

# The Forest Grove Express

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

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THURSDAY AUG 31, 1916

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

### AN OPEN LETTER

To Aaron Envious Scott and Joseph Puffedup Hurley,  
Publishers of the Washington County News-Times:

My Dear Old Ladies:

In the News-Times of Aug. 24th you take up considerable space to tell the public (in a half-column diatribe that is ninety per cent falsehood and ten per cent whine-for-sympathy) that, by accepting a six-inch ad from a Portland clothing store the Express is "trying to destroy home merchants." That statement is one hundred per cent falsehood and stamps the author as a hypocrite in his religious pretensions. The Express offered to sell space to local merchants and when they refused, others were given the same opportunity. No attempt was made by the Express to "destroy" anybody's business. (The last issue of the News-Times carried four out-of-town ads.) Said diatribe charged that the Express editor "demanded" that local merchants advertise in his paper. That's not true. There is only one paper in this city that DEMANDS support as a divine right and that paper is not the Express. The Express is willing to abide by the doctrine of "the survival of the fittest" and asks no advantage, like an agreement for a two-year subsidy.

The diatribe also makes the assertion that "ninety-nine out of a hundred citizens will tell you that there is about as much need of a second newspaper in Forest Grove as there is for five wheels on a wagon." How do you know what the ninety-nine think? You have only interviewed two of the hundred; namely, Scott and Hurley. Fully one-third of the families of Forest Grove are now reading the Express, which is a pretty good showing for a paper less than eight months of age. And these people buy and read the Express because they like it; not because the publisher has purchased the subscriptions with bribes in the shape of automobiles, pianos, sewing machines, etc. The Express concedes that there are a few people in Forest Grove who, for special reasons of their own, do not want a paper in Forest Grove that they cannot control and these few people are willing that the News-Times should enjoy a monopoly of the field. They know the News-Times, under your management, is a perfectly tractable instrument, always willing to play the tune the "mutual admiration society" selects.

You deny, in a flippant manner, the charge of the Express that you would maintain a monopoly. Well, nobody expected you to admit the charge, but the Express is ready to prove it.

In the spring of 1914, the writer is told by reputable business men, (men who are now patronizing your paper) one or both of you went about this town, like itinerant mendicants, asking business

people to sign an agreement not to patronize another newspaper for a period of two years. Do you dare deny this statement? If you do, you are greater fools than the writer ever charged you with being, for every business man in town knows you did this abominable thing, bringing the blush of shame to every publisher in the county. It is acts like this that keep alive the belief among the laymen that newspapers are charitable institutions and editors chattels that can be purchased with a load of knotty wood or an overripe squash. This one act makes one wonder if big bodies and big heads and hearts ever travel about on the same pair of legs. The writer is, indeed, sorry to have to tell the people outside Forest Grove that two such (physically) large men can have such small minds, and in divulging this disgraceful information, the Express desires to apologize to the other publishers of the county and state and to assure the public that very few publishers are like you two. Most of them are willing to compete for business, without asking business men to sign away their rights. Oh, why did you do this shameful thing? Didn't you know you were bringing the blush of shame to every self-respecting publisher who learned of it? Surely two such robust men could make a living without becoming public beggars!

As if this thing were not enough to convict you of trying to maintain a monopoly, one of you recently asked a man who advertises in both papers to take his ad out of the Express. He refused, but what language he used you know better than the writer. In another case, you did a job of printing for nothing rather than see the Express make a small profit. That's bushwhacking and should be beneath the dignity of big men.

Believing the monopoly charge proven (to the satisfaction of the public) let us take up another of your assertions—that the Express is a "squatter." What is a squatter? A dictionary at the writer's elbow defines a squatter as "one who settles on new land without a title; one who establishes a claim by length of residence." Let it stand so, to save argument. The Express editor expects to "establish claim (to do business in Washington county) by length of residence." At the time the writer squatted in Forest Grove, you, Mr. Hurley, had been a squatter less than two years; Mr. Scott had squatted longer and, possibly, more frequently. But there is a difference in our methods. Before Mr. Hurley would condescend to grace and embellish this beautiful little city with his Ponderous

Presence, a certain number of merchants must agree, in writing, to give the Greedy Twins (Scott and Hurley) a two-year monopoly of the newspaper advertising of Forest Grove. The publisher of the Express was willing to compete for the business and asked no pledges of patronage in advance. He believed Forest Grove and its environs able and willing to support two papers and he has not changed his mind to date. If there is room here for only one paper, the law of the "survival of the fittest" will select the victor, but the Express denies its competitors the right to do so. Let the public decide.

In former issues of your paper you have intimated that the Express has very few subscribers. That's another biased and unwarranted assumption. The Express has more subscribers, for its age, than you even claim for your paper, and new ones are coming in frequently, in spite of your spurge in "high finance" during December and January. That was an expensive plunge, wasn't it boys? And by imported talent, too! The Twin who conceived that scheme deserves to be sued by his partner for a business divorce. But that's none of my business, is it?

In conclusion: Don't worry! Don't whine, but, for sanitary reasons, keep spouting. That's the only thing that will prevent a hemorrhage—and the sewer isn't completed, you know.

W. C. BENFER,

Editor Forest Grove Express.

P. S. Do it some more, if it amuses you; I don't mind it a bit and while you're writing 'stories' about the Express you won't have time to go bushwhacking. But please, for the sake of the "ethics" of our little Editorial Association, don't ever again ask merchants to sign an agreement. It's unladylike—and ungrateful.

W. C. B.

#### THE CHILD LABOR LAW

Omaha World-Herald: The child labor law which President Wilson has signed and a democratic congress passed, records one of the greatest advances that any nation has made in recent years. It is of far more importance than most people conceive it to be. The humanitarian reasons urged for its enactment appealed to many, but there are other considerations of very great importance. It will remove this cheap labor from competition with adult workers, and give children an opportunity to become healthy, self-sustaining citizens when they come to adult age. A nation can never become strong with a large class of anaemic citizens, and an anaemic child always grows up to be an anaemic adult. It is a "preparedness" scheme that outweighs all others.

There is no doubt that if this democratic administration is continued in power other measures along the same line will be enacted. They will be of a nature to secure to children of the wage-workers healthful surroundings and sufficient food to enable them to become strong and healthy workers when they attain adult age. Many parents do not receive enough wages to enable them to feed and clothe the children in such manner as to make them strong and healthful, as numerous investigations have proved. Thousands of infants

## WASHINGTON County Fair

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
**Sept. 20 to 23, inclusive**

A T  
**Forest Grove Fair Grounds**  
(Only One Block from Railroad)

### This Will Be a Great Exhibition

Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry and Pet Stock,  
Vegetables, Fruits, Grains, Grasses, Farm Machinery,  
Automobiles, Flowers, Fancy Work, Plants,  
Pictures, Culinary and Household Articles  
Something Doing Every Day! Watch for the Program!  
See List of Special Prizes!

**\$2,000.00 in Premiums; \$600.00 in Special Prizes**  
**Firemen's Tournament! Band Contests!**

Wednesday—Automobile Day.  
Thursday—Firemen's Day.  
Friday—School Children's Day.  
Saturday—Grange Day.

The officers will be pleased to furnish you any  
information desired.

**Joseph P. Hurley, Pres. R. W. Reder, Sec'y**  
FOREST GROVE, OREGON

die because of the low wages the parents receive.

An investigation of infant mortality by the federal children's bureau of Johnston, Pa., showed that in families where the father earned less than \$521 a year, or less than \$10 a week, the infant mortality rate was 255.7 as contrasted with 134.7 for the community as a whole, and 101.4 in families where the father earned \$900 or more a year. Other investigations in Montclair, N. J., and Falls City, Mass., showed the same results from low wages. These facts were obtained by the officers employed by a democratic administration. The child labor bill is only the beginning of what will be accomplished if democratic rule is continued.

Down in "bleeding and suffering" Kansas the state is educating its criminals. Last week thirty-one convicts in its penitentiary were given diplomas after completing courses in agriculture, steam and electrical engineering, carpentry and blacksmithing, the

courses being the same as given at the state agricultural college.

M. S. Schrock, county agriculturist for Yamhill county, estimates that \$55,000 worth of fertilizer will be lost when the straw-stacks of Yamhill county are burned this fall. How much of this waste will take place in Washington county?

Twins aren't as plentiful as singles, but they are more amusing.

Father Noah evidently took some of Ananias' get into the old ark.

Brother Killen will please excuse us for amusin' ourselves with his Teddy bears.

#### For the State Fair

L. M. Graham who is preparing a Washington county exhibit for the state fair, wants some extra fine grains and vegetables to add to his collection. If farmers will bring the exhibits to Mr. Graham's office, he will sort, pack and ship them. He must have these exhibits not later than Sept. 10th and as much earlier as possible.

## Your VACATION TRIP

should be spent at Tillamook. You will find the weather cool, for it comes miles and miles from off the Pacific. You can find much to do at the Tillamook County Beaches. Bathing, dancing, hiking, picnicking, playing tennis or golf.

## 2 Daily Trains from Portland

leaving at 7:45 A. M. and 1:40 P. M. Afternoon train has observation car.

### Low Round Trip Fares

are on sale daily from all sections to Tillamook County Beaches. These include Bayocean, Neah-Kah-Nie, Manzanita and the Garibaldi Beaches.

Ask agent for booklet and other information  
JOHN M. SCOTT,  
Gen. Passenger Agent, Portland

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC

The fact that the Express has less subscribers than some of the older papers worries the News-Times so much that this condition must be changed, so, during September \$1.00 in advance will pay for a year's subscription to the Forest Grove Express—an 8-page newspaper, worth \$1.50.