

**Wheat in the Farmers' Hands.**

State Grain Inspector J. W. Arrasmith has returned from an extended trip through the grain-producing sections of the state on the east side, during which he made a careful estimate of the amount of wheat from the crop of last season remaining in the hands of the farmers, and the amount of wheat yet to be moved, says the Ledger. He stated to the Ledger, that, in his opinion, there is yet about one-third of the crop still in the state, and about twenty per cent of the entire crop is held by the farmers, who are evidently holding on in anticipation of obtaining a price that only a conflict between the little brown men of the East and the Russian bear can make possible.

"These figures I give as the result of a careful canvass of the situation in the counties of Whitman, Spokane, Lincoln, Adams, Douglas, Franklin and Yakima, visited by me personally, and reports received from the counties of Walla Walla, Colmbia, Garfield and Asotin," said Mr. Arrasmith.

"Climatic conditions this winter have been ideal for grain," said Mr. Arrasmith, "and as a result, fall sown wheat throughout the country is in splendid shape. The winter has been exceedingly mild, and grain in the ground has not been injured by adverse weather at all. It is not too late, however, to experience some bad weather. Northwest winds, or the thermometer playing tag in the basement of the bulb, would do great damage at this period, but I do not anticipate anything serious now that the season is so far advanced.

"It is a gratifying fact that, though we cannot claim as big a rainfall during December and January as is usual, there has been as much moisture in the ground, which has been absorbed by the soil. The ground has not been frozen hard at any time. The soils have received the full benefit of the moisture, both rain and snow, a most fortunate circumstance for the farmers.

"Indications point to a much larger acreage of wheat this season than ever before," added Mr. Arrasmith. "Everything points that way. There will be quite as much summer fallow as we had last year, and there is a marked increase in new land throughout the state that will be sown next season. In addition to this, a large acreage of ground planted last spring that produced a crop will be planted again this spring, the mild weather having made it possible to use it for spring sowing. The high prices obtained for grain last season stimulated interest among farmers, and every available acre of grain producing land will be utilized this year."

The year 1903 was a fairly good one for the farmers, in the opinion of the state grain inspector. "In every county visited by me I observed surface evidence of thrift. New barns, new houses and new fences have been erected everywhere, and old buildings have been repaired and improved," said he. "I heard no complaints; everybody appeared to be well satisfied, looking forward to this year's work.

"Personally, I feel that 1904 is going to be a repetition on a larger scale of 1903. We have just passed through the severest part of what we call the winter season in Washington, and it has been an open winter in every respect. I consider it one of the most open winters in the history of the state. We have had an abundance of snow, not a little rain, and very little frost. The ground is in good condition for sowing at the present time, and I do not see what can come between us and prosperity this year, save adverse weather conditions.

"It is very probable that a representative of the state grain inspector's office will attend the con-

vention of the county assessors of the state, which meets at Spokane February 3rd," said Mr. Arrasmith. "Our plan to obtain accurate crop statistics has been very favorably received by the county assessors, but I am desirous of having it explained to them more fully. The value of such statistics to our office, to the state and federal administrations and transportation companies cannot be figured out and explained in a few brief words. We are going to get the statistics, because our plan has been well received.

"The assessor of Whitman county for instance, writes to say that he will most willingly co-operate in the work as suggested by us, and that he will collate statistics of the fruit crop at the same time. Other county assessors make similar suggestions, and I am more than gratified in the manner in which they have taken hold of the suggestion. I greatly appreciate, of course, all that will be done to aid my office in its work, and I know that the statistics will prove useful to all who are interested in the subject of agriculture of Washington."

Mr. Arrasmith left on his trip December 22nd. He expects to remain in Tacoma indefinitely.

**Basket Ball.**

The College boys had their first game of basket ball of the year on Saturday evening, and the Y. M. C. A. boys from Spokane were interested spectators while Charlie Robinson gave a fancy exhibition of goal throwing and Fred Theil showed the boys from the city by the roaring waters what a guard looks like when in action. "Soapy" Smith played a fine game at center, sticking to his man like a cumulative board bill, and Capt. Fulton ably seconded the spectacular performance of Robinson.

Barnes and Belt, of the Spokane team, did the most consistent work, although the whole team ginged perceptibly in the second half.

The game was a fast one from start to finish and the spectators were deeply interested from the time the familiar figure and smiling face of "Pink" Griffith was seen to approach the center of the hall until the final call of time. The Spokane team was snowed under in the first half and, try as they did, they could not emerge while Jeff, Soapy and Charlie kept piling up the score against them. The line-up was:

SPOKANE	PULLMAN
Chapman	Smith
Belt	Barnes
Thayer	Robinson
Davidson	Fulton
Thiel	Smead

Referee—"Pink" Griffith, of U. of I.  
 Umpire—Meyer, of Spokane Y. M. C. A.

Score—Pullman 18, Spokane 8.

**Preparatory Debate.**

On Monday night the college chapel resounded for nearly two hours with the brilliant oratory of the Preps. The occasion was the try-out for the selection of two members of the team that meets Walla Walla High School.

The ten contestants who flooded the auditorium with eloquence were Boyles, Campbell, Burns, Martin, Collins, Morgan, Miller, Stallcap, Aiken and Chapman.

The question upon which they enlightened the audience was: "Resolved; that the United States should resist, by force if necessary, any further acquisition of territory by European powers in South America."

The plan of the Whitman preliminary was followed, and the debaters were thus judged largely by their ability to think on the floor and by their power of rebuttal.

Although some showed inexperience and unfamiliarity with the subject, many good arguments were put up in an excellent manner, and the debate was creditable to the Preparatory students. The judges, Profs. Snow and Sampson, decided that Chapman, Aiken and Martin had won out. Two of these three will be selected for the team later, and the third will serve as alternate. Ralph Cowgill was chairman of the evening.

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Rate war which has existed for the past four months between the Columbia river boats, between Portland and The Dalles, has been called off and rates restored to normal conditions.

Four Kragg-Jorgeson rifles, the property of the U. S. government, are missing from the armory of Co. L. at Colfax. Anyone knowing where these guns are will confer a great favor upon the officers of the company by giving to 2nd Lieutenant J. O. Housekeeper the information, and will be liberally rewarded.

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Poultry—Dressed chickens, young chickens and hens, 16@18c lb; old roosters, 14@16c lb; storage turkeys, 20c lb; fresh turkeys, 25c lb; geese, 18c lb; ducks, 18c lb; pigeons, 15c each.

Eggs—New laid eggs, 50c doz; case eggs, 40@45c doz.

Flour—Wholesale, eastern hard wheat, \$4.75@6.50 bbl; retail, fancy patents, \$1.65@1.75 sack; patents \$1.30 sack; standard, \$1.20 sack; low est, \$1.10 sack; Washington wheat \$4.40@4.75 bbl; buckwheat, 40@50c 10 lb sack.

Grain and Feed—Timothy, 95c@\$1.00 cwt; alfalfa, 85@90c cwt; grain hay 35@90c cwt; oats, \$1.15@1.25 cwt; corn, \$1.40 cwt; chopped corn, \$1.50 cwt; bran, 60c sack; bran shorts, 75@80c cwt; shorts, 90c cwt; wheat, \$1.30@1.35; chopped barley, \$1.20@1.25; feed carrots, 75c sack; oil meal, 2c lb \$31 ton.

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 Poultry and Eggs—Chickens, roosters, 7c, hens, 10@12c live weight; young chickens, 11@14c lb; turkey dressed, 20c; geese and ducks, 11@13c; eggs, \$11 case; fresh laid, 40c doz.

Live Stock—Steers, \$4@4.25 per cwt; cows, \$3@3.50 cwt; mutton, \$3; wethers, \$4 cwt; hogs, \$4.60 cwt.

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