

# The Ranch

A JOURNAL OF THE LAND AND THE HOME IN THE NEW WEST.

Issued by The Ranch Publishing Company each Month, First and Fifteenth.

MEMBER OF

## Associated Farm Papers

Entered at the Kent Postoffice at Second-Class rates of postage.

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### For a King County Fair.

The agitation for a King county fair has borne fruit and we have every reason to believe the people are becoming aroused to the fact that such an institution can be made profitable to the people of this county. In another column will be found a letter from L. Y. Williams, master of the Pomona Grange of this county, in which he shows that the grangers are in hearty accord and enthusiastic for this proposition.

Nearly all the counties of the state are now holding annual fairs with profit to the entire agricultural and business interests. The time has gone by when it is necessary to cater to fake horse racing, fake shows or any other fake to get people to attend the fairs. A reasonable amount of clean sport is desirable and a reasonable number of clean shows are necessary, but the days of monstrosities, thimble rings, three shell games, etc., are past for which all are thankful, save the few who profited by skinning the public.

As has been pointed out before in The Ranch, fair grounds south of Seattle can be reached by half a million people in two hour's ride. There has been considerable talk of bringing the State Fair over to this side of the mountains. Whether this is a wise thing or not remains to be determined. One thing is true, and that is that double the number of people would attend. Transportation facilities are of the best. In addition to four lines of railway there is the interurban and street car lines.

Whether this is done or not, King county should have a fair of its own. Pierce county probably has the most successful fair in the state. This fair is the result of the patriotic, enthusiastic work of a small body of progressive farmers. It has proven too, that a fair can be run without fakes of any kind, or run in the interests of track gambling. It has proven also that a fair can be successfully conducted and made self-supporting without outside appropriations. This fair has never had a state appropriation. Pierce county, however, gives it a small appropriation.

The plan of a King county fair would be to get the active co-operation of not only the farmers, but the manufacturers, the educational societies, the horticultural societies and the business men of the county. If

this is done there is no question as to the result.

The success of the little fair of Vashon Island is proof that King county people are ready to support such an institution. The Pomona Grange has appointed a committee to co-operate with other societies for this purpose. The county commissioners have shown themselves to be favorable to the proposition, and we believe that if the matter be taken up soon a fair can be held next year. There is no time to be lost, and we hope all those interested will get together and formulate a plan. We hope all will read Mr. William's letter in this issue. The Ranch will be glad to publish letters on this subject.

The most remarkable change in political sentiment which has been recorded for many years was shown at the election in California last month. At that election the initiative, referendum, the recall and woman's suffrage were all adopted. The first by a large majority and the last by a small margin. Ten years ago the big interests had California bound and hog tied until the average voter was helpless, but now all of the progressive movements have been adopted. From being the least progressive of all the Pacific Coast states, where progress is in greater evidence than in any other part of the Union, California leads the procession. Those timid souls who fear the people are too excitable to look after their own interests will have another siege of cold shivers. They may rest their souls in peace. The people are not going to do anything desperate, and officers will not be recalled if they are honest with themselves and the people.

The live stock editor of The Ranch visited the Hollywood Farm a few days ago and was astonished at the work Mr. Stimson is doing. He has a large force of men at work and is making one of the finest farms in Washington or the United States for that matter. The dairy stock that Mr. Stimson produces was a revelation to him. He took an especial interest in noticing the three young Holstein bulls advertised by Mr. Stimson. These animals come not only from registered stock but from advanced registry dams and sires whose records gives them a place very close to the top of the breed. They

all show very fine dairy points. The Ranch is pleased to see so many of Seattle's wealthy business men building up good farms. Our January 1st issue will have three full page two color pictures of Mr. Stimson's fine grounds and buildings.

Professor Riggs, of the Government Bureau of Soils, has issued a report and map of Puget Sound in which he makes the remarkable statement that a wealth of potash can be obtained from the kelp of Puget Sound from a species known as the Bladder Kelp, and that great amounts of potash can be secured. He points out that there are hundreds of thousands of tons growing in Puget Sound, that it reproduces itself very rapidly. We sincerely hope that this may prove to be true, as potash is one of the essential fertilizers used by the American farmers, and there has been serious fear that enough could not be obtained at a price that farmers could afford to pay. Its particular value is in hardening fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries and even tree fruits, thus causing them to stand up for shipping and prevent early decay.

The Chas. H. Lilly Company have just issued their annual fall catalogue. This company, starting from a small beginning, has grown from year to year; always keeping in the forefront of the agricultural development of the state. They have made a special feature this year of grain, grass and field seeds. By its pages one will observe how carefully they are to get absolutely pure seeds, as their seeds are re-cleaned by modern machinery and no care overlooked to furnish their customers absolutely pure seed. The ladies will be interested in the pages devoted to the best varieties of roses grown in the Northwest. They have also a strong article on commercial fertilizers which will be valuable for every farmer.

The Fisher Flour Mills Co., Seattle, although it is not four months since they began operation of their mills, have been so successful that they already find it necessary to increase their capital stock from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000. The money will be largely spent for adding warehouse facilities. At the present time the plant is turning out 2000 barrels of flour a day which means that they are using up 100,000 bushels of wheat every twenty four hours. This is a matter in which the farmers are greatly interested.

The National mid-winter sheep show will be held at Omaha, Nebraska, December 13-16 in conjunction with the National Wool Grower's Association. It is said that \$6000 in prizes has been provided for and the premium list can be had by addressing the secretary, A. F. Striker, Omaha, Nebraska. There is every reason to believe that it will be the finest exhibition of sheep ever gotten together.

The people of Vashon Island are discussing the proposition of buying the old school buildings of the Vashon College and ten acres of land and forming a consolidated school. Their idea is to make this the educational and civic center of the island. If this act is approved by the tax payers an experimental station will be established in connection with the school. It is sincerely hoped the voters will

authorize this expenditure of money and have a splendid school surrounded with a experimental station under the direction of the state college. Vashon Island land is peculiarly adapted to berry and fruit growing and can be made valuable for that purpose. The Ranch hopes to see this splendid proposition become a reality.

The big Southwestern development meeting which was held in the middle of October at Aberdeen, formulated a splendid plan to get settlers for the logged-off lands of that rich section of the state. The plans include selling these lands at a reasonable price; clearing them in large bodies, so that it can be done cheaply, and furnishing money to assist the needy settlers in getting started. They will open up offices at Chehalis, which is the most central point and put a competent man in charge. This is apparently the most favorable plan that has ever been attempted to settle logged-off lands. When the logged-off lands of Western Washington have been properly settled they will maintain a population five times as great as the state now possesses.

The farmers in the Nooksack Valley, near Ferndale, are going to start a big berry industry. Already they have secured promise of 50 acres from farmers who will plant the red raspberry. They have contracted their berries at a minimum price of three cents per pound for blackberries, three and one-half cents for logan berries and four cents for raspberries. More will be paid if the market justifies, but at this price berry raising can be made very profitable.

A subscriber of The Ranch, A. Nichens, of Hood River, Oregon, desires our readers to know that he considers carbolineum a better spraying material for poultry houses than kerosene emulsion. He says after ten years experience he is satisfied that it is the cheapest and best.

Washington still leads the Pacific Northwest in wheat production. The government crop report giving this state 36,334,000 bushels. Oregon did not reach half that and has 17,066,000 bushels. Idaho leads Oregon, having 17,900,550 bushels.

The Washington State Dairy Association will hold its annual meeting at Montesano, December 5th, 6th and 7th.

### Thanks The Ranch

Farris, Wash., Oct. 18, '11.  
J. D. Dean,  
Dear Sir:

I take this opportunity to thank you for the formula for "Fly Repellant" you sent me August 7. It did the business. I also wish to congratulate you on the good paper you are making of The Ranch and to rejoice with you over the big list of new subscribers you report. I have read The Ranch for about six years and I can truthfully say that it never before reached the high grade it occupies at present in all its departments.

With best wishes,

W. J. TAYLOR.