PORTLAND LETTER.

Portland, Ore., F. 9, 1915.—There never has been a time in the history of the state when the farmers have had such an opportunity to make money by raising livestock for meat purposes as at present. With an acreage [illegible] meat animals approximately 500,000 less possible in the leading packing centers of the United States, it is certain that for some years to come there will not only be an unlimited demand for meat animals, but it is also certain that prices will range high and it is not impossible that all previous records may be broken.

It is a fact that nearly all the big cattle ranges of the state have been broken up and that in only a few localities it is possible to find pasturage for open herds, but it also is a fact that the average farm could be made to produce a larger number of animals than it is now doing. With the big packers and bankers willing, and at times, to cooperate with reliable farmers in the state in stocking farms and ranches, it would appear that any farmer who fails to take advantage of the opportunities in this direction is making a big mistake. The population of the entire Northwest is increasing at a rapid rate, the production of beef cattle west of the Rocky Mountains will not be sufficient to supply the demand for many years to come, and the natural advantages of the state as a stock growing country are unsurpassed.

Assuming that in the near future the present forest reserves will be thrown open to settlement, and assuming that the state of Oregon will be granted by the federal government the 5,000,000 acres of land to which it is entitled under the Carey act, and assuming that the state land board will act favorably on the recommendation of Governor Lewis that the state reclaim the arid lands in Eastern Oregon, and assuming that the state will take such action as may be necessary in order to secure the irrigation of portions of the Willamette valley where irrigation is necessary in order to produce crops of alfalfa, clover, timothy and grain, and assuming that the state will do everything possible to encourage settlement on the land by the proper kind of people, and assuming that the state will do everything possible to encourage the production of meat animals, and assuming that the state will do everything possible to encourage the production of meat animals, and assuming that the state will do everything possible to encourage the production of meat animals