

THE RANCH

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PROSPECTS.

The Irrigation Association of Washington, composed of people interested in irrigation matters in this state, is particularly fortunate in its choice of president. The engraving which The Ranch publishes on this page of S. J. Harrison is a particularly faithful likeness. Mr. Harrison is one of the foremost citizens of Sunnyside. He is one of the leaders in the Christian Co-operative Colony which located in that section and which has met with such marked success. He knows thoroughly every phase of irrigation, from the location of the settlers on the raw land to the development of the highly modern improved farms, which are being created by the hundred in his community.

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Mr. Harrison is a type of the "strenuous citizen," of whom President Roosevelt talks and is himself an example. A successful farmer, organizer, immigration agent, real estate man, preacher and banker. He does whatever his hand finds to do as well as he can. He is a good writer, and his occasional contributions to The Ranch are much appreciated. I have heard him preach. He cuts out "highfaluting" language, doesn't do any dramatic stunts or throw fits. He uses plain English and talks sense. Altogether, the State Irrigation Association of Washington has impressed into service as president an exceptional man. We look to see it accomplish great work under his direction

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The Spokane Chronicle advocates that the next legislature should take the State Fair away from North Yakima and give it to Spokane, because it thinks more people would see it and the receipts be larger at the latter place. Probably true, but Spokane and all other aspiring points might as well become resigned to the fact that the State Fair is settled at Yakima for all time. Large sums of money have been expended for suitable grounds, improvements, etc. Some of that money was squandered by the first commission. During the last few years its affairs have been administered wisely, and the funds have been judiciously handled.

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In the distribution of the various state institutions, Yakima was very ambitious. She wanted to draw the state capital, or the agricultural college, or something else of importance. The rivalry of Ellensburg deprived her of the first honor. The corruption



S. J. HARRISON.

fund of Pullman influenced the commission in its location of the latter. The state fair was the sop thrown to Yakima. All the king's horses couldn't pull it away from there now.

No good politician will advocate its removal. Such a motion in the legislature would not be even seriously considered.

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Spokane would be a good place to have the fair. So would Seattle or Tacoma. At any of these points the attendance would be several times as large. But the show itself would be no better. We flatly contradict the statement in the Chronicle that Spokane's fair was the best in the state. It was no better than the Yakima fair, and some of the features not so good. The state fair this year would have done credit to many older states.

It would be a fine thing if the state could appropriate about \$5,000 for Spokane and about an equal amount for Seattle, to be offered as premiums only, for agricultural and live stock displays. It would be a great help to the pure-bred live stock interests. The King County association, however, doesn't expect state aid. Instead, they will ask the county for \$5,000. They feel that the county can well afford to contribute this sum. Probably they will get it, and it will be money well spent.

Are you a Ranch boomer?

ARTHUR GUNN'S OBSERVATIONS.

"One fact which impressed me upon my recent visit to Colorado," said Arthur Gunn, "is that the different irrigated districts there are, each given almost wholly to the production of some one crop for which it is especially fitted. For instance the Greeley colony, north of Denver, produces mainly potatoes and sugar beets. The Rocky Ford district is largely given to raising cantelopes, etc. By raising large quantities of one product, the growers are enabled to secure competition among buyers, and good service and low rates from the railroads. It seems to me that when our high line canal is completed, we will get the best results by raising large quantities of a few varieties rather than small quantities of many.

"Another thing that impressed me was the superior quality of Wenatchee fruit as compared with the ordinary market fruits. I sampled a number of Rocky Ford melons and found none better than those that I have every day at home. The renowned Greeley potatoes are not up to the average of Douglas county Burbanks, either in yield or quality, and as for peaches, grapes and other fruits—why the average of what I saw in the market in Denver would be rejected here as culls.

"Another thing that I observed was the buoyant condition of the beef market, and the evident prosperity of the districts which largely produce

market cattle. The farmers of the Wenatchee valley would do well to remember that alfalfa is the finest forage crop in the world, and that one year with another a few head of sheep or beeves bring a reliable and satisfactory return. Let us make the best of our advantages in raising fruit and vegetables, but let every farmer as well keep a few head of live stock, and a few hogs to use up the waste, and we certainly will be a prosperous and substantial community."—Wenatchee Advance.

MAPPING OF THE CHELAN COUNTRY.

Lake Chelan and the surrounding mountain region in central Washington is being topographically mapped by the engineers of the United States Geological Survey. This region is in the heart of the Washington Forest Reserve, and is noted as one of the wildest and most picturesque sections of the West. It is still little known to the country at large, but in the estimation of some its scenery compares favorably with that of Switzerland. Mr. R. A. Farmer, topographer in charge, has recently made a report of the government topographic work of the season in that section. Considerable difficulty was experienced in penetrating the country on account of its extremely rough character and the large amount of snow and ice which, although the summer was well advanced, was encountered upon the high mountain ranges. The party was divided early in the season for work in separate parts of the allotted section, but united on the shores of Lake Chelan in August for the completion of the survey of that region. The lake is 47½ miles long, with an average width of about a mile. It lies at an elevation of 1079 feet above tide, and for almost its entire length is confined by precipitous mountains which rise from 3000 to 7000 feet from its waters. Much of the surrounding region is heavily timbered, and a number of prospectors for precious metals were found in the mountains working their claims.

"I suppose," says the patron to the milkman, "that you view the coming of winter with feelings of regret."

"Indeed I do," answers the milkman. "It is really very hard," goes on the patron, "to find suitable pasture in the cold weather, no doubt?"

"Yes; and then the pump freezes so often."

The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.—Theodore Roosevelt.