



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

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Falling to receive the paper regularly you should notify the Seattle office at once, when mistakes, if any, will be corrected.

Address all communications to THE RANCH, Downs Bldg., Seattle, Washington.

Fifty Cents a Year.

Hereafter the subscription price of The Ranch will be fifty cents per annum.

The object in making this reduction is to increase our circulation, to the fullest possible extent. We want our paper in every farmer's home in the Northwest. By putting the price so low, there is no farmer who can afford to be without it. As is well known the subscription price does not nearly pay the cost of production of such a paper as ours. It is the income from the advertising that pays expenses and makes the profit for the publisher. The demand of the advertiser today is the largest and most complete circulation possible by a paper in its field. We cut the price in two and make the advertiser pay the difference. Heretofore conditions have been such, because of the fact that our agricultural population has been sparse and scattered, that we have been obliged to charge a dollar per annum in order to make our paper a success. With the great influx of population in the rural districts throughout the Northwest states, and the increased support being received, together with great improvements that have been made in our machinery and equipment, we find that we are able to make the reduction of 100 per cent in our subscription price. There will no longer be any excuse for any farmer of the Northwest sending east for a farm paper in order to save money on the subscription price, because our price is as low as any of them, and our paper, dealing with local farming conditions is better than any eastern farm paper can possibly be.

There are many of our subscribers, our old, tried and true friends, who think a dollar is low enough for our paper. To these we will say, just continue making your remittance of one dollar, sending us the name of your neighbor, and we will enter both subscriptions for a year, or we will date your subscription ahead for two years.

The Ranch expects to be able to double its circulation within a short time. Certainly we do not believe that anyone can afford to be without the paper so far as the price is concerned, and as to quality—we will be making as good a paper as our support will possibly permit. We have never claimed that we issue the best paper in the world. We believe however that it is as good as some, and better than most papers

of its class. We have a good staff, who are alive to the wants of this field. We believe that we are entitled to the support of every wide-awake farmer, and that he should take a hearty, whole-souled interest in the development of such a first class representative farm journal as we are making.

YEARBOOK FREE.

The Ranch has received a limited number of copies of the 1902 Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture. This is the finest volume of the Yearbook that has ever been turned out. It is a heavy cloth-bound work of 700 pages, and is chock-full from cover to cover with invaluable information. This book is the best thing the agricultural department does, as it contains the careful compilation and review of all the work done by every one connected with this important branch of our government, and of all experiment stations, etc., in every state in the Union.

There be some folks who like these books for the rich fund of information they contain. Some few of the unregenerate who have not yet learned the full power of knowledge direct from the head fountain, make gifts of them to the kids, who convert them into scrap albums; so they are never entirely wasted. None of these latter read our paper however, so we know when we send out this book it will be the most highly-prized and diligently-read work in the library. Subscribers (in good standing) and others, who while not having the price of subscription to this great farm journal, are among the truly deserving, will be mailed a copy of the 1902 Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture free and postage paid by writing us a pleasant letter of request for same. Address us The Ranch, Downs Bldg., Seattle. Remember the supply is not overly-large and the rule of "first come, first served," will be strictly adhered to.

A Ranch-Hand Who Will Stand.

In one of the Seattle dailies, a Japanese ranch-hand advertised that he is "honest, kind, and gentle." He utterly fails to say whether he will stand without hitching. By contrast we read in the dispatches that a Montana ranch-hand named Gabriel had applied for a warrant for the arrest of a rancher who hitched him to a plow and drove him beside a mule. Gabriel says he was in debt to the rancher, and that the latter forced him to work the debt out, using him as a beast of burden. The "gentle" Jap who is advertising for a job would seem better fitted for Gabriel's job than was Gabriel himself. There is one point in the matter, however, which is not entirely clear. We learn from this protest that Gabriel thought himself disgraced by being hitched up with a mule. But the dispatch is darkly silent as to what the mule thought of Gabriel.

The government free seed graft, which for so many years has been carried on in this country is being shown up in its true light by the investigation now taking place in Washington city as a result of the suit by Nellis, the contractor, who claims a balance of \$18,000 which the secretary of agriculture has held back, for alleged non-performance of contract.

The full amount of the contract was \$108,000. Secretary Wilson said recently that the arrest and trial of Nellis was the result of an inquiry into the work of the contractor at the time, and that the government is still in possession of Nellis' bond for \$35,000.

An affidavit has been made by the fore-

man of Nellis in which he charges that no record books were kept showing the amount of seed received in bulk, that he had suggested the keeping of such books, but that Nellis said he did not want them kept.

He charges that a great portion of the seeds were put up in light-weight packages, that Nellis instructed him to notify the employes engaged in putting up this seed to let the weights run light, and that he knows that these instructions were followed.

The Ranch has reason to believe that Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is not in sympathy with the annual distribution of free seeds as now carried on indiscriminately by the government, and that he has a double purpose in forcing this investigation. He will endeavor to have the offender, if the evidence is substantiated, prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The exposure will show that the present system is a wanton waste of funds, and that it should either be discontinued or so changed that some genuine benefit may be obtained therefrom by the farmers. As originally intended, the seed appropriation was for the purpose of introducing new varieties of grains, grasses, vegetables, etc., in sections where they might prove of value. The little packets of seed were found by congressmen and representatives to be just the thing to dispense as favors among their constituents, hence their vociferous demands for more and yet more. The appropriation grew annually until it reached a very large sum. No regard has been paid to the quality or character of the seeds, hence the contractor furnished any kind and of any age.

An inventory of the packets forwarded last February to the editor of The Ranch with the compliments of Senator Foster showed one package each of watermelon, lettuce, tomato, radish, beet, and parsnip. In other years we have had beans, cucumbers, canteloupe, cabbage, corn and cauliflower. They are of the ordinary varieties to be found in any seed store, and could be bought for a few cents. The idea is that when a farmer receives one of these seed packets it tickles his vanity to be thus remembered by the Distinguished One, and it clinches his friendship and vote forever after. It is really an insult to the intelligence of any farmer that he should be set down as such an easy mark as to be bamboozled by the gift of a few worthless garden seeds.

Notwithstanding political differences that have arisen between Governor McBride and W.W. Robertson, the governor has refused to accept the resignation of Robertson as a member of the St. Louis Fair Commission of this state. The governor states that the appointment does not abridge Robertson's right as a citizen or newspaper man to criticize any act of the administration. It is fortunate that this view has been taken, for Robertson is a very competent man for the position, and his resignation would be a distinct loss to the board.

While our government strives to protect our people from frauds and fakes, Uncle Sam, by the act of Congress, continues to perpetrate the "free seed" fake upon farmers. It is announced that this year over \$270,000 will be expended in the free distribution of 40,000,000 packages of vegetable and flower seeds.—Astorian.

That which people sow they shall also reap does not always apply to the pictures on the seed packages.—Saturday Evening Post.