

ALASKA WHEAT FAD

Reports of Wonderful Yields Proves to Be Vaporings of Booming Graft Promoters.

"Alaska" wheat yield reports apparently do not bear investigation. At the instigation of promoters who had hopes of realizing handsome returns from the sale of this wheat for seed, press notices have greatly interested wheat raisers of the Pacific slope. Phenomenal yields of Alaska have been reported, but simmered down to cold fact the yield has not been above the average of other varieties of grain, and experts contend that Alaska wheat is not suitable for milling purposes.

It is now thought the new wheat was being exploited simply to gain fabulous prices for seed, and that the fad, which is something on the Russian hedge fence order, will die out before farmers have been bilked.

At the instigation of the department of agriculture, Prof. Elliott, of the Washington State Agricultural 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.

Condensed, Prof. Elliott's report says: Fields of "Alaska" wheat examined will not run more than 35 bushels to the acre. The highest recorded world's yield is 100 bushels for any wheat. Twenty-five per cent of that in Adam's fields is not "Alaska" wheat, it being badly mixed with other varieties. The head droops heavily and will lodge badly. Heads are not of uniform size. Wheat is never found growing wild, even in remote Alaska. In three years "Alaska" wheat will be but a memory.

Further evidence that Alaska wheat is a boomerang is found in the Spokesman-Review. That paper sent one of its men to Potlatch ridge, above Kendrick Idaho, and the Review man found that last year Abraham Adams of Juliaetta rented a piece of land from Mr. Lange, a prominent farmer, whose home is between Leland and Cameron. There were about 36 acres in this piece of land. About four acres were seeded to barley, leaving about 32 acres for the "Alaska" wheat.

To ascertain the amount of wheat raised on these 32 acres a successful search was made for the thresherman

who threshed the grain. His memorandum book gave the amount at 441 sacks.

A visit was also made to the flouring mill at Leland where this grain was cleaned. The books of Vampelt & Siegler, the proprietors of the mill, show that they cleaned 873 bushels of wheat for Abraham Adams. Both Mr. Vampelt and Mr. Siegler say that Mr. Adams intently watched the operation of cleaning. After the grain was cleaned the millmen proposed that a milling test be made of a few bushels, which would be done without any additional cost to Mr. Adams. The millmen claim that Mr. Adams at once protested against any such test being made, declaring himself fully satisfied with a chemical analysis of the grain made at the Idaho experiment station.

Taking the 873 bushels of cleaned grain and dividing it by 32, the number of acres upon which it was grown, the result is obtained of a little more than 26 bushels to the acre. Those who wish to check up on this amount have the basis of 441 sacks of threshed grain to be divided by the 32 acres.

It is interesting to compare these figures with the estimate of 35 bushels to the acre for this year's crop made by Professor Elliott.

Experienced wheat growers in that section have been interested in examining this wheat. Some are reported to have found no "wax" after chewing up mouthfuls of it. Another current report is that this wheat cracks badly in threshing.

There is not a great demand for "Alaska" wheat among the leading farmers of Potlatch ridge. They do not wish to be quoted against it, preferring, they say, to let the people find out for themselves.

Drying Milton Cherries.

Drying cherries instead of canning them is an experiment being made extensively this season on account of the dull market and the heavy loss to growers because nothing could be done with the fruit in season. On many of the trees the fruit still clings, while in some orchards the late varieties are just at their best. Growers sold all the cherries they could and then offered the local cannery more than could be tinned during the season. With cherries still going to waste growers tried the experiment of drying the fruit, and it was found feasible. After the cherries are seeded and spread out in a hot sun the process is simple and quick, and some varieties have a flavor quite like raisins when the curing process is complete.

MOISTURE IS BADLY NEEDED

Streams of Walla Walla Valley Lowest in Many Years.

Unless fall rains visit the irrigated sections of Walla Walla Valley, the surrounding country will suffer material damage from the water shortage which the dry season has caused. According to those who have made an investigation of the present situation there was never a time in the history of the valley when the water supply was so depleted as now.

The late fall of last year prevented any rains that were of sufficient quantity to soak the foothills and watersheds of the streams which flow through this valley. When fall did come it came quickly and instead of rain, snow fell. This lay on until late spring melting and running off in streams when the sun shone upon it. If the season had been a wet one as has been experienced here some years, there would have been no notice taken of the fact that the watershed was practically dry. But since the summer has been hot and dry the shortage is being felt at the present time in a disagreeable manner.

Fruit growers and gardeners claim they are suffering losses every day through the lack of sufficient water for irrigating purposes, and unless the situation is brightened by heavy rain-falls soon there will likely be a serious impairment of the late varieties of fruits.

SENATOR FULTON'S REASONS.

"There are 50 reasons," Senator Fulton says, "why members of the legislature do not have to regard that Statement No. 1 pledge." But the only one that he mentions is that "Oregon is a Republican state and Chamberlain is a Democrat."

Party, party; Republican, Democrat. Can't Republicans vote for a Democrat or Democrats for a Republican, if they want to, and have their votes counted? Is it party that elects, that chooses public servants, or the people?

By what authority or right or on what principle are a few members of the legislature not only to forswear themselves but to disfranchise the 20,000 Republicans who purposely, intelligently and conscientiously voted for Chamberlain?

"I do not believe in Statement No. 1," says Senator Fulton. So he said before the primaries last spring, and he knows what happened to him in the primaries. Cake, who announced that he did believe in Statement No. 1, was nominated.

Fulton does not believe in Statement No. 1, but the people do, Republicans as well as Democrats. On that issue they rejected Fulton. On that issue they later rejected Cake, who went back on Statement No. 1 after his nomination. On that issue, largely, Chamberlain was elected. And in the same election the Statement No. 1 law was adopted by an overwhelming plurality.

Therefore Senator Fulton's statement that he does not believe in Statement No. 1 is tantamount to saying that he does not believe in the people; he does not believe that they should elect their senators; he does not believe that their will expressed at the ballot box should be observed; he does not believe that they should rule; he believes that a party organization of machine, nay, a mere factional machine, should at its pleasure set aside and hold for naught the people's recorded will. A party, a faction, a factional boss or lender, assumes to say that the people's choice shall be null and void unless they choose to suit him.

To this shape and measure dwindle Senator Fulton's 50 reasons; but if he really had 50 reasons, each 50 times better than this one, all combined would not weigh one fiftieth part the reason why Statement No. 1 members should keep their pledge—the simple, sufficient reason that not to do so would be dishonest, dishonorable, disgraceful; would be a base betrayal of a sacred trust; would properly consign every man who violated his pledge to lifelong infamy among his fellow men.—Portland Journal.

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