

ASSERT ALASKA WHEAT YIELDS POORLY

THE BIG CLAIMS SEEM TO BE NOTHING BUT FARCICAL.

PROFESSOR HAS RAP AT IT

Head of the Washington Agricultural College Analyzes the "New" Find and Scores Heavily Against it, and Says it Will be Forgotten Soon.

PULLMAN, Wash., Aug. 23.—Professor E. E. Elliott, head of the department of agriculture in Washington State college, has investigated the so-called "Alaska" wheat, grown by Abraham Adams at Juliaetta, Idaho, which was heralded through the press of the entire country as a discovery which would revolutionize wheat growing in the United States. The publication of these articles caused great excitement among farmers, many of whom had arranged to buy seed wheat at fabulous prices. One farmer wrote to Professor Elliott and offered him \$5 for a single head of the wheat.

Professor Elliott is regarded as one of the best authorities in the United States on wheats, and was recently selected to write the article on wheat for the "Encyclopedia of Agriculture," edited by Professor L. H. Bailey of Harvard, which is recognized as one of the best authorities on agriculture. Professor Elliott visited the farm near Juliaetta where the wheat is grown, took photographs and made a thorough examination. His report, which he was asked to give to The Spokesman-Review for the benefit of the people of the northwest, is here given.

"A great deal of comment, chiefly of a bombastic character, has found its way into the public press concerning a wonderful new wheat claimed to have been discovered by an Idaho farmer in the icy wilds of Alaska and brought to Idaho and there propagated until from a single head in 1904 there has been produced such a thousandfold increase as the world has never before seen. The story which has been thus sent abroad through the Saturday Evening Post and other papers would naturally cause great comment and even excitement among farmers and those engaged in producing and handling the world's greatest bread crop. If this fairy tale, which is so well told, were only half true the world might well sit up and rub its eyes, for its food supply would be at once placed beyond the possible exhaustion and flour would be the cheapest commodity in the market. But unfortunately for the world it is after all but a fairy tale, though beautiful as all fairy tales are and as unworthy of acceptance as such stories. "It is not my expectation to stop the flow of gold which has already set in toward the coffers of the promoters of this so-called new cereal." "In a long article Professor Elliott then takes up the question of the "Alaska" wheat, and shows it is well known and of comparatively very poor quality."

ALL ABOUT SHOTGUNS.

The choice of a shotgun is an important matter, and on this subject the average citizen has much to learn. It is a regrettable fact that much fraud and deception is practiced in the gun trade, and that is directly encouraged by the damnd of many customers for a gun at a price at which a reliable firearm can not be manufactured. In almost any of the mail order journals may be seen dozens of advertisements of "Damascus finished, double-barreled, breach-loading shotguns. Belgian make, special at \$2.85." And thousands of such guns are sold. It is difficult to understand how a man is willing to explode thirty grains of smokeless powder, or three drams of black powder, within a few inches of his head, with nothing between but an eighth of an inch of pot metal.

It is not intended to convey the idea that it is necessary to pay a high price for a good gun. When the price goes above \$50 the difference is mainly for fancy workmanship. There are on the market a number of double guns, good enough for almost any service, which may be purchased at \$15 and \$20. In purchasing a gun at these figures, however, one should be most careful to secure one which is the product of a reliable firm, and should carefully avoid the "Belgian Damascus" which lacks a firm's name.

There is quite an extensive industry in Belgium which produces imitation Damascus steel from the poorest sort of plain iron. Examples of the low-priced gun which may be relied upon may be easily found—a double barrel hammer shotgun, at \$15, or a hammerless for \$20. These guns, with the top snap, rebounding locks, solid plungers, and with barrels specially adapted to the use of smokeless powder, are safe and reliable. Their weight should be from seven and one-fourth to eight and one-half pounds.—Technical World Magazine.

WEALTH IN ONIONS.

The onion farmer is a comparatively new arrival upon the scene of industrial activities in Texas. He is now one of the large contributors to the wealth of the state. In a little more than eight years the value of the annual production of onions in Texas for the market has reached approximately two million dollars. When the fact is considered that this enormous wealth is derived from only about twenty-five hundred acres of land, some idea may be had of the abundance of the yield and the good prices that are obtained for the product. Onion growing has done another thing to help Texas. It has been the direct means of adding more than \$2,500,000 to the intrinsic value of her lands. Inasmuch as the growers put a good portion of their annual earnings from the industry into property improvements in town and country the increase of taxable wealth from this source has also been considerable.

The wonders which were wrought by the magic touch of Aladdin's lamp were no greater than the transformation which onion growing has brought to certain portions of Texas during the last few years. Land which, from the time of the early visit of the Spaniards to the Rio Grande border section, was thought to be almost worthless, and at the very most only fit for goat grazing, is now bringing in an annual net return of from \$300 to \$500 per acre from the onions which it produces. Before the inauguration of onion growing any of this land could have been purchased at prices ranging from one dollar to two dollars per acre. It has now no established value for the reason that none of its owners are willing to sell. They will not fix a value upon the land. Some of them are free to say that land which has such large producing qualities ought to be worth not less than \$1,000 per acre. Some of the onion growers say they would not be willing to accept less than \$2,000 per acre for their lands. Even at that price the annual net return will average nearly twenty-five per cent on the investment.—Technical World Magazine.

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ASTORIA THEATRE.

The Casino favorite, Grace Cameron and large company in C. Herbert Kerr's latest, biggest and best success, "Little Dollie Dimples," will be the attraction at the Astoria Theatre, Sunday evening, September 6th. This dainty little star and her most excellent organization come to Astoria with the stamp of approval of all the largest cities and the press has been unanimous in its praise of both the clever work of the star and the production in its entirety.

There is no doubt that the business of this sterling attraction at the Astoria Theatre will be a record-breaker and persons desiring comfortable locations, should secure seats well in advance. The demand is already enormous and it is most likely that standing room will be at a premium during the engagement.

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