

FINEST FARM IN WASHINGTON

As the Glacier reporter meandered down the street, last Thursday afternoon in search of a news story for the next week's paper he accosted Judge Byrckett of White Salmon, who invited him to cross the river and take a look at the Glades ranch. The judge thought there might be a good chance for a story there. And he was right.

It was the reporter's first visit to the famous Byrckett ranch. What he saw would fill a page and then some. There were acres and acres of meadow, with hundreds of tons of hay in the stack and more to cut, tons of tomatoes bearing the green vines to the ground, strawberry fields that would constitute an ordinary farm, bands of sleek Jersey cows, fat Shropshires, spacious pens filled with a crossed breed of Poland China and Berkshire hogs, ranch hands busy everywhere, women and girls picking fruit.

This big farm contains 100 acres of the richest land in the state of Washington. There is land here, if cut up into small tracts, to support 35 families. The ranch is easily worth \$100,000.

There isn't another place like it in the state, and it cannot be duplicated in famous old Oregon. The newspaper man saw some other fine farms. One of them, four and one-half acres in extent, belongs to S. C. Zeigler, who ten years ago contracted to buy the land for \$1,000. Mr. Zeigler had but \$400 at the time. Today Mr. Byrckett says the man is worth \$25,000. Think of it! He started in a decade ago with four and one-half acres and today could convert his holdings into a snug place a 320-acre ranch farther back in the hills, and at Trout Lake a 320-acre hay farm. He is the financial pillar for a mercantile establishment, has money in the bank and pays cash for everything.

He has just completed a \$2,000 dwelling, and never makes less than \$400 an acre from his land. He has accomplished all these things because of intelligent, industrious and persistent efforts. But the story of his accomplishments must be left for another story.

Adjoining Mr. Zeigler is C. D. Moore, who will also have something to tell later. The Glacier newspaper knows now where to seek for good stories. Further up the river is the place of J. P. Egan, the man whom the voters of White Salmon intend to make a county commissioner at the election this fall.

Then comes D. D. McClure. Mr. McClure purchased nine acres of raw land here two years ago for \$2,250. So Judge Byrckett says. The greater part of the land is already cleared and planted to strawberries. So valuable is the land, that little draws are filled and leveled for planting. In among the rocks are hundreds of cherry trees. This is their first summer, but without a drop of water they have made a vigorous growth and look green and thrifty. The judge pointed out a reservoir which cost \$500 or more, into which is flowing a miner's inch of water, but from which, by means of a pipe line system and revolving hose sprinklers, Mr. McClure is enabled to irrigate seven acres of his farm. The reservoir is made of solid stone, lined with concrete. It has a capacity of 300,000 gallons.

Of the Byrckett ranch, 300 acres are in meadow lands, 40 acres in woods, the same number in grain, the remainder in crops, fruit, buildings and barn yards. The judge has a spacious residence, containing all the modern plumbing conveniences of a modern city dwelling. The view from the house is grand, indeed. To the north the hills half a mile distant rise to a height of 2,250 feet. Part of this rise is almost perpendicular. Toward the river lie the broad acres of the Glades ranch.

Mr. Byrckett has this evening registered in the American Jersey Cattle club, and no one else has the right to use it. From different parts of his house, Mr. Byrckett can see over every acre of his land. As one of the Japanese hands exclaimed: "No no! you see too well."

The rich lands of the Glades ranch grow more productive each year, for by each receding high water there is deposited from one to four inches of river deposit or silt. By the flood of '94 four feet of new soil was added to the farm. The whole farm is an alluvial deposit. No richer land can be found. As for depth, 50 feet down won't strike bottom. Buried far beneath the soil are pieces of old drift wood, which floated in centuries ago and laid the foundation for this rich little beach.

Ten thousand dollars a year is the income from this ranch. This year Mr. Byrckett's strawberry returns were shorter than those of average years, which will lower somewhat his gross farm receipts, but with that little difference the judge estimates that his income for 1904 will amount up as follows: Strawberries, \$3,000; tomatoes, \$1,500; fruit and melons, \$500; ensilage, \$1,500; hay, \$2,000; pigs, \$400; cattle, \$1,000; total, \$9,900. The judge counts on about one-fourth of this as cost of production, which leaves him a profit of about \$7,500.

Mr. Byrckett says he should have had \$50,000 from strawberries this year, but because of the glut in the Eastern markets his returns were cut short a couple of thousand. The judge has 20 acres planted to berries. He aims to make \$400 an acre on his strawberries. His land, as is that of his neighbors, is from ten days to two weeks earlier than the berry patches on the south side of the Columbia, and one-third of his crop is marketed before the Oregon growers are ready for shipping. Two-thirds of his crop is on the market before the bulk of the valley berries are started toward the buyers.

Pigs are sort of a byproduct with the owner of the Byrckett ranch. He aims to make from \$400 to \$500 a year on hogs, which he feeds on the refuse from the ranch. He aims to keep seven or eight head of dairy cattle this winter. Two years ago he had 40 cows that brought him in \$250 to \$300 a month from the sale of butter. The butter he disposed of to the creameries and patrons in the town of Hood River. Byrckett butter has a guaranteed quality. Cattle he finds pay well, and he expects to buy up a good sized bunch this fall.

Mr. Byrckett has 13 acres planted to corn three weeks ago on land that was covered for two months with high water. From this land he expects to gather 300 tons of ensilage. This is worth \$5 a ton and can be produced at a cost of \$1 a ton, says the judge. Hay is produced in abundance at this farm. As an example of the fertility of the meadow lands on this farm, Mr. Byrckett pointed out one field of 13 acres on which 12 head of cattle had been pastured since the middle of March, and mowing machines were at work in the very same field last Thursday, cutting hay that should bale 13 tons. Two and three crops of hay are cut each year from the bottoms. This year one 10-acre tract turned off ten tons of hay at the second cutting.

A chest grass peculiar alone to the Glades ranch is produced in abundance. The seed from this grass was sent to the Smithsonian institute, where it was given a long-sounding Latin name and pronounced to be the earliest maturing grass known. A sample was sent to the experiment station at the Oregon Agricultural college, where the same report was made. This grass seems to be peculiar to Mr. Byrckett's ranch, and he has a standing contract with a Portland seed company for all the seed he can thresh at 10 cents a pound. The grass yields about 100 bushels to the acre, and makes the finest sort of feed for horses and cattle.

There are three barns on the place, the largest of which cost \$300. The one is 140x54 feet in extent and 10 feet to the square. The main floor of the barn is cemented and contains stalls for 98 head of cattle. In addition to this there are large calf pens. On the farm are two barns, one 40x70, the other 30x20. Judge A. R. Byrckett bought this place 19 years ago for \$5,000. The transaction was a mortgage foreclosure. About \$50,000 have been expended in improvements, and last year the judge refused an offer of \$15,000 for 20 acres.

The improvements to the land include the clearing of the ground, fencing, buildings, tiling and piping for irrigation purposes. Here is one of the finest systems of irrigation to be found on the Pacific coast. Twenty thousand feet of iron pipes cover 25 acres of the place. In addition to this there are 6,000 feet of wood fluming and about 20,000 feet of four-inch clay tiling. The pipes line are arranged systematically about the place, the main being placed at a distance of every 100 feet, and every 100 feet on the pipe lines are hydrants to which hose is attached to moving whirling sprinklers. This sort of irrigation Mr. Byrckett believes to compare favorably with the thing he believes he can cover more ground with the same amount of water.

The thing which carries off the surplus water in the winter sub-irrigates the land in the summer. The iron pipes are in the ground below plowing depth, but Mr. Byrckett says when he lays more pipe it will be on top of the ground, as this gives the sun a chance to warm the water before it is applied to the plants.

Egan For Commissioner. The voters of White Salmon mean to elect J. P. Egan commissioner for Klickitat county at the election this fall. A writer in a Goldenland paper puts the situation thus: "White Salmon is going forward faster than any place in Klickitat county. There's no question about it. Now one word to the political managers: White Salmon has a candidate for a county office. You cannot, in justice to us and to the party, decline to concede our claim for recognition this time. We have been shoveling coal in the hold of the ship incomprehensibly for years. Do you need us in your business? Do you want our votes? Then know that our heads are protruding through the hatchway and some of us are peering out through the portholes. The fact is we're feeling our way, but we're ready to begin to commence. Please pass the chicken—the political pot is ripe and we would fain extend our delicate and attenuated digits thitherward and stir it up. Paul would say, make just a little of it to us. Our man is J. P. Egan—a great hearted, public spirited man, who has the energy, the judgment, the honesty and the common sense to make an enterprising and conscientious county commissioner."

Don't say "next time." We demand fair play and justice now with us. A party always cannot ignore an upward coming, bright community full of five men. We are going to be heard from in future conventions and elections. Our man is J. P. Egan. If there is any objection to his candidacy we want to hear it. If we are to be ignored by the Republican party of Klickitat county he candid with us and tell us, so. If any man owns the office and if he is not in the door for every worthy candidate who is honored in the community where he lives, kindly set us right. J. P. Egan for county commissioner is the request of White Salmon republicans throughout the county. Put him on the ticket and watch us roll up a reputation for the ticket from top to bottom.

Apple Culture Increases in Favor. A good orchard on the farm adds great value to it. It usually provides a healthy product for the farmer, saving doctors bills, and there is always a surplus that brings in ready cash. Unlike most other crops, the orchard does not require annual investment and work to secure returns. After the orchard is once set and has had a few years cultivation it becomes thoroughly established and with comparatively no labor other than gathering the bountifully yielding fruits the farmer finds his orchard year by year increasing in production. In passing through the country, the farms where there are cultivated orchards, especially those that have had intelligent care, present a thrifty and solid look, very different from the orchardless ones. Maryland peaches at one time had a national reputation. Through various causes the peach growing sections are now successfully and profitably raising other crops. The peach on the peninsula section has ceased to yield a profit and invasion of the San Jose scale order lessened the life of the tree, hence the abandonment of peach culture. Small fruits, such as currants, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, etc., have in a degree replaced the peaches. The Lucerne dewberry in some counties of the Eastern Shore is proving to be a great money winner as the old time peach crop.

In western Maryland, also in Harford and Cecil counties the apple is becoming famous. Experts who examined the fruit exhibited last fall at the Agricultural fairs of Harford, Washington, and Frederick counties said the apples were a revelation to them. They declared they had never seen finer specimens of the leading varieties and the flavor was beyond criticism. The specimens of Ben Davis, York Imperial and North-Spy raised in what might now be classed as the apple-growing section of Maryland are the equal in every respect in size and quality to those grown in any other section of the country. The extraordinary coloring these varieties assumed is unequaled. Growing choice apples in a commercial way will in the near future become one of Maryland's prominent industries. Last fall the yield of apples in Frederick and Washington counties gave an illustration of how eager apple buyers are to purchase Maryland grown fruit. The large piles of high-colored fruit and the great number of barrels in the orchards made pictures such as have made sections of the New York apple regions famous. The cold storage problem has been ciphered out of its experimental stage and placed on a practical basis. Instead of damaging the apple market, it is now concluded that cold storage is having an important influence in extending the apple markets both at home and abroad, and is also influential in raising the standard of American fruit growing. Apple growing should be a conspicuous feature on all farms where it is known the fruit does well. Such varieties should

be raised as are demanded by the trade. Farmers can learn very much by visiting successful apple growers. They want to know how to treat and manage the trees, how to pick and handle the fruit. There are fruit dealers, however, who buy the fruit in the orchards and pick and do the packing themselves.—Chicago Packer.

Expects to Start a Dairy. J. W. Strong, recently here from the Willamette valley, has great faith in the dairy business, and believes it will pay well as an industry in Hood River. Mr. Strong says when he settled in the Willamette valley two years ago the farmers there were all in debt. Shortly after Mr. Marchant of the Southern Pacific induced the farmers of Western Oregon to enter dairying, Willamette valley farmers who were the owners of clover fields and cow sheds had more money to loan than they could find takers for.

Mr. Strong owns five acres about three miles south of this city, and also has a 40 acre tract in the Odell district, where he has built a house next spring. He has 15 acres of the land he says he will plant to apple trees and small fruits, and the remainder he will utilize as a dairy farm.

With the great amount of hay that will be produced in Hood River valley in a few years, Mr. Strong believes the dairy business would be very profitable. He would like to see a creamery established or if not this a cream route, whereby the cream could be collected and shipped to Portland.

Ed Williams Has Runaway. Ed Williams experienced an exciting runaway last Thursday night with a team of horses assayed to be gentle and trustworthy. Ed was returning from a trip to Winona and driven the team at a lively pace for three-quarters of an hour and just as he reached the top of the hill at Williams Davidson's, one of the brutes began to buck.

The animal was galloped, the harness examined and the horse uncontrolable, leaped to the ground, and as he did so wrenched his knee in some manner. He was limping about with a bruised limb the next day.

The buggy landed in a clump of oaks near Mrs. Crapper's place, somewhat the worse for the run. The same team started to runaway the day before by Dr. Brusius holding the reins. Ed has handled some wild horses in his time, but says this is the first runaway he ever had. He is very thankful that no one was with him at the time.

Compliment the League President. Walter Lyon, editor of the West Side Enterprise at Independence, makes the following complimentary mention of the selection of Hon. E. L. Smith as president of the Oregon Development League: "The league has started off well. For president, a better selection than Hon. E. L. Smith could not have been made. Tom Richardson, with his experience in similar organizations is the proper man for secretary."

Among the papers read at the Portland convention the ones entitled to the most consideration were those by Mr. Smith, afterward elected president, and Professor Withycombe. Mr. Smith's letter to a tenderfoot on apple culture was of great interest. We regret that we failed to get a copy of it, for we intended to publish it in full.—Irrigation Irrigator.

This is the way the Salem Journal puts it: "Hood River was in evidence at the Portland convention. Professor Smith, who runs a nursery up there, was elected president."

Surprised at Valley's Extent. Postmaster Atwell of Forest Grove had always heard a great deal about the famous Hood River valley, but when he visited here last week he was very much surprised at the extent and possible richness of the country.

Mr. Atwell is an orchardist at Forest Grove, and has secured a great many acres for grafting and budding purposes from E. L. Smith, with whom he is well acquainted. The Forest Grove postmaster is also a former resident of Hood River, when that gentleman was a resident of Iowa.

Mr. Atwell was taken through some of the large orchards. He was pleased with the manner of cultivation and the general quality of the fruit. He was especially impressed by the fine work of the Hood River apple growers.

Mr. Atwell promised Mr. Smith that he would make every effort to attend the fruit fair to be held here in October.

Miss Ella McDonald Entertains. Little Ella McDonald celebrated her eighth birthday, August 4, by inviting her little friends to spend the afternoon with her. The nice lunch prepared by the mother with the aid of her little sister, added to as a surprise to the little hostess, little cinnamon rolls by Mrs. Moore, lemon pies by Mrs. Henry and cakes by Mrs. Howe. The lunch was spread under the maples and the way it disappeared was proof that they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Those present were: Ella McDonald; Ethel McDonald, Angus McDonald, Clifford McDonald Malcolm McDonald, Kathryn Hartley, Myrtle Howe, Fred Bell, Annie Mae Chipping, Marie Whitmar, Whitehead. This delightful party was held at that famous pleasure resort, Camp Overalls.

Fred Bailey Goes to Portland. Fred Bailey will assist Mr. Frangle in managing the Marquans Grand theater the coming season. Fred expects to leave about the first of September, and the theater season will continue until about the first of May. Fred will sell tickets in the box office part of the time. He should prove a drawing card for Hood River people who happen to be in Portland during the theater season. Possibly the manager of the Marquans had this in view when securing the services of Mr. Bailey.

Mrs. Bailey expects to remain here in charge of the farm until Christmas, when she will join her husband in Portland.

Busy Scenes at Brick Yard. Zeek's brickyard, three miles south of this city, presents a lively appearance these days with a dozen or 15 men busily employed moulding clay into building bricks.

When a glacier man stopped there one day last week, Mr. Zeek's crew of men were preparing to burn a kiln of 200,000 brick. When these brick are burned, it will bring the output of the yard up to about half a million brick for the season. The yard has been in operation for a little over four months.

The brick for the E. L. Smith building were furnished by Mr. Zeek. J. J. Turner left last week for Grangeville, Idaho, where he goes for the health of his daughter, Della, who is threatened with consumption. If the climate and altitude of Idaho is found to agree with Miss Turner, Mr. Turner expects to arrange for her to remain there for the winter.

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