

# THE RANCH

The Ranch Company, Publishers.

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## Ranch Small Talk

A valuable little pamphlet issued by the Great Northern Railway is "Business Openings," giving a list of the opportunities along the line of the road. It will be sent to any address for two cents in stamps upon request of the passenger department of the Great Northern at St. Paul.

The pen pushers of the great commonwealth of Washington have been visiting in St. Louis and holding a few editorial confabs. They have now scattered and some are visiting their old homes in the east and spreading the fame of this state among those who think we are but a wilderness.

There is no end to the possibilities for making good, honest money in products from the soil in this part of the country. The various uses to which wheat and other cereals may be put are legion and the quality of our products is becoming known throughout the manufacturing world. One cereal firm in New York has set about ordering large consignments of Big Bend wheat for manufacturing into breakfast foods. Four carloads were last week shipped east by a firm at Davenport.

In parts of the northwest distances between farm houses are great and the traveller on the public road often finds it difficult to secure a drink for his thirsty team. This offers a chance for the rancher on the road to make his place popular by putting in a watering trough by the roadside. If you can lead a water pipe from the well to the highway do so and put in a substantial watering trough for the public. The expense will be small, but it will add greatly to the worth of the place and make your ranch better known.

The public should be impressed with the fact that there are two kinds of "ranch butter." One kind is that made by the old method of deep setting and hand churning, while the other is the modern method of using the hand separator and making the butter on the farm on modern lines. Of course, all butter made by the latter method does not approach that of the creamery article in quality, but the dairymen are fast learning how to make a grade that can command as good a price as the real creamery article, or even better. The butter put on the market by these men should no longer be classed with ordinary ranch butter and sold as such. The mere fact that a separator is used does not exempt one's butter from being classed with ranch butter, but when the maker uses up-to-date methods and knows how to turn out

an article equal to the best creamery brand he has a right to expect that the merchant who handles his product will use discrimination and give his butter due consideration. Such a product is better than the stuff usually shipped into the state and sold as fancy Oregon or Iowa creamery butter.

D. Carl Peterson, editor of the Coupeville Times, took in the big fair at St. Louis recently. In mentioning the fair he gives out the suggestion that the best time to see the fair is in the fall, when everything will be in place. At present there is much yet to be done in the way of installing exhibits and putting the finishing touches to things, although the St. Louis fair is far in advance of most big expositions in completeness thus early. Regarding the Washington building Editor Peterson says: "The Washington state building probably attracts more attention than any other state building on the grounds. It is so built as to show up our big timber, and the exhibits are far ahead of many much older states."

## "Suits Our Condition."

The Ranch, Seattle: Dear Sirs:—Enclosed please find seventy-five cents (.75), for which kindly renew our subscription one year, also send us a copy of McLaren's Farm Accounts. The Ranch is all right; it is the paper that suits our conditions.—A. W. Donaldson, East Sooke, B. C.

## Southwestern Farmers' Institutes.

Under the auspices of the state agricultural college and experiment station there is a series of farmers institutes being held in the southwestern part of the state, including Skamania, Clarke, Klickitat, Wahkiakum, Pacific, Cowlitz, Lewis, Chehalis and Thurston counties. The institutes were begun on May 18th at Mount Pleasant, Skamania county, and so far nine places have been favored, as follows: Washougal, Husum, Centerville, Ridgefield, Gray's River, Long Beach, Kelso and Centralia. Meetings will be held at Montesano on June 16 and 17, at Olympia on June 20 and 21, and at Mount Vernon, in Skagit county, June 23 and 24. Mason and Jefferson counties will have some institutes soon, but the dates and places have not yet been fully arranged.

The value of farmers' institutes is not fully understood by the thousands of farmers in the state. An institute is a meeting of men from all lines of farm operation to exchange views and experiences and to listen to a number of speakers who are eminently fitted for the work of instructing their hearers in particular lines. A few of the subjects that have come up or will come up for discussion at the present series are the following: Roads and the new road law, fruits and the establishment of canneries where needed, fruit pests, dairying in its various features, garden and farm produce and their raising, cereal production, irrigation in such sections as can practice it, etc. The road question and fruit raising, as well as dairying, are of vital importance to the sections now enjoying this series of institutes. It is the duty of all the farmers who can possibly be present to attend one or more of the institutes. The last legislature set aside a sum of money to be expended by the state agricultural college management in conducting these institutes and paying the expenses of the lecturers. It has been the aim of the gentlemen in charge to secure only the best talent for each institute and naturally the expenses have been heavy. Note has been made of the attendance at the various meetings, and when the legislature is asked for more money to carry on the work it is desirable to be in position to make a good showing for the past two years. If the attendance is poor generally

there is not much prospect of the state being willing to turn over several thousand dollars annually for the continuance of these institutes, therefore the farmers whom it is designed to benefit should be present, as well as urging their friends to attend also. Nothing can be lost by taking a couple of days off from your farm work and attending the institutes, but a great deal will be lost by staying away.

The institute that was held at Mount Pleasant on May 19 and 20 was the beginning of the series for the present year. Arrangements are being made for a large number throughout the year and The Ranch hopes to be able to announce each as soon as the gentlemen in charge have decided upon places and dates. Such papers as are read and can be secured for publication from time to time will be printed in our columns.

## Agriculture in Alaska.

Prof. C. C. Georgeson, in charge of the federal government agricultural experiment work in Alaska, with headquarters at Sitka, was in Seattle for a short business visit last week. He came to purchase equipment for a new agricultural experiment station at Rampart, on the Yukon river. Prof. Georgeson has been in his present capacity for six years or more and has made a close study of agricultural conditions in the territory. He says the prospects for agriculture there is exceedingly good, as conditions are favorable and crops of everything, except corn, can be raised readily. The cereals do especially well, as well as the hardier varieties of vegetables, and Prof. Georgeson sees no reason why

## RECEIVED TOO MANY REPLIES.

Upper Sumas, B. C.,  
June 9, 1904.

Publisher The Ranch:

Dear Sir—Please take my ad. out before next issue. I thought you understood I only wanted it run in one issue. I have been away more or less and had not noticed you were repeating the dose. I have had all kinds of communications—more than I care to answer. I have since changed my plan of going north and intend to run the place myself, so it makes it very embarrassing. However, I suppose you were waiting to hear from me. Of course should I ever decide to rent I am now in possession of a few applicants. Yours very truly,  
WENDELL BOWMAN.

Alaska should not in the near future be supporting three million inhabitants the year around. Under his direction at Sitka there is one station, where all kinds of experimental work are being carried on, including horticultural work to determine to what extent Alaska is capable of maintaining horticulture. At Kania, in the Cook Inlet district, is a second station. Here dairying is made a feature, and it is the intention of the authorities to establish a model dairy farm there. Experiments as to the best forage to raise have been carried on, and, so far, oats has been shown to be the best to use. To raise large crops of oat hay is a comparatively easy matter, which fact assures for most sections of Alaska an abundance of forage for dairying. In the Copper river valley the department is conducting experiments with grains and find the results excellent. The season runs from the first of May until September, and the hardy grains mature quickly. The soil is rich and large crops are obtained with proper care. Early frosts occasionally attack the crops the latter part of August, but as a general thing the crops are safe until September.

The Jones-Scott company has been incorporated at Walla Walla, with a capital of \$25,000, to buy and sell grain, operate warehouses, etc. William Jones, the well known grain dealer, J. C. Scott and Harry B. Strong are incorporators.

## A Blessing in Disguise.

Mr. C. W. Boost, proprietor of the Portland Wire and Iron Works, under date of June 6, wrote the following letter to The Ranch:

Editor The Ranch:—We received your valuable paper with note in regard to our more valuable cherry pitter, and will state that we are well pleased with the ad you have put in for us. We also note that you have free vegetable seeds. This is where we live; if there is anything we like it is something free; something for nothing, that is the idea exactly. We would like to have you forward us at once about 93 packages each for our little family garden: lettuce, radish carrot, onion, squash, beans, muskmelon, turnip, cabbage, grass, hay and oats. We especially need these seeds under existing circumstances. We are not exactly growing to seed ourself, but are sorry to state that our shop was destroyed by fire on the 16th of May. There was nothing left but the ground and the sidewalk. The sidewalk was cement or probably that would have been destroyed also. However, we are still in the ring and are doing business over the iron works of Trenkman & Co. on Fourth street until we can rebuild a substantial two-story brick on the old site, which we expect to have in operation before three months. In the meantime we would like to get in some other kind of business, such as publishing a farm paper or something easy like that. If you know of anything in that line, kindly let us know, and oblige. Yours very truly,  
—C. W. Boost.

The news of destruction by fire of Mr. Boost's building is not a calamity, but an act of providence and the occasion of much rejoicing among the populace of Portland. By reason of the liberal advertising policy he has always pursued he has been accumulating wealth at a rate to put Russell Sage to shame. The building was erected of slabs, stakes and cottonwood rails at Oregon City in 1847 and was washed down the river to Portland by the big flood in 1894. It was positively the most dilapidated ramshackle affair in the web-foot city. During alternate spells of wet and dry weather it would bulge and warp all over the neighborhood. The city passed a special ordinance against her wriggling into the street, so Boost anchored her down but she broke away from her moorings during the hot weather three weeks ago, and the dog catcher ran her into the pound for going around without a license. Doubtless the angry citizens set the building afire.

The destruction of the plant will not affect the business of the Portland Wire & Iron Works in the least, for new machinery has been installed and all orders are being filled with dispatch. A handsome brick edifice will shortly be erected on the site of the old building—if the free government seeds The Ranch sent Mr. Boost ripen in time to let the ground be turned over to the builders.

## Sugar Beets at Tekoa.

The production of sugar beets is assuming a large scale in the vicinity of Tekoa. D. C. Corbin, of the Waverly factory, has 550 acres planted on the Indian reservation, a short distance east of Tekoa. He keeps fifty horses and a large number of men constantly employed. There are also about 400 acres more in cultivation by farmers in contiguous territory, whose produce will be shipped from here. This makes a total of 950 acres, as compared with 215 acres in the same territory last year. It is estimated that from 8,000 to 9,000 tons will be shipped from Tekoa the present season.

Write your farming experiences for publication in The Ranch.