

The Ranch

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State Grange Meeting.

The Annual State Grange meeting held last week at Snohomish was the most successful the Grange of Washington has ever held. There were at least 500 enthusiastic members and delegates in attendance and the work accomplished was probably the most important of any meeting of that body yet held.

It was the first meeting of that body that the editor of The Ranch has ever attended, and it makes him still prouder of the great growth of the agricultural industries in the state of Washington than he has ever been. Born and raised on a farm until manhood, knowing all of the discouragements as well as the pleasures of farm life, it does him good to see the enthusiasm of the farmers of Washington and the class of people they are.

The men and women attending that meeting had no superior at any meeting held in the state. Among them are leading men in the state and men found in all progressive movements. They took strong grounds along moral lines and every progressive measure received their enthusiastic support.

The farmers and their families in this state are as they have been in every state, the real leaders in the moral and political reforms of the day. They are the equals of any class. It makes honest farmers prouder of their profession to attend these meetings and rub elbows with their friends from other parts of the state and get new views of agriculture.

The work of the convention really began with the reading of the annual address by worthy President Kegley. This was an able document and fearlessly treated those questions in which the farming community is deeply interested. He showed the order to be in a splendid growing condition, and last year the state of Washington gained 105 new granges, while the entire United States gained but 409.

At the election the expected fight did not materialize, Mr. Kegley being elected by 226 votes out of 245. Mr. Lewis, the state Secretary, was also re-elected without opposition. Both men have worked hard for the order and the members believed they should have a hearty endorsement.

The government crop report for week ending June 9th, showed some droughty conditions in various parts of the country. The entire average was 2.8 below the ten year normal, but the latter part of the month offset this by good rains. Spring wheat totaled 101, cotton 108, apples 102. Nearly all the fruit and vegetable crops showed a decline from the average from one to 20 per cent. At that time the entire crop of wheat taking increased acreage into consideration, was 10 per cent larger than last year, oats about 13 per cent, hay about six per cent under the average. Taking individual states the average crop is from 81 per cent to 90 per cent in New England states. The Southern states were very little better. The Middle Western states averaged 95 per cent and the upper Mississippi states nearly all averaged 100 to 102 per cent. The Pacific Coast states showed the best conditions of any states in the Union. Washington stands 103.1 per cent; Oregon 103.2 per cent; Idaho 102.3 per cent.

On the first page we are publishing a picture of the world's record Holstein cow, owned by the Monroe Dairy Farm at Spokane. The state of Washington is becoming famous for its dairy cows as it has the world's champion Ayrshire cow and the world's champion Holstein cow, and also has several near champion Jersey and Guernsey cows.

The editor of The Ranch has received two valuable books from D. C. Heath & Co., publishers of Boston.

These are "Fundamentals of Agriculture" by Halligan and "Farm Friends" and "Farm Foes" by Webb. Both of these books are worthy of space in the library of any student of agriculture. A more complete description of these books is given on page 19. They are not expensive and should be in every farmers' library.

The Ranch is in receipt of the Yakima Valley Nursery Co.'s catalog. It is a beautiful book with a branch of Spitzenberg apples, full size in colors, on the front cover. Its 75 pages of description shows this company to be a leader in their line. They make a specialty of fruit, nut, shade and ornamental trees. This company reports that they are looking for a very prosperous year among fruit growers in the state, and especially in the nursery business. They say the recent rains have thoroughly soaked the ground in that country and growing prospects are very fine. The book can be had for the asking. Address them at Toppenish, Wash.

James J. Hill the great railroad man has recently sold bonds to the sum of \$600,000,000 on Wall street. This is one of the largest railroad bond issues ever floated, and Mr. Hill is certainly to be congratulated. When a man 73 years of age, when most men are dead or are expecting to die daily, can swing the largest deal of his life, it proves that Mr. Hill is one of the most remarkable men of the age. It is said that about half of this vast sum will refund debts of the Great Northern and the Burlington system which by this deal comes under the direct control of Mr. Hill. The balance of the money will be put into new trackage and railroad betterments.

The average tax payer of the state does not grasp the meaning of the good roads fight in this state. All he knows is that an immense amount of taxes are being paid from which he can see but little benefit. Tax payers realize, however, that vast sums of money have been paid into this fund for roads, good and bad, mostly bad. Figures recently compiled by the state show that from 1907 to 1910 the several counties of the state paid into the state treasurer, the immense sum of \$1,507,019 for state roads and state aid roads only. The average citizen wonders in amazement as he looks at the average road where this vast sum of money has gone.

The Southwest Washington Fair Association has issued its fall fair premium list. It makes a splendid showing for the association, though it is one of the youngest of the fairs of the state. The grounds are beautifully situated mid-way between Chehalis and Centralia, and the means of communication are of the best. The premium list is a very attractive one and the prizes are valuable. This should be the best fair the association has held. The date is September 11 to 16.

The Guernsey cow Dolly Dimple, owned by L. A. Aimes, of Northeast Massachusetts, holds the world's record for her breed. For three years she averaged 638 pounds of butter fat. At five years of age she produced 836.21 pounds of butter fat in a single year. This is not only very near the yearly record, but is probably the greatest three year record ever made.

Notice to Subscribers.

The Ranch has been receiving a great many new subscriptions during the past month. We again wish to call the attention of our subscribers to the necessity of signing their names and giving their post office address. To receive a subscription from a person who forgets to sign his name or office is embarrassing to us and we generally hear from them in a sarcastic manner, blaming us when the fault is entirely their own. It takes about three weeks from the time a subscription is sent to get the address corrected on the mailing list. After that time we wish any one who send us money, and their paper does not show correct date, to send us a letter and call our attention to the fact. We are now in receipt of two subscriptions in which money has been sent without a name. Mr. William Pahl sent us 50 cents without his address. We would be pleased to hear from him. A little care on the part of our subscribers will save us trouble as well as themselves.

Again we say, write the name and address plainly, and if you desire a change of address, give the old address as well as the new.

The past two weeks have seen the best growing weather of the season, and crops of all kinds are coming on in good shape. The heavy rains in May filled the ground with moisture, and the warm June days have brought the crops along very fast. The latest government report credits the Pacific Northwest with the best crop showing of any part of the Union. The cherry crop is a light one, and the prune and plum crops are dropping badly, so it looks as though these crops would be below average. The winter wheat crop is above the average and the spring wheat crop will equal the average unless we have a July drought.

The annual meeting of the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers will be held at Columbus Ohio beginning November 13th. At the same place on the 15th of the month will be held the annual meeting of the workers of agricultural colleges and experiment stations. These notices are being sent by the secretary months ahead, so that proper arrangements may be made for them. They are very important meetings touching the work of better farming.

The tax commission has recently compiled figures which show that more than \$27,000,000 in taxes are to be raised on last year valuations for 1911 taxes. This includes all taxes state, county and municipal, and there is an excess of two millions more than was ever levied before. State taxes have been reduced, and the larger part of the tax is on special improvement districts in cities.

We are still receiving requests for the 1909 Year Books and Report of Bureau of Animal Industry. We notified our readers some time ago that these were all gone. The only thing we have left are the 1908 Year Books. As soon as the 1910 books come in our readers will be notified. We have probably received 50 requests already for these.

Write to advertisers in "The Ranch."