

## Lebanon Express.

H. Y. KIRKPATRICK,  
Editor - and - Proprietor.

That man is blind to his own interest, be his calling what it may, that would hinder by word or deed, the development of our agricultural interest, or throw any obstruction in the way of our farmers interest. The farmers certainly have as much right as any class of men on the earth to organize and protect themselves by any and by every legitimate way possible. We have been all our lives in sympathy with the toiling masses. A laboring man ourselves, we believe in honoring and dignifying labor by all possible means, and we regard that man an enemy to society who would in any way detract from its dignity. The farmers are preyed upon by every class of cormorants known to society; fleeced and robbed by tricksters, cajoled and coaxed by agents, overreached and oppressed by designing sharpers, that it is a wonder they have not arose in the majesty of their strength, and in the name of outraged justice and vindicated their rights long ago. Now that the Alliance has solidified the bone and sinew of the farmers' strength, woe be to the man—corporation—ring—confederation—a party that gets in their way.

"Self-reliance" says Professor T. A. Fortson, of Clarke University, in the Atlanta Times, a Colored paper, "is better than the Farmer's Alliance." The latter proposes to protect itself against political intrigue and legislative adverse to the farmer's interests, as well as to protect the farmers from commercial gulling. Self-reliance proposes to use the advantages which nature has abundantly placed within the reach of every colored farmer. This is an instance in which men may not fall through dismayed. Every farmer can act independently and succeed regardless of the system of his brother farmers. Prof. F. adds "A due regard to what is advised in the foregoing will do more to elevate the farmer than all the Alliances of the nation could possibly do him if they should direct their energies to protecting his special interests."

The Farmers' Alliance may favor "visionary schemes," so called by their opponents, but there is no denying the fact that the movement includes a very large number of earnest, thinking farmers, who desire above all things to better the condition of the agricultural classes, and who are working and will work for that end. All great reforms are brought about by agitation, and while the wildest of these "visionary schemes" may not be brought about, this agitation may bring the farmers' interest to the fore and his condition be materially benefited by it. To say the least the movement will educate the farmers up to a better understanding of their duties and privileges.

The farmers of Linn county ought to begin now and save fine specimens of fruit, grain and grasses for exhibition at the State Fair and Industrial Exposition to be held September, both of which are purely Oregon exhibits. Every one ought to have some ambition to see our county, the banner county of the state, represented at these fairs. Come now, let every man do his duty and see that old Linn takes the lead this year.

Keep your eyes open. It is reported that bogus prescriptions are in circulation in Salem. If such is the case it will soon be circulated all over the country.

Some people never look pleasant unless they are slapping some one in the face all the time.—Exchange.

Patience is an indispensable virtue. Without it most of the enterprises of the world would fail. Without it temper would have no master and the pleasures of life be greatly lessened.

A word of caution, says President Polk's paper, The Progressive Farmer, to the State Alliances, which are to meet in annual session in the near future. During the next Alliance year we will doubtless be confronted with stupendous problems. Men of our order and especially our officials, will be tested in every way. We know that efforts will be made to buy and bribe them—that their patriotism, their devotion and constancy to principle, their moral manhood will be tested as never before. It is all important that men be chosen to lead during the next year who are sound and solid to the core, who can withstand all manner of temptation, who will prove pure metal in the furnace, and who are absolutely unpurchasable. Take no man for a leader who has the office-itch. The state presidents for the next year and the delegates to the supreme council are the most important positions to the Alliance people that are to be filled for a year (if not years) to come. The brotherhood should keep their eyes wide open and see that none are selected to these positions but the "tried and true." This advice, so excellent and so much needed, comes rather late, and therefore cannot be called timely. Too many of the leaders already have the "office-itch" and are scheming demagogues, but they have secured such a foothold in the Alliance ranks that few, if any of them will be thrown overboard this fall. It is more likely that the reformers and protectors will have to "walk the plank."

The County Alliance of Florida have a schedule arranged for meetings so that no two counties assemble on the same day. This gives State Lecturer C. B. Collins the famous "Tom Sawyer" of the press, time to attend the regular meeting of every County Alliance without any conflict in his appointments.

The following which was addressed to a Texas editor is respectfully referred to the Oregon Farmers Alliance

My dear sir, you are firing your guns at noise made by the enemies of the Alliance and not at the Alliance principles, as you seem to think. Allow me to insist on your reading the Declaration of Principles of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union before you become alarmed at a noise or flee from a shadow. The Declaration of Principles will teach you no Alliance member can advocate the transforming of the Alliance into a third party unless he be void of all principle, truth and honor. Neither can he advocate the Alliance going into the first or second parties for reform unless he divest himself of all honor and truth (Don't forget this). The Alliance is a political organization, but not a party organization (Don't forget this). But it is or should be a conservative element asking and demanding such political reform as in the judgment of its members will protect them best from the unscrupulous robbery that has been practiced on them for twenty years by class legislation. The Alliance is made up of every political party, same as the Christian Church or the Masonic fraternity, but it dare not take sides with either first, second, third or fourth political party, only as individual citizens. For God's sake, and in the name of liberty-loving Americans, I do ask that you do not deter us by your slang and vituperation from casting our votes (if we see fit) for a party that has never robbed us, or held while being robbed. Perhaps you are not aware of the existence of the N. W. National Farmers' Alliance, the National Citizens' Alliance, and other reform organizations whose privilege it is to go solid for any party of their choice, all of which are entirely separate from the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union. If there was any delegate sent by the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union to the Cincinnati mass-meeting, he was a fraud and wholly unauthorized. Gentlemen and the Texas Farmer, if you have an idea in your brains that will give the down-trodden farmers sure and more prompt relief from the unscrupulous oppression they now labor under thru the sub-treasury, for God's sake give it to us at once.

Mr. Dunning figures it out this way: National banks get \$216,000,000 from the government at one per cent. They have had, free of charge, \$47,000,000 from the surplus. This makes \$263,000,000, which costs the bankers \$1,160,000. They loaned it to the business world at 8 per cent, which amounts to over \$21,000,000—net profit to the banks over the business world, \$10,000,000. And all the time they were getting their 4 per cent on the bonds which they had deposited as collateral.

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