

THE Ranch

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CHANGES IN HIGH FINANCE.

Money circles of the United States were astounded last week when J. P. Morgan and company announced that they would withdraw their interests from more than a score of corporations.

Mr. Morgan states that this action is taken in view of the fact that the American people have become satisfied that what is known as interlocking directorates are inimical to the best interests of the people. Other great financial interests are following Mr. Morgan's example and it looks as though a new day was dawning for American business interests. One of the striking features of the Pujo committee report was the showing of the interlocking directorates of the big financial houses, such as Morgan, Kuhn-Loeb and other New York financial corporations.

One of the suggestions of this committee was that a law should be passed compelling a dissolution of these directorates. The people immediately approved of this, and President Wilson's statesmanlike reply to the Bell Telephone's request for a dissolution of their trust has brought about a wonderful change in sentiment.

The editor of The Ranch believes that this action on the part of the Bell Telephone Co. and Mr. Morgan are the acts of men who really desire the best interests of the country in which they live. We are aware that this will be questioned by many people who will contend that this action is brought about through fear of government prosecution. But in view of the fact that government prosecution has been of little or no avail proves to us that these big men are honestly striving to obey the laws of the country.

Another man who deserves unusual credit is Mr. Geo. W. Perkins, of the International Harvester trust. Mr. Perkins has issued statements which show that this trust is attempting to obey the law. His statement should be read by every man who really desires to learn the facts. It is time that the government was discerning between trusts which really are organized to benefit the public; to reduce costs; to increase consumption, and that other class of trusts which are organized to crush competition; to raise prices and to benefit only the organizers. There is a vast difference between these classes of trusts. One is doing a service to the American nation and deserves success. The other class is a detriment to the nation and should be put out of busi-

ness as rapidly as possible. It looks like a better day was dawning for the American people and that a better understanding has arrived.

The Northern Pacific Railway, through Mr. Arney, Western Immigration Agent, is boosting the Winter School for Farmers at Pullman by sending out the prospectus to farmers throughout the state. This school began January 5th and continues until February 13th. Word comes that it is attended by more people than any previous school. Farmers are learning the value of this school and taking advantage of it more generally every year. There is scarcely a subject in which the farmer is interested that is not taken up and studied practically at this school. The domestic science course is equally important and large classes of women are in attendance. The expense of this is made just as light as possible. There is no charge for the instruction and board and room can be obtained very reasonable.

The friends of prohibition should not content themselves by simply making a fight to make Washington dry. They should take active means to establish, under police regulations, a home in cities of any size in the state to take the place of the saloon. The saloon, bad as is its influence, has some features which makes it a service to a community. It serves as a meeting place where strangers are welcome and provides comforts lacking elsewhere. Go to the average town anywhere and there is not a place a stranger can go with any degree of welcome. He cannot meet for a business call elsewhere than in a saloon. He is not welcome in a man's office as he is in the way. A comfortable meeting place should be provided for people and a charge made that will pay expenses and no more.

Manager Plummer, of the Portland Union Stock Yards of Portland, Oregon, has issued a small pamphlet showing the receipts of the yards there during the past year. This shows a steady increase year by year. Last year there was received 6,500 cars of stock, an increase of 834 cars over 1912. The great increase was in hogs. These rose in numbers from 120,932 in 1912 to 188,286 in 1913. Sheep shipments also increased about 40,000. Horses and mules showed a falling off of 883. Washington makes a poor showing in number of cattle shipped to that market. While Oregon furnished 3069 carloads of

stock last year Washington only furnished 75. Idaho furnished 299. Washington has devoted much more attention to dairying than livestock. The state should be paying more attention to the livestock industry. However this report shows nearly all of Oregon movements in live stock, while it shows very little of Washington's, as most of the live-stock here is handled at Seattle and Tacoma.

The initiative petition for a constitutional amendment to the state constitution to make Washington a prohibition state has been filed at Olympia. This will ask that the matter to be placed before the voters at the November election next fall. If it carries the state will go dry January 1, 1916. This will give the liquor interests more than a year to get their business matters in order to close up and relieve Washington of the liquor burden.

One of the most valuable holiday numbers to reach our desk was The Bulletin, of Walla Walla. It was a magnificent edition filled with some good agricultural statistics and a fine boost for that prosperous community. Brother Keeley has a just appreciation of the value of farming to a community.

Enumclaw, one of the best dairy sections of the state, is to have a new milk condenser. The new company has bought eight and one-half acres of land in the town of Enumclaw, and has accepted the plans of the building which will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

One of the most important agreements affecting agriculture in the state was the one reached recently between the Farmers' Union of Eastern Washington, mostly wheat growers, and the Port Commission of Seattle. By this agreement the Port Commission will erect immense grain elevators at Seattle to hold for shipment the grain of the Pacific Northwest. It will make Seattle the grain headquarters of the Pacific Coast.

Manager Robbins, of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors Union, reports that to farmers of the four Pacific Northwest states his company has paid more than \$2,000,000, and that another million is due, making the receipts to growers more than \$3,000,000. Thus does the Northwest grow in greatness.



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THE RANCH AND FAKE ADVERTISING

When the present editor bought The Ranch he decided to bar fake medicine advertisements, liquor ads, and all advertisements which were objectionable. He has followed that rule at a considerable cost. He has lost many dollars' worth of business by adhering to that rule. We go over our ad contracts carefully, and if one does not look right we refuse to sign it. The question to be decided is "What are fake ads?" Who agrees as to what are objectionable ads? What is objectionable to one person is not so to another. All medical ads are not fake ads.

These remarks are brought about by an objection by one of our subscribers to an ad appearing in our columns. In truth we refused that ad until certain objectionable features were cut out, but accepted it after their removal. We shall probably refuse it altogether after the present contract expires as it does have a bad appearance, but the reading and offer is not objectionable.

In regard to liquor advertisements, we have steadily refused them though good rates are offered, and there are few papers which do refuse them. Some injustice is sometimes shown from the fact that families will subscribe for a daily paper which carries page after page of liquor and fake medical ads and raise no objection, but will criticize agricultural papers at once. It takes money from advertising to run an agricultural paper as well as a daily paper.

Still we are in hearty accord with that body of citizens who oppose all fake and objectionable advertising. We may not always agree as to just what ads come under the rule, but our subscribers may be sure they will not see much of such advertising carried in the columns of The Ranch.

Through the kindness of Mr. Frank Hill, of Orillia, we have before us a copy of the Birmingham, England, Daily Mail, which gives an account of the giant fat steer Pat, which has been shown at county fairs about England. This steer would show American farmers that they don't raise all the big animals. Pat weighs 214 stone or 2998 pounds. The paper also tells of some potatoes which weighed seven pounds. There are some good farmers over there all right.—Kent Journal.

When writing to advertisers mention **THE RANCH**—it helps us both.