

# The East Oregonian.

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TERMS IN ADVANCE

ONE YEAR

## Why Should not Umatilla County be Divided into Two or Three Parts?

In the first place Umatilla county is in debt, and the tax-payers of the county have paid and are now paying heavy taxes for the support of one county. Now what are the expenditures that have to be paid? First the salaries of the officers—which will be fully as much in the new county or counties as it is in the old county. Next, the expenses of the court will be fully as much in the new as in the old counties; in fact it will cost nearly as much to run a new county as it does the old one. Now taking this for granted, the taxes would be distributed among the six delegates instead of one had to go through all the business that the old one has to go through. This without building suitable court houses and jails, obtaining safe, etc., etc. But this is not all. It is doing the people of a large share of the county a great injustice in this: All the northeast portion of the county have been sold to locate and lay out roads which have cost many thousand dollars, and the tax-payers of all the county have born the burden without complaint, expecting in the end that Milton and Weston would respond when it became necessary to go to the same amount of public improvement in other portions of the country that was more tardy of settlement. But Weston and her friends after having had their system of road enterprises granted to them a summer, are now ready to dissolve the partnership before it exists. Now love you too well, and excepting the Leader, to part company with you. We have grown almost to manhood together, and it would be too hard to part. But the foregoing is a very slight reason in comparison to the following:

Surely one of the most undesirable traits of man on the face of the earth, till now unknown to the Indians, will be thrown open to settlement. The number of eager eyes are upon this land, and the moment the word is given to take such a settlement will be made as to thoroughly revolutionize the county, and the little towns that have already sprung up will give place to a great inland city, which will eclipse anything this side the Cascades. And we can readily perceive the anxiety of the people of the city of Weston to have the county seat located there immediately; they knowing full well that the settlement of this region below a county seat would result in wreathing the entire town under their grasp the much coveted county seat.

A wood right here in regard to the new bridge that was built just above Coopersburg the last summer. For whose particular benefit was it built? Certainly not for the people of Pendleton; but for all that grow in country about Centerville and Weston 10,000 bushels were purchased here of the farmers of that section, and the bridge was built for their convenience to obtain a market which they could not get nearer home, and circumstances of this wheat caused a small division of the country to be created out of the tax-payers. But would no doubt enhance the prosperity somewhat when the county seat was located, and mostly because the expenses would have to be born by persons who would not be in the least benefited by it.

Our county indebtess is steadily diminishing, notwithstanding the great outlays that have been made by the county court for the public good. Vast tracts of land in the county, which have been considered worthless as farmland, have been settled and brought under cultivation, and in the future with rapid settlement and the influx of capital and the bringing of capital out of the earth, our county tax would amount to very little indeed.

While settlements are made up on the reserves and in other parts of the county, it goes without saying that the county seats will be selected by the future citizens. You may select a site today that would accommodate a large majority of citizens of the new county, with rapid growth what may now be considered a central position will be far removed from the greater part of the county, and then would come the old county seat question forward again, and a change would be affected, adding increased cost.

Gentlemen, this division business is for the purpose of gain for a few persons. Look with what eagerness and gusto F. M. Crockett has placed himself in the van, hoping thereby to be made a sheriff. With equal greed the Weston Leader advocates it. We all plead them so much, for in their case it is a mere business, and we hope that they may quickly fall in with the rest of us. But we do know that they will go on, and to the detriment of the people of Umatilla county. When the Leader fell into the hands of the present owners its voluntary stated that it would be run as a Democratic paper. In a short time they announced that as no West was to be elected they would go for division of the county regardless of politics. Then they were going to give in to their new friends a no fence boom. But finding that a division would not run in the same groove they turned round to let me know what they knew about a fence or no fence. In fact it is a remarkable inconsistent course with their past. To day Democratic and no fence, and to-morrow anti-Democratic, but always with the smug dignity in their cry. "Crying division division!!" On the contrary, we have from the first opposed division as being premature, to say the least. We have tried to unite the Democratic party by giving wholesome advice. We had the temerity to advise the selection of non-slaveholding Democrats to offer, and if the division should come off, to offer, as it was represented then would be time to petition the legislature to divide the county.

GO TO THE DALLES.—We are informed that Prof. J. M. Dolaney, says the Vancouver Independent, has proceeded to The Dalles where he intends to open a Catholic high school under the patronage of Archibald Seghers. The Archishop hopes to have suitable buildings erected at The Dalles for school purposes in the immediate future. Prof. Dolaney has been with us a long time as teacher in our public schools and professor of Holy Angels College. In these positions he proved himself a good man and an able teacher. We wish him success in the new field to which his profession calls him.—Portland Ex.

The progress of christianity in Abyssinia is in the highest degree encouraging. Not less than 100,000 persons have renounced the Moslem creed and accepted the better faith. It is to be feared, however, that the means of conversion will not command the approval of American christians. By order of King Iyasu, all subjects who refuse to believe in the true God must have their heads shaved and wear a white cloth around their necks. This is a most abominable custom, and constitutes itself their especial punishment. Does this look like running a Democratic paper, trying to harmonize the party, giving it strength and cohesion so that when election of President arrives all will be United? We say the day!

WASHINGTON'S LEADER.—The ledger kept by Washington, and which he posted with his own hands once a month is now in the Patent office at Washington city. The ledger is one of the most interesting objects in this collection. It contains Washington's private account for more than twenty years, including such matters as losses and gains at cards, for, following the fashions of the time, Washington won and lost like other gamblers. It is valuable not only as a memorial of the first President, but also as an authentic source of much curious information concerning the early history of the last century, the prices paid for articles in common use, and the income and expenses of a Virginia planter before the Revolution.—Ex.

To RICHARDSON DUFF.—The secretary of war has ordered Col. H. Clay Wood, assistant adjutant general to report for duty at Fort Vancouver for duty in connection with the Umatilla Indians. A bill has been introduced in Congress to support it. Mr. Gandy of Oregon has sent Senator Slater a draft of a form of government for Alaska, to be considered by his committee on territories. The N. P. R. R. bill for some unknown reason "chaps fire." It is rumored that the delay is caused by a little row between Senator Wisdom, the N. P. R. R. champion, and the railroad officials.

Senator Slater's Indian bill is now in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior, and is said to meet with the approval of that official. Mr. Schurz has received a petition signed by six hundred Umatilla Indians, asking that they be given land in severality. It is generally thought that this bill will be passed this session. The Chinese bill, introduced by Senator Slater at the extra session has not yet been reported, but an effort will soon be made in that direction, as the Democrats are anxious to know what ground Blake will take—many of them are still willing to support it. Mr. Gandy of Oregon has sent Senator Slater a draft of a form of government for Alaska, to be considered by his committee on territories. The N. P. R. R. bill for some unknown reason "chaps fire." It is rumored that the delay is caused by a little row between Senator Wisdom, the N. P. R. R. champion, and the railroad officials.

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