error may have been made in the case of some one of them, it is not probable, for the list is checked over with great care. Your remark about being hampered because of insufficient clerical force is true, but that has not interfered with the sending of every bulletin to every address on the list. It has simply in some instances delayed the sending of bulletins for some little time after their publication. For example, Bulletin 38 has not yet been sent to the general list. I may say that this class of mail matter is frequently lost in the mail, through the less care that is given to it than to first or second-class matter. Then, it frequently happens that persons receiving the bulletins treat them as many pamphlets and advertising matter are treated, that is, they are thrown aside without observing what

they are. Sometimes they are lost and the receiver forgets that he ever received them. When a request is made for a bulletin to this experiment station, the request is at once acknowledged and the name placed upon the mailing list. When a bulletin is issued the envelopes are addressed with care for every name on the list. We should be glad to be informed whenever a farmer fails to receive the bulletins regularly. If he knows that one has been lost, and informs us promptly, we will likely be able to supply it, but if it runs for some time without being called for, the edition is likely to be exhausted. It is our wish that every bulletin find its way to the home of every one who is interested in reading it. Requests for bulletins should be addressed directly to the Agricultural College. If given to some member of the station staff it is possible that the memorandum may be overlooked by the person to whom it is given and the bulletin be not received. If the gentleman referred to in your editorial will give me all the numbers he has missed since he began to receive bulletins, I will supply them where it is possible to do so. Very truly,

E. A. BRYAN, President.

Agri. College, Pullman.

The Yakima Herald takes this journal to task for predicting that it is but a question of time before the sheep will have to get off the forest reserves of the country. Our prediction seems to be carried out with a great sweep just now, especially in the Rainier reserve. While the hardships that such a course entails upon the sheepmen are to be deplored, the mandate of the government must be carried out. Should there be an error made in the apparently high-handed course now being taken, it will be corrected. We hope the sheepmen have some rights that they will maintain and bring the government to a sense of the wrong they are suffering, if there be any wrong inflicted upon them. The matter has by no means reached that stage where it might be called settled—far from it—and as time goes on the whole business will be adjusted properly. But we are inclined to think that the sheepmen will have to keep out of the reserves unless congress makes amendments to laws now existing, or creates new laws to apply to the forest reserves where the sheepmen want to graze their animals.

The cattlemen of the Columbia valley are not disposed to let their young cattle leave their hands, preferring to mature them themselves. Most of the ranchmen are so situated that they can do the feeding without any worry as to a lack of feed, they having plenty of hay and the grass being good on the ranges. Where a ranchman happens to be short of hay he will take his cattle out to where there is grass in abundance. In some sections the cattlemen are hoping for rain, as the grass would be very much benefited by a good fall of moisture.

Try an ad. in RANCH AND RANGE to sell your stock.

Farms for Sale

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