

The Ranch

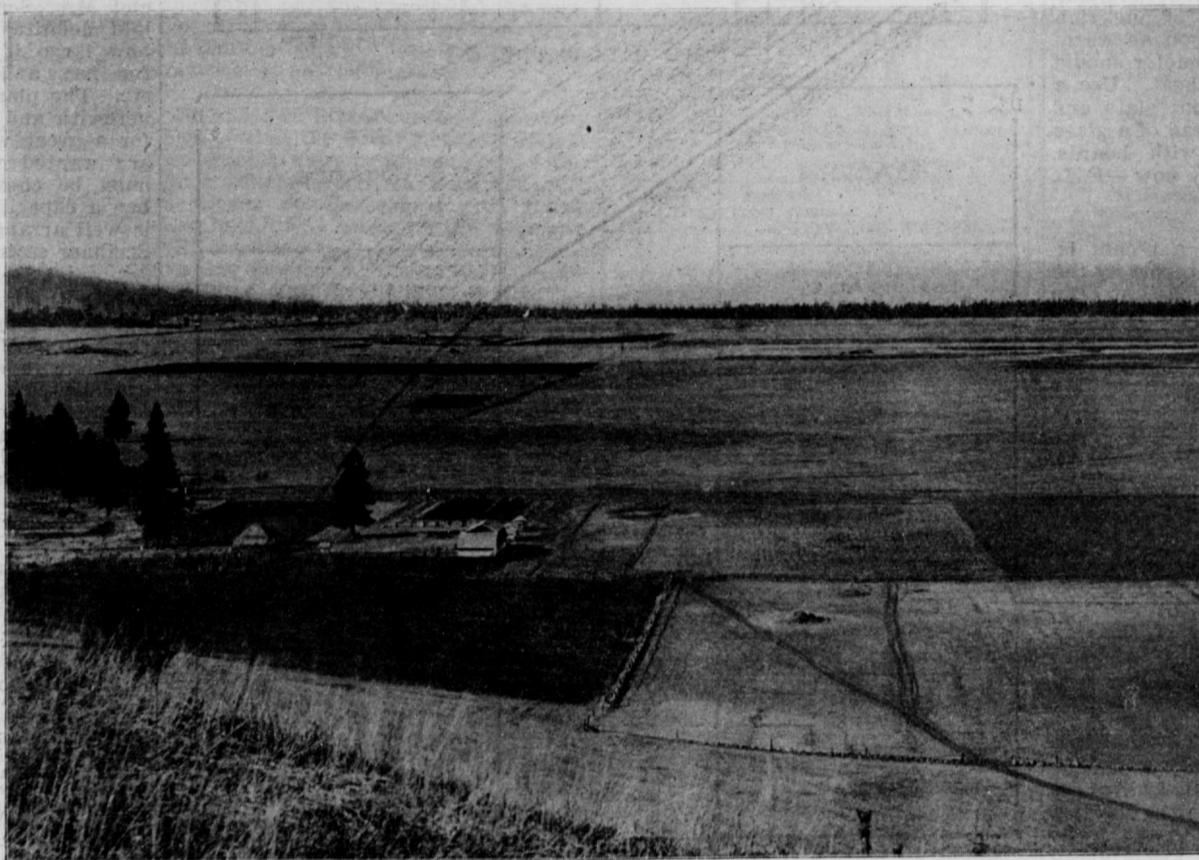


A JOURNAL OF THE LAND AND THE HOME IN THE NEW WEST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 7.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, APRIL 1, 1904.

Subscription 50c. per Year.



SCENE IN THE GREENACRES DISTRICT.

FRUIT PROSPECTS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Information has been secured from the fruit inspectors of most of the counties in the state as to the present condition of the orchards, both in regard to insect pests and the trees themselves. The inspectors were also asked to state the acreage already in fruit and what would probably be added by the end of the present season. On the whole, the replies indicate a most pleasing outlook for the fruit industry, but it is to be regretted that the growers are not giving better attention to the matter of spraying. Pests are reported quite numerous, and some inspectors report that the horticultural law is being disregarded. The report from each county is given below. For some reason a number of the inspectors failed to make any reply whatever, which we much regret.

King.

We could not give any figures that would be any better than guess-work as to the acreage planted to fruit in

King county. Without doubt the apple is the most largely planted, and the acreage in strawberries is also large.

The fruit growers of the county are in general obeying the law, but there is a great deal of unintelligent work done in that line. Heretofore a great deal has been done in applying spray mixtures that are quite valueless for the purpose, and much that are really harmful to the trees, as strong alkaline solutions, burning the bark, while at the same time being worthless in the way of destroying the oyster-shell scale, which is the most common insect pest of the apple tree found here. All pests in general, both insect and fungus, are, however, easily destroyed or held in check by the use of the lime, sulphur and salt solution winter spray without damage to the tenderest tree or shoot, and this is now the standard spray.

There is a large increased area being planted to the tree fruits in this county this season. The condition of the

orchards as to insect pests is very much better than it has ever been. More knowledge in the way of the proper selection of varieties, planting, cultivation, pruning and spraying on the part of the growers is evident also.

The most troublesome and injurious pests and diseases having to do with our orchards are the bark disease of the apple tree, commonly called the "black spot;" fungi attacking the leaves and fruit of the apple and pear and directly traceable to the moist, humid atmosphere of our coastal region, and the oyster-shell scale or bark louse common to the apple trees here.

The outlook for a fine fruit crop this present year is very bright.—J. F. Cass, Ass't. Inspector.

Cowlitz and Lewis.

Cowlitz and Lewis counties, lying on the Columbia, Lewis, Chehalis and Cowlitz rivers, have some of the most fertile lands in the state of Washing-

ton. The most of this land was originally covered with the largest and finest fir and cedar timber, and for that reason it was rather difficult to clear for farming. But the pioneers, with commendable energy, cleared for themselves large farms, erected good, comfortable houses and barns and planted orchards. Whenever there was a market for logs the land would first be logged off and the logs sold. The cedar was most often made into shingles by hand, the winter months being utilized for that purpose, and this often was the whole dependence for the necessary food and clothing for the whole family. But with the advance of railroads and the tremendous influx of emigrants from the east, shingle-making by hand became a thing of the past. Hundreds of shingle mills are taking their place, and the products are sent all over the world. The same is the case with logging. As

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