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The Clerk and Sheriff Salary. No further comment was made upon

Toledo, Or., Dec. 12, 1896. Editor LEADER:-

the matter of the salaries of sheriff law. months, and as the action of the and sheriff still continted under the county court has been pending for that period of time and no decision this system and the clerk was had been reached by the county threatened to be sued. court, we have refrained from dis- after consulting the county court cussing the matter, and we do not the court decided that we were to now want to enter into a newspaper as far as our individual fees were discussion over the matter, but as concerned, but to accept the fee the Newport News has seen fit to from attorneys who wished papers take the matter up as appears from filed, as under the salary law of the following iten from that paper 1895. The court instructing us to of date December 9, 1896:

salaries will undoubtedly cut off a goodly portion of the popocratic that it was best for all concerned to LEADER'S income. The taxpayers continue under the fee system until have been bled long enough keep-ing that thing in existence."

citizens of the county should hear unexpired term of Judge Burt. He both sides of question. Therefore ruled that we were not properly highest we shall state the facts as they court could fix the salaries, appear, and for the information of ling to let us work under the fee the News man as he seems to think system. Therefore, in Septemthis is a political matter. We will ber, 1896 we filed a petition claimonly add that ever since the crea-tion of the county of Lincoln the tion of the county of Lincoln the ton county and praying for the county court has been republican- court to give us a hearing at once and the present court is all com- and to answer our petition yes or posed of republicans. Therefore, no, so as to give us time to act in the matter. The judge referred the we cannot see how the News man the matter. can take grounds that a democratic matter to the district attorney, who clerk and populist sheriff can be and decided that we were not under held to support a populist paper- any salary, and that the court could as he terms the LEADER, as the fix our salaries until such time as court get their own printing done; the legislature should meet. Clos-and we suppose that the LEADER is language: "And I take the liberty the official county paper by reason of suggesting to you, in view of the of its having a larger circulation ambiguity of the law relating therethan the News. The clerk and to, that you make the same reason-sheriff certainly have the right of any other citizen to give their waiting four and a half months the any other citizen to give their county court, at its December term, individual support any paper to fixed the salaries as follows: whom they please. Again, the sheriff, \$150 per month, and the sheriff and clerk do not audit their clerk, \$100 per month. own bills, and if they have been clerk. In Benton county the county allowed too much fees heretofore it clerk is clerk of the circuit court, stands to reason that the county and receives the sum of \$150 per court is certainly implicated in the month and is also allowed one matter, and should bear their burden deputy at \$2 per day for and during of the News man's spicy item.

over the salaries. The law creat- delinquent rolls. ing Lincoln county, Section 8, reads as follows:

"The sheriff and clerk of said county shall receive the same fees as are now allowed by law to the sheriff and clerk of Benton county." At that time the sheriff and clerk hire. Therefore, it will be of Benton county were working that the clerk and recorder of Benunder the fee system. Therefore, ton county receives the sum of the sheriff and clerk of Lincoln \$2,800, besides deputy hire, for county commenced and continued doing the same work that the clerk of Lincoln county is asked to do for to work under the fee system, being \$1,200 per annum. And the reallowed by the court the same fees cord matter is as great in Lincoln as the clerk and sheriff of Benton as in Benton county county received for like services. During the last session of the legis-extra help during the term of lature, when the sheriff and clerk's circuit courts and for making the salaries could have been fixed, assessment rolls and delinquent tax Hon. J. D. Daly, joint representa- rolls, for which we have paid out tive of Benton and Lincoln counties, over \$900 per annum. Thus leav-ing the clerk at the salary fixed by having his attention called to this matter, called upon the sheriff and for his services. clerk and also talked with many of We believe that it is law and the taxpayers of Lincoln county, precedent that the compensation of and they all agreed that the best interests of the county would be elected, and we think we are enserved if the clerk and sheriff were titled to the sum equal to the allowed to remain upon the fee amount allowed us under the fee system. And the county court of system. Had the salary of the Lincoln county in open court direct- clerk have been fixed at \$300 or Lincoln county in open court direct-ed the clerk to write to Mr. Daly, and they officially signed the letter, were elected we would not enter asking Mr. Daly to only change the any demurrer. salaries of the county judge and willing to accept the salary that the treasurer. they be raised. And that the clerk at the coming session of the legisla-assessor and sheriff be allowed to ture, but for the services rendered assessor and sheriff be allowed to from August, 1896 until that time, remain under the same system as we shall expect to receive a sum they had theretofore been working equal to the fees heretofore paid by under. Under that system the the county court. persons who brought litigation were threatening to sue. If it is any the ones who paid for it, whereas, consulation to him to know we will under the salary system the tax- say, for his information, that we payers paid for all litigation, except- have already placed the matter in ing only the sum of five dollars the hands of our attorneys and it paid by the party starting the suit. Therefore it will be seen that the coming term of circuit court, in January, 1897. people, also the court, desired the clerk to remain under the fee system.

the subject until March, 1896, when in an appeal taken from Multuomah county, the supreme court decided that the clerk and sheriff of Lin-As there has been much talk over coln county were under the salary But the legislature having fee system, until the Corvallis attorneys refused to file papers under Therefore, still continue under the fee system serve under this system until our term of office expired, at which "Placing the clerk and sheriff on alaries will undoubtedly cut off a again consider the matter, saying

g that thing in existence." When Judge Stearns was ap-We deem it but justice that the pointed by the Governor to fill the under the fee system, and that the gave the court his views of the law The

each meeting of the county and circuit courts, also additional help Now as to the present trouble in making his assessment rolls and

The county clerk of Lincoln county is also clerk of the circuit court and also county recorders, exofficio. For his services as recorder of Benton county the recorder receives an annual salary of \$1,000 per year also \$20 per month deputy seen

the court less than \$300 per annum We are quite Recommending that legislature shall or may fix for us The News man says we are Respectfully B. F. Jones.

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