

agement. One large ditch or canal keeps the water from the hills from flooding the bottoms. Other ditches carry the water from the low bottoms down into the lowest corner, where in early spring a threshing engine runs a big pump that raises the water into the canal, where it quickly runs off to the river, somewhat like the system so carefully carried on in Holland.

At Mount Vernon the yards at Folly Farm are well stocked with Short-horn cattle, Berkshire pigs and Shropshire sheep from some of the best Eastern and Canadian breeders. They showed a kind acquaintance with their owner that proves they are well cared for. Stockmen of Western Washington miss a good opportunity in not giving the farm a much better patronage.

At Padilla Thomas Tait, a young Scotch bachelor without capital, commenced working by the month about a dozen years ago. After working nine years for one farmer he bought 100 acres of good land; a little later he rented 120 acres more, with building, for a long term of years, and this summer he bought 123 adjoining acres. In thirty-nine and one-half hours he threshed 13,000 bushels of oats (4,387 sacks averaging 103 pounds per sack) on 126 acres of his land. Two teams and drivers, with one extra man in his warehouse, stored the 13,000 bushels as fast as threshed and he says three men with the steamer crew will load it on the boat in five hours. Mr. Tait raises a number of pigs and horses that he says pay him well. He is also buying up a number of cattle to use up surplus feed. Instead of burning his straw, he builds stout pole sheds and runs the big straw piles on top of them, giving him plenty of shelter and good straw for his stock all winter. It would be fortunate for our country if there were many more such young farmers.

Anacortes seemed a quiet, very scattered town, with but little country trade.

At Whatcom their fair was just opening with fine weather and neat grounds and new improvements, plenty of fast horses, a fair display of fruit and vegetables, a good exhibit in ladies' department, but scarcely no stock, machinery or manufactured articles. So far the exhibit consists of two common cows and a heifer, one goat, one donkey, one pony, four sheep and a few dogs. Few farmers were in the first day, but quite a crowd were in during the afternoon to see the races.

ACVEN.

**WALLA WALLA APPLES A FAILURE.**

While the ranchers in the Yakima and Palouse countries are smiling over the abundant apple harvests now on, the growers in and around Walla Walla have little to rejoice over, as it is admitted that the crop there is a practical failure. Less than one-third of a crop will be gathered, compared with last year's yield. Not only is the crop short, but the quality is poor. Various reasons are given for the shortage—unfavorable weather in the spring, worms, reaction from last year's abundant production, etc. W. S. Offner, the Walla Walla commission man, attributes the shortcoming to all these causes and says:

"Walla Walla county will do well to ship thirty cars of genuine selling apples this season. We ought to send out more than 100. To begin with, there was an overproduction last year.

That was followed with frosts this spring which came at an unfortunate time and perhaps did much toward rendering the fruit unfit. But above all, there is the worm pest. That is the terror of the apple raiser in this country. No one knows what is the remedy and no one the cause. The fight has gone on for years, and today we are nearer the bottom than we ever were before. There does not seem to be either science or reason in the battle. One makes up his mind to one thing and seems to be getting along nicely with it; he thinks the bugs are dying, and that he has hit upon a sure killer, and then, just at a time when he is not expecting it at all, out come the bugs and then it is all off.

"Some say spraying will kill them and save the fruit. I believe myself that if all would spray and at the right time, the result would be beneficial at least. But where only half the people spray there is small use in any of them doing it. Those bugs fly; they have wings and they use them. If you spray ever so carefully and your neighbor across the road does not, his bugs will migrate and populate your trees. They have no home ties; in fact, they would rather live on your trees, for there is more to eat there and less to fight for it. That is one phase of the bug question.

"Another is that the people of Yakima had more bugs last season than they had any idea what to do with or how to get rid of. This year they have almost no bugs at all, and their apple crop is better than ever. That is another side of the question.

"Well-cared-for orchards have no rotten fruit laying about on the ground under the trees. Stale apples are worm breeders. They are mansions for bugs. Old tree limbs are another objectionable feature which should be eliminated. Burn them up. That is the best way."

The present wet weather is retarding the picking of the fruit, not on account of lack of ripening power, but because it is impossible to box fruit when the same is damp. "We wrap our fruit in tissue paper," said Mr. Offner. "That is what all shippers do. When the fruit is wet it is impossible to get that paper to make any kind of a satisfactory showing. The paper is necessary to prevent bruising, and when paper is smitten with dampness there is no paper but a slimp pulp. That is one reason why we cannot pack fruit now. Another is that fruit packed while damp will mildew. That would render it equally unfit for use."

Maurice Turner, a sheepman of Kititas county, lost 400 head of sheep last week by piling. The animals were being driven down toward Nanum creek in the dark and they ran into a log, piling up all of them, and killing more than two-thirds of the bunch.

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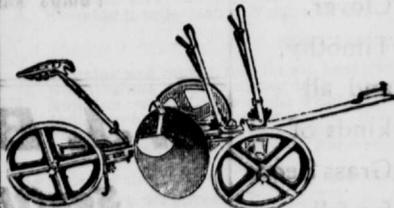


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