

The Forest Grove Express

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1916

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Are We Doing Our Very Best?

Much as the Express dislikes to admit it, business conditions are not as brisk in Forest Grove as we would like to see them. Facts are facts and cannot be dealt with in any other light. But what is the remedy? Most of us are willing and anxious to improve conditions, if we are shown the way. The editor of the Express believes one of the easiest and best ways to improve conditions among all classes in Forest Grove is to inculcate and develop a spirit of patriotism for home industry. Some of us are too careless about where our money goes after we have earned it.

We are not insistent enough that every cent we spend shall go for goods produced in Forest Grove or in Oregon. Some of us say, when buying butter, "Give us Forest Grove butter, please," but not all of us. If every pound of butter sold by the stores and markets of Forest Grove were made in this town, we would soon see a bigger and better creamery, which would, in turn, build up a better and greater market for cream. Most of us, but not all, patronize the local laundry when we have work in that line. Some Forest Grove money is going to Portland laundries. This money never comes back. Then we have a man in Forest Grove who is putting out as good a washing machine as can be bought anywhere for an equal amount of money. If every washing machine in Forest Grove was made in this town, this man would employ ten persons where he is now using only his own labor. Then there are the gopher-trap factory, the cannery and several other institutions which would be only too glad to hire a lot more of the idle men and women of Forest Grove, if the demand for their goods justified the expenditure.

It might not be amiss to write our friends in the middle west and tell them of the magnificent educational institutions of Oregon—Pacific University, first of all; the Oregon Agricultural college for those who want to become intelligent and scientific farmers, or any of the many colleges and other institutions of learning in the state. Ask these friends to send their boys and girls to Oregon to be educated.

The condenser would, no doubt employ more help if the demand for its output justified. The writer does not believe that much foreign canned milk or cream is consumed in Forest Grove, but there are oceans of it consumed elsewhere. Why not inaugurate a letter writing campaign and boost for the Carnation brand of canned milk? We have just gone through a letter writing campaign which has met considerable opposition, and justly so, the writer believes. People in some parts of the state were asked to write friends and relatives in the east, asking that they come to Oregon, the land of the rose, for a visit or to make a home. They were not asked to write the truth only; anything went, just so it brought a few dollars to Oregon, and in many cases people came who had

spent their last dollar for carfare, having been led by booster letters to believe that the "land of roses" was a land of golden opportunities for all. This form of letter writing was opposed by many on the ground that it brought to Oregon many people who were not financially able to take care of themselves after they got here. People in the east read some of the booster letters and came to look for jobs, when hundreds of Oregon people were jobless. This kind of a campaign is ill-advised, the writer believes. But let us write our friends in the east, the west, north and south, telling them what wonderfully pure milk is canned under the Carnation brand, ask them to try a can next time they buy canned milk. Not all Carnation milk is produced or canned in Washington county, but some of it is and if the demand is big enough, no doubt the local plant will be increased in capacity and the demand for the milk of Washington county Jerseys will increase proportionately.

And then our home merchants complain that too many people buy from Portland and the mail order houses goods they should purchase at home. Few towns the size of Forest Grove have such well-stocked stores and it seems a pity they are not more liberally patronized. These merchants are our neighbors, help pay the taxes of the town and county, trust us when we are "broke" and certainly are entitled to some consideration. If their prices are anywhere near as low as the stores in the big cities, we should spend our money at home, where it goes to build up Forest Grove.

There are many ways in which the people of Forest Grove can help themselves, without writing about roses at a time when the birds have to be fed to keep them from starving. Let us be boosters and, at the same time, be honest with ourselves and all the world.

Forest Grove has enough meritorious institutions to make her prosperous if we but foster and advertise them properly.

A Deep Harbor for Yaquina Bay

The true Oregon spirit is shown by the people of Newport in their request that the Board of Engineers reconsider its adverse report on the proposed improvement of Yaquina bar and harbor, says the Oregonian. They reply with an offer to pay out of local taxes one-half of the cost of the survey and of the improvement, which is to establish a thirty-foot channel.

The reasons given by the engineers for their adverse report are most effectually disposed of in Newport's reply. The inadequacy of the returns from the former improvement was due to the bankruptcy and subsequent absorption by the Southern Pacific of the Oregon Pacific railroad and to the consequent withdrawal of the steamers to San Francisco. The railroad has been put in good repair and regular operation and is capable of carrying heavy traffic from the Willamette Valley to Yaquina Bay. The great Siletz forest is now open to

loggers and lumbermen and, with a deep harbor, ocean-going vessels would carry its products to foreign markets. The dairying and fishing industries have developed and would add to the port's traffic.

The port's offer to pay half the cost of survey and improvement is sufficient answer to the engineers' statement that "the reasonably prospective commerce appears insufficient to justify the further cost of an enlarged project." The people of Yaquina Harbor might conceivably be willing to have money wasted on a worthless scheme if the Government paid all; we decline to believe them capable of such folly when half the money comes out of their own pockets. The engineer's argument is the same old argument which has often done duty as an excuse for doing nothing. The people ask for a harbor that they may develop commerce; the engineers reply: "You have no commerce, therefore should not have a harbor." If that theory had always been followed, we should still be in the stone age.

Quieting a Cyclone

Of all the heartless, ungrateful wretches we ever heard of, says the Portland News, there's a bunch of folks in the Texas panhandle country who take the cake.

"Cyclone" Davis, congressman from Texas, wired, it is said, a gathering of them as follows:

"If I can render you or your good citizens any service, do not hesitate to command me."

They answered:

"Bully. Resign."

Elmer J. Burkett, ex-United States Senator from Nebraska, has announced himself as a candidate for vice president on the republican ticket. A great many Washington county people who, heard Senator Burkett's talk on "Government Ownership of Railroads" in this city last summer will hope that his dreams come true and that they may have a chance to vote for him.

The editor of the Hillsboro Independent has served notice that, while he is willing to publish notices of religious meetings, his paper will not give space to people who desire to argue religious subjects. Wise man. The editor who steers clear of religion and war in his discussions saves himself a lot of trouble and many enemies.

Dates to Remember

As this is to be a year of politics, it will be well to remember the following dates in connection with the elections:

April 18—Last day to register for primary election.

April 19—Last day to file petitions or declarations for nominations for county offices, district and justice of the peace.

May 19—Primary election. Polls open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

May 20—Reopening of registration.

June 4—Last day for candidates to file statements of expenditures of primaries.

September 28—Last day to file certificate of nomination by political party or assembly for county and district.

October 7—Last day to register for general election.

October 13—Last day to file certificate of nomination by individual electors for county, district and precincts.

November 7—General election. Polls open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

November 22—Last day for candidates to file statement of expenditures.

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Keep Your Money

AT HOME

spend it in Forest Grove, and you have a very good chance of seeing it again; you may even handle it again. Even if you never see it again, some of your neighbors will get it and use it to build up Forest Grove and Washington county. No matter whether you need groceries, clothing, shoes, automobiles or

Job Printing

this advice is worth considering, for many a town has been promoted to the city class by the patriotism of its citizens in refusing to send away for things they could get at home.

THE EXPRESS

plant is fully equipped for all classes of job printing, printers of taste and judgement are employed and you can get almost any kind of stationery the most exacting fancy might crave. Come and see.

Or, if you think you have some reason for not patronizing the Express, take your work to the other local office. Either will do more for Forest Grove than some printing concern outside the city or county.

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