

# The Ranch



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

VOL. XXI. NO. 16.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, AUGUST 15, 1904.

50c per Year; 5c the Copy.

## CONDITION OF THE GOLDEN GRAIN HARVEST

The reports that have been pouring in from the wheat fields of central and eastern Washington cannot fail to impress one with the fine crop generally and the good yields that are being realized. With scarcely an exception, the statement is made that the crop turns out better than expected, both in yield and quality of the grain. Below are given a number of reports that have reached the office of The Ranch from the grain sections. A perusal of these will give the reader a good idea as to the crop situation.

Colfax advices state that threshing is in full blast in many sections of Whitman county, and in all cases reported the yield has been up to or above the expectations. The grain is of fine quality and will command top prices. At present buyers are offering 55c for club and 60c for bluestem wheat of the new crop, but no sales are reported. Buyers say that an advance of several cents above these prices can be secured for strictly No. 1 wheat if farmers really want to sell. At these prices the crop will bring an enormous amount of money and big profits will be made.

Edward Johnson, of Colfax, reports a yield of 60 bushels per acre from 40 acres of barley on his farm near Almeta. The grain stood too long before being cut, and was so ripe that it shattered badly. The estimate as to the loss in this way runs from one-fourth to one-third of the grain in the fields. If these figures are correct, the yield for the Johnson field would be from 70 to 80 bushels per acre. Matt Johnson, a brother of Edward, has threshed 50 acres of red Russian wheat, which averaged 42 bushels per acre, and is of fine quality. Mr. Johnson says the acreage in his section is far in excess of any previous year and the yield is one of the best ever known there.

### In Adams County Fields.

A. Coolridge and A. F. McClaine, of Spokane and Tacoma, respectively, have 1,400 acres in wheat in Adams county. James A. Adams, the general manager of the ranch, estimates this wheat will average forty bushels to the acre. This is all fall wheat and is of fine quality. Mr. Adams says some of it will yield full fifty bushels to the acre, but he is confident the entire 1,400 acres will average forty bushels to the acre. This means 56,000 bushels of wheat for this firm this year. The firm owns land near Palouse and Pullman, and all of it is fine agricultural land and produces good crops every year.

The harvest work in Adams county

was well under way ten days ago, and considerable of the crop has already been cut and threshed, and the prospects of a good crop that have prevailed since early last spring, are, with few exceptions, being fulfilled. Reports received so far point to a yield of fall grain throughout the county at 25 bushels and over, while the spring sown grain will not reach those figures, owing to the heavy frosts at the time the grain was stooling and the hot winds that prevailed in this section of the country during the early part of July.

The price of wheat, which started with quotations for the new crop at 53 cents for red wheat and 58 cents for bluestem, have advanced to 59 and 65

bushels being the average for this vicinity. Practically all of the crop has been disposed of at one cent a pound. No wheat has been sold for the reason that few have finished threshing and none has been hauled in to town. Farmers refuse to contract their crops as heretofore.

A dispatch from St. John, Whitman county, says, under date of August 9: "The first new wheat was hauled here Saturday by Frank Babcock. It is of the red Russian variety and tests 58 pounds to the bushel. It averages 130 pounds to the sack. The lot delivered Saturday consisted of 120 sacks. A number of header crews started to work last week in this vicinity, several of which report their

more than sixteen machines threshing grain in the vicinity of Garfield by the end of this week. The town has been full of idle men waiting for the machines to start. Wages are not less than \$2 per day, and from that up to \$5, according to the kind of work done. Boys 15 and 16 years old are earning \$2 per day working in the harvest. Wheat will be good and much of it will grade No. 1. The wheat crop will be larger than in former years. Fall sown wheat will average 40 bushels and better, and there was 25 per cent more acreage sown to wheat last fall than at any time in the history of the country. The spring sown grain is looking fine and will be a bigger crop than was at first expected.

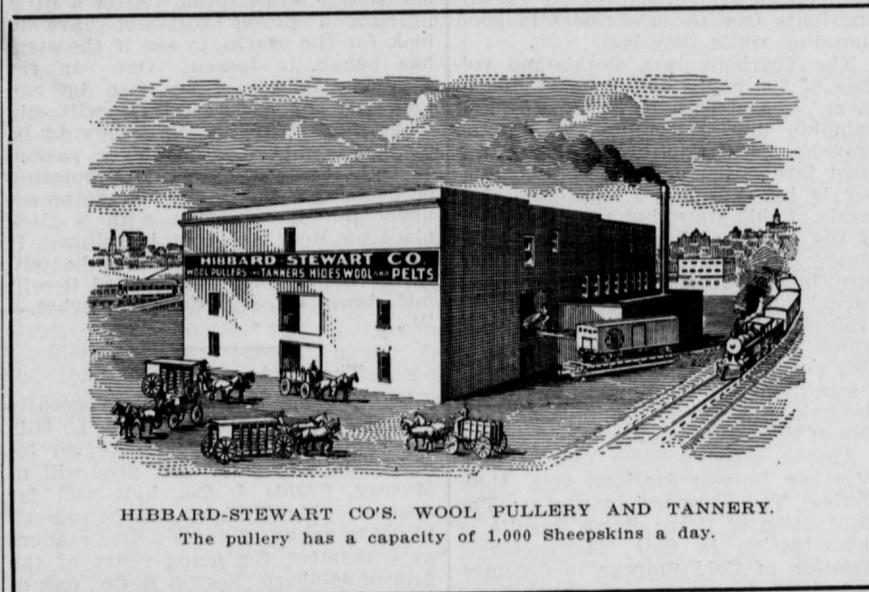
### In the Pullman Section.

The first threshing in the immediate vicinity of Pullman began last week on the farm of M. F. Russell, three miles north of Pullman. "Jack" Powers' thresher began the season's run there on club wheat, sowed last fall on summer fallowed land. The wheat is yielding 30 bushels per acre, and is of fine quality, testing 61 pounds to the bushel. Late sown spring wheat will yield a light crop, but there is little of that in this section, the bulk of the crop being fall wheat, which will average well throughout the county.

There has been a scarcity of harvest help in the Pullman section and farmers were delayed in starting their machines, owing to the lack of laborers. The ranchers in the vicinity of Pullman have established a free employment agency at the Artesian hotel for the purpose of securing help for harvest. The harvest is beginning earlier than was expected here, and this accounts in part for the shortage of help. In former years harvest was about over in the Walla Walla and Pendleton districts before it began here, and men came from those places in time to begin work here at the opening of the harvest season. There is a large acreage in this section and a long harvest season is expected. The yield is expected to be large.

### Good Crop in Columbia.

From Dayton it is learned that Columbia county is harvesting the best wheat crop ever known in the history of the county, and a barley crop that is as good as the best. At this time very few can tell their exact yield, on account of not having finished threshing. Charles Bowman, near this place, reports an average of 53 bushels of wheat for a field of 85 acres. Practically no wheat has been sold so far, all demanding 70 cents per bushel, while present prices are



HIBBARD-STEWART CO'S WOOL PULLERY AND TANNERY.  
The pullery has a capacity of 1,000 Sheepskins a day.

cents, respectively, and as yet the farmers have sold but little, many claiming they expect it to go 10 cents higher before the maximum price for the season is reached. Little wheat has been hauled so far, as other work on the farms is too pressing, and most of the sales that have been made have been on contracted grain, several sales having been made at 60 cents for bluestem. The first new wheat delivered and sold brought 63 cents on a No. 1 grade for bluestem, but only a small lot was disposed of at that figure.

### No Contracting in Waitsburg.

From Waitsburg comes the report that the wheat harvest around that place has been progressing slowly on account of hot weather. The best of yields are reported. The average so far is estimated at 45 bushels. The yield of oats was especially good, 60

horses were overcome by the heat Thursday and Friday."

### Tekoa Elevators Shipping.

From Tekoa we learn that the Pacific Grain company has already received 2,000 bushels of the new crop of wheat, and the first shipment was one carload to Portland on Saturday. The grain that has thus far been marketed is of a more than usually excellent quality, resembling in dryness and firmness the wheat of Dakota and Minnesota. The prevailing price is 55 cents per bushel, with little tendency on the part of the farmers to sell.

### Wages Good at Garfield.

Garfield advices last week stated that harvesting in that vicinity was on in good earnest and the threshing machines were about to move into the field and begin work. There will be