

THE RANCH

A JOURNAL OF THE LAND AND THE HOME IN THE NEW WEST.

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

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and the State Live Stock Breeders' Association.

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1902 FAIRS.

Seattle	Aug. 18 to 28
Vancouver, B. C. ...	Aug. 30 to Sept. 1
Whatcom	Sept. 2 to 6
Everett	Sept. 8 to 13
Salem	Sept. 15 to 20
Portland	Sept. 22 to 27
North Yakima	Sept. 27 to Oct 4
New Westminster ..	Sept. 30 to Oct 4
Victoria	Oct 7 to 11
Spokane	Oct 6 to 14
Lewiston	Oct 13 to 18
Boise	Oct 20 to 25

Our letter this week from Prof. Spillman reminds us of old times. Incidentally it assures us that things are running all right at Washington City, even if the President is away.

The Ranch continually receives inquiries as to how much alfalfa irrigated land in eastern Washington will average. We have been of the opinion that the claims of some of the alfalfa enthusiasts of an average of 7 to 9 tons was too high, and contended if one got six tons from an acre year after year it would be a mighty good and profitable yield. Now we reproduce a letter from H. W. Lichty to the Sunnyside Sun, in which he gives figures to show that the land there is making a steady yield of eight tons and over. The men quoted are among the most prominent residents of that section, and have every reason to be conservative in their statements, so that the information may be considered reliable. It is certainly a most remarkable showing.

In the face of this strong array of testimony, we will have to admit that Sunnyside is capable of doing better than six tons per acre, and yet "Convince a man against his will and he's of the same opinion still." In order to finally settle the controversy we would like to see the people of that section invite Prof. E. E. Elliott, agriculturist of the State Experiment station, to visit Sunnyside and make an accurate report on the alfalfa yield, based on a careful scientific investigation.

That some of the big creamery concerns which have been spreading out so widely, and extending the field of operations so rapidly during the last few years have been operating on capital entirely too small for the amount of business transacted is shown by the failure of the Elgin Creamery Co., a disaster which has entailed hardship on 10,000 farmer patrons throughout the middle states. It behooves the dairyman in self protection to ascertain the financial stability of any creamery concern he may do business with. Don't take anybody's say so, but ask your local banker for reliable information regarding the creamery company to whom you sell your milk or cream.

Big fruit crops and poor prices; lots of prosperity and no money; poor goods and none to buy them. These are a few things against which the fruit growers of Colorado are now contending and the most of them are not in a very joyful mood.

Cheap rates bring cheap people. We have all heard of the Eastern girl who came out with one shirt waist and a five-dollar bill and changed neither. Well, she is here this summer good and plenty.—Field and Farm.

Cannot we in California "shake" with Colorado on both of the above deductions?—Pacific Fruit World.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We have just received direct from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., a supply of the 1901 yearbook of the department of agriculture, which has just been issued. We mail a copy free to every applicant as long as they last. Give your full name and address. Although it is not necessary, it will make us feel more cheerful if subscribers, when writing, will see by the date on their label how their subscriptions stand, and remit accordingly, when they write for the book. Remember the number is limited, and first come first served.

This is a very valuable book. It contains the report of the secretary of agriculture to the president for 1901, covering 109 pages, thirty-five original articles, occupying 494 pages and 196 pages of appendix. There are 91 engravings and 52 text figures illustrating various subjects.

The frontispiece is a fine portrait of Hon. J. Sterling Morton, ex-secretary of agriculture, who died on April 27 of this year.

The report of the secretary is a comprehensive resume of the work of the department and shows the scope of this institution. In it the progress of the weather bureau is noted, the work of the bureaus of animal industry, plant industry, soils, chemistry and forestry is set forth as fully as space permits, and the office of the experiment stations, the division of entomology, public roads, publications and foreign markets, receive attention, as well as the library, the appropriations, the biological survey and the statistics of the department.

A proper conception of the status and importance of the department of agriculture can only be gained by a careful reading of this report. The department is growing with the times and the realization of agriculture's position among the industries of the world.

The special articles in the body of the work are general in character and cover a wide range of subjects; they

are thoroughly representative of the varied scientific work conducted by the department and are made doubly useful by the beautiful and accurate illustrations which accompany them. Written by expert authorities in each branch of research they constitute a liberal education to the extent of the subjects treated. There is a whole library of interesting reading for the long winter evenings in this part of the volume.

The compiler of the year book says of the appendix, which is a unique feature of the work: "The effort to make the appendix a most useful, if not an indispensable work of reference for the farmer, which will of itself make the Year Book a valuable addition to every farm library has been maintained this year."

It is a summary of information on various topics of interest to the farmer, such as a directory of officials of national and state governments and associations representing various agricultural and statistical information on matters pertaining to the farming industry.

Every progressive farmer should procure a copy of this valuable book. It is as important an implement as any that the thrifty husbandman will store away in his shed when the winter season comes with its opportunities for reading and study.

"The paper was here to stay," writes a Georgia editor, "but it accidentally made money enough to leave.—Atlanta Constitution.

The County Fair.

Miss A. Lenox.

County fairs would be more interesting and profitable if the main grumblers would contribute something of interest to others; but no, with not a thing there to exhibit they find fault with what is there and also with the management thereof. If such persons are asked to be one of the committee they generally say they have no time. Neither have they time to cook, make or manufacture an article, but they have plenty of time to come there to kick and many times without provocation, and inspecting certain things, they say: "Why, if I could not bring something better I would not bring anything at all, for I have lots of nice things right at home." Now, if they really have why don't they bring them and shut up? Some say, "What is the use of my bringing anything? It is only a certain few who draw all the prizes, anyhow?" That is not always the case, either, for my daughter received first and sometimes second premium and I do not think we are of the certain few. At any rate, whether you take anything or not do not grumble and disgust everybody you see, also the managers, who certainly have a very hard, thankless job along with the committee, but bring your families, hired help and all, and your lunch, if wife is able and willing to put it up or else buy the dinner on the grounds. Meet your old-time neighbors and friends and amuse yourself and everybody else and have a general good time, even if you are ailing and not strong.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has notified the Chicago manufacturers of oleomargarine that they will not be permitted to use palm oil in the manufacture of oleomargarine. This the manufacturers take exception to. They say the law permits the use of vegetable oils and that they will go

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into court to defend their rights. But the path of the commissioner is plain. It takes less than one per cent of palm oil to color the butterine yellow like butter. The fraudulent intent of its use is obvious.

One of the most important and promising lines of work of the Bureau of Forestry is its study of economic tree planting and its co-operation with farmers and others in making forest plantations. Tree planting has so vital and intimate a relation to the welfare of the farmer in the treeless regions that whatever assists him to grow trees assists him also in the production of every other crop. Forty-six thousand one hundred and forty-five acres were examined for planting during the year, and planting plans were prepared for 5,785 acres, while 148 applications for tree-planting plans have been received. A careful study has been pushed during the year of the encroachment of forests on the western plains in order to determine the possibility of reclaiming portions of non-agricultural government land by planting forests.—Farmer's Review.

David Brown, of the Hanford-Hazelwood Cream Co., was a caller at this office last week accompanied by Mr. Hanford. This company is one of the largest creamery concerns in the United States, with headquarters at Sioux City, Iowa. An office is maintained in New York City for the proper handling of their goods in the eastern markets. The Hazelwood Company of Spokane and Portland, Or., are considered as branches of the main corporation. All the friends of Dave Brown are glad to know that he has met with such remarkable success in his eastern venture.

The Meadow Brook Company has bought the Poland China swineherd of Jas. Roxburgh and engaged Mr. Roxburgh to take the management of the livestock of the farm. The Meadow Brook Company will make an exhibit of hogs at the Puyallup fair, and plans next year to be in shape to make the entire Northwest fair circuit with a prize-winning string of swine, cattle, horses and sheep.

The government Department of Agriculture declares that the farmers of the United States are not raising enough potatoes for home consumption. There is an average shortage of about a million bushels, without allowing any for export. Our exports and imports of potatoes nearly balance with each other. The idea that Americans have to import potatoes at all is preposterous.—Northwest Agriculturalist.