

by intelligent dealers that it has not been in excess of the rapidly increasing demand for meat food, but, on the contrary, has been in a smaller ratio. There must be a limit reached before long, for ranges have limits, and overcrowding them causes serious deterioration of their value and capabilities for grazing. Settlement is making great inroads upon them, and it seems as though grave complications were imminent. Thousands of miles of wire fence hedge in the plains, much of it encompassing millions of acres to which the owners of the fence have no equitable claim. Already fence cutting has become common, and is repressed by the stockmen in the same summary manner in which they deal with the older offence of cattle and horse stealing. What will be the condition of the industry ten years from now it is impossible to foresee, but it is easy to predict some most radical changes.

THE Board of Trade of this city has at last inaugurated a movement which should have been in good working order a year ago. When the Northern Pacific was thrown open to traffic there should have been a bureau of immigration organized and prepared to take the field in the interest of Oregon and Washington. This fact was recognized by observing men, was frequently spoken of by men interested in the development of this region, and received occasional prominence in the press; but no steps were taken to accomplish that end. There should be a State board of immigration, supplied with the means to properly collect and collate information—reliable facts—in regard to the resources of every section, and especially plats showing the location of every desirable acre of land that can be homesteaded, pre-empted or purchased. This office should be under the charge of a man of integrity and well informed upon the subject with which he has to deal, with as many intelligent and competent assistants as may be required. Representatives should be stationed at New York, Chicago and, if possible, other desirable points, to call the attention of the desirable portion of those contemplating a removal to the West to the advantages of this region, and give them the assurance that when they reach Portland they will find the most minute and reliable information, courteous treatment and hearty encouragement. Pending action by the Legislature on this most important subject, the Board of Trade has deemed it wise to inaugurate the movement at its own expense, rightfully assuming that the development of this region means growth and increased prosperity to the metropolis. There is little doubt that an adequate appropriation will be made by the Legislature which will soon assemble at Salem. Mr. C. B. Carlisle, who has written much about the resources of this region, and is eminently qualified for the position, has been selected to manage the bureau under the direction of a special committee of the Board.

THE press of the Northwest has repeatedly urged upon farmers the necessity of diversifying their products. They have time and again pointed out the folly of the one-crop system, from the baleful effects of which we are

now suffering. The only sure avenue of relief is for us to produce everything the home market demands, so that the millions of dollars annually sent away to purchase things which could be easily produced at home might be retained here in circulation. On this subject the *Northwestern Miller* says: "California papers are urging the farmers of that Coast to diversify their crops and to raise their own meat. Oregon papers tell of heavy receipts of Eastern and California butter, etc., and scold the farmers of that State for not engaging in dairying and stock raising. A few Dakota papers tell the farmers who now buy imported butter, eggs and meat that they will never make much money until they produce abundance of these things at home. All of which is true as gospel, and if the farmers of the sections mentioned heed and act upon this cheap and good advice there will soon be no cry of dull times in their locality. But the farmers are slow to follow such advice. Here in Minnesota, where active men and influential papers have been laboring for years to implant the idea that diversified farming is an absolute necessity, there are thousands who will not engage in it, and the result is low prices for their staple crop, and general complaint. There must be a change of a most sweeping character before prosperity and contentment are attained by the men who are to-day suffering from the results of the one-crop system."

THE present season has amply demonstrated the great future of the fruit industry in this region. There is little doubt that thousands of trees will be set out the coming year, not only west of the Cascades, but on those fertile and sheltered river bottoms of Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho and Montana. Care in selecting kind and quality of trees should be exercised, that only those fruits best suited to the climate, and for which there is the readiest market, be selected. One important consideration is the condition of the young tree itself. It has become settled by experience that young trees are affected by climatic influences; that a tree will thrive better in its own climate than in one radically different. For this reason orchardists who plant trees which were grown in this region will probably meet with a higher measure of success than those who import them from the East. There are enough good nurseries here to supply the demand—one especially which is first class in every particular, that of the Hon. Philip Ritz, near Walla Walla. Mr. Ritz has given his personal attention to the business for twenty-eight years, is a gentleman of wide acquaintance and unquestioned integrity, and has a nursery beyond which it would be useless for orchardists to look.

THE Oregon Short Line (Union Pacific) and Oregon Railway & Navigation Company have joined tracks at Huntington, on Snake River, in Baker County, Oregon, and we now possess a new overland route to the East. Through trains will be put on December 1. Aside from the benefit this city derives from now possessing two distinct routes across the continent, it receives connec-