

ducing a greater amount of income with less outlay, taking everything into consideration, than grain raising, and better adapted alike to the males and females of the household. Of the comparative wealth producing of the two systems I quote from a local authority, leaving my readers to form their own conclusions: "Land devoted to general farming pays interest at 10 per cent. on about \$200 per acre, while land devoted to fruit farming pays interest at 12 per cent. on about \$500 per acre," or about 3 to 1 in favor of fruit. It has been suggested to me that the raising of fruit would be overdone, but such persons forget that in all mining countries a large part of the population are non food-producing and hence there is a permanent market at home for all that may be raised for some years to come. The want of such markets has made much complaint of freights and financial stringency in less favored localities and as I write I have just seen the statement that one of the parties in a neighborhood visited by us has sold one-half his crop of fruit, 150,000 lbs. of prunes at 1 cent per pound delivered on the track near home. "Facts are stubborn things."

Irrigation is as much a science as some other things which we dub with that name and in order to do it successfully the ground should be properly prepared for it before planting the seed, for elevations or depressions in the surface of a field will prevent an equal distribution of water over the surface, and in order to accomplish this various implements have been introduced more or less expensive in their character, but the most simple as well as the best from a financial point of view is built on the principle of the carpenter's jointer. It is made of two pieces of 2x6 or 2x8 scantling about 8 or 10 feet long, set on edge and joined together by boards about 4 feet long forming a sled; on the bottom of the runners uniting them together is a plate of steel about 6 inches wide and sharpened on

the front edge. Placed about one-third of the length of the sled and about two thirds of this length, is a piece of the same scantling standing on edge nailed from one runner to the other, forming a scraper. This completes the machine, the working of which with a team must be easily understood by any farmer, the knife cutting off all knobs and the scraper drawing the dirt into the hollows. This gets the field into good shape for leveling and by placing the lateral on the highest side of the field, successful irrigation may be accomplished. This is not generally done by flooding the ground though we have seen it so done, but most generally by channels made by a single shovel plow or by something akin to a corn marker. This latter is used for seeding alfalfa. The seed being sown, water is turned into these small channels until after the seed has sprouted and looks quite green. For row crops it is turned down the rows and when saturation has taken place it is removed to allow the ground to dry sufficiently for working, and again renewed from time to time as necessity requires, and so completely does saturation take place that it is impossible to take a horse on such land without danger of miring until it has dried considerably.

The mountains that enclose the valley of Snake River for several hundred miles furnish an abundance of summer pasture for herds of cattle and sheep, which on the approach of winter are brought into the valleys and thus become a market for the great crops of alfalfa put up here without the farmer having to move it from the stack. And as I have stated elsewhere, the sheep are sheared in pens near the railroad, thus saving transportation and cheapening the cost of production.

The atmosphere in this valley is dry and bracing, though on one or two occasions I noticed a slight dew in walking through the grass, and the official records show that it is not subject to very low temperatures, owing no doubt