

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
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THERE ARE OTHERS

The Tribune will not deny that President Kerr, of the Oregon Agricultural college, has erected many new buildings on the college campus and has augmented the student body of that institution greatly during the ten years of his presidency. It also, admits that President Kerr is a superior organizer and is capable of doing things on a grand scale, because the same has been done during his administration, and that he has placed O. A. C. as being one of the leading agricultural institutions of our nation.

But why should he not have succeeded in his promotion ideas, when the doors of the state treasury vaults have been practically open to his demands?

During the Kerr regime a very large slice of Oregon's tax moneys has been expended in building up this immense educational plant at Corvallis and very much of Oregon's unenviable high tax rate is due to these same O. A. C. activities.

Of course O. A. C. has been builded up into a big educational concern. First, calculated to be a farmers college wherein all things pertaining to agriculture, such as farming, dairying, breeding of stock and preparing it for market, horticulture, etc., should be taught, the curriculum has been extended to embrace carpentry, blacksmithing, printing, dentistry, pharmacy, and civil, logging and mining engineering. In fact the name "Oregon Agricultural College" has become a misnomer. It should be "The Oregon Technical Institute" in order that the name should indicate the diversity of the things taught.

President Kerr has, practically, created this magnificent cluster of costly stone buildings. His was the conception and his has been the silent guiding hand which has unlocked the doors of the state treasury to supply the large sums of money required.

Now it is sought to penalize tax payers for having been the Easy Mark which they have been, by increasing President Kerr's salary from \$7000 to \$9000 per annum. The report that the Kansas Agricultural college is seeking his services at \$9000 per annum, is being used as a club to boost President Kerr's salary \$2000 per year. The Tribune would have had nothing to say, even if his salary had been increased to \$10,000 as a reward for meritorious service. But to secure the increase through the wielding of the Kansas "big stick" has a tendency to make one kick.

If President Kerr thinks it best to accept the Kansas job, let us not attempt to dissuade him. Let us not conclude that he is the only man in the U. S. who can build up an extravagant educational institution and then run it. He is not the only one, for there are others.

When any person in your employ concludes that you cannot run your

business without his or her services, the time has fully arrived to let such an one go. It is quite time to ascertain whether or not a business is dependent upon the services of any one man or woman.

President Kerr, we again say, has builded up a magnificent educational center at Corvallis. The annual student catalog lists students from many different states and countries and O. A. C. is listed as one of the leading colleges of its character. This is an admitted fact. Our O. A. C. has been brought up from a low rated college to one of the first rank during a period of a few years only. Her progress has been almost phenomenal. Oregon, a state of less than one million people, and of small aggregate wealth, has placed herself alongside of states of many times her population and wealth.

As a result Oregon has the highest per capita tax rate of any of her sister states. President Kerr has been one of the several factors which has brought this undesirable reputation to Oregon. No matter how worthy his purpose has been he, because his faculty of making other men think as he does and especially legislators, has been a most expensive luxury to Oregon. If Kansas wishes to enjoy a similar experience, let us not say nay.

EFFICIENCY AND HONESTY THE TEST

In a few weeks candidates for office will be bobbing up and some of whom will, doubtless, be worthy and efficient, while others may not be just the men or women best calculated to fill the office for which they ask. It makes but small difference to the average citizen to which political party a candidate for office adheres, but it does make a difference whether or not a candidate is honest and efficient and the best time in which to sift out this fact is prior to the day of the primary election. Therefore it is the duty of the citizen, during pre primary days, to make it his or her business to inquire as particularly into the character and qualifications of a proposed candidate as practicable. Simply because a candidate is a good fellow or a personal friend, is no reason that he will make an efficient and satisfactory public servant. He or she should have sufficient education to care properly for the affairs of the office and to have an established character for honesty and fitness for the particular office sought. It is a safe rule to reelect officials who prove their qualifications and fitness by service. We observe this rule in our private business and why shall we not apply the same rule in the employment of public servants?

Our present corps of county officials have given excellent service during their respective official terms. Some of them will ask for renomination. Unless the new candidate is of known ability and general efficiency, it is a pretty safe rule to stay with those who have been tried and found true and satisfactory. Any official, no matter how well qualified, must become familiar with the customs and methods of his office, just the same as the hired man must in your private business. He cannot give you the service at first that he can when he becomes familiar with your plans and methods and it takes time to learn these facts. Our present county officials are all familiar with the affairs and methods of their particular offices and with the relations they bear to other county or state officials. With their election everything will move along without a hitch. The new official will have all this to learn. It takes some officials a full term to learn the business, while others never learn it. Our county has paid the expense of our

present officials in learning the business and, without a good excuse, it is not good business judgment to supply their places with new officials. It is the public which suffers the loss.

We want an economic administration of county business and it makes but slight difference whether the official is a personal friend, a democrat or republican, just so the goods are delivered. The state or county official is now usually a non-partisan while in office and is so hedged about by restrictions that he can not parcel out favors to his personal or political friends, if he would. In fact, it is a rarity, now-a-days, when the public official is even accused of graft.

The Tribune believes it a good policy to retain the official as a public employe so long as he proves himself capable and satisfactory. The old wornout theory that public office is a sort of public charity to be passed around, is simply foolish. The public wants efficiency on the part of its employes. If public office shall be considered a charity, it is much better to give the charity from the public fund to the needy politician and employ the efficient public servant and the test of service is the better plan to ascertain efficiency.

No County Agriculturist Needed

(Continued from page 1)

of their pets and for building up a system of dominating everything in the power of the college. We remember that President Kerr went to Washington last spring and recommended that every county have an agent and that he be given military rank with authority. Would the Czar of Russia done more? This is just what Russia is trying to do now, and yet there are newspapers which are lamenting that we may have to give him (President Kerr) to Kansas. Poor drouth and grasshopper stricken Kansas. The half has never been told.

If we could get a man that had a practical education at a reasonable salary and one who had some rustle about him, there might be some excuse for employing an agent as farm supervisor, as they were first called. The men invariably sent out are book farmers—purely theoretical and men which have not made a success of their own business.

Think of one of that class of men, costing the county, state and general government \$13 per day? He could advise the farmers whether to plant in the moon or when the ground was in proper condition. He, probably could tell, by looking at a hen, whether it would be lucky to set her on 13 or 16 eggs and whether to set her on Friday or not. If you should ask him anything hard, he would tell you he would write to the college for bulletins, just the same as you could do.

Another item of proposed expenditure which appears to me as being perfectly absurd, is proposed by Senator Garland. He advocates the calling of a special session of the legislature to provide funds for the Red Cross that they may be prepared to take care of our boys in the army. It would be better for the emergency board to appropriate the funds which the extra session would cost and if that was not sufficient, the general government should see that everyone of the boys was taken care of by some one. It does not make any difference whether the soldier boy is cared for by the Red Cross or some other nurse. This government is big enough and is duly bound to care for her soldiers.

There are many other absurd ideas of spending the peoples hard earned money, which space forbids that I should mention at this time. Country Jake.

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