MODEL HOME PAPER

EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

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THE PAPER OF THE PEOPLE.

THE GEER ADMINISTRATION

The political question in which the people of Marion county and of the whole state of Oregon are most deeply interested is whether Governor Geer will be renominated by the next Republican state convention. If the rank and file of the Republican party were to be consulted on a direct vote, no one doubts but that the present entire state administration would be given a second term. But the way the nominating business is managed there must be an aroused public sentiment to do justice to any administration upon its merits. For the purpose of arousing public intesest in the matter, THE JOURNAL has taken the trouble to present a review of the Geer administration in the various departments of our state government from an entirely independent standpoint. It is assumed that there is a large body of citizens who are primarily interested in seeing the state well governed, who are not interested in purely personal controversies between aspirants to office, and who are willing to see fair treatment of any man in public office who has sought to do his duty without fear or favor, and who has upheld the good name of his state, advanced the cause of good government to the best of his abilities. Political managers cannot always be trusted to deal fairly even with those who strive hardest to meet their demands. An official who shows a high sense of responsibility to the people and a decent regard for the welfare of the state as the best means of serving his party, is not apt to be found an universal favorite among those who follow the party flag solely from the standpoint of unrestrained party plunder. It can be fairly claimed for Governor Geer that he was nominated against the wish of the machine managers in Oregon and that he has conducted his administration not solely for their benefit. It can be safely assumed that in standing for a renomination he does so without consulting the bosses who declared that his nomination in 1898 was an accident, and that such thing as any man succeeding himself on the merits of his administration is an impossibility. The Geer administration will go before the people squarely upon its record.

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When discussing the Geer admialstration as a whole, it cannot be claimed that the governor is entitled to any more than his share of what has been accomplished for the improvement of the state government, or that he is to blame for any more than his share of what has not been accomplished. While three state institutions have been placed solely in his care and keeping, he is a member of the boards that have five other institutions under their control. As the head of the state government a larger degree of responsibility attaches to the governor than to any other one state official. It is upon him that most praise or blame will be bestowed. It is the governor who must go before the people and make the canvass and defend the administration of the state government under himself and his colleagues in the ensuing campaign. It can be said to the credit of the Geer administration that it has been free from all clashing and strife between the officials who have had control of the state's affairs for the past three years. Governor Geer and his collengues on the state boards have worked as an unit. They have conducted all public business in a spirit of harmonious co-operation. It can be claimed without fear of contradiction that they have labored in the public interest and to improve the public service in every respect that it might not be said of them, they had been obstacles to the development of the commonwealth. They have faithfully tried to do what was exactly right and what was required of them by the law in every instance to the best of their ability. It would be the height of folly to proclaim that they have made no mistakes. But it is doubtful if the state has ever had a more faithful and intelligent set of men in control of its affairs. The governor and his associates are men still in the early prime of life, men bred to public careers and taking the natural pride in public affairs that distinguishes every true American. These men believe that self-government by the people is best carried on when public officials show a high-minded determination to succeed for the sole purpose of lessening the burdens of the taxpayers as well as promoting the true interests of their party.

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Governor Geer has been intensely loyal at all times to his party and yet it can be claimed for him that no man has ever sat in the Governor's chair who came nearer giving the state a non-partisan business administration. In all his appointment on state boards and regents of educational institutions he has sought capable men and efficiency for public service rather than to consult only his personal interests or inclinations. He has reappointed or continued competent and experienced members of state boards regardless of their politics or whether they were his personal adherents. He has constituted new boards and made appointments entrusted to him by the legislature with the same care and public spirit. The legislature put many new appointments into his hands with full confidence in his judgment, and in no instance was their confidence violated by unfit appointments. In selection of men for the state board of agriculture or the textbook commission and for other important places he deemed no man too good to ask him to serve and to political pull he paid little or no attention. Governor Geer has gone farther to consult the masses of the people and the press of the state in making appointments than any predecessor. He has tried to find their wishes and protests and has sought to meet the one and respect the other. And it is not strange that he has fairly well succeeded. His life has been for twenty years a continuous training for public service. For ten years he discussed public questions in the newspapers. Four times he served in the legislature, once as speaker and the state never had a better man in the chair. In 1896 he made a campaign as presidential elector, speaking for seven weeks and in that time he was at home but two hours. He has made speeches in all but two counties of the state. In most of them speaking many times. No man has a better record for party service or has contributed more of his time and ability to help carry on popular government. He won his nomiuation for governor in 1898 against the opposition of some of the best party managers in the state and carried his state ticket by a large majority against an united opposition for a strong candidate.

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Besides giving the state a good Business administration, as will appear from the review of the workings of the different departments and institutions, Governor Geer has not neglected his duties to his party, going out and speaking in the June election and presidential campaign of 1900. The past year he further served his party in the Ohio campaign, taking a full hand with men like Governor Nash of that state and Governor Shaw of Iowa, and in every county where he spoke the party rolled up an increased majority. This becomes a source of pride to many members of his party in Oregon who have known him from boyhood and watched him win his way from obscurity to participation in national affairs. Governor Geer has a record for having taken an interest in military affairs, and a patriotic interest in the home-coming Second Oregon regiment from the Philippines. He went to meet their transport as it sailed into San Francisco Bay and went again to meet them with his staff at the state line. He took the initiative in securing recognition at the hands of of Secretary of War Root who on the Governor's suggestion had a medal struck from a bronze cannon captured by the Oregon boys. For this purpose he made a trip to Washington at his own expense. Governor Geer has done much to put this state in touch with the larger life of the nation. He first met President McKinley at Canton when carrying the electoral vote of Oregon, won in a close contest largely by his own labors on the stump. He met him again at Chicago in 1899 and was with him at at San Francisco at the home of Irving Scott, when he was on his way to visit Oregon. These seem not important matters to some, and others may think lightly of them, but by the people of a state that has been too little in the eyes of the world it will be viewed and appreciated, or at least it should be, in the public spirited light of all of Gorvernor Geer's actions since he has filled the chair as chief executive. His sole thought has been to fill that office worthily and to conduct himself so that he might come before the people again with fair assurances of having met all his public obligations fully and creditably.

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Governor Geer is one of the few men who have lived all his life on a farm and went from his farm to take the governor's chair. He has no other occupation than that of farmer and when he retires from public life it will be to return to the plow. He carries with him the careful ways and plain manners of the farmer, and it can be said he has honestly and plainly and economically lived in Salem without putting on any show or appearance of style or adopting any habits that he was not accustomed to when living on his farm. His home life is as plain as his station and the duties of his position will permit. Without playing the demagog to the extreme of Jeffersonian simplicity for appearances and effect only, his home and office are open to any citizen at all times. He works hard, mostly in his shirtsleeves, in his office from nine a. m. until from six to ten p. m. He has taken a plain art as a plain citizen in the ordinary duties of life. He has not run a society administration and has given no public receptions, but has received everyone cordially and has fully borne his part in all the little duties that go to make community life agreeable In these respects Governor and Mrs. Geer have humbly and unostentatiously borne their part. In another way Governor Geer has met the people a great deal. All the time he could spare from his official duties he has gone out and delivered addresses in all parts of the state on all sorts of occasions. He has not accepted one-third of the invitations he has received, but he has gone whenever he could without neglecting public business. He has done this to get better acquainted with the people and to learn more fully the needs of the people. He has gone to their homes and assemblages to inform himself more thoroughly as to their wants and conditions. From a social standpoint Governor Geer has filled the measure of public ideals under democratic institutions. He has been more democratic in his personal conduct of his administration and in all his intercourse with the people than many politicians calling themselves Democrats. There will be critics who say such things are all put on for effect, but they are not to be found among those who have seen the Governor in his daily life at Salem and who knew him and met him when he lived on his farm in the Waldo hills.

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If for no other reason than the treatment of the question of the selection of textbooks for the public schools, Governor Geer deserves well of the people of Oregon regardless of party. A prominent educator from Milwaukee, Wis., recently lectured before the teachers of Marion county and said that a textbook of twenty years ago was as much out of date as the old muzzle-loading Springfield rifle in modern warfare. Oregon had a series of textbooks practically unchanged for twenty years, all supplied practically by one firm. Many of these books were of inferior manufacture, to say nothing of the contents, and all were higher priced than more modern books could be bought for, and the corporation furnishing them was charged with using all kinds of indirect methods to hold its monopolistic grasp on the people of this state. The legislature placed in his hands the naming of a commission of five men who should make a new contract for textbooks, and it was freely predicted that money would be used to dictate results. The textbook trust that had the Oregon contract was charged with trying to secure a commission favorable to its graft, and other firms were charged with trying to dictate results. Governor Geer went about making his commission in a most deliberate open, and above board, manner, and disregarded all rumors of attempts to influence him one way or the other. He asked the business men and educators and farmers, men and women all over the state who took an interest in education, to suggest names of suitable persons for that commission and out of the names suggested he picked five that as a body entrusted with an important duty has never been surpassed for ability and high character in the history of the state. As a result the people of Oregon got a textbook adoption free from all sordid influences whatever, and that in quality and price are pronounced the best adoption ever made in the United States. Textbook agents who went up against that commission and got not a book adopted said they were the best and fairest commission that had ever been organized. Gov. Geer refused to listen to the clamor that demanded persons only of a certain class or profession, and named two business men, two lawyers, and one educator—all men of the highest and most irreproachable standing—men who gave their time and spent their own money freely to get only the best result for the people of this state, for the glory of our common schools and the welfare of the coming generations. It was a most important service performed in a high-minded manner, when it is remembered that states all around Oregon have been disgraced with scandals growing out of the selection of textbooks. A new boundary stake has been set in textbook adoptions and mercenary greed has been told to keep its hands off the most sacred treasure of the American people—its common schools.

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The labors of the textbook commission have never been called in question or even subjected to a disinterested criticism, while it can be easily shown that about $20,000 a year has been saved to the people of this state. It was a body made up entirely from the standpoint of ability, and without a thought as to its political composition. It is known that more than one member on that board spent his own money to employ expert educators to read through textbooks that he had not time or doubted his ability to pass upon. The selection of such a board to deal with such an important matter may never be fully appreciated, but it should win for Governor Geer the hearty admiration of those who love our free schools and the cause of education in general, as it will no doubt win for him the covert opposition of one trust that was knocked down and dragged out of the public arena in old Webfoot, This is an age of the world when one man who acts and does something tangible for the people is worth a thousand academic theorists or loud-mouthed demagogs. The same devotion to business principles was shown by Governor Geer in his formation of a new state fair board of five men, the sole appointment of whom was vested in the Governor. The old fair board had grown cumbersome and was not meeting the demands of the people. In fact the fair was about to go under, and Governor Geer had to pick out a board that could set it going on new lines. He retained one of the best business men on the old board — Geo. Chandler of eastern Oregon, and named Messrs, Wehrung, Settlemier, Wilkins and Reese. The board organized by electing the only Democrat president and has kept him there — Mr. Wehrung. The two fairs conducted by this board have been great successes in spite of bad weather. They have been grand exhibits of the real agricultural resources of the state and a financial success as well. The whole administration of the state fair has been on a business and non-political basis. All the old fashioned grafts have been quietly done away with, and the reputation of the fair even for its race management has been put among the very highest of such shows any where in the country. The displays of live stock have been increased until they are the equal of any in the best cattle shows in the United States. The state fair has been made a reality in name and nature and the accusation that it was in every respect only a local exhibition has been entirely done away with. The maintenance of the state fair is no longer called questionable and for this the people of Salem and of the state at large have reason to feel thankful to Governor Geer and the labors of his fair board.

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The state penitentiary has been well managed in the past, but at no time better than for the past three years. There has been great improvement in the sanitary conditions prevailing. Better bathing and ventilating facilities have been provided. The health of the prisoners and the amount of time devoted to labor has been increased. Land has been leased and cleared by convict labor, employing more of the convicts at producing food and supplying the fuel for the institution. The amount of farm produce has been increased, more land has been made productive. With the increased quantities of farm products and garden truck, and the larger earnings of the convicts, the penitentiary has been made as nearly self-sustaining as it is possible to make it. Like all the institutions it is well officered. As the one institution directly under the eye of the Governor, he has taken a great pride in having a very efficient set of men in charge, and they have proved their worthiness by a record that is hard to beat. Under this administration there has not been a single escape from the prison, and two convicts have been recaptured who had previously escaped. There have been but two escapes from the trusties, one of whom has been re aken, and the other is quite generally believed by the authorities to have drowned himself. The greatest improvement has been made in the management of the state stove works, which is in part due to the prevailing better times and better market for the product. At the beginning of this administration the Lowenberg & Going Co. was behind in its payment to the state so far that after a compromise was effected that company was indebted to the state in the sum of $32,200. This has all been paid. The monthly amount due for the wages of the convict labor has been paid promptly and monthly, as has the quarterly rental of the plant. The amount received during this year for convict labor has been a little over $12-,000. This with the $2000 for rental of the plant makes over $14,000. During the last three years nearly $3,000 has been paid into the state treasury for convict labor, making about $70,000 which the Lowenberg & Going Co. has paid into the treasury for all purposes the past three years. The taxpayers can hardly ask for a better business management than this.

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The Geer administration has put the management of the state school land funds on a higher plane of efficiency than ever before. A system of promptly collecting interest on the irreducible school fund was inaugurated at the beginning of Treasurer Moore's term that has resulted in a marked improvement. One of the most difficult things in the management of the school fund is to prevent delinquencies in the collection of interest. The borrowers are situated in every county of the state and many of them in remote districts. Many are inclined to regard the state as their easiest creditor, with which they can settle last. On the first of January, 1899, there was about ten percent of the interest fund delinquent from one to ten years. At the present there is less than one per cent. due, and the interest on every note in the state treasury, excepting only about twenty, is paid up to some time in the year 1900. Compared to the same kind of collections in private institutions, it would be hard to find a better business management than this. The entire service in the state school land department has been improved, as it is only natural and proper that it should be with the development of the state and the experience gained by succesive administrations. Prior to the year 1899 the duties of the state land agent were confined to the selection of lieu lands. The retiring agent reported to the legislature of that year that there was no more land to select in quantities that would justify the continuance of his office for that purpose. But for many years there has been no one specifically designated to look after the farms which had become the state property through foreclosures, or to look for purchasers, or to find renters and collect the rents. For this purpose the office was continued with the intention of having some one look after these additional duties. At that time the state owned 44 farms. During the succeeding two years there were 160 foreclosures, and 92 farms sold for $188.000 which had cost the state $165,000, and $16,000 had also been collected for rent. During the present year there have been 36 foreclosures, and 44 farms sold, leaving 108 on hand. The farms are practically all rented and the rents are collected promptly, which in addition to the sales, makes the state land agent a very busy officer. The state's farms are all for sale, and since the average money lender who is compelled to foreclose farms for security, seldom does so without a loss, the record of the state land agent in the matter of sales is worthy of consideration. The state land board has adopted a very strict and careful system of investigation in every instance before making loans and the general character of loans has been improved for the past three years.

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There has been reduction in the running expenses of nearly all of the state institutions. The state reform school annual expenses have been kept down to the economical standard maintained by the preceding administration. All supplies are now required to be purchased of the lowest bidder here as in every department of the state. The industrial and educational work have been extended and the general health of the boys improved. Like the penitentiary it has been placed under a good businesss management. The same has been done with the Soldier's home at Roseburg. Until the beginning of the present administration the management was under a board of trustees. The fact that there was more or less strife existing there was not allowed to drop out of the mind of the public. The newspapers of the state were full of it. THE JOURNAL got regular letters from old soldiers at the Home burning up the commandant in in charge or the trustees. At the legislative session of 1899 the board of trustees was abolished, and its management placed under direct control of the Governor, who appoints the superintendent and matron and to whom the whole business and every employe is directly responsible. Under the new system all troubles have disappeared and everything has been perfectly harmonious and satisfactory. In many respects this is one of the hardest institutions to manage. The old soldiers are the wards of the state and nation and, while it is a misfortune for any man to have to go to an institution to end his days. these veterans are entitled to all the care and attention they receive. The present efficient service leaves nothing to complain of, and is a credit to the officers and therefore to the people of the state who have made liberal provision for them. Additions have been made during the past year to both hospital and barracks and the capacity of the institution has been increased about 25 per cent. In the Blind school new Industrial work has been added for the developement of the skill of the sightless children. This does not conclude the review of all the departments of administration but the general statement holds that there has been progress and retrenchment all along the line without injury to the public service. In fact, what THE JOURNAL has always claimed, that there was an actual improvement to be accomplished in the public service by a closer business management, has been accomplished in nearly every department of the state government at Salem and in the institutions named. There is no inconsistency in the strictest economy and good government In fact they thrive together and are not objected to by any but those who thrive by opposite conditions.

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If a state administration is to be judged by the excellent moral and financial condition of its several state institutions, surely the Governor and members of the several state boards are to be congratulated. While the appointing power carries with it the responsibility of disappointing several aspirants for each place, and some of these can always be relieved upon to make unceasing war upon whatever is done in the position they sought to secure, there has been less scandal and fewer sensational charges made in connection with the state government at Salem than ever before. The big asylum with its tremendous state farm adjunct, the Reform school, the Deaf-mute school, the Institute for the Blind, are all doing their work smoothly and well. Faithful service is rendered to the unfortunate wards of the state. An examination of the expense accounts of these institutions shows that they have never been managed with greater economy than at present. At no time in the past have they been more free from criticism than now. What the JOURNAL likes and what it believes the people like is the purely business aspect of these matters, as divorced from mere partisan considerations for political effect. At the city of Salem a newspaper man hears all the complaints and defects that arises in the management of any department of the state government. One hears the worst side of everything that happens. Viewed from this standpoint, every newspaper man in the city will say that there has never been a cleaner or more wholesome atmosphere surrounding every detail of the government, or one which the people would more gladly see continue. The moral considerations involved in conducting institutions for defective elements of society have been kept in view. There have been no cruelties or sensations at the asylum for the insane, no inhuman punishments at the state prison, no floggings at the reform school, and none of the abuses of the unfortunate that are sometimes read about in the newspapers as happening in other states. The people of Oregon can declare with pride that in no state are the principles of humanity carried to greater length in the care of the unfortunate than in Oregon. That a humane and christian management is insured in every instance the public institutions ought to count for something with the pride of Oregon's best citizenship. It is gratifying to the business interests of the state that good management prevail in finances. The reduction made in the running expenses of the state institutions is bound to make a reduction in state taxes if kept up, But the greatest satisfaction comes from the knowledge that there is absolute righteousness in every detail of their management.

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To a disinterested observer, one who has never asked any political favors of Governor Geer and who under no circumstances will be an applicant for any appointment he may have in future, it would appear wisdom for the people of this state to recognize the condition of things he has brought about and that it would be the highest political sagacity for the members of his party to continue such an administration by giving it an unanimous endorsement at the primaries and in the county conventions. Such action would have the most far-reaching results for the welfare of the state by endorsing good service and devotion to the public welfare instead of throwing overboard an administration that has nothing to fear in going before the people with the smallest details of its public record. To allow a faction to defeat Governor Geer for renomination, for ulterior reasons not connected with the discharge of official duties, means to extend the factional fight within the party that has heretofore been confined to federal affairs into the state administration, when the party would be destroyed for all usefulness and no possible benefit could come to the cause of good government. It is up to the republican party to endorse a state administration for keeping its pledges and faithfully discharging its duties or to lower the standards of public service and drag them in the mire of purely factional and personal place-seeking. Republicans who love the cause of a better state government should see to it that the party takes no steps backward in this matter, and to use a homely phrase, lets well enough alone, and not swap horses at the crossing of a stream. If Governor Geer and his colleagues have set the standards of good government in Oregon a notch higher there ought to be people enough in the Republican party with the courage to say so, and if they do the people of all parties will endorse their action at the polls. If Republicans allow a cowardly policy to prevail, and refuse to endorse a man upon his record, what shall the independent people of the state say when they go to the polls? They will be tempted to spew out the whole proposition and turn the state over to the opposition and who shall say they would not be justified in doing it. An administration that is clean enough and good enough to win the best expressions of good will and public approbation of many of the most intelligent men in other parties ought to be good enough for Republicans. And that will be the verdict of Republicans when they go to the primaries and conventions.

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The foregoing review of our state government has been without any intention of disparaging the labors of any former administration. It is a recognized fact that the development of a state government requires constant progress. All that is asked or claimed for the present administration is a fair consideration of the facts as shown by the records. We think they prove conclusively that our state officers have maintained the reputation of the state in every respect, have been a credit to the party to which its members belong and worthy to be entrusted with further management of public affairs.

STATE PRESS ON SALARIES

Versus Fees and Perquisites Now Paid.

System Should be Changed and Fair Salaries Only Paid.

Albany, Linn County Democrat.

Salaries, not fees.

Weston, Umatilla County, Leader, Rep.

State officers have too many perquisites.

Pendleton, Umatilla County, East Oregonian, Dem.

The Salem Journal says state salary reform is not a question of party issue, but one appealing to all.

Baker City Herald, Baker County, Rep.

The Salem Journal has a plan to put the state officers on a salary by which the state could save $50,000 a year.

Athena, Umatilla County Press, Rep.

The Salem Journal contends that state servants put on a salary basis would save money for the commonwealth. It is a state reform proposition.

Wasco, Sherman County News, Rep

The Capital Journal, of Salem, is making a hard flight to show that by putting all state officials on a reasonable salary and turning all fees into the state treasury, the taxpayers could be saved about $50,000 a year.

Milton Umatilla County, Eagle, Rep

Stop the leak. Put State affairs on a salary. The Capital Journal publishes some interesting official figures, showing that the officials ought to be placed upon salaries and the fee system entirely dispensed with. It says that in this manner the taxpayers of the state would be saved at least $50,000 per year.

The Dalles, Wasco County, Times, Mountaineer Dem.

The Salem Journal rightly concludes the present is the time to discuss the proposition of putting state officials or stated salaries If it is put off until the convening of the legislature there will be so many other jobs to attract attention that the saving of $50,000 a year in state officers' salaries will receive no attention.

The Staytos, Marion County, Mail, Rep.

The Salem Journal is still after the salary question for state officials, and the press of the state, regardless of party, quite generally favors the plan. We hope the newspaper chaps will keep at it and force the salary plank into all party platforms. Do a good act for the state once without using it as a lever to boost some party.

Antelope, Wasco County, Herald, Rep.

The Salem Capital Journal has published an article advocating the placing of all state officers on salary, and turning the fees of the various offices into the state Treasury. By this method the Journal thinks there will be a saving of at least $50,000 to the state, and Editor Hofer has compiled statistics to show that he is right.

Woodburn, Marion County, Independent, Rep.

The Capital Journal is in the right, but, like Governor Van Zant of Minnesota, is standing up before giants. The Journal clearly shows how the state would save $50,000 a year by having the officers on a reasonable salary. Our contemporary asks that "the proper salary figures be put into the state platforms." The party that doesn't expect to win will doubtless act upon the suggestion.

Aurora Borealis, Marion County, Rep.

The Salem JOURNAL publishes official figures showing that, if state officers were placed upon salaries, the state would save $50,000 a year. Our contemporary aims to have proper salary figures put into the state platforms with promises that all fees above a fixed salary be turned into the state treasury. If Colonel Hofer succeeds in this he will have accomplished one of the most stupendous political undertakings ever attempted in Oregon. And he is on the right track.

Mt. Angel, Marion County, St. Joseph's-Blatt, German, Ind.

Unser werther Kollege vom Capital Journal in Salem macht Anstrengungen, alle Beamten des Staates mit einem fixen Gehalt bezhalt zu sehen, wodurch der Staat jaehrlich etwa $50,000 sparen koennte. Der Vorschlag ist sehr gut, wir fuerchten aber, das er nicht durchdringt, weil die Politiker es so ausgezeichnet verstehen ihr Schaefchen zuerst in's Trockne zu bringen, ehe sie fuer andere sorgen. Das Journal hat durch seine unabhaengige, gesunde Volkswirthschaft vertretende Politik dem Staate schon sehr viel genuetzt. Herr Hofer lebe hoch.

Florence, Lane County, West, Rep.

The Salem Capital Journal has taken up the question of putting the state officers on a regular salary and cutting off the fees which they receive for performing the various duties connected with their offices. The paper gives statistics showing the amount drawn by each for salary, clerk hire, etc., and urges that if each one were paid a regular salary as high as those officers in adjoining states receive, $50,000 per year would be saved to the tax payers of Oregon.

Hillsboro, Washington County, Independent Rep.

The Capital Journal, Hon. E. Hofer, editor, in his campaign commenced this week, looking to placing the state officials on a salary instead of paying them by fees, gave out that the annual cost of conducting office of State Supt. of schools is $12,687.00. To this Supt. Ackerman takes exceptions and quotes figures to show that it costs no more than $4511.19 to defray the expenses of his department which added to $2500, the personal salary of the Superintendent, makes $7011.19. In the same issue in which Mr. Ackerman sets his critic right, Mr. Hofer explains that by mistake his figures were made to be the cost of one year whereas in fact they represent the appropriations for two years. On the same basis Mr. Ackerman's figures read $14022.30.

[The legislative appropriation, aside from the salary, for the above office is $5,326.81.]—Ed. J.

WHERE THERE IS RECKLES WASTE,

Corvallis, Benton County Semi-Weekly Times:

In a timely article, the Salem Journal points out how money can be saved the people of Oregon by providing stated salaries for state officers. A particular item of reckless waste is in the state printer's office. The constant disappearance of public funds through that office is as unwarranted as it is profligate. For four years ending with the fiscal year of 1901-02, not including the inevitable deficit that the next legislature will be called upon to make up, the state printer's office is to cost the enormous sum of $162,910 13 or $40,752 53 per year. Even this huge cost is under the administration of a state printer of whom it is claimed that he is unusually economical.

The unnecessary and wholly indefensible expenditure of state money through this channel is so notorious that it has come to be understood that one term in the place makes the incumbent rich The leak is so excuseless and so costly that a reform in the office was urged in Governor Geer's first message to the legislature. Attempts have been made to correct the abuse but a mysterious and ever present influence at the capital has invariably baffled every effort at reform

The only cure for the disease is for the people to take it in hand. It should be made an issue in next year's campaign. It should be forced into party platforms in language impossible to misunderstand or evade, and the candidates should be supported on the issue regardless of party affiliations. A chronic sore requires heroic treatment.