

Ranch and Range

With which is consolidated
The Washington Farmer.
The Pacific Coast Dairyman.
The Farmer and Dairyman.
The Farmer and Turfman.

Official organ of
 Washington State Dairyman's Association.
 Washington State Livestock Breeders' Association.

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Editorial Offices. : : Seattle, Washington
 Telephone Main 453. Long Distance Connection

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 Subscription, in advance, \$1.00 per year.

When requesting change of address always give
 the old as well as the new address.

Address all communications: Ranch and Range,
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Spokane's enterprising gardeners have got on the market in that city with early vegetables, while Seattle and other Sound points still devour the stuff sent up from 'Frisco.'

Hon. Austin Mires, supervisor of the census for the Yakima district, estimates that the population of Washington state now is between 500,000 and 600,000—and he says he will be surprised if the latter figure is not nearer the mark.

The demand for the grain bags made by the state penitentiary convicts and are this year to be supplied purchasers under a pro rata arrangement is greater than the supply, and Warden Catron thinks that only 43 per cent of the demand can be supplied.

Railroad building will be active in the state during the year and several fine agricultural and mineral sections will be tapped. The Northern Pacific is one of the most active lines in the northwest in this respect, but the Great Northern is doing a great deal along the same lines, too.

The shipping subsidy graft, in which the big shipowners of the east are interested but which will evidently work to the harm of Pacific shipping, is up before congress and its friends are urging its immediate passage. Trade interests this side of the country will not benefit by this bill.

Hon. H. B. Miller, the efficient president of the Oregon horticultural board, will be succeeded by Hon. E. L. Smith upon the former's departure for his consular post at Chung King, China. Mr. Smith is a man who has had an extensive experience in fruit growing and the duties of the office will be in good hands.

A prominent St. Paul railroad official said the other day, in talking about the short-sighted policy of the transcontinental roads in withdrawing the \$25 rate from the twin cities to the coast, that the northern lines have catered too much to the eastern roads, which have no interest in the settlement of the northwest.

Prof. U. P. Hedrick, formerly professor of horticulture at the Utah agricultural college but now connected with the Michigan agricultural college, has made application for the chair of horticulture at the Pullman college to fill the position vacated by Prof. J. A. Balmer. The board of regents has deferred action on his application for the present.

Two bulletins have recently been issued by the experiment station of the Utah agricultural college—No. 64 and 65—both of which are devoted to the fruit interests. The first treats of the codlin moth, a certain wasp that destroys the apple worm, sour cherries, and the Oregon evergreen blackberries, while bulletin 65 treats of the San Jose scale and plant diseases and insect pests.

The Rancher's Trade Paper.

A good many ranchers in the northwest who are not now on the subscription list of RANCH AND RANGE, and probably some who have never seen the paper, will receive a sample copy of this issue. They are reminded that it is an invitation to subscribe and become members of the great army of progressive northwestern farmers who believe in keeping in the van and up-to-date in the practice of farming. One of the commonest excuses given by non-subscribers when asked to enroll their names on the list is that they "can't afford to take it," and another is that they are "taking more papers now than they can read." In very few cases do these excuses have any actual backing. If every one who is asked to subscribe to a good, up-to-date agricultural journal like RANCH AND RANGE, which deals in a practical way with all questions pertaining to northwest agricultural conditions and practices and exercises care that what it provides its readers in the way of reading matter and advertising is reliable, would take the trouble to weigh all the reasons why he should subscribe and compare these reasons with the excuse usually given, what weight would such excuse carry? None, whatever!

The man who wants to be abreast of the times and conduct his business on modern lines is bound to study the questions touching upon his particular line of industry—and nowhere can he find them so well discussed and clearly set forth as in his trade paper, whose columns are filled with articles from a large number of correspondents and from each member of the editorial staff—men who are intimately acquainted with the subjects they handle and are enabled both through experience and through careful study and research to present each question in a thoroughly practical light. The experiences and researches thus presented in each issue of a paper form an invaluable volume of instruction—and by applying its hints and lessons to his own business a man is enabled to handle his work in a far more intelligent manner and make a greater business success than when he attempts to depend on the experience of himself and that of his neighbors and associates only for success.

This applies to the merchant and business man and we invariably find that every successful man carries out the principles faithfully. It is no overdrawn case. These being the facts, by what line of reasoning should the rancher, the fruit raiser, the stock raiser, the dairyman, or the general farmer be exempt from their application? The farmer is as much of a business man as the merchant or the lawyer. Some back-woods horny-handed granger may arise and say "the farm paper is edited by city chaps who don't know the difference between a steer and a harrow, or by theorists who have never seen a farm." We have met men from the farm whose heads are full of such ideas, but fortunately they are very rare in this progressive northwest. When we do meet them there is nothing that can make them see the usefulness to them of a practical farm paper—and it's but a waste of time to argue with them.

Too many men, when asked to subscribe, look upon the dollar as of greater value to them in its original form than were it converted into a year's subscription to a weekly farm paper that gives them in one year an amount of valuable information and practical hints which they could secure nowhere else at the same cost—nor at ten times the cost of the year's subscription. RANCH AND RANGE is the journal that aims to fill the bill in the northwest—and how successful it has been can best be attested to by its large and growing clientage. The paper is improving all the time, but its good work is enhanced in proportion to the amount of support it receives in the way of subscriptions and contributions.

Of these we invite both—new subscriptions from those not now on the list and renewals from the old subscribers, and contributions for our columns from all who have anything to say that may be of value to others engaged in the same line.

The Government's Seed Farce.

This is the time of year when the mail system of Uncle Sam is gorged with bulging sacks of government seeds, sent out by the agricultural department at Washington City, to all parts of the country, to the addresses of congressmen, politicians and newspapers—from there to be remailed in single packages to the dear ranchers. There isn't one favorable feature about this wholesale free distribution. The seeds are of the ordinary varieties, bought by contract in the open market. Quality is not considered, and the seedsman who can furnish the greatest quantity for a given amount receives the order. When first instituted it was intended to introduce for experiment new varieties of grains, grasses and vegetables, but that has been lost sight of entirely, and each season has seen the evil assume larger proportions. Each representative and senator in congress is apportioned a ton or so and on each packet he stamps his name and title. The congressman looks upon it as a capital scheme to "jolly" the rural constituency, and every effort to do away with the system by repealing the law has been defeated. Therefore, when the farmer receives one of these packets, the only possible inference he can draw is that he is considered by the sender to be a sort of half-educated individual, whose fancy is to be tickled and vote favorably influenced by a nickle's worth of seeds that are not worth the space it would take to plant them in. Farmers individually and through their organizations should denounce government free distribution of seeds, not only as a waste of public funds, but as a reflection on their intelligence.

Some More Railroad Building.

Touching upon railroad interests, it is interesting to note the amount of work along the line of railroad building that will be done this year in the state of Washington and the Northwest generally. The Northern Pacific and Great Northern are the two most active lines in this direction, but the other roads are doing something, too, and in nearly every case the class of people most benefitted are those engaged in agriculture and stock raising—they receive the most lasting benefits from the work that is done, though they may not share so largely in the immediate distribution of the money the railway companies will expend in prosecuting their work. The roads have imported into the state a large army of laborers, and these must be fed. Many of the extensions made and contemplated by the different companies tap rich agricultural districts and will shortly prove a valuable highway for sections hitherto remote from the main lines. The cost of hauling to the markets and the time required are very materially lessened. One line that should not be forgotten in our calculations is the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. This is one of the finest roads to be found anywhere between Chicago and Denver, and it traverses a wide section where the population is becoming more and more congested and must look west and northwest for many of its supplies. At present the Burlington has a through line from Omaha via the Black Hills in South Dakota to Billings, Mont. that acts as a feeder for the big smelter works in Omaha in carrying ore from the Montana and South Dakota mines, and for the South Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago stock yards in carrying the range cattle from the two states named. It is hinted that this company wants to come to the Pacific coast over its own rails, and it would seem from recent moves made by its officials that the

hint is well founded. They have announced the proposed building of a line from Billings to Yellowstone Park. The new line is to start at Toluca, forty-five miles west of Billings, and will run to the east side of the park. One line from Toluca will run south through the Big Horn canyon and Big Horn basin, and thence west along the Stinking Water close to the park, tapping one of the most fertile grazing sections in the west, and becoming a highway over which the cattle on the immense ranges in Idaho and western Montana may travel to the South Omaha stock yards, where as good figures may be secured for them as in Chicago, considering the difference of freight in favor of South Omaha—and the stock will arrive in Omaha in better condition by reason of the shorter and more direct route. In the event the line finally builds to the coast it will be a strong competitor of the O. R. & N. and Union Pacific systems.

Government Competition with Trade.

The bureau of animal industry of the department of agriculture is and has been for the last two years competing with the manufacturers and dealers in blackleg vaccine, the bureau manufacturing this remedy on a wholesale scale and distributing it free direct to the cattle raisers. It began this competitive work and has continued it under the pretense of making an experiment, but blackleg vaccine has been an article of commerce and dealt in as such and put to practical use by cattle raisers even for five years in the United States. There is, however, no experiment about it as vaccination for blackleg had been a scientific and practical success for some twelve years before the government embarked in the business and the vaccine had been extensively and successfully used even in the United States for more than two years prior to the inception of this wonderful experimental (?) work undertaken by the bureau. Some of the cattle raisers are being misled by the erroneous statements contained in the advertising matter issued by the bureau, but the houses interested in its manufacture for commercial purposes are laying the matter before congress. Appropriations made for the bureau of animal industry of the department of agriculture should not be used either directly or indirectly for the manufacture or distribution of any articles that can be purchased in the open market by those who need them. In other words, the government must not compete with trade. Legislation to prevent the bureau engaging in such competition will not in any way interfere with legitimate experimental work, but will on the contrary leave more time and money available for that purpose.

Census Enumeration of Livestock.

A distinctive feature of the coming census of livestock is that provided for on a special schedule by which all domestic animals not on farms and ranges will be enumerated. It has been seen that no census of domestic animals could be satisfactory did it not include the many thousand to be found everywhere off the farm. It also develops that there is no provision in the census law for compensating enumerators for carrying and filling in live stock schedules in cities and villages. However, provision has been made for certain features of classifying according to the age of each ani-

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