

EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

Communications Sent in on Various Subjects

NEPOTISM OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

A Correspondent Shows Where Governor Geer's Relatives Have Served the State in the Past—Good-Natured Chaff to the Disgruntled and Far-fetched Relationships.

(From Wednesday's Statesman.)

(The Statesman is pleased to print communications upon topics of general interest, at any time. There is scarcely any limit to the topics of general interest. It is asked only that correspondents refrain from personalities and use care that nothing be written of a libelous or unworthy or untruthful nature.)

Editor Statesman:

If the plea of the leader of the disgruntled that he was "as well qualified and as justly entitled to recognition as many whose applications are already in," had been answered favorably at the beginning of the present administration, the cry of "nepotism" would have never been raised, at least not by him. Governor Geer belongs to one of the oldest and most favorably known of the pioneer families of Oregon. His relatives number into the hundreds and are to be found in nearly every county in the state. It is a Republican family almost without exception, and its members were doing royal battle for the Republican party here when the leader of the disgruntled was yet wearing dresses and later, when he was shouting lustily for Democracy. Of the vast numbers of his relatives who have been active Republicans beginning forty years ago, he has appointed just three to official positions—the State Land Agent, the Warden at the Prison, and the Horticultural Commissioner for the Fifth District. Just three and no more. The man who would do less than this would be an ingrate.

But in order to make a showing against the Governor the appointment of Hon. J. H. Settlemier, of Woodburn, as a member of the State Board of Agriculture, is cited as a case of nepotism, because his son married a niece of the Governor. This will no doubt cause Mr. Settlemier to smile when he recalls how he had to be begged to accept the position.

An estimable woman, living in the Waldo Hills, whose husband was an uncle of the Governor's, but who died twelve years ago, as a means of assisting in supporting a very large family, sold a few turkeys to the Reform School and the case is paraded as one which should have at least its part in defeating the Governor for a re-nomination.

Another case of nepotism is mentioned in the fact that Hon. I. S. Geer is a nephew of the Legislature from Harney county. Of course the people of Harney county had nothing to do with this—it was done by order of the Governor.

The writer has made some inquiry of Governor Geer about his relatives, and has learned that Geer of Harney is not the only relative who was a member of the last House. Kruse, of Clackamas, who served his second term last winter, is a first cousin, and voted for Mr. Bridgman and Mitchell and their friends throughout the entire session. Also Matteson, of Douglas, who supplied the forty-sixth vote at the forty-eighth hour, and which secured the election, is a first cousin of the Governor. If he is responsible for Geer of Harney, who is only a second cousin, being a member of the House, what shall be said in his favor by the disgruntled for furnishing two first cousins whose votes finally decided the contest in favor of Mr. Mitchell? While discussing "nepotism," why not consider it exhaustively?

But this is nothing new for "the Geer family." There has not been a session of the Oregon Legislature since the admission of the state into the Union that did not count among its members some one of that family. Indeed, before that, Hon. R. V. Short, whose wife was an aunt of the Governor, was a member of the State Constitutional Convention, years before most of these disgruntled howlers were born.

Another uncle, Hon. J. W. Grim, served as State Senator from this county about a dozen years. When he entered the Senate the Governor was 11 years of age, but it should be charged up to him, along with Geer of Harney. Another uncle, Hon. J. L. Kruse, father of the present representative, was a member from Clackamas in the '80s. More nepotism.

Hon. T. W. Davenport, whose first wife was a first cousin to the Governor, served in one house or the other for a dozen years, and afterwards four years as State Land Agent. More nepotism.

Hon. C. M. Cartwright, whose first wife was a first cousin to the Governor, was a State Senator from Crook county for two sessions. More nepotism.

Hon. Jasper Smith, of Tillamook, who is a step-brother to Governor Geer's father, was a member of the House a few years ago, and Hon. Seneca Smith, of Portland, another step-brother, was at one time Judge of the Circuit Court for Multnomah county. Rev. P. S. Knight, who is a step-brother-in-law to the Governor's father, was Superintendent of the State Mute School for a good part of twenty years. More nepotism.

But this is not all. The Governor's brother-in-law, Hon. Dunham Wright, served ten years in the House and Senate from Union county. More nepotism. Even worse than all this happened in 1892. During that session not only was the Governor a member, but as his colleagues were his brother-in-law, Duncan of Baker, his own uncle, J. B. Geer of Clackamas, and Trullinger of Clatsop, since his father-in-law. As to nepotism, this was "piling Ossa upon

Edison." But the Governor had it all arranged.

Back in '85 F. C. Geer of Clackamas served a term in the House. The Governor had him elected. More nepotism. It is a well known fact that Homer Davenport was discharged two or three times by Hearst before he finally decided to tolerate him. It was only when Governor Geer interfered and assured Hearst that Homer was his cousin, that his position became permanent and his fame secured. More nepotism.

R. C. Geer was at one time a member of the Legislature from this county and was afterwards county clerk. More nepotism.

One of the Governor's cousins has been a deputy of Collector of Customs in Alaska and his brother was a Lieutenant in one of the Second Oregon companies. More nepotism.

Hon. E. L. Smith, of Hood River, is chairman of the State Board of Horticulture. His son-in-law is a brother of a lady who is a sister-in-law of the Governor's wife. He was appointed to that position, not because of any fitness he has ever shown for it, but solely because of this relationship. Besides, Mr. Smith was at one time speaker of the House when the Governor was a member. This appointment was an outrageous instance of nepotism. It is not known whether Mr. Smith has sold any turkeys to the Reform School or not.

Coming closer home, the present county treasurer of Marion county is an own uncle of the Governor's only grandson, and the treasurer's uncle was Superintendent of the Penitentiary for seven years under Penney. Here was nepotism even under a Democratic administration for which Governor Geer was largely responsible.

The fact is, that for forty years the people have been so continually calling into the public service members of the Geer family—that spectral hobgoblin which keeps the disgruntled awake at night—that when the Governor was inaugurated he appointed three only and refused all others. It may have been noticed that not all of those who just now affect so much concern about nepotism have at all times in the past been so easily upset when contemplating alleged abuses in that direction.

DOWN WITH NEPOTISM.
Salem, Or., Feb. 25, 1902.

A Waldo Hills Poet.

Editor Statesman:
Another poet has burst into song in the Waldo Hills, perhaps a poetess, the sex being doubtful. Nevertheless, a bright and shining light, whose metrical effervescence makes the columns of the Silvertown Appeal froth like a schooner of beer. It has been generally supposed that the people of these hills, having to stoop so much to clean their boots, were given to obtuseness of intellect; but the warbling of this bird of song proves the falsity of the supposition. We are all proud of this poet who has launched upon rivers unknown to song, and whose refinement of language and metaphorical flourishes would cause Joaquin Miller to hide beneath his sombrero. The eagerness of the people to read her weekly effusions has impelled the poet to immortalize in these lines:

"You ought to hear the people squeal,
And stamp and howl for the Appeal."

It would appear that they performed some sort of a breakdown, or war dance, in the postoffice. We read with curiosity of howling derisives, and of howling monkeys, but this knocks the spots from all that.

Fancy the staid people of the Waldo Hills going into the postoffice of Salem and conducting themselves as above described. They would be surrounded by the sheriff and his posse in a twinkling.

In one of her gushes she represents herself as "just turned twenty," and her lover as having the "seven year's itch."

Of herself, personally, she sings:
"To keep house, work, wash, and cook."

I detect, I'd rather read a book.
Mark the connection, the "itch" and the "dirty dishes." What a cheerful housekeeper. The muddy floor, the unwashed clothes, the detestable cooking, and other equally agreeable poetic accomplishments. All very edifying, no doubt, to her lover with the "itch."

Fancy the husband coming in hungry from the field and finding the cook absorbed in a novel, the fire in the stove gone down, the potatoes half-boiled, and the bread in the oven a heavy lump of dough. Gee, wouldn't he "squeal and howl." But, withal, this poetess displays great pepaplicity, and vast consideration for her lover, who, she sings, "must fall at her feet ten times before acceptance." This, it will be seen, is quite necessary, as he must have frequent occasion to retire to a convenient oak grub for relief.

In another poem the heroine is—
"A good, warm-hearted music teacher
with fond love-light in her eye."
"Frank's heart is very sad and troubled,
He has no peace of mind."

No wonder. Having spotted the eye that has the "love-light" in it, he would naturally be uneasy at not seeing it in the other. Sailing vessels have dead-eyes; and this music teacher has, possibly, a glass eye. But being a "warm-hearted" thing, the other eye is probably on some other fellow. Hence the trouble of heart, and uneasy mind of Frank.

In another lengthy effusion she becomes quite didactic. First carefully informing the public that she is a sweet young thing just turned twenty, lest it might be suspected that she was "fat, old, forty-five," she goes on and gives sage advice to young ladies in general regarding love and money, and winds up by announcing that she, herself, has "both love and gold," and is ready to "marry them all." This is what makes the sex doubtful. Brigham Young has had his day; it is now against the law to have more than one wife.

"I likes not a woman with a beard,
By gar,
I think I sees a big beard behind her poetry."

From this, it can be readily seen how this poet's beautiful diction, and facility of expression, appeal to the reader, and make him "squeal and howl" for more. And although her poetry has not the majestic flow, nor yet the sublimity of the "spavined critter" and hop-on-go-two feet of Sir Crisp's lyrics, yet they have a fascination and power all their own. And anyone caring to occupy a padded cell, or a longing to walk the cool corridors of a lunatic

asylum, would do well to study this poet's outpourings.

At Victor Point, where with tongue and rod,
Jim Darby rules by the grace of God;
A poetess sings like the morning lark,
When the rising sun dispels the dark.
Though rolling fog may obscure the hills,
Her song flows on like the babbling rills:
And the wind and rain will beat in vain
When we hear entranced her siren strain.
The Waldo Hills shall not mote be set
Down as a fit abode for the fool and clown,
Since this poetess has inscribed her name
In lasting verse on the scroll of fame.
K. T. WAKE.

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NOTE.—Alum powders should not be used, no matter how cheap they are. They induce dyspepsia, liver complaint and kidney trouble.

RUSSIA'S GOLD HOARD

CZAR HAS FIVE MILLIONS PUT AWAY, SAYS MR. MC CARTY.

War Fund an Official Told Him About. —It Has Been Accumulating for Eighty Years—To Secure Russian Supremacy Through Money Power.

(From Wednesday's Statesman.)
Whenever an attempt is made to foot up the known production of gold from what records are available, it is found that, after counting all coin and bullion and including estimates of gold used in various manufactures, there is still missing some five billions of dollars' worth of the yellow metal, an amount equal to the present world's supply of coin and bullion.

Now, it has been estimated that, owing to the laws of different countries which put a tax on the product of gold mining and the consequent failure of mine owners to report their full product, together with other causes, fully as much more gold is in the world as that missing from the reports of gold production. The first five billions mentioned is generally charged up to loss by accident or abrasion, but where is the second five billions of the world's gold which has been produced, but not reported on?

According to a well-known Russian official, with whom the writer has acted in a confidential capacity, the world's missing gold is hidden away in the coffers of Russia's war fund, and her purpose in secreting this wealth is not that she may be prepared for war, but that when she has control of the world's money she may dictate terms to all the nations of the earth.

"When the time is ripe," said he, "there will come some day a financial earthquake that will shake to their foundations all superstructures, and all nations, industry and commerce, and all that have been built upon credit, and every country lacking in natural foundations of the strongest will go to the wall."

I know but two countries strong enough in resources to stand under it—Russia and the United States. Russia will be ready for it, because she has billions of gold stored away, and the United States is too young and vigorous to go down, even under the system of credit established for purposes of development.

There are many who will doubtless ridicule this statement, or at least many will doubt that Russia has such a large secret war fund, but the official quoted has stood for many years in a position which would inform him of all finance plans of his Government. Indeed, he is himself the grandson of one of Alexander I's Ministers, and he says that it was his grandfather who formulated the plan which Russia has been working on secretly for more than three-quarters of a century.

It may seem strange that an American should learn of these things, but the writer enjoyed the confidence of the official to the fullest extent. The acquaintance began some thirty years ago, when a Russian fleet brought the Grand Duke Alexis and many distinguished officials on a visit to this country, and in recent years it has been strengthened by a long period of residence in Russia.

For years this gentleman had studied the current events very closely and had watched everything bearing on the finances and commerce of the world. On his first visit to this country he became particularly interested in the land grant system, which was then so rapidly gridironing the West with railways and filling the country with homesteaders.

He often discussed the problem in relation to Russia's great wealth of land and the possibilities of developing these under similar laws and conditions. From time to time I tried to learn his views of Russian credit and whether he thought that Russia could secure from Germany, England and France such loans as we were then obtaining for our development.

To all this he had but one answer—

that the United States and most of the countries of Europe were building up an enormous superstructure of industry and commerce on a foundation of credit as treacherous as quicksand. He felt that the system of credit was certain to result in the wrecking of all the countries of western Europe because they had no adequate and real foundation under it, but that the United States might pull through by reason of great resources of undeveloped wealth.

At the best, however, he thought that our present system would cause such a concentration of wealth in the hands of a very few that our form of Government would undoubtedly be subverted.

"You are paying too dear for your whistle," he often said. "Russia, however, is proceeding on much safer lines. Her progress may seem slow, but it will sooner or later pass that of any other country. It is like the movement of a glacier, which, for many years, moves by inches, until suddenly it sweeps everything before it. She is fortunate in having a Government which cannot be hurried or called to account year by year."

"Russia has been governed along these strict lines since the days of Peter the Great, and her war fund policy adopted at the close of the Napoleonic wars has never been varied to this day. She is advancing toward a financial industrial commercial and military supremacy."

One night we fell to talking about the days of his grandfather, and I spoke of his ministry to Alexander I. Thus the story of the war fund plan came out.

"My grandfather lived through the wars of Napoleon, which devastated Russia, while her share in them assisted in his downfall. The tremendous events of those days made it plain in my grandfather's mind that, in the future, Russia's real power and stability must depend, not on her wealth, or the extent of her industries or commerce, but on the actual money she could control."

"He decided that gold alone would become the only recognized redemption medium, and recent history has proved the wisdom of that thought. England alone, of all countries, was wise enough to profit from the possession of gold at the close of the Napoleonic wars, and she secured her industrial and commercial lead because she had money; while the Continental Powers lacked it. Then it was that shrewd minister of Alexander's formulated the present financial policy of Russia."

"First, she was to take one-half the product of Russian mines in gold, silver and platinum and convert it into gold and store it away. This half has never been embraced in Russian mint or other reports of production. As Russia was for many years the great gold producing power of the world, it is easy to see what effect this policy would have and what its results."

"Second, she was to lay away one-half of all the church revenues after converting them into gold. The Greek Church, of which the Czar is the head, as he is of the state, is the custodian of this fund. Not a rouble of this money has ever been appropriated for any purpose, no matter what demands there might be. It has steadily accumulated for over eighty years."

"Gold, gold, and nothing but gold is what Russia wants and what she is getting. This secret wealth is, of course, drawing no interest. The time is near when the world must realize what Russia has been doing, and when it does Russia's power will be made manifest and her supremacy acknowledged in the Eastern hemisphere."

"The crash will come in its greatest violence in western Europe. Your own country will be saved by its natural resources yet undeveloped."

In reply to the question, "What will it all come to, so far as Russia is concerned?" he replied:
"Russia's dominion over Asia and Europe."

"By war?"
"No. Without war. With money!"
—W. McCarty, in Sun.

SALEM FRUIT UNION

GROWERS ASSURED OF AN EXCELLENT MARKET

For Their Fruits This Year—Williamette Valley Strawberries Will Go on Same Terms as Those from Hood River.

The Salem Fruit Growers' Union has not been heard from much of late. But those who are interested in making it a success have not been idle.

Arrangements have already been made so that the growers of the country around Salem can have the privilege of putting 200 crates of strawberries onto refrigerator cars here and shipping them through to Great Falls, St. Paul and other points in that region, at car load rates.

Arrangements have also been made for handling car loads of strawberries at Butte, Montana, for the Union. A deal has been closed with a man who will handle them there. Willamette valley berries will go on the same terms as those grown at Hood River.

A hundred acres of strawberries are now represented in the Union, and the acreage will be doubled for 1902.

The growing and shipping of small fruits from this point is going to be a big thing for this country and city. The business will grow rapidly, once it is under full headway, and it will be put in fine shape this year, by the work of the Salem Fruit Growers' Union.

O'DONOVAN ROSSA ILL.

Blood-poisoning Resulting from a Slight Cut in His Foot.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Feb. 27.—O'Donovan Rossa, the noted Irish

MOTT'S PENNYROYAL PILLS

of menstruation." They are "LIFE SAVERS" to girls at womanhood, aiding development of organs and body. No known remedy for women equals them. Cannot do harm—life becomes a pleasure. \$1.00 PER BOX BY MAIL. Sold by druggists. DR. MOTT'S CHEMICAL CO., Cleveland, Ohio.

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agitator and Fenian, is critically ill in this city and death may occur any day. A week ago, while plying a corn on his foot, he cut deeper than he intended. The wound was slight, but neglect soon developed blood poisoning. For two or three days he has been delirious from fever.

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