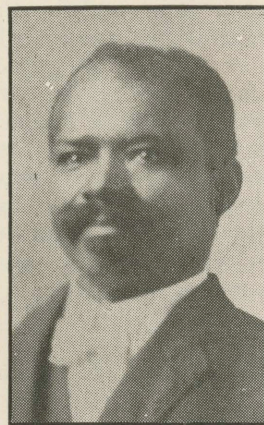


J. C. COGWELL



MRS. J. C. COGWELL



JOHN L. BEDELL



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Successful Colored Ranchers

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cogwell, former Seattleites, may not be farmers, but they are ranchers up to the notch and in that avocation they are continuing to widen their sphere of activities. Some ten years ago they were hustling in Seattle for an uncertain existence, which was especially distasteful to Mr. Cogwell, because he believed he could eventually do better in the country on a ranch of his own, and so, after much persuasion, he brought his wife round to thinking as he did, for, be it remembered, she was always in some kind of business of her own while she lived in Seattle. With a limited amount of capital they settled themselves down upon a ranch in the southwestern part of Washington and began the humdrum life of a rancher, and rancher is said advisedly, as for a time only raised a little of everything and not very much of anything, but they continued to plod along. They finally drifted into the poultry business in connection with their limited farming and soon they found themselves owning quite a flock of turkeys, which each year grew larger and larger, and each year netted them more and more remuneration for their labors. Then it began to be an investment instead of a diversion and they nursed it, looked after its details and watched it grow larger and larger until it culminated in them marketing in Seattle this season one thousand magnificent birds, which they are selling at 43 cents a pound and the turkeys averaging in the neighborhood of fourteen pounds each, grossing about \$6.00 per bird or \$6,000.00 for the whole, and saying it cost them half of the amount to put them on the market and dispose of them, which they are doing themselves, few ranchers or farmers in the State of Washington can boast of a like reward for their year's work. Turkeys are not their only stock in trade for taking home the bacon and summing it all up they have accomplished so much in ten years that the wonder is hundreds of city hangers-on are not moved to go forth and try to do likewise. Here is one brilliant exception to the rule of the country colored citizens in the State of Washington. The commission men only offered them 35 cents per pound for their turkeys, but using the horse sense so characteristic of the Cogwells they rented them a commodious store in a residential district of Seattle and Mrs. Cogwell and her sons came to town and disposed of the birds, while Mr. Cogwell remained on the ranch and sent them to her in almost

carload lots. Suppose, for an example, a hundred colored farmers would follow in the wake of Mr. and Mrs. Cogwell and put their products in Seattle, Tacoma and Portland they would furnish lucrative employment for scores of young men and women both in the cities and the country and there would be fewer of them looking for jobs in these cities with little or no prospects of finding them. The writer hereof, for the past score or more years, in the columns of newspapers, in the presence of organizations and in public places, has advocated that colored families go to the country and take up ranching for themselves with the view of making it self sustaining and in a majority of instances the idea has been laughed to scorn by them, but here come the Cogwell's and have done even more than the writer thought it possible to do, and especially in so short a time. The article in this number preceding this is something along the line the writer has been preaching and the facts brought out in this Cogwell article but verify what has been tried to be proven from time to time. Let's hope that within the coming year others will try to put over similar undertakings and thereby detract from the army of city uncertainties. If, in your opinion, this article is a stretch of imagination, you are solicited to write Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cogwell at Rochester, Washington, and they may take the time to write and tell you all that has been said herein and even more is absolutely correct. They will have no object in deceiving you, for its immaterial to them whether you attempt to do as they have done or continue your city search for what you will hardly find.

In Eastern Washington on a ranch live Mr. and Mrs. John L. Bedell, on which they have resided for the past thirty years, they having pioneered in the Sunnyside country. While the markets have not been favorable to them, yet they have taken from the land on which they cast their lot a good living for themselves and children. Others in that district have done as they have done, but the Bedells lead the movement, back to the farm, in which so many colored city citizens subsequently followed and have never regretted in so doing. The pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Bedell and likewise their home accompany this brief sketch. Of late