



## SECRETARY'S SUMMARY

### Doings of the Forest Grove Civic Society Many Fold.

### Good Progress Made for the First Year's Efforts— Other Notes.

Through the kindness of the secretary of the Forest Grove Civic Improvement Society, Miss Farnham, we are permitted to publish the annual report of that society's progress during the past year. It follows:

In presenting the third annual report of the Civic Improvement Society of Forest Grove it is only necessary to refer to the evening when the citizens first met in Vert's Hall to discuss what steps could be taken to improve our city to realize that progress has been made. Although in the year which has just closed it may have seemed that our organization has not reached the full measure of activity, it must be remembered that we have had more trying conditions to meet than in any previous year. The drought that prevailed throughout the Willamette Valley not only made progress in certain lines impossible, but perhaps lessened the zeal of our citizens. Nevertheless at the banquet given by the Board of Trade we learned that paint by the ton had been put onto buildings both public and private, that new industries had been established and that the outlook for Forest Grove had never been so hopeful. Since our own organization was effected in 1903, not only has the Board of Trade been formed by the men, but the Lewis and Clark Club among the women has undertaken the

work of maintaining the Washington County exhibit at the Exposition. Both these organizations work to develop the resources of Forest Grove and to advertise its industries, but it is left to the Civic Improvement Society to beautify our city and to promote greater municipal pride.

The Civic Improvement Society is the only organization that stands for cooperation of all citizens independent of politics, sex or creed. Its chief object, as the constitution declares, is "to improve and beautify the city of Forest Grove, to aid in keeping the streets, sidewalks and public places neat, to do anything that shall add to the attractiveness of the city, and to promote community life." Thus far the only requirement for membership is "signing the membership roll and agreeing to cooperate with the society." With these aims, and under such liberal terms we have advanced, if somewhat slowly, yet steadily. Our watchword is "The City Beautiful," if we follow it at too great a distance it is better to have an ideal which is beyond our reach rather than one we can hold within our grasp.

From the day when the Mayor of our city issued a call for a mass-meeting of the citizens we have been fortunate in the cooperation of the city officials; they have listened to our petitions and have aided us in our endeavors for clean streets and beautiful lawns. That our streets are still muddy in winter and dusty in summer is quite as much the result of limited resources as indifference. Nevertheless the time must soon come when both public health and comfort will demand heroic efforts for municipal betterment. It is said on good authority that Forest Grove has fifty miles of sidewalks to be kept in repair by our citizens; on that basis we can make a fair estimate of the mileage of our streets. During the past year the Society has seen with much pleasure the placing of new crossings by the city council; drains in some of the streets, and on the part of the citizens the improvement of many pieces of sidewalk that had long been a menace to personal safety. Danger-

ous weeds and overhanging branches still testify that we need greater vigilance; and the mudholes are still deep in one of the thoroughfares leading into town from the country. In our committee meetings although the question of sprinkling the streets has been discussed at length, the problem remains unsolved.

Since the passing of the anti-cow ordinance the improvement in doorways has been most noticeable; now we hope wide-open lawns will assert the wisdom of that movement; unsightly fences too often mean neglected doorways. In country where grass and flowers grow with but slight encouragement there is little excuse for indifference. Another improvement is the removal of several old barns which abutted on the streets; others, however remain which detract much from the charm of our city beautiful. The Civic Improvement Society urges that these be removed from the street. In the ideal city the stable is as neat and in as good a condition as the house; the back yard also will no longer be given over to tin cans and old boxes—nor a general refuge for all untidiness. It is true that the ample plan on which our city was laid out makes the task of neatness in all its details more serious than in towns where land is so dear that building lots are small. In some sections where a stimulated civic spirit is at work prizes have been offered not only for improvement in lawns but also for backyards and out-buildings. Such a method might well be undertaken by our Society.

Our annual clearing-up week which is heralded by posters and generous advertising by our local papers always works wonders in our city. Already the cheerful light of evening bonfires indicates that the good work has begun. Many old fences and sidewalk boards should add fuel for the flames. Last autumn many people anticipated the spring cleaning, and all winter, pedestrians have thanked householders who removed the fallen leaves so that the walks were safe. In the interests of good health alone such a practice ought to be universal.

The removal of cows from the streets has given security to the Public school grounds and the children have taken much pride in preparing flower beds; under the direction of the janitor they have cared for both lawn and flowers. Much credit is due to the janitor for his personal interest; to prevent depositions on the grounds he has been appointed a special policeman. The Civic Improvement Society has recently appointed a committee to confer with the City council and the trustees of the Congregational church with a view towards beautifying the south part of the Congregational church lot for a permanent park.

In following the example of Portland in the purpose to create a Rose City our Rose Committee has done excellent work. Not only have many more roses been planted as the result of personal effort, especially by the free distribution of valuable cuttings, but experienced growers have introduced new and choice kinds. The Rose Show in May was a notable success both financially and in the quality of the roses exhibited. It was a matter of regret that the summer drought prevented the autumn show of fruit and flowers, and especially that the children who had taken great care of their plants during the summer should meet with disappointment. In the show to be held this season it is proposed to have special prizes for those children.

The Society hoped during the past winter to offer a few lectures on subjects connected with our lines of work, but other engagements on the part of many friends of Civic Improvement prevented such a plan.

The Reading Room which was last year retained during the summer by special subscriptions to cover the rent. It was reopened in November for four months under order of the Reading Room Committee. Last year the principal patrons were boys from the public school but this year the best patrons were farmers from the country who were glad of a place to spend a few hours. They made good use of the magazines which were loaned them for home reading. As soon as possible a rent on the ground floor should be secured and the rooms kept on a more liberal policy. It is believed their difficulty in securing funds when a desirable room and suitable supervision can be arranged.

Thanks to the efforts of the Social Committee we have 172 street signs placed at important corners; they are a convenience not only to strangers but to the residents of Forest Grove also.

One committee which perhaps is too little appreciated is the Reception Committee. Since one object of our organization is "to promote community life" such a committee does much to

make the strangers within our gates feel that they have a place in the interests of our city.

This Society has applied for affiliated membership in the American Civic League organized at St. Louis last June. The object of the national association is "the promotion of a more beautiful America in every city, village and hamlet in the county." Its literature supplies information and instruction. The different departments will serve as sources of information, and in their more restricted fields will serve as clearing houses and active factors in improving social conditions."

The Civic Improvement Society of Forest Grove wishes to place itself distinctly in the line of advance in all things that pertain to the best interests of social and municipal life. The awakened civic consciousness of Portland and other towns should stimulate us to our utmost endeavor. We must have faith in the Forest Grove of the future. This organization which is a pioneer in such work among the rural towns should acquaint itself with the best and most progressive methods; we must recognize our needs, and with earnest endeavor work toward civic beauty. For this result we must expect of our officers and standing committees faithful service; we must solicit the continued cooperation of all our citizens; our membership rolls should be revised, and enlarged by effective canvass among the new residents. Only personal enthusiasm to make of Forest Grove the ideal city will enable us to accomplish all that nature has already made possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
MARY F. FARNHAM.

### What Congress Did

The last session of congress was a busy one, but the number of things done that ought to have been done was outnumbered by things that were left undone.

The senate, against the advice of the president, amended the arbitration treaties, and this work is now at a standstill.

District Court Judge Swayne was acquitted on articles of impeachment voted by the house.

The Philippine tariff was revised and an act passed to encourage railroad building and other developments in the islands.

The laws of Alaska were codified and the appointment of an additional judge authorized.

Two new battleships were provided for in the naval appropriation bill. Jurisdiction of the forest reserves was transferred from the interior to the agricultural department.

By resolution of the house the department of commerce was instructed to begin an investigation of the oil trust.

The secretary of war was authorized to return Union and Confederate battle-flags to the states from which they were originally borne.

The American National Red Cross society was incorporated.

A river and harbor bill was passed carrying an appropriation of nearly \$31,000,000.

There was a failure to pass the measure for the immediate opening of the south half of the Colville reservation.

The bill reducing the membership of the Panama canal commission and giving the president larger directory powers failed.

The Each-Township bill for the regulation of freight rates by the interstate commerce commission was passed by the house, but died in the senate.

The statshood bill which, as it passed the house, admitted Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona as separate states, was amended so as to admit Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a single state and New Mexico, leaving Arizona a territory. The house refused to accept the changes and the bill died in conference.

There was a refusal of the demand of the people of Alaska for a delegate in congress.—Spokane Review.

### Settled Again.

After about four days being consumed in moving and entertaining the painters, The News plant is again settled and doing business as before. Our new quarters are much larger and brighter, the latter being made so by the large skylight which was used by the photographer who occupied the rooms before us. The public generally is invited to call at our new stand.

### Dr. Large Still in Business.

Dr. C. L. Large reports a son born to the wife of Chas. D. Hondt, of Thatcher, the 12th inst.; also a son born to the wife of Wm. Williams, of Gales Creek, the 18th inst.; and to the wife of S. S. Dallas, of Gales Creek, on March 20th, a daughter.

### New Mail Route.

Cyrus F. Brown was awarded the contract for carrying the mail between this place and Greenville, which service is to begin on March 27. The new service makes it more convenient for the patrons in the Greenville district, in as much as they will get their daily mail in the morning instead of in the afternoon as at present. The schedule as mapped out for the new route is as follows: Leave Greenville daily, except Sunday, at 4:45 a. m. arriving at Forest Grove at 6:35 or in time to connect with the seven o'clock train for Portland. Returning leaves Forest Grove upon receipt of the mail from Portland, but not later than 9:45 a. m., arriving at Greenville, in one hour and fifty minutes. The contract price for the period from March 27, 1905 to June 30, 1906, is \$469.49.

### Laundry Plant Sold.

J. Q. Jackson, who has operated the City Laundry for several months, sold the plant this week to Fred Emerson, of Portland, who has been connected with the City Laundry of that place for many years. Mr. Emerson will be assisted by Mr. Dodson who has also been in the employ of the same Portland firm and who is a laundryman of experience. Mr. Jackson will remain at the plant until the new proprietors become better acquainted with the town. He has not decided as to his plans for the future but expects to remain in the city.

### Died.

On Wednesday, March 15, Chas. Ivan Bondshu, of Thatcher, died of consumption, aged 17 years. Young Bondshu was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bondshu, and had been sick for the past winter. The funeral occurred Friday, Rev. Barber officiating, and the interment was at the Buxton cemetery.

### List of Letters.

Following is the list of letters remaining uncalled for at the postoffice: Anderson, William; Richards, Miss Tallie; Smith, Miss Magie; Stickney, H. C.; Talt, P. B.; Wilbows, Mrs. E. E.

### GAMMA SIGMA BANQUET

#### Meeting of College Debaters at the Colonial on St. Patrick's Day.

The Gamma Sigma Literary Society held its Third Annual banquet at the Colonial hotel, Friday evening. Twenty-five couples gathered around the festal board and celebrated St. Patrick's Day in a way that would have made a son of Erin's heart beat with increasing pride for his native land, but the glories and achievements of Gamma Sigma were also narrated and her songs of victory were sung with hearty good will. Previous to the dining hour a social time was had with a program of songs given by Prof. Bradley, Miss Shannon and Mr. Belknap. The party then repaired to the dining rooms where an elaborate and savory menu as follows was served: Toke Point Oysters, Bouillon en Cups, Olives, Salted Almonds, Celery, Crab Salad, Cold Pressed Chicken, Sugar Cured Sliced Ham, Neapolitan Ice Cream, Crackers, Fruit, Black Coffee.

The following toasts were given at the conclusion of the feast. Harvey W. Gates, the president of the society acted as toastmaster. "The Shamrock" H. E. Thomas; "Old Ireland," Prof. C. E. Bradley; "Mr. Dooley," Harry Fisher Davis; "St. Patrick and the Serpents," R. B. Wirtz; "Daniel O'Connell," Mr. G. B. Wood; "The Rose of Killarney," H. W. Sparks; "The Emerald Isle," R. F. Peters.

Those present were: Misses Bibee, Lieser, Brobst, Peterson, Moseley, Lancefield, Chandler, Dooley, Shannon, Jackson, Huston, Holmes, Emmel, Kate Shannon, Purdy, Ames, Brock, Helen Chandler, Butler, Maud Buxton, Baker, Hollinger, and Kate Stribich, also Messrs. Huston, Adams, White, Rasmussen, Gates, Thomas, Davis, Miers, Williams, Merryman, Peters, Lawrence, Whealdon, Ireland, Rulison, H. W. Sparks, Bollinger, Fletcher, Belknap, Barrett, Calif, Jensen, Wirtz. The chaperons were: Prof. and Mrs. C. E. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. George B. Woods, and Mrs. W. T. Fletcher.

"Wickley's Woods."

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Forest Grove, Oregon

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### Fishing Season Opens April 1st

Now is the time to buy a nice Rod, while the stock is complete.



### Sporting Goods We have a full line of Baseball Supplies

of the celebrated A. G. Spaulding Bros. A nice line of Gloves, Bats, Balls, Masks and Catchers' Mitts.

The time will soon be here when you will want to take your best girl out for a ride. It will make her feel proud to ride in an up to date Studebaker Buggy. We have a nice lot on hand; come in and see them at our warehouse.

The largest line of Galvanized Pipe and pipe fittings in the city. If you want pipe laid we do it; we will install you a nice bath tub, or a Porcelain sink, or a Wash basin, in fact everything you need in that line

JOHN DEERE PLOWS, SNELL BICYCLES, STUDEBAKER WAGONS

The Peerless Ball Bearing Lawn Mower, 14 inch and 16 inch with 10 inch drive wheels are beauties and almost run themselves. Bring in your lawn mowers and get them repaired and sharpened, it will save you lots of hard work.

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