

The Ranch

VOL. XXX. No. 4.

KENT AND SEATTLE, WASH, AUGUST 15, 1911.

50c Per Year, 5c the Copy

Washington Harvesting Bumper Crop

The state of Washington is harvesting the biggest crop in its history. While other states have suffered with the drought so that the average has been cut down, the Pacific Northwest is going to reap its banner crop. Haying is over and the biggest crop of hay ever cut has been placed safely in the barns. The wheat harvest is in full blast, and large yields are being threshed. The oat crop is a little short of the average. The fruit crop is the only one that shows a serious falling off, and still some sections will produce a magnificent crop, but the state as a whole will not have more than 60 per cent of last year's crop. While other states have suffered with a drought, the Pacific Northwest had a wet June, and made a full crop. Recently the Post Intelligencer made a thorough canvass through their correspondents of every county in the state, and the showing made is pleasing indeed to the citizens of the State of Washington. Oregon and Idaho will make equally as good a showing. Below we are publishing a resume of crop conditions in the several counties. Most of these are from correspondents to that paper:

TACOMA.

Inspector C. J. Holst, of the State Department of public service says: "The hay and grain yield of the State of Washington will be as great this year as in 1910, if not greater.

"There is but little more acreage," he said, "although the acreage harvested will probably be much greater.

Much wheat and other grain sown last year was not harvested because it was not worth while. Nearly all that was sown this year will be harvested.

"Oats and barley will probably show a greater increase this year than usual. The fall and spring grain yields are expected to be about the same as last year as regards acreage, although there may be some difference as to the extent of yield. The hot weather has had little or no effect on the crops. It has come too late to damage the fall wheat, although it may hurt the spring grain slightly.

"The hot north winds in the eastern part of the state did not make their appearance as early this season as they did last year and what winds have come did not damage the fall grain."

After a ten days' trip through Eastern Washington, during which he covered all of the grain and fruit regions of that part of the state, J. H. Roth, assistant superintendent of transportation of the Northern Pacific company, has increased considerably his early prediction for a banner crop.

"Never have I been so certain of a

bonanza crop for Washington as I am today," said Mr. Roth. "It is little less than marvelous when all conditions are considered. I traveled through miles and miles of wheat along the Camas prairie and Clearwater lines, where the wheat will run from sixty to seventy bushels per acre. The yield in these sections almost passes belief. For miles there is no apparent variation in the strength of the grain. The uniform heading and height are the cause of surprise. In all that region there will be no spot in which the yield will fall down.

"In the Palouse country the crop, while not uniformly so good as along the Camas prairie and Clearwater lines, is away above the average crop for that section. No injury has been done there by the hot winds of the last few weeks.

BUMPER IN BIG BEND.

"The grain in the Big Bend country is this year to repay the ranchers for the small crops of the last two years. With a greater acreage than ever before, and the standing grain also heavier than ever known, the Big Bend country is to have the largest crop harvested in that section by nearly a million bushels. The same is true along the main line from Spokane west. In the Horse Heaven country, where the dry farming methods are used, there has been some damage done by the hot winds. The full extent of the loss of the crop is not known at this time.

"All of the farmers in Eastern Washington are jubilant over their prospects for a record crop. The winter wheat is already assured, while the spring wheat bears such promise that many of the farmers are already making their estimates for next year's improvements.

"Their fruit crops, however, are not going to hold their own with the grain. The soft fruits in particular are showing a decided decrease from the yield of last year. This is said to be due to the cold spring weather. Thousands of bushels of peaches have fallen to the ground from the trees. The only region in which a good crop of peaches will be picked is in the vicinity of Zillah.

"Having gone over all the region I am more inclined to increase greatly the early estimates of the crop than to have the figures remain as first announced. It will certainly be a bumper harvest."

SPOKANE.

Inland Empire binders, combiners and headers will begin harvesting the

largest crop in this district in several years.

Cars have been gathered on warehouse sidings, preparing for a rush when threshing begins. Because of the poor yield the last two years, buyers expect heavy shipments, enabling farmers to wipe out debts accumulated during the lean years.

The first grain of the season, at Lapwai, Idaho, was sold yesterday by William Bozart, 5,000 sacks of No. 1 brewing barley, which sold to the Lapwai Milling Company at \$1 a hundred.

Columbia county farmers say the wheat harvest will be larger than usual. Estimate of the wheat indicates not less than 48,000 acres to be cut this year, against about 40,000 acres last year. Not less than 1,200,000 bushels and possibly 1,500,000 bushels is a conservative estimate of the Columbia wheat crop. Ranchers say little if any damage resulted from the hot weather.

Estimates of barley show there is about 25,000 acres in the county or 20 per cent less than the estimated acreage last year.

The Odessa Union Warehouse Company, owned by members of the local farmers' union, will open houses at Nemo, on the Great Northern and at Schoonover, Lauer and Batum on the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound, south of here, in anticipation of a monster yield.

Heading of winter wheat in the Odessa country is on in full blast. A few farmers have delivered loads and sold it at 68 and 70 cents a bushel. Winter wheat is yielding thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre. It has all tested No. 1 and better.

WALLA WALLA.

Present indications are that Walla Walla county will produce between a 50 and 60 per cent fruit crop and over a 100 per cent grain crop.

The acreage planted to fruit and bearing this year is about 10 per cent more than last. Estimates are that the yield will be 50 to 60 per cent of that last year, and at the same time 75 or 80 per cent of a normal crop, since the yield last year was unusually large. Last year about 2,000 cars of fruits and vegetables went out of the valley.

The acreage under the farm crops is practically the same as last year and the yield is expected to be heavier.

In the county there are 20,000 acres of fall wheat, 180,000 acres of spring wheat and 21,000 acres of barley, a total of 221,000 acres as figures by S. B. Calderhead, general agent here of the Northern Pacific.

The great amount of spring grain

compared with fall grain is due to an effort to kill out weed pests which have heretofore bothered the growers.

Estimates of the yield this year average close to 5,000,000 bushels. Reports from harvesting outfits now in the field give the average yield from 30 to 45 bushels an acre. It is too early yet to estimate closer.

CHENEY.

The average in wheat in this vicinity has increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent over last year. The estimates of yield run all the way from 25 bushels to 40 bushels per acre, quite an advance over the average yield.

The spring wheat was set back by the excessively hot days of a week ago, but the last few moderate days have revived it and there is now a fair promise of at least an average crop, some placing the estimate at 20 bushels per-acre. The warehouse men predict that at least 150,000 bushels will be marketed at the Cheney station.

EVERETT.

A conservative estimate of this season's crops in Snohomish county shows normal conditions in growth, a slight decrease in certain lines and great improvements in others. "It is interesting to note," says C. J. Stuart, of Monroe, the county fruit inspector, "that the hot weather has not interfered in the slightest degree with vegetation, owing to the well watered condition of this section."

Tree fruit production has increased 15 per cent over the production of last year, while berries have forged ahead 35 per cent. Apples and pears, however, must be excepted from the tree fruit advance, for the crop this year in Snohomish county will reach only 60 per cent of the 1910 yield, and last year proved a normal season for this fruit.

Raspberries are 70 per cent of one year ago; strawberries, 90 per cent; currants, 55 per cent, while blackberries and loganberries are up to normal.

The hay harvest has proved the best Snohomish has known for years. Potatoes, while of good quality, are reported somewhat deficient because of the continued cold weather early in the season.

Oats are fully up to or ahead of the usual standard of growth.

Snohomish county is not a wheat raising district, but just across the bay, on Whidby Island, the winter wheat is expected to go eighty-four bushels to the acre. This phenomenal production would stagger farmers in

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