

THE FIELD

Pacific Coast Wheat Yield

The preliminary estimate of the federal department of agriculture of the Washington winter wheat yield is 11,426,061 bushels, which is nearly 4,000,000 bushels larger than the actual crop of 1903. It is said the enormous crop of this year is not due so much to an increased acreage as to a phenomenal yield. This yield of 11,426,061 bushels of winter wheat averages more per acre than that of any other state in the union. The department places it at 26.3 bushels. Idaho is a close second with 26.2 bushels, while the average for the whole country is placed at 12.3 bushels. Of course, the figures, both as to total yield and as to the average, are liable to be somewhat modified, owing to the attack of black rust in many sections, but approximately they are correct for purposes of comparison. It might be well to call attention to the fact that winter wheat conditions on the Pacific coast are in striking contrast to those which obtain in other parts of the country, for there is estimated to be a loss of about 60,000,000 in the crop of 1904, as compared with that of last year. The official preliminary estimate, subject to correction in December next, gives a crop of 47,567,697 bushels on the west coast—that is, in the states of Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California. Last year's Pacific coast crop was 38,083,891 bushels.

The indicated winter wheat crop in Idaho is about 1,400,000 bushels larger (or nearly 50 per cent larger) than last year's; Oregon's is about 900,000 bushels larger and California's is about 3,300,000 bushels larger. The conditions were better on the coast than anywhere else in the country, and they were far better than they were last year in the same states. In all four of the states under consideration the acreage yield was larger than last year. This is the second year in succession that Washington has led all the states in the union in the productiveness of its winter wheat soil.

The department will make no estimate of the spring wheat crop until October. The conditions throughout the Pacific northwest region are excellent, however, except in certain small localities, and the prospect is that the Washington crop will be upwards of 15,000,000 bushels, and it is the belief of the agricultural department that it will go a little more.

A Menace to Kittitas Valley.

The Ellensburg Capital in its last issue called attention to what might be a serious menace in the Kittitas valley unless promptly checked. "Adam M. Stevens," says the Capital, "left at this office thriftily and almost ripe specimens of two plants, the introduction of which will mean untold damage to Kittitas valley. One is the burdock and the other is the cocklebur, both burs of the most tenacious character and alarmingly prolific. Mr. Stevens declares that the former plant left by him easily contains a million seeds and had this specimen been allowed to ripen the species would have had a great start. Aside from its fecundity, it carries dread to sheep men

who know it, because once it, or either of these burs get in the wool they can never be removed and great damage is done the clip. Besides this, the sheep carry and scatter the seed.

"Mr. Stevens found these plants in the lane between here and the upper bridge. He said he watched the plants grow from the time they came through the ground and he felt certain that the owner of the land would exterminate them, but as he did not he himself pulled them up just as the burs had formed, and thus put an end to their mischief. People generally and sheep men in particular should keep a look out for this great menace and promptly stamp out the nuisance whenever it may be found."

Tomato Crop Not Good.

Indications are that the tomato crop throughout the greater part of eastern Washington is a poor one this year. The trouble, Horticultural Commissioner Von Holderbeke says, is due to a blight or bacterial disease, and he recommends the following procedure as a preventive. Of course, it is too late to do anything this year, but the growers should do something next season to avoid a repetition of the trouble. Mr. Von Holderbeke says to first supply the soil with humus and second, to plant the tomatoes in the orchards, which will partially shade the plants, or alternate in planting with rows of corn in the absence of trees. The plants should be moistened whenever necessary, which will be determined by the appearance of the plants. If the leaves begin to wilt in the middle of the day and at night take on a flabby appearance instead of straightening out, it is an indication that they require water. It is necessary to cultivate as well as irrigate the plants. Over irrigation will close the pores of the soil, which shuts out air and heat, necessary to decompose the necessary elements of plant life.

Colfax Wheat is High.

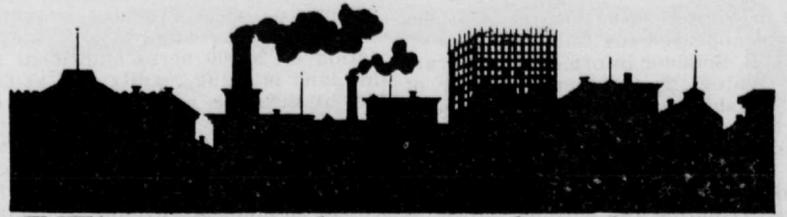
Last week in Colfax wheat prices went higher than had been the case in a long time. C'ub and red grades sold for 70 cents, while bluestem went to 76 cents. Large sales were made throughout Whitman county at these figures. Farmers are jubilant, and many expect higher prices. While large sales are being made, few are selling their entire crop, many preferring to hold a portion for an advance. The Northwestern Warehouse Co. bought 65,000 bushels at those prices in one day.

Walla Walla and Pendleton reports indicate that heavy sales of wheat have been made at both points, at good stiff prices. The demand for cars was so heavy the first week or ten days after threshing had commenced that the railroads rushed cars in by whole trains. From the Pendleton section considerable wheat was shipped to the eastern cereal markets and much went to fill contracts on the New York and Chicago boards of trade.

The United States government is now taking daily measurements of the amount of water carried by the Wenatchee river. This is the first time in the history of the river that any measurements have been taken. While nothing definite is known regarding the motives back of these measurements, it is presumed that they have some relation to the national irrigation scheme.

In sections of Whitman and other eastern Washington counties the wheat straw is rather heavy and the heads light in consequence. This makes the yield a little less than was at first estimated, and the expense of threshing more, on account of the additional time necessary to handle heavy straw.

It is reported that the oat crop of the Samish and Laconner flats, in Skagit county, is one of the largest in the history of that section.



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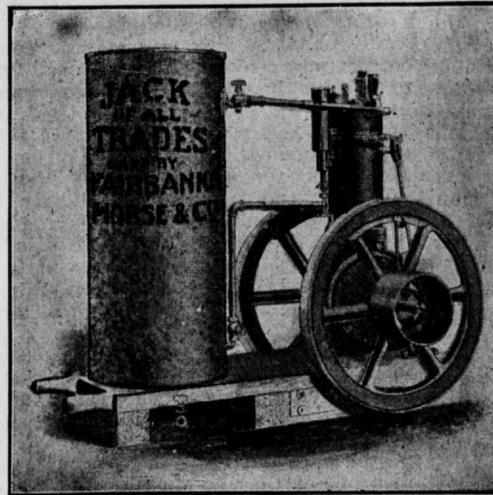
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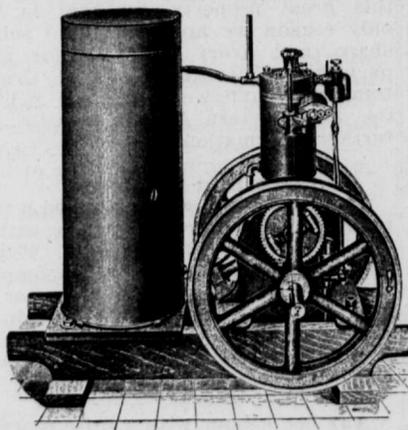
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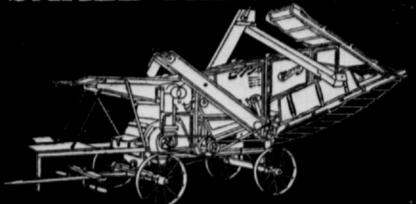
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