JOURNAL EDITORIAL PAGE

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

K. HOFER, Ed. and Prop.

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TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE

These forward shocks still speak my course aright!—
For me no port can ever lie astern.
East, and still east, the Morning's signals burn,
And I must follow where I see the light.
On every hand fair ships take shoreward flight,—
So help me Heaven, my course I cannot turn!
Not since early start did bosom yearn
To lie at ease again on coasts of Night.

And recompense? Oh, much! One closest friend,
With whom for evermore I still must steer,
Would spurn me if I veered to west or south!
But having him my lover to the end,
No other paradise could be so dear,
No tropics kiss so sweet upon my mouth.

—James H. West in Universalist Leader.

PRACTICAL PLANS FOR REFORMS BADLY NEEDED IN OUR STATE GOVERNMENT

In place of fighting over Statement No. 1, public men in this state should do all in their power to take the election of United States senators entirely out of the hands of the legislature.

That body should be compelled to **MERELY RATIFY THE EXPRESSED WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND ISSSUE THE CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION** to the man who has received the votes of the people, **AS IT DOES TO OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.**

Then the legislature should be made to keep within certain limitations of expenditure that are necessary and legitimate functions of a state government.

It will be asked how can this be brought about? It will never be brought about, the state will be burdened with higher and higher taxes, **UNTIL SOME ONE TAKES UP AND THRESHES OUT A PLAN FOR REFORMS.**

The Capital Journal commends to thinking men of all parties some suggestions made in the following editorial review of the subject. It is not a Sunday afternoon undertaking but ought to be taken up with care and worked out in a business-like mannner.

At the recent meeting of the Oregon Academy of Sciences the editor discussed a program for reformation of state government that was received with approval.

HE MADE SOME DEMANDS FOR RADICAL CHANGES IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF COLLECTING REVENUES AND DISBURSING THE SAME, AND PROPOSED A PLAN WHICH IF ADOPTED WOULD INTRODUCE SOME ORDER INTO present chaotic legislative procedure.

Important Checks Lacking.

AT PRESENT THERE IS NO CHECK UPON THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF A LEGISLATURE, BARRING THE REFERENDUM VOTE IN THE HANDS OF TH PEOPLE.

But that is exercised at a disadvantage, like locking the stable door after the horse is stolen.

This writer contended that the following checks should be applied in formulating a scientifically constructed program for state administration:

1. A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TO FRAME A BUDGET OF FIXED CHARGES WHICH THE LEGISLATURE MUST FOLLOW.

2. A STATE BOARD OF CONTROL TO MAKE ALL PURCHASES OF SUPPLIES AND DISBURSE ALL FUNDS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

3. LIMITS ON STATE AND COUNTY LEVIES.

State Board of Control.

At present heads of state institutions largely purchase their supplies and make up their own bills and payrolls.

Each state institution has a purchasing agent, steward, or commissary and bookkeeper.

The state officials audit and allow bills and expenditures authorized by themselves, paying their own audits.

A CENTRAL STATE BOARD OF CONTROL, PURCHASING SUPPLIES FOR ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS IN OPEN COMPETITION, ISSUING SUCH SUPPLIES ONLY UPON REQUISITIONS FROM THE HEADS OF THE SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS and approved by the board, with the supplies and bookkeeping and audit of all bills under their own control, would make grafting, great or small, almost impossible.

That would introduce system and economy, do away with a number of separate officials in the different institutions, relieve the state officials from the burdensome details of administration and leave them more time for consideration of better policies for the conduct of state government.

Such boards save other states 25 to 30 per cent in revenues.

Limit State and County Levies.

Conforming to the methods of many other states, Oregon could offer no better inducement to investors and homeseekers than to limit state tax levies for a fixed maximum of 2 mills.

ON A STAT EVALUATION OF $500,000,000 THAT WOULD PRODUCE $1,000,000 DIRECT TAXES ANNUALLY, AND WITH INDIRECT TAXES WOULD FURNISH SUFFICIENT STATE REVENUES.

At present many counties are paying more state taxes than county taxes, aside from roads and bridges.

As counties are limited to a 5 per cent indebtedness, some limit should also be placed upon the levies for county administration.

A maximum county tax should not be over 5 or 6 mills.

Committee to Frame Budget.

At present a legislature has no guide in making appropriations, but the governor's message and the report of the secretary of state.

These documentsare not much heeded.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS ORGANIZED BY LOCAL INTERESTS SECURING CONTROL OF THE COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS IN BOTH HOUSES, AND THEN THE MAD SCRAMBLE BEGINS.

In place of this disorderly combination to make raids on the taxpayers, for which future levies must be made, a carefully framed budget of fixed charges for two years to come should be laid before the legislature when it assembles.

THIS COULD BE PREPARED BY A COMMITTEE OF ONE HOLD-OVER SENATOR AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES-ELECT.

They could be named by the governor immediately after the June election, and have from June to January to complete their work, and make a careful examination into needs and conditions.

Budget of Fixed Charges.

Based upon the work of the last legislature, the following would be a fair and liberal estimate for a budget of fixed charges to submit to the next legislature.

IN THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT THERE WOULD BE SOME ITEMS OF EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE NOT ENUMERATED BELOW.

The item for $100,000 annually for three years for the purchase of locks and canal at Oregon City is contingent upon the national congress making a similar appropriation.

The management of the portage railway at The Dalles is another, and should be turned over to the railroad commission and made to pay operating expenses.

A LAW SHOULD BE ENACTED REQUIRING THE APPOINTMENT OF SUCH A BUDGET COMMITTEE.

Both political parties should be recognized in its composition.

It should be especially charged with the duty of finding means and methods to make as many departments of the government self sustaining as possible, and gradually increase the state's revenues from indirect sources of taxation.

The state expenditures should be on some such basis as the following:

ADMINISTRATION

State board of agriculture	$ 20,000
State board of horticulture	10,000
State board of health	12,000
Railroad commission	35,000
Public printing and advertising	85,000
Library commission and historical society	20,000
Dairy and food commissioner	10,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
Executive department	18,800
Superintendent public instruction	11,300
Secretary of State	38,000
Treasurer and bank examiner	41,000
Public buildings, grounds and lights	67,500
	$ 380,600

PENAL AND REFORMATORY

State prison	$ 142,500
Reform school	68,000
	$ 210,500

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL

Arrest and conviction of criminals	$ 5,000
Fugitives from justice	7,000
Attorney general	14,000
Circuit judges	100,000
District attorneys	100,000
Supreme court	60,000
Rewards for arrests	1,000
State law library	10,000
	$ 297,000

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Orphans, Foundlings, etc.	$ 72,500
Soldiers' home	39,500
	$ 112,000

ELEEMOSYNARY INSTITUTIONS

Asylum for insane	$ 462,000
Institute for deaf mutes	48,300
Institute for blind	27,650
	$ 537,950

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Agricultural college	
State university	
Normal schools	
Farmers' institutes	

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTS

Judicial and legal	
Administration	
Penal and reformatory	
Charitable	
Eleemosynary	
Educational	
Military, legislature and fisheries	
Biennial cost	
Annual cost	

OTHER EXPENSES

Fisheries	
Legislature	
Oregon National Guard	

Duplication of Functions.

There is a marked tendency on the part of state gover duplicate all the functions of the federal government.

Thus, we find bureaus of animal industry, sheep inspect wardens, irrigation, engineering, fisheries and hatcheries, mi portation and land offices reproduced by state departments.

THERE IS SOME NECESSITY FOR THIS, BUT A ST WISELY LEAVE SOME OF THESE FIELDS TO FEDERA VISION.

Taxation for Special Interests.

It should be laid down as a fundamental principle that sp ests and occupations asking state regulation or protection burden the general taxpayer.

For instance, **SHEEP INSPECTION WAS NOT WANTED PARTS OF THE STATE, AND THOSE WANTING THAT ION, ALREADY AFFORDED BY THE GENERAL GOV** should pay for the benefits derived.

Swine inspection, fruit inspection, or any special service borne by that interest.

The legislature now appropriates about $20,000 for st fairs, including the Lake and Klamath county agricultural s

A GENERAL LAW SHOULD BE PASSED FOR COUNTY CULTURAL SOCIETIES, giving the state aid to county agr cieties and livestock organizations in proportion as the peop spective counties take annual membership, thus encouragin of the state instead of favored localities.

The legislature now appropriates $5900 for boatman at pilot commissioners.

THIS SERVICE SHOULD BE MADE SELF-SUSTAINING FEES COLLECTED FROM THE SHIPPING OR PORTS BE

The Port of Portland commission or a general harbor should take over all this service and the regulation thereof.

District attorneys and their deputies at present cost th round figures, $100,000.

This expense could be reduced one-third at least by sub office of county attorney, with salaries ranging from $1000 annum.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS NOW MAINTAIN A EACH COUNTY, AND THE COUNTIES WOULD SAVE M ING THIS OFFICIAL DIRECT.

The bureau of labor statistics and inspector of factories shops should either be made self-sustaining, or its functio so as to include duties of gathering statistics of producti state census and immigration commissioner.

The fees collected for inspection of factories and work support the present office.

State Revenues for Six Years.

	Direct Tax.
1903	$ 735,000
1904	1,200,000
1905	1,000,000
1906	600,000
1907	1,000,000
1908	1,150,000

*Estimated by the state board.

There will never be any peaceful solution of education until we have **ONE CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL COMMISSIO**

One central educational commission of three competent subject to local influences, but acting for the interests of th should be placed in control **OF ALL STATE INSTITUTION ER EDUCATION.**

All friction and rivalry, all duplication of courses of st state university and agricultural college could thus be re

Careful estimates of the actual needs of the institution the work required could be obtained.

THE REAL NEEDS OF THE STATE FOR NORMAL S the preparation of public school teachers could be ascerta educational interests taken out of politics and legislative

The state may not be ready for this step but the higher in terests can never be properly adjusted and co-ordinated way.

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A NEW SALEM RESIDENT INTERVIEWED

Tells a Journal Reporter How a City of Fifteen Thousand With One Policeman Strikes Him.

F. L. Woods, late of Stewartville, Minn., who visited Salem last summer and has now been a resident here for several months, is a pretty good Willamette valley booster, considering his short residence in Salem. In Minnesota Mr. Woods was engaged in the drug business, and, like most men who do well, was ver yloyal to his home community, in fact, his heart was where his treasure was, consequently he had a very warm spot for that very cold spot in western Minnesota. Since coming to Oregon, Mr. Woods has looked about a great deal and finally decided to make Salem his permanent home. He has not yet engaged in any particular business, but is a wide-awake hustler, always on the lookout for something better, financially as well as in every other way. He considers Salem a very desirable home town, not only on account of its beautiful location, broad streets and commercial prosperity, but for the educational and social privileges to be had by anyone living here.

Mr. Woods considers the great growing fruit industry as one of the best evidences that this will always be a desirable residence section. "Good morals, intelligence and prosperity invariably assert themselves in the fruit centers," he says, "as they are always populated by the cream of humanity. For this reason, if none other, Salem is bound to be one of the modern cities on the Pacific coast."

In talking with a reporter this morning, Mr. Woods remarked: "Salem is about as peaceful a place as I ever was in. If I were to tell some of my old friends that we had a city of 15,000 that only required one policeman, they would think I was lying to them, but as this condition exists in Salem at all times except when there are large gatherings here, nobody can question that Salem is properly named."

As yet Mr. Woods has not decided whether he will become a fruit grower, a professional man, a business hustler, or an aristocrat, but says he can see that a reasonable length of residence in Salem is liable to make a man any one or all of these. At all events, he is glad that he is here. "The pure soft water everywhere here, as compared with the alkali and limestone regions of the prairie states is alone a great boon. The mild winter here, where a man is not obliged to spend one-half his time shoveling snow and the other half shoveling coal, also forms a favorable contrast with the bleak, cold regions of the Mississippi valley. We find living just as cheap in Oregon as we did in Minnesota, and we enjoy many luxuries that we could not have back there, to say nothing of the greater comforts the year around."

Mr. Woods is one of the great influx of sturdy emigrants from the middle west, which western Oregon is at present receiving, and stands so much in need of. Several hundred thousand families of this class could find good homes in the Willamette valley, where they would be happier, wealthier and much more comfortable than in the rigid cold regions of the northwest.

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