

The Ranch



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Three New Bulletins.

The State College at Pullman has recently issued three splendid bulletins. One of these, Bulletin No. 94, is "Potato Investigation," by A. C. Craig. This bulletin is the result of three years experiments with the different varieties of potatoes grown in the Pacific Northwest, and it shows a great amount of study. There are also a few pages devoted to the planting and care of potatoes. The bulletin can be had by addressing the college, and it should have a wide circulation.

Another valuable bulletin is Bulletin No. 92, on "Cherries Grown in Washington." This takes up the question of cherry growing in a thorough manner. It is the result of the observations of W. S. Thornber, who is known as one of the most painstaking investigators of the state college. This describes the different kinds of cherries grown in the state, their value, soil requirement, etc. It is a splendid bulletin, and should be in the hands of fruit all raisers.

The third bulletin is No. 90, also by Professor Thornber. This takes up the question of fruit, shade and ornamental trees in Washington, and shows what ornamental trees makes the best growth. Discusses soil, moisture conditions and describes the trees usually grown, in a thorough manner. It is a valuable work. Any of these bulletins may be had on application to State College.

President Taft has been getting extremely busy during the past month. He has not only vetoed the farmers free list bill and the woolen schedule, but has also vetoed the law making Arizona a state. On the farmers free list bill and the woolen schedule, the president argues that the tariff commissioners has not yet reported and that no further tariff action should be taken until this committee has reported. This committee was appointed by a former congress and has been at work for a long time. The trouble with these standing committees has always been that they are composed of a lot of lame ducks. A good fat appropriation is made for them and they sit down to draw their salaries. It would hardly be human nature to expect a quick report. Rather with good salaries, plenty of secretaries and the easy atmosphere of political life in Washington, they take plenty of time in which to report their find-

ings. Year after year passes and no reports. The tariff board and monetary board have been several years working already and there is no evidence that either of them have their work near finished. The plain facts are, the American people demand tariff reform. They are extremely tired of paying for high tariff goods on which nobody receives any substantial benefit save the big manufacturers. If the republican party will not give the people a reduction of tariff, they will be swept from office and a democratic party will be given a chance.

The report of State Deputy Superintendent Dewey brings out a remarkable condition regarding school attendance in this state. This report shows that only one-half of the children who enter the primary grades remain to reach the eighth grade. That is, that only one-half of all children who enter school finish the simplest, common branches before leaving school. Worse than this even, the report shows that only one child in fifteen who enters school in the state of Washington graduates from the high school course. There is a text for a sermon in these figures. One-third of all the tax payers' money paid into the state goes to the support of our common schools, still not one-half reach the eighth grade, and only one-fifteenth finish high school. The reports show that there were 21,568 in the primary grade, 1700 in the eighth grade and only 2215 graduated in the high school last year, and yet a large per cent of the money paid into the school fund goes into the high school from which so small a per cent; one in fifteen, finish its course. This would indicate that more money should be spent in the common school, and that no effort should be spared to give the pupils in the lower grades the best possible education so that they may get some benefit of the few years they are in school.

The state college will take a new departure the coming year to bring its work closer to the farmer who it is intended to help. Instead of sending trains throughout the state, schools will be given in towns who desire them for such a time as the appropriation lasts. The Westside school will be held at Linden some time during the coming winter. The instructions will be along the lines of

dairy, hog raising, crops and soils, domestic science and other things in which the farming community is deeply interested. Men, women, and especially the young men and women are expected to attend and learn more of these important subjects. Another school which will be held this year will be at Cashmere, for the Eastside, in the fruit belt in the Wenatchee valley. The school there will necessarily be more largely confined to fruit growing, fruit packing, etc.

King county furnishes a pronounced and active candidate for the office of governor in Mr. Otto A. Case, at present auditor of King county. Mr. Case has been twice elected to the office of county clerk, twice to the office of auditor of King county, showing that he is strong with the voters. Mr. Case has issued a platform which is really one of the most progressive ever issued in the state, showing that Mr. Case is wide awake to the demands of the tax payers of the state of Washington. His plan for the improvement of logged-off land is one that meets with the approval of every good citizen. The plan is to have state lands cleared under supervision of the state, then sold, similar to irrigation propositions. This is sold to actual settlers on a long time payment. Mr. Case contemplates only a lease of the land. This would be a mistake as the land should be sold outright at the proper value. Mr. Case is also a friend of the direct legislation. Altogether Mr. Case has a platform of great merit and one which progressive republicans can indorse.

According to State Horticultural Inspector Huntley, Western Washington fruit growers may take heart. He says that just as much money can be made in Western Washington as Eastern Washington in raising fruits. He says that such fruits as pears and cherries can be grown most remarkably on this side of the mountains, better than elsewhere. He shows also that an entire neighborhood should be devoted to growing the same kind of fruits, so that large orders could be supplied when desired. This has been proven by the Berry Association at Puyallup. Formerly a small quantity of berries were grown and those could not be sold profitably. Now an enormous amount of berries are grown and car load after car load are being shipped, and good prices. Better this year than they have ever been.

The farmers of Whatcom county were instrumental in electing W. H. Kaufman as assessor at the last election, and since that time there has been a merry war in which the assessor seems finally to have lost out. Whatcom county contains a large number of fish traps which the assessor claims

have evaded taxation for a number of years. The new assessment raised the general average of fish traps about 600 per cent and raised the assessment from \$73,000 to \$750,000. It was intended they should bring into the county treasury about \$27,000 in taxes, but when the board of equalization met recently they reduced this amount to the old figure and the work of the assessor seems to have gone for naught. At this distance it is hard to tell who is at fault, but evidently the farmer is losing out in this matter to the fish traps and timber interests.

Farmers of the state of Washington take up the matter of building silos tardily, and finally use concrete when they build, but Grays Harbor mills are filling orders for lumber which will be used in building silos in Iowa. Recently a Grays Harbor train consisting of 20 cars, was sent direct from Grays Harbor to Des Moines, Iowa, with timber especially designed and cut for the building of Iowa silos. Another unaccountable feature presents itself when Washington woods are sent to Europe for street paving purposes, and the very cities which cut these woods are being paved with concrete or vitrified brick. Washington will be a more prosperous state when its citizens uses its great natural resources at its doors instead of grasping unknown resources from other states and nations.

In a late issue of The Ranch we took up the matter of a King county fair, in an editorial, bewailing the fact that this great county did not support a good agricultural, annual fair. We have received many complimentary letters, largely from the business men of Seattle, showing that the business men of Seattle are more wide awake to the benefits of such an institution than the farmers seem to be. They all appreciate the fact that the farming industry does not receive proper encouragement in King county, and appear to be willing to do everything they can to remedy the condition.

Get ready to attend the Puyallup fair. It is going to be better this year than ever. Extra efforts are being made to interest the young people, and some valuable prizes are offered. Send for their catalogue to John Mills, Secretary, Puyallup.

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