industry would be short lived.

* * *

From the train the view of the upper reaches of the Missouri is fleeting, nature having left an easier route for the Great Northern by the way of Milk River valley which it traverses for about 180 miles. The long transcontintntal express bowls over a superb piece of track at a 50 mile an hour gait, rapidly making up lost time in water-logged North Dakota. The vaunted fertility of Milk River valley is soon in evidence. Behemoth-like hay stacks held over from last summer discredit the popular supposition that this part of Montana labors under the disadvantages of a sub-arctic winter. Cattle are fat and fairly wallowing in rich buffalo grass while people, whose veracity is beyond doubt, gravely assert that the winter was so open and mild that no hay was fed and losses amounted to nothing. But the Milk River valley is being rapidly brought under the fructifying influence of the irrigating ditch, and within the next ten years will rival any alfalfa producing section. It is destined to be a garden spot of the range. Just now it presents an emerald appearance and old settlers assert that crops promise to eclipse all former records.

* * *

Havre is reached without experiencing the ennui that generally accompanies a trip over the plains. Here the Montana center line diverges south following the upper Missouri valley to Great Falls, Helena, and into the Montana region at Butte. The transcontinental pausing a few moments in its flight climbs the main divide a few miles west and traverses a continuous scene of magnificent outdoorness all the way to Puget Sound.

Western Montana range conditions have been greatly improved lately by copious rains and cattlemen in this section are confident of a seasonable run to market and good prices.

THE YEARBOOK FOR 1901.

The Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1901 is now in press and will at an early date be ready for districution.

As usual, this volume is in three parts. In accordance with law, the first part is devoted to the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The second part comprises thirty-three miscellaneous articles on every division of agriculture.

The Appendix contains the directory of the Department, the directory of the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, lists of state officials in charge of agriculture, secretaries of state agricultural societies, officials in charge of farmers' institutes, state dairy officials, dairy associations, state veterinarians and secretaries of sanitary boards, officers of horticultural and kindred associations, national, sectional, and state beekeepers' associations, miscellaneous state organizations, statistics of the principal crops, farm animals and their products, transportation rates, and other information of interest to the farmer.

The Yearbook is a volume of about 800 pages, and is illustrated with a frontispiece, 90 plates, of which 18 are colored, and 52 text figures. The regular edition is 500,000 copies, of which 470,000 are by law delivered at the capitol and placed to the credit of senators, representatives and delegates in Congress, the remaining 30,000 being allotted to the Department of Agriculture. This allotment is fully consumed in the distribution to crop correspondents and others co-operating with the Department or rendering it some service.

We have no doubt that subscribers can secure a copy of this valuable work free as soon as it is issued, by addressing either Congressman W. L. Jones or F. W. Cushman or Senator Geo. Turner or A. G. Foster, mentioning of course, this paper.

BECOMING DIVERSIFIED FARMERS

Editor The Ranch: The most ardent advocate of diversified farming ought to be pleased with the outlook throughout the Palouse. Until recently everything was wheat, as it had been for many years past, although there were many signs of restlessness on the part of the growers. Today we find more cattle, more hogs and similar stock on the ranches of Whitman county than were ever before known. The acreage of wheat is being somewhat reduced, although not to a great extent, and larger crops of oats and feeding grains will be produced. The ground devoted to grasses and alfalfa is difficult of estimation, but judging from the amount of seed sold by local dealers as well as that shipped in from outside firms a large are has been seeded down for future pasture. Without doubt the country will have need of all this grass, for if estimates hold good not less than ten thousand head of cattle have found their way into the wheat regions of Eastern Washington during the past year. The season has been most favorable for the growth of these newly seeded pastures. There has been ample rain for all crops to date, and during the week it has been raining steadily. Old pastures and meadows are knee high already and, alfalfa, even on the high hills, has made a wonderful growth. That alfalfa can be successfully grown on these rolling prairies has already passed beyond the experimental stage. Another good sign is the interest taken in dairying. Wherever in the Palouse opportunity to patronize a creamery or skimming station is afforded them the ranchers will be found taking hold of the opportunity with a will. At Moscow the Hazelwood people have been having a heavy trade, while the Pullman creamery has more than doubled its output. Nearly all this cream comes from hand separators and points to the prophecy that the ideal method of handling milk and cream by the farmers will be through the medium of the hand separator and the keeping of the skim milk at home.

All in all, the Palouse is keeping up with the procession and with another big crop of wheat and the money coming in from the side islsues that have been heretofore neglected it looks as if we would have money to loan next fall. E. E. ELLIOTT.

Washington Agricultural College.

SPECIAL RATES EAST

will be made by the Northern Pacific on June 28th, July 1st and 3rd, to St. Paul and return, $52.00; to Chicago and return, $72.00. Tickets good for stopover, with final limit f sixty days. For all information and ticketc call on or write to I. A. Nadeau, Genl. Agent, Seattle.

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Round trip rate to St. Paul, and $72.00 to Chicago. These reduced rates will be made by the Northern Pacific Ry. account of Eagles meeting at Minneapolis. Tickets on sale May 25th and 29th. Your ticket should read good on the famous North Coast Limited.

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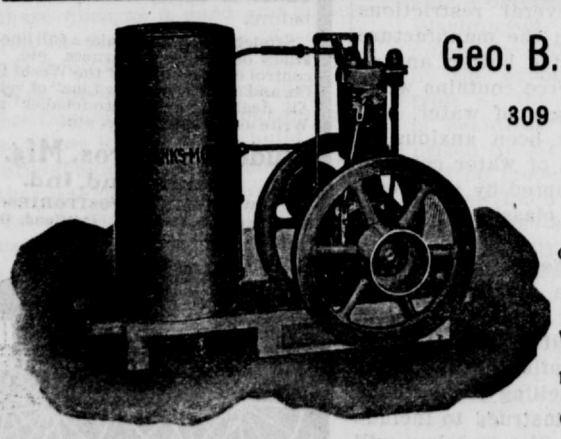

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