West Side Enterprise.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

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Entered at Independence, Ore., postoffice as second-class matter.

Subscription Price, $1.50 per Yr.

TELEPHONE 36.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

(Strictly in advance)

Per year	$1 50
Six months	75
Single copy	05

Reading notices 10 cents per line straight.

Rates on display advertising made known on application.

AN IMPORTANT OFFICE.

One of the most important officers to be selected in the coming campaign is that of District Attorney. This office is one that requires the highest degree of integrity and honesty and the man chosen to fill it, like Caesar's wife should be above suspicion. It is even more essential to the rights and protection of individuals and society to have a man that cannot be swerved from the path of duty and justice in this office than on the bench as circuit judge; for if the judge goes wrong the supreme court can right his acts but under the present law, the district attorney may take the place of the old common law institution of a grand jury. In this district a grand jury is seldom called and if one be called, the district attorney is legal adviser while the jury is usually made up of men inexperienced in the technicalites of law and the district attorney is the controling power.

Under the present law, the district attorney may alone, without the intervention of a grand jury, draw an indictment, against an individual, prosecute him and take his life. The opportunity for mischief is unlimited if the district attorney be an unscrupulous man. It is within his power not only to wink at law-breaking but to menace law-abiding citizens.

Polk county has furnished the district attorney for this district, Polk, Marion, Linn, Yamhill and Tillamook counties the past four years. The total salary is $4150 but deputies are paid out of this sum. Percy Kelly, deputy for Linn county receives $400; R. L. Conner for Yamhill, $250; H. T. Botts for Tillamook, $200; J. H. McNary for Marion, $500, but McNary is allowed an additional sum to that named in the law. There is an allowence of $250 for deputy hire for Polk county but since the district attorney lives in this county he does not have to pay that out.

J. N. Hart, the present incumbent is a candidate for re-election. The importance of the position together with the salary of $2800, that may be saved, will probably bring out others, though there is as yet no avowed candidate in opposition to Mr. Hart. There is some opposition to Mr. Hart but as yet it is not organized nor centered on any other candidate. The nomination is by delegates to the state convention and solicitude for delegates will be more in evidence after delegates are named at the primaries.

NEWBERG WANTS IT

The Newberg Graphic, which has been taking interest in a proposed change of railroad service says: "On last Saturday the writer called on W. E. Coman of the passenger department of the Southern Pacific and in a few minutes conversation laid some of these matters before him. He said he was glad to be reminded of these conditions just at this time as officials were considering some important changes in the passenger service of the West Side lines. The Graphic is convinced that the people have a good friend in the person of Mr. Coman and further that he will go as far in the improvement of the service as the officials in the head officers will permit.'

"It is always expected that a railroad company will put on more trains when the business is in plain view, but it is also true that a company can often be induced to increase the service when the profits may not be so plainly in sight, if the people continue to press their claims for up-to-date service. The S. P. has been "slow" with the Yamhill branch but the Graphic expects to see within the next sixty days a change for the better with a morning train out of Portland which will run to McMinnville by way of Whiteson and then back to Whiteson and on to Sheridan, and returning by same route in the evening. Such a change would give us a morning mail, an opportunity to reach Portland in the evening, and also rail communications with the county seat—three important changes the people of Newberg will very much appreciate."

The lack of dwelling houses in Independence deserves the attention of some one. Emigrants have been arriving the past fortnight and more are on the way, yet there are no suitable dwellings for rent. New residences, built on modern plan would rent readily. The demand now exceeds the supply.

The Polk County Observer, in its last issue nominates E. C. Kirkpatrick, of Dallas, as the republican candidate to represent Polk county in the state senate. In its presentation of Mr. Kirkpatrick's name the Observer reads the riot act to those Dallasites who have a preference other than its candidate.

As swallows precede the spring, so do little remenbrances from Washington betoken the near approach of a campaign. A number of Polk county people yesterday received a large government map of the United States. It was forwarded at the request of Congressman Binger Hermann.

Colonel E. H. Crowder has been appointed to go to Japan to study the methods of Japan and Russia in killing each other off. If any improvements over the ordinary methods of exterminating foes at war are discovered, Colonel Crowder will report to this govenmernt.

Besides nominating L. T. Harris for congress in the First district, the Eugene Register is out for Newt Williamson in the Third. There is danger of the Register being asked why it would return the Second district congressman but kick out the First.

To the senate committee investigating the Mormonic charges against Senator Smoot, President Joseph Smith said he perferred to disobey the law rather than abandon his five wives. J. George Stoll, has only three wives, and he is in jail.

There has been a congestion of immigrants in Portland and on the west bound overland trains the past week. If they are looking for the banner county of Oregon they will have to come to Polk, the "Blue Ribbon" county of the state.

A pack train of 25 horses, with all of their accouterments, will be one of the novelties at the Worlds Fair at St. Louis. The unusual spectacle will all be equipped as if ready to start on the trail.

A San Diego, Cal., women will exhibit at the World's Fair, butter made in 1858. It is said they have butter of more recent make in California though all are not agreed on this point.

The Eugene Register is progressing. It has discarded its hitherto awkward 7-column 6-page style and is now six colums, eight pages, the same size as the WEST SIDE ENTERPRISE.

Does a prisoner incarcerated in jail, gain a voting residence in the precinct in which the jail is situated? This perplexing question of law is one with which Portland lawyers must grapple.

Anent the closing of gambling in Salem, the Oregonian modestly suggests it's not far to Portland. And its still nearer to Independence and the road is good.

It is hardly likely the Southern Pacific will allow its West Side rails to rust with the increased traffic all along the line asking for increased service.

The boundary dispute between Ecuador and Peru is to be settled by the King of Spain, as arbiter. Pretty Knotty question for so young a chap.

The Portland jailbirds have taken the trouble to go out and register and now there are those mean enough to oppose their voting at the primaries.

Every business man of Independence should attend the Improvement League meeting Mondoy evening.

The republican primaries in Polk county will be held April 7; the county convention April 9.

Japan does not Russianize readily as Finland, Poland, and other countries desired by the Czar.

J. M. Stark, E. C. Kirkpatrick, Uncle Sam Laughary—which will you have for state senator.

Dayton people can congratulate themselves on having a bank building left any way.