

A PLEA OF GUILTY.

Once again, after the usual extremely long interval, the *Journal* makes a confession of its impotency and insincerity. Yesterday when cornered and directly requested to plead to the charge of being implicated with United States District Attorney Speed in a shameless political fraud based upon false charges and false reports, which it wilfully and knowingly published in its columns from day to day, it made the best of the situation and admitted that "we do not care to go into an extensive defense of Attorney Speed or of his methods." Nor does it care evidently to go into any defense whatever of its own equally reprehensible methods. It did not even dare to claim, for the benefit of its readers, that the reports which have been published by it concerning alleged frauds in the land offices in Oklahoma were true, or that it believed them to be true when it published them. It simply ignored the really vital point in the whole matter, and that was the prostitution of his office by the United States attorney for Oklahoma in having the land offices investigated by packed grand juries without jurisdiction, solely for political effect, and in "inducing" these juries to present false reports as a part of a political plot, which was aided and abetted by the false and malicious correspondence published in the *Journal*.

Thus the *Journal* practically admits that it is unreliable; that its correspondents are unreliable, or that they are instructed to furnish lying reports which the *Journal* knows to be false, and which it wilfully palms off upon its unsuspecting readers.

It furthermore makes a labored effort to di-

vert the attention of its readers from the one point at issue, to wit, the alleged frauds in the land offices in Oklahoma, by quoting reports of hardships and abuses which unavoidably grew out of the wise and necessary system of registration adopted before the opening of the Cherokee Strip, none of which have been traced to the knowledge or participation of any official of the government, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts of Attorney Speed and his packed grand jury to do so.

It is little wonder that the *Journal* has soured on Speed. After assisting him in his vicious efforts to smirch the characters of land office officials and bring the administration into disrepute, solely to create political capital, and after predicting indictments by the wholesale against the land officials at Perry, these Republican conspirators and their accomplices could not, with all their efforts, secure enough evidence to warrant a charge against any land office official or employe, save a single substitute clerk; and as

this man happened to be a Republican, of course he was not indicted.

The *Journal* is not to be blamed, therefore, for being irritable over this matter, and for being particularly sore against United States Attorney Speed.