

The Forest Grove Express

Published every Wednesday at Forest Grove, Oregon.
W. C. Benfer, Editor and Publisher.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1916

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Instead of having Letter Writing week a fixed date, let us have it "the first pleasant week in the first pleasant month of the year."

Astor has finally secured the title for which he renounced the country in which he made his wealth to go to England and learn to wear a monocle. This country has lost nothing and if the British think they are the gainers, let them take all the satisfaction they can out of having him buy a few of them good meals when they are broke.

Candidates for office this year will run onto a little joker adopted by the last legislature which is intended to make nominations at the primary election conclusive and aims to prevent a candidate defeated at the primaries appearing at the election with a brand new party designation. The provision is an innocent little requirement which provides that candidates must subscribe to the following pledge when filing: "If I am not nominated I will not accept the nomination or endorsement of any party other than the one in which I am registered."—Hillsboro Independent.

A Mexican outlaw, named Villa, sometimes called "General" Villa, said to have been responsible for the massacre of a score of Americans in West Chihuahua on January 10th, has made the boast that he has plenty of bullets left for Americans. By the time several of the other outlaw factions of Mexico got through with the "general," he may not have any bullets to spare for American citizens. If it were not for the undisputable fact that the life of one American soldier is worth more than an hundred Villas, the Express would like to see the American troops take Mexico, cuff the ears of its outlaw military ruffians and show its people what a republican form of government means. But is it worth the price?

Quite a number of the newspapers of this and other western states have been printing an article which tries to tell what a vile thing a "knocker" is. The fellow who "knocks" any and everything certainly gets to be a bore and nuisance, but there are times when the so-called knocker is justified in his protests. For instance, when an evil springs up in a community, it is not only the privilege, but the duty of all good citizens to get their hammers and beat a tattoo on said evil until it is

knocked sky high. Sometimes these evils appear in the guise of grafters, who give the community a bad name by their itching for other people's property; sometimes they unload on somebody something that is not worth the price at which it is sold and the buyer, in his anger, inveighs against everything in the community, good and bad. In this case, the man who is stung may appear to be carrying the knocking spirit too far, but he is not nearly so much a detriment to the community as the man who did the stinging. The last-named is the real knocker, for his action lent the sting to the tongue of the victim of mis-placed confidence. No, the editor of the Express hasn't been stung, but he overheard a conversation on a train about a month ago which led him to this line of thought. The stinging referred to did not occur in Washington county and the writer hopes nothing like it will ever occur here.

"There's just as much money here as ever, if we could keep it at home," said a business man in the writer's hearing the other day.

He then went on to say that if all the people living in the Forest Grove district did all their trading here, Forest Grove would be a much better town than it now is. "Look at the people who go to Portland to do their shopping!" he exclaimed. The writer doesn't know to what extent the people of Forest Grove carry their money to Portland, but he does know that very few of the dollars taken out of the town ever come back.

Portland merchants do not help Forest Grove people pay taxes and they have no claim on the patronage of our people. This struggle between the big city stores and the merchants of the towns and little cities is older than the writer and each year it appears to grow fiercer. Some towns have been ruined because the very people who should support them send away for goods they should buy at home. Town property has in many cases become so unprofitable that the houses have been torn down and the land put under the plow. Then, when John Smith or Bill Jones want a sack of corn meal, a plug of tobacco or a pair of shoes they are compelled to send to the city for these articles, because the country merchant has quit business and either moved away or become a farmer. Let us save Forest Grove, with its beautiful homes, from such a fate.

A Chance to Serve Your Country

This will be a lively year politically in Washington county, says the Hillsboro Independent, for not only is a presidential election to be held, a state ticket selected, but practically all county officers must be elected. On the accepted theory that while during good times candidates are scarce, during periods of depression they are numerous, it is likely there will be a flock of applicants for the different jobs.

Circuit Judge Bagley's appointment holds until after the November election and this place is a plum open to Washington and Tillamook counties. It is understood that the judge will be a

candidate to succeed himself.

District attorney is another office to be filled, but since the passage of the law giving each county this office and reducing the salary it may not be as attractive as in past years. The present incumbent, E. B. Tongue, has made no public announcement of his intentions, but it is understood he may not ask re-election.

The terms of both Senator Wood and Senator Hollis expire this year and their successors must be elected, the first representing Washington county only, but Mr. Hollis representing Lincoln, Yamhill and Tillamook also.

Candidates anxious for glory

with small financial return may have a whack at the legislature in addition to the senatorial vacancies, for there are three representatives to be elected.

No county judge will be elected, as Judge Reasoner holds over until 1919.

The term of Commissioner C. A. Hanley will expire and a successor is to be elected. The job carries \$3 per day when at work and there is an expense allowance. County Clerk E. C. Luce completes two terms this year and there will probably be a scramble for the vacancy. The office carries an \$1800 salary and those who are posted say the incumbent earns it.

J. E. Reeves also completes two terms as sheriff and rumor names a flock of ambitious ones willing to be his successor. There is \$1800 in this job also, but at that when work and pay are compared the sheriff doesn't get very much the best of it. In addition the last legislature again made the sheriff tax collector, which is a big responsibility.

Washington county's treasurer draws but \$900 a year and the emoluments which in former years made the office attractive have been cut out. E. B. Sappington's term expires this year and here is a chance for a fellow who likes to handle big money, even if it isn't his own.

Max Crandall's term as assessor is another which will expire. The office pays \$1200 per year and is considered one of the most difficult in the county to fill. When the last election to fill the office was held, notwithstanding much talk by persons who thought they would like the office there was a noticeable shying at it, and finally just before the filing period Mr. Crandall handed in his name and was elected without opposition.

Recorder J. H. Davis will complete his first term this year, and as it has been the custom to give an official two terms it is probable he will again get the office. It pays \$1200 a year.

The term of George McGee, county surveyor, ends also and this office will be upon the ballot. The surveyor draws \$5 per day for the time actually put in.

Dr. I. E. Barrett is the present coroner and is paid by fees. There will be a vacancy at the end of the year and a fellow with a taste for that kind of work will have a chance.

B. W. Barnes will complete his first term as school superintendent and the custom of giving an official two terms will probably be applied to him. He draws \$1200 a year.

The registration books opened the first Monday in January, but enrollment has been slow. In fact, it has been so slow that candidates will be unable to circulate petitions until there are more names on the lists. This year under the new law it is possible to place names on the ballot by merely filing a certain form of declaration and payment of a fee, but it is probable a majority of candidates will follow the old plan of filing declaration and completing them later by filing petitions bearing the names of voters.

The primary election will be held Friday, May 19.

After considering the applications of 45 prisoners for pardons or paroles, the pardon board last Friday recommended the paroling of James Woodward, Multnomah county, larceny; Ross Garber, Washington county, forgery; Robert Owen, Morrow county, larceny; and Ray Piper, Linn county, same offence. The governor acted on the recommendations of the board in the above mentioned cases and granted conditional pardons to John W. Horn, Malheur county, and Charles Davis, Yamhill county, serving sentences for burglary.

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THE EXPRESS

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