

# The Ranch

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By The Ranch Publishing Corporation

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If you are not a subscriber to The Ranch but receive a copy of the paper please take it as an invitation to subscribe. Look through this issue carefully and note the large amount of matter written by Washington people for The Ranch exclusively. These contributors write from experience and their statements are adapted to conditions as they exist in this part of the country. You must have The Ranch in order to be able to farm intelligently in the Pacific northwest. Papers published in the east are all right in their place, but what they tell you could not be applied to conditions here.

The caterpillar scare is again being worked up among those who have trees or shrubbery, and the measures suggested for its extermination in many cases are so drastic that it seems to us the caterpillars might as well be left alone and allowed to do the work of destroying the trees as to try some of these remedies. They will destroy the caterpillars, sure enough, and with them you may count on seeing some of your fine trees die, too. In this issue our horticultural editor tells what should be done now to stop the ravages of the pest. Whatever is done, the work should be done well and every one in a community should join hands in the attack. Attention should also be directed to the underbrush through the timber in the vicinity of your fields or orchards, for there may be found caterpillars in greater numbers than you imagine. The writer was through some underbrush the other day, and for a distance of about half a mile saw nothing but small white tents on the tiny branches, every tent full of wriggling little caterpillars, which by this time are eating up foliage and doing other damage to their hearts' content, as well as laying the foundation for even greater broods next season.

### Good Packing Is the Secret.

This is not the first time reference is made to the above subject in these columns. Both in the editorial pages and in the horticultural department The Ranch has tried to impress upon its readers the very paramount importance of properly grading the apples intended for the market, and then packing them snugly and evenly as to size in clean new boxes. Some of our readers have taken issue with us, claiming the manner of packing has nothing to do with sales, but that the commission men themselves are to blame, that they are dishonest as a whole, etc. From their letters it could be readily seen that those writers did not know what good packing was, believing that their way was the only right one and insinuating that the commission men did not know anything about packing or grading of fruit. We are sorry for those misguided growers, and hope they may learn something from the very instructive article in this issue from the pen of A. D. Dunbar, of Sunnydale, King

county. Mr. Dunbar tells his experience in a clear manner, with no effort at elaboration. He shows where the turning point in his growing and packing business overtook him, since which time he has been making money right along and has no cause to complain that commission men do not pay what the fruit is worth.

"A hole would sell better than a small apple!" What a great truth is contained in the above utterance made by one of the salesmen who handled Mr. Dunbar's first shipment of what the latter considered an ideal pack! The people who pay for the best apples are fastidious not only as to what they eat in the way of apples but also as to what they see before they take a bite. Place before them a box of apples of nice uniform size and the right coloring, and they will dig down in their pocket book for the last penny to get that box, if necessary. On the other hand, if you spoil the looks of the opened box by putting in even one apple that is too small or not of the same color as the others, you cannot make a sale to the particular purchaser. Study the suggestions contained in Mr. Dunbar's article and try to live up to them the coming season. We would like to know the result!

### New Way of Burning Stumps.

In a recent issue mention was made of a stump-burning outfit where there were sixteen lines of hose connected with an engine and blower, each individual hose supplying a blast of air to a stump, thus making the fire burn much faster than ordinarily. Three or four inquiries have been received from subscribers for fuller details regarding the outfit. Our first knowledge of the outfit came to us from a gentleman who had seen it in operation a short distance north of Seattle. The system consisted of a Fairbanks gasoline engine, known as the Jack-of-All-Trades, and a common blacksmith's fan. The different lines of hose were fastened to a special contrivance for the distribution of the air, and at the stump end of each hose there was a common iron pipe that was pushed into holes bored as far under the base of the stump as possible—preferably under the ground in order to throw the blast upward and fan the flame better.

The writer has not seen the outfit personally, but has made inquiries of several parties who have seen it in operation. They all pronounce the system a success. It will enable one to burn out stumps in a much shorter time than is possible by depending on the wind for fanning the fires. The blast from the blower acts in the same manner as does a blast from a blow pipe on any substance, quickly heating it or burning it, as may be desired. A green stump may be attacked and consumed without the tedious wait for the wood to become sufficiently dried up to burn in the natural way. Efforts were made to see the owner of the outfit, but he had moved to another locality farther north, where he is now working in the timber. No one who had seen the outfit at work could give his name, nor his present location, but we hope to find out sometime soon. We were informed that the inventor had applied for a patent on his idea, but what part of the outfit this was to cover could not be learned. In our opinion an outfit working on these principles should prove to be a good thing for all who have large areas of stumps to burn out. Blasting is unnecessary when the work of burning is well done, for the burning can be done so deep among the roots as to leave practically nothing to interfere with cultivation of the soil. What is left can easily be pulled out with a team.

### In the San Francisco Catastrophe.

The earthquake and fire that razed San Francisco to the ground caught several of the patrons of The Ranch, but reports so far received indicate that they will soon be on their feet again and doing business as before the fire. One of the firms that was especially hard hit is the Paraffine Paint Co., makers of the famous Malthoid roofing. Their offices in the ill-fated city were completely wiped out, but their factory, being located at Paraffin, Alameda county, across the bay, escaped injury. The temporary main office of the company has been established at the Union Savings building in Oakland, and the company is prepared to do business

as before. There has been no advance in the price of Malthoid roofing or other of the company's products.

C. C. Morse & Co., dealers in seeds at 185 Sansome street, were caught, but how badly, we are not informed. The company's seed farms and warehouses were in other parts of California and, so far as we know, were not damaged.

The Chas. H. Lilly Co.'s branch in San Francisco suffered, but as the company has its main offices and warehouse in Seattle and a large branch in Portland, the filling of orders has not been materially hindered.

The Petaluma Incubator Co., whose offices and factory are at Petaluma, Cal., had a branch office in San Francisco where a large stock was carried. While suffering the destruction of this stock the factory will be able to fill all orders, the earthquake that was general throughout the state not having damaged it. In addition to carrying a large stock in San Francisco, the Petaluma Incubator Co. has a warehouse at Indianapolis, Ind., where they carried a large stock and from which all eastern orders will be filled.

The G. W. Price Pump Co., makers of gas engines and pumps, write that their shops and office in San Francisco were totally destroyed, but they immediately opened a temporary office in Oakland. They have already selected a site for their new works and will be in running order again very soon. In the meantime they will draw from their stocks at Visalia and Los Angeles to fill orders.

The F. J. Cooper Advertising Agency, of San Francisco, with which The Ranch has had many dealings, lost everything in the fire, but immediately opened an office at Oakland and announce they will soon be in shape to handle business as before.

For the winter shows fanciers advocate setting the eggs about this time, as it is the May hatched chick that is strongly in evidence when those shows are being held. Many of our farmer friends are of the opinion that all fancy show stock should be hatched in March and April, and some even want them hatched much earlier. Now, these early hatched birds will molt in October and after that they are no better in plumage than cocks and hens. On the other hand they are just what is wanted to exhibit at the early fairs where nothing in chickens count more than size and maturity.

A valuable little book has been published by the J. I. Case Plow Works, entitled "The Farmer's Encyclopedia." As we understand the matter, this book is for free distribution among the patrons of the J. I. Case Plow Works, and a copy may be secured by writing to any one of the houses of the Mitchell, Lewis & Staver Co., who handle Case plows and other productions. The Seattle branch is at 1247 Utah street.

"The Man with the Muck Rake" is the title of a pamphlet gotten out by the International Harvester Co. of America, whose offices are at Chicago. The pamphlet exposes a diabolical scheme on the part of an eastern implement publication to blackmail the International Harvester Co., in which attempt the said publication failed for want of co-operation on the part of fair-minded and honest people whom it attempted to lead into the scheme. Any one of our readers may secure a copy of the pamphlet by writing to the International Harvester Co., or by calling on one of the International dealers.

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