

FOREST GROVE PRESS

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Display advertisements for publication in the PRESS must be in this office not later than Tuesday evening to insure appearance in current issue

Entered at the post office at Forest Grove, Ore. as mail matter of the second class.

In its haste to show its gratitude for exclusive patronage, the "City Official Paper" declares emphatically that the city lighting plant is free of debt. If such is the case why is it necessary to send to New York city every six months a check for over \$800, as semi-annual interest upon a bond issue of \$27,000? Why has that bond issue, if the lighting plant is free of debt, not been decreased a matter of some \$9,500? Why should the tax-payers be compelled to pay interest semi-annually upon \$9,500 if the lighting plant is free of debt? Perhaps the "City Official Paper" was misinformed, or perhaps not informed at all. There is a debt of \$9,500 against the municipal light plant, and no "beating around the bush" can conceal or disguise it.

An effort is being made to turn a matter of economics into one of political significance. We refer to the question of municipal or corporation ownership of the lighting plant of Forest Grove. It would seem that the simplest manner in which that question could be decided would be to have a thorough accounting of the receipts and expenditures of the lighting system from the day of its installation to date. Then submit the findings, whatever they might be, to the citizens of the municipality, and let the question be decided by those who have the only right to decide it.

If the municipal light plant is free of debt, then in all probability the city has returned to the building fund a little matter of some \$4,000 which was "borrowed" about three years ago. How?

Very true that a fire house has been constructed and that a city jail is nearing completion, but the two together will not cost \$4,000. And, where's the interest? Again—that "borrowed" \$4,000 was supposed to be applied toward the construction of a city hall. What's the answer?

The \$12,000 in bonds which have just been taken up by the city were street improvement bonds, paid by the property owners. This is fact, regardless of reports which have been circulated about the streets.

Forest Grove needs more school room and needs it bad. It does not, however, need more land upon which to construct a school building. The present site of the Central school is ample and sufficient upon which to erect a modern structure. A meeting of school electors has been called for December 30, and every one within the district should attend and enter into the discussion upon the matter of additional school room.

We do not believe there is a member of the present city council devoid of sufficient courage to so handle affairs that the greatest good to the greatest number will result; and because of that belief, we fail to understand why such action as will alleviate the danger to pedestrians from wet, leaf-covered sidewalks, has not been taken. In this connection, there is also danger from loose boards, rotten stringers and slanting walks, which are to be found in several parts of the city.

Instead of taking advantage of an opportunity to "hide behind the veil," why not come out in the open and fight square?

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People talk about the weather to save them the trouble of thinking.

We might say, in apt reply "There is always an opportunity for a fool to show his folly."

We politely suggest that some people get down to "hard tacks" and cut out the "generalities."

From the disagreeable nature of many people with corns, one is led to believe they think with their feet.

One cannot avoid being introduced to trouble, but he can avoid shaking hands with it and asking it to have a seat.

The women of Forest Grove are evincing a gratifying interest in local political matters, but as yet have failed to express themselves as to their intentions or desires in the nominating of a city ticket for the coming election.

The meetings of church societies are supposed to be for the discussion of matters pertaining to the moral and social uplift of the human race, and not for the purpose of listening to political speeches or the discussing of questions relating to national, state or municipal affairs.

According to the Crop Reporter, every state west of the Mississippi, except California, Iowa, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas, produces more wheat than it consumes. On the other hand, every state east of the Mississippi, save Delaware, will this year consume more wheat than it produces. The surplus wheat crop for the whole country amounts to 134½ million bushels. Last year the surplus was only 45 million bushels.

Every business man in the country, and many in foreign countries, are taking stock of the probabilities of democratic legislation.

Farmers and fruit growers are

essentially business men, and the action of Congress is likely to effect them in a marked degree. They showed that they had a lively idea of the importance of national legislation at the time the Canadian reciprocity treaty was under discussion. Now the tariff issue has a much broader aspect.

Each farmer will, it is assumed, settle for himself the question whether he wants the tariff reduced, and if so, on what articles. It is time that he should make sure of his position on this matter, and having done so, communicate his ideas to his Congressman and Senator. Congress, it is presumed, is going to do as nearly as possible what the people want. If you think the election of a democratic administration means the cutting of the tariff on grain, fruits and vegetables, on cattle, pigs and wool, and all the other things that are produced by the farmer, then write to your Congressman and say so. If you think otherwise, write and tell what you really want. Your representatives in Congress will be better able to legislate for you if they know where you stand.

Clipped and Pasted

Of course, love is blind, but it might be just as well to remember that the eyesight of the neighbors is good.—*Journal*.

It looks to us as if Woodrow Wilson was by no means the most worried man concerning the disposition of Mr. Bryan.—*Evening Telegram*.

Los Angeles has a school where girls are taught dressing as a fine art. It ought to have an annex where future husbands are taught how to hook them up.—*Eugene Daily Guard*.

Oregon Democrats might pattern after California brethren and form a league to "strengthen" the party. A free, running translation of "strengthen" would be to carve the pie.—*Oregonian*.

If the Turks would issue a proclamation to the effect that all captives will hereafter be compelled to pronounce the names of the various battlefields, they would be able to strike terror to the hearts of their enemies.—*Oregon Register*.

The Oregon law governing school elections says that any taxpayer or head of a family is entitled to vote. Since women have the ballot the man can vote as the taxpayer, and the ladies will no doubt be willing to be considered as the "head of the family" in order that they too may cast the ballot.—*The Dallas Optimist*.

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Physician & Surgeon
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Phone Main 0121
Forest Grove, Ore.

Dr. E. B. Brookbank
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Phone: Main 80X
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