

Ellensburg and Kittitas County

(Continued From Page 7.)

irrigated area of the county by nearly 150 per cent.

The citation of large crop averages has become a commonplace in Northwestern publicity. Nearly all sections of the country have their sheltered spots, sunny nooks and barnyard corners where potatoes of fabulous size and number actually are taken from the ground. The interested outsider wants to know the year-in and year-out average. The writer today asked one of the representative farmers in one of the productive sections of the valley, for figures on his last year's potato crop. He stated that 160 acres in potatoes had yielded him an average of eight tons to the acre. He made a statement as to the weight of potatoes taken from a certain favored half-acre which would not do to print, for it would sound like a lie—and would really misrepresent the average of the soil.

The same man gave his estimate for the hay production of an average irrigated ranch, operated by an average farmer, under one of the good irrigating systems, at three tons of timothy, or five to six tons of alfalfa.

He Inquires About Fruit.

Vegetables and fruits are successfully raised in the Kittitas Valley, although not to the commercial ex-

Electrical storms are of rare occurrence, and destructive storms of wind or hail likewise do not figure in the ranchers' estimate of crop liabilities. The altitude of the valley, and its proximity to the snow peaks of the Cascades, make its atmosphere clean and vigorous. The rainfall is light—averaging between nine and ten inches. Snow falls in the Winter to a depth varying with different seasons. Some Winters will be comparatively open, while in others sleighing may last from Early December until late February. Some zero weather is experienced practically every Winter, and sometimes the thermometer will go to 10 or 15 below zero. Those who have experienced this sort of weather understand that in a very dry climate it is exhilarating but does not cause suffering.

Climate Appeals.

The Winters in this valley are entirely free from wind, the air being invariably quiet during cold weather. With the opening of Spring, and the consequent warming of the air in this and the lower valleys of the Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin, mountain air flows down to replace the rising atmosphere of the warmed area. The result is a great frequency of mountain winds during Spring and early Summer. These winds occur



PIT OF POTATOES GROWN IN KITTITAS COUNTY.

tent that obtains in the farming communities where hotter Summers or immediate proximity to large cities make staples of these branches of husbandry.

In flavor, texture, and especially in keeping qualities, Kittitas Valley fruits and vegetables, practically all the standard varieties of which are grown in this section, compare very favorably with those produced elsewhere. Approximately 3000 acres of land in the valley is in apples, and there is a lesser acreage devoted to other fruits.

This in general, is the character of the country tributary to Ellensburg. The town itself has a population of 6000, closely estimated on the actual count of the school census. Its area within corporate limits is one square mile and 20 acres. It is substantially built with stone, brick and frame, with wide streets and many trees and shrubs in its residence blocks. Its social life is democratic and wholesome. The citizenship of the city is in race and type American, of North Europe extraction, British, German and Scandinavian being most prominently represented. One of Washington's three normal schools is located at Ellensburg, with a \$300,000 plant. A grade school and a high school costing \$50,000 and \$60,000 respectively, afford modern educational facilities for the children. There are eight churches, with total memberships of 2105. A modern Y. M. C. A. building adds to the social equipment of the city. There is also a free public library, with a circulation and reference list of 4327 volumes. The press is represented by one daily and two weeklies.

Business Investigated.

General business conditions in Ellensburg, while they have felt the effect of the country-wide lethargy of recent months, are in the main sound. Deposits in the three banks aggregate approximately \$1,400,000. Mercantile collections are good. Wages run at about 50c per hour in the trades, \$30 to \$45 and board for farmhands, \$50 to \$60 for store clerks. The labor demand is brisk in Summer, but not at other periods of the year. Purely mercantile enterprises are pretty well represented, but opportunities exist for new enterprises of a producing nature, and for these electric power is available at reasonable rates of purchase from the municipal power plant, which is run by the Yakima River.

The topography of Kittitas Valley gives to the valley a climate all its own, singularly free from extremes,

after every warm spell in Summer, keeping the air of the valley perpetually freshened.

The Autumns are quiet, sunny and prolonged. The Spring season, too, lies of long duration, plowing being usually started in March if not in February. The climate is considered very beneficial to health, the year round, only those individuals finding it not adapted to their physical welfare whose nervous systems do not thrive when constantly subjected to a greater or less degree of exhilaration.

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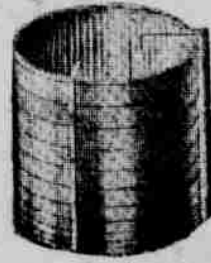
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