A Farmers' Opinion of the Causes of the

ANATONE, W. T., March 11, 1886. Editor Willamette Farmer:

It is a common thing now-a-days to read in the papers, articles on "The deplorable condition of the Farmer."-"Cause and Cure for hard Times."-"Communism, its Remedy," etc. The gist of the most of them is the fast living and reckless expenditure of the agriculturalist, and over-production. Now, Mr. Editor, I differ from any of these writers, and beg a small space in your-or our-paper to give my views :

That the farmers as a class live fast, is false; that their expenditures are reckless is false; that the present pressure of the laborer is over-production, is false.

To prove the first two assertions let anyone who may differ with me visit the home of the banker, lawyer, merchant, or doctor; let him notice house, furniture, conveniences and especially the dress of the occupants, and compare these with the farmers' home and family? Let him stand at the door of the theatre, opera, ball room, festival or lecture room and see who enters? Let him visit the chnrches in the city, note their architecture, their furnishing, the dress of those assembled. Then go to the country and note its churches and assembly? Let him visit the school house in the city; observe the comforts and facilities for the advancement of education, and thes the country school room and see the sons and daughters of the farmer after their tramp through the mud or the dust as the case may be, and then think over the problem and

decide. When I began farming in Linn county I could name three merchants and five lawyers who had no more ready cash than myself. To-day these eight men are each worth from ten to forty thousand dollars, while I have barely held my own, and I know at any time from that day to this they have had in their homes many times the luxuries and conveniences that I have had in mine. Their wives have had their help while mine has done her own work. The price of any one of the pianos in six of these homes would purchase all the machinery I owned. The cause of this difference is my days labor averaged me one dollar, while if the merchant sells me an axe, auger, pair of brogans; or if the writes a mortgage they get for ten minutes work the same without an ache or a pain. But it may be said to do this business requires years of preparation, which may be granted. But to run a farm successfully requires equally as much study and preparation. As to the third accusation that over-production is the cause of the present depression in agricultural products, let anyone who seriously believes this get the agricultural reports of 1884 and 1885; note the wheat raised in Russia, India, Australia, New Zealand and South America, (our competitors) the amount they export and the amount they export and the amount of flour used annually throughout the world, the increase in population, and see if the wheat supply of '85 exceeds greatly what should be consumed. Or to state the matter plainly in a few words: the manufacturers are holding back the wheat to keep flour up. Let us bring this matter in another shape to our own door, that we may see the principle of the whole scheme. The fine apples grown in Linn county, Oregon, were put aboard the cars at different stations for 25 cents per bushel and thousands of bushels rotted for want of demand, while at Lewiston, Idaho, and adjacent towns these same apples sold for \$1.80 per bushel. Now as to Oregon it could be truly said, there was an overproduction. But as to Idaho and Washington Territory there was a scarcity and hundreds of homes did without that for which they hungared, but had the true principle of economy been practiced the owners of these orchards could have disposed of all their surplus and thereby paid all the incidental expenses of their farm, and the upper country farmers could have had one of the many luxuries of life enjoyed by the rich. The same may be said of vinegar and dried fruits. Vinegar sells at Assotin, W. T., for \$1 a gallon, while the property of the p the Willamette valley dried apples sell for 12 cents per pound, plums 14 cents, prunes 16 cents. This too, while in Portland and up country towns there were thousands of pounds waiting shipment for want of market. At the last sheep clipping time merino wool sold for 16c-cause of this very low price was said to be over-production. Yet, when we purchased our supply of woolen goods for the winter we were not impressed with the idea of over-production in the manufactured article as the six-

of clothes for \$20. I know a man who prepared to follow the business of curing bacon, who had to quit because his hams sold for 12c while over the same counter eastern

teen pounds of wool for which we re-

ceived \$2.50, was returned to us in a suit

ones sold for 18c. I have seen as good home made butter as ever was eaten. refused at 50c per roll, while eastern butter was sold in same grocery for 80c per roll. I know of an Eastern Oregon cheese factory that shut down for want of sale of its product.

Now the above mentioned points are some of the direct causes of depression in the farmers products on this coast.

I will now mention some of the indirect causes: First, the population of the cities is increasing at a greater rate than the country, consequently there are many needless vocations that are kept up at the per cent. taken from the laborers products, as banks, real estate agents, brokers, commission merchants, lawyers, physicians, insurance agents, drummers, etc. Now, just enough of these to carry on the business of a town at a per cent, that would only gain a competency in a life time is all well enough, but when this army of leaches, make enough to support a too often extravagant family, and collect a fortune in a few years and the per cent. by which this has come can be traced in its lineal decent to the products of the laborer. It is high time for him to cry hold. Again a railroad is proposed through a country; the farmer is wild with delight; be is going to have the means to get off the surplus he is cap-able of producing. Whereas, the facts in the case are that this supposed rich company has just money enough to make a showing. It issues bonds on a three times double cost, finishes the road and then starts in to pay those bonds by charging the shipper a large per cent. above cost of transportation. The wolf having thus got the gooses head in his mouth is deaf to all cries of mercy. Again the many useful inventions patented to lighten labor became the means of burden, owing to the extravagant price and want of durability. These machines with their nice coat of paint, appear at first sight to be great money saving implements, and would be, were the farmer to get them at even twenty-five per cent. above cost, but when they are purchased at the price asked by the retail dealers, if the length of time they are used, and interest on cost is considered, they too often are an enemy in disguise. But the greatest of trouble to the producer is high interest. I was once an advocate of free money, but when the Legislature of Oregon reduced the interest from 12 to 10 per cent. I saw that law-makers could bestow great blessings, and did I need further proof of the curse of free money, its effects witnessed in Idaho would furnish it. In the Lewiston banks money loans at 18 per cent., and if a man wants to see the blight of this curse let him familiarize himself with the farmers in Idaho and Washington Territory.

As to the remedies, they are few and simple. While the farmers are dreaming of things as they should be, the business men of the cities and towns are shaping matters as they are. Then we must awake, prepare for the conflict, take more time to read and observe and study the situation. I recommend the plan for farmers to form lodges, procure all publications that give information they need, as a progrestive farmer's pa per, a commercial journal that gives wholesale prices of all products of labor, railroad and milling news, etc., meet without fail every two weeks, have a secretary to read such articles as are pertinent for the moment, discuss and weigh them, and thus become prepared when you raise anything to be able to proxi-mate its full cost, when you sell anything to know what you should receive when you purchase anything to know its cost; to be able when told over-pro duction is the cause of low price; such and such things are high, because of freight or combination, etc., etc., to say it is false, and prove it, can dictate to our representatives, command what is just and have it. We have a forcible lesson of what determined pu pose can accomplish in the "Knights of Labor."

They are demonstrating to the rich that they have brains, and can use them, have homes and interests to protect, wives and children whom they love, and the freedom to enjoy life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, was not inserted in our declaration of independence for the rich alone, that the many blessings this government was instituted for, and is capable of bestowing, must descend to all posterity alike. Now, shall the farmer be the lowest, most contemptible of workers? Shall he who furnishes so much for mankind become a brainless nonentity? Simply a machine, to hand over the results of his labor without question as to remuneration. I for one say no, most emphatic. The farmer can control the legislature, the ballot box, and juries, and there is no reason why forty million American citizens should not gradually sink into peasantry at the will of as many thousands of her schemers, and there is something radically wrong when a man uneducated and penniless can start out lions, or two dollars for every minute of his business life. A. HUTSINSPILLER,

Last week we were in John Hughes store Salem, when a country man brought in his butter. It was packed in a neat box which had sliding shelves; each roll or rather square-for the butter was packed and shaped by a square mold-was neatly wrapped in cheese cloth and the whole out fit had a delightfully fresh and sweet smell. Upon each pat of butter was branded the words "Looney Farm," with a big "D" in the centre. It was Jersery butter made by D. H. Looney, of Jefferson, and it would be needless to say that he always gets the best market price.

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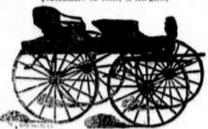
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