

STURGIS WEEKLY RECORD

Friday, October 16, 1908

MAX HOEHN REPLIES

October 15, 1908

Mr. O. J. SHERMAN;

Dear Dir: Everybody in Sturgis knows who wrote the charges against me, which, as my opponent for the office of Register of Deeds, you publish in the Press, and claim to father. They were offered to you "as a good thing for your campaign", and were hatched for you by a defective title hunter and lawyers associated with him, whom I have refused access to the county records, it, in my judgment, being against public policy. Had you come to me as a friend and brother, saying: "Max, this or that doesn't look right to me", my explanation would have been made to you at once. Then, if unsatisfied, there could not rest upon your motives the stigma of stabbing me in the back for political purposes. You knew all you assert prior to Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, and yet, as a wronged citizen, did not appear before the county commissioners at their session this month. Why not? Why did you wait? Simply because that would not have answered your political ends. Suppose I had published that you haul coal – that your cellar is full of coal – and that those you deliver to were getting short measure, what would the voters think of me? The answer is plain. You quote so much law and make so many rank accusations against me, I felt at first like ignoring the matter completely. Upon reflection however, I make the proposition that at a meeting of the board of commissioners, when we can be heard, you appear, without your advising attorney, as my accuser, and I, without an attorney, will be there to answer – one by one – each and every section of your letter. This seems to me the only fair way to dispose of your trouble. Let the commissioners, who are the financial agents of the county, decide whether or not I have conducted my present office so that the public ought to be satisfied. I have had the confidence of the people of this county for 25 years and don't think I have sacrificed that all at once.

Max Hoehn