

SOME FACTS ABOUT PROPOSED NEW COUNTY

Paid advertisement inserted by the Nesmith county committee.

Some one has truly said: "The hope of the future greatest development in the inland empire lies in the evolution of the small farm and to the intense methods of agriculture." The tendency is strikingly in this direction through out the Pacific Northwest. There is a gradual and continuous drift from other occupations to agriculture and horticulture, and the demand for smaller tracts of land suitable for family support and a profit is increasing, which means that ere another decade, through division of large realty holdings, development will be more rapid than during the past quarter century. The large counties, many of which contain more area than several of the states of the union, will likewise be divided as population increases, the creation of which will have a further tendency to build up and develop the country, as is shown by the creation of Sherman, Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler and Hood River counties.

One glance at the map of Oregon will convince the most skeptical that the smaller counties develop the country. The most densely populated and extensive development of our resources are to be found in the group of comparatively small counties, while the larger ones are sparsely settled and the resources almost wholly undeveloped. It is also true that an examination of the records will show the smaller counties to be maintained on a lesser tax than the larger ones, while it is a fact susceptible of the fullest demonstration that they have more mileage of and better highways, where conditions for working them are the same. Time was when Wasco embraced more than two-thirds of the entire state of Oregon, but increased population and a consequent desire for self government, in which the American people have been taught to believe, and which eliminates "taxation without representation," have now changed all this, for the betterment of individual conditions and the material advancement of the whole state. Local self government is the ideal form of government, because the people of any locality are better qualified to administer their own affairs than persons who have no special interests in them or their affairs. This the framers of the Oregon constitution contemplated when they wisely provided that any section of the state having an area of 400 square miles and a population of 1200 might become self governing through the creation of a new county.

Lines Follow Natural Divides.

The people of southern Lane and northern Douglas counties, numbering more than 8000, believing they are qualified to administer their own affairs more advantageously and more economically than comparative strangers to the respective communities, have prepared a bill under the local initiative and referendum asking that a new county be known as Nesmith be created from portions of the counties mentioned, the lines being drawn in strict adherence to the topography and natural watersheds of the territory, leaving vast resources and large population to both the older counties, and in each particular case, taking less value than area, the chief desire in this respect being to benefit the citizens of the proposed new county without working injury to either of the old counties or any resident thereof.

Would Convenience Many.

That the citizens of the proposed county of Nesmith are practically unanimously favorable to the measure is shown in the fact that 82 per cent signed a petition praying for its creation. And to further show the sentiment of the people of the state and their endeavor to build up a greater Oregon, it is only necessary to say that over 12,000 signed the petition for the initiation of the bill—which will be voted on November 8, 1910—being about thirty per cent more than the required number, which signatures were either voluntary or secured without an extraordinary amount of solicitation. The lines follow the natural divides as near as practicable, and to the center of population—Cottage Grove, the proposed temporary county seat—in the aggregate is "an easy down hill pull," this making it convenient for a large per cent of the rural citizens within the territory to transact business at that point, as is now their custom. There is but one small mountain range to cross, and this by a low pass.

Erroneous Impressions.

Concerning the boundary lines of the proposed county of Nesmith there has been misrepresentation on the part of the opposition—meaning Lane and Douglas—and whether designedly or otherwise these misstatements have, to say the least, created a wrong impression in the minds of the uninformed. One erroneous statement is that the north line is within four and one-half miles of Eugene, whereas it is six and three-fourths miles on an air line to the Lane county court house and eleven miles by railroad or wagon road, or exactly half way between Cottage Grove and Eugene by either mode of transportation. The dividing line is the center of an untravelable swale fully two miles in width and approximately seven miles in length, and wholly unin-

The King--By Divine Right

"ME AND GOD"



habited. Between this swale and Eugene is a range of mountains. Another deviation from the facts is the assertion that the south line is in the middle of the North Umpqua river, and that a considerable portion of the Umpqua valley east of Roseburg, is included in the proposed new county. The facts are, as shown by the map of proposed Nesmith county, and also by the bill, the south boundary line is not within two miles of the North Umpqua river, leaving the inhabitable portion of the valley to the county of Douglas. And at no place does the line touch any point east of Roseburg. The nearest point to the city of Roseburg from the new county would be about 20 miles on an air line, and the territory sought is naturally tributary to the center of population within the proposed new county.

As Regards Timber Taken.

With reference to the shape of the proposed new county, as well as the shape of the area remaining to the existing counties, let it be said that the streams, valleys and ridges all have an east and west course or a southeast and northwest course; that all main lines of travel must follow these valleys, which lead to the main towns as at present existing; that there would be no justification of any design that would violate this cardinal principle which governs the building up of community interests. The creation of Nesmith county would take only 468 square miles of territory from Douglas county, of which 209 is in the National Forest Reserve, and from which Douglas receives no revenue except from 61 square miles of private holdings. It is contended by some of the opponents to the measure that the proposed county has taken valuable timber into its boundaries for the sole purpose of deriving revenue when the government shall have disposed of the ripe product, but it is a well known fact that every county in which a National Forest Reserve is situated gets its proportion of the 25 per cent awarded by the government, regardless of the location of the timber thus sold. To make this clear to the reader let it be stated that the reader county would take about 20 per cent of the total timber area of Lane and Douglas counties within the reserve, and therefore the new county would receive 20 per cent of the money that would otherwise go to the two old counties. Crook and Klamath, or any other county whose area extends into the National Forest Reserve, also participate in the revenue derived from sales. And this condition obtains no matter in which of the counties the sales are made.

Capable of Maintaining County.

The country within Nesmith county is capable of maintaining an organization that would be to the best interest of the people embraced within that territory, and at the same time not deprive any other people affected of their rights or increase their burdens, or work them any injustice, unless to deprive them of the privilege of collecting revenues from residents of the seceding territory without just distribution of benefits in return therefor should be considered a vested right to the county seats of the existing counties.

No Voice in Present Government.

Cottage Grove, the second city in point of population in Lane county, has never been allowed to name a county judge, and it has been twenty-four years since this section of the county had a representative on the board of commissioners. That portion of Douglas county included in proposed Nesmith county has never had either a county judge or a county commissioner, and the legislative representatives from both the existing counties in question are from the county seats of the respective counties.

Nesmith Would Work No Injury.

The taking of 1,472 square miles from Lane county, by the creation of Nesmith county, would not result detrimentally to that county. It would still have 2,968 square miles of territory, and would count miles of territory, and would count as one of the richest counties in diversified and undeveloped resources in the state. It would have remaining a population of 34,000 energetic empire builders and an assessed valuation of nearly \$19,000,000, and an area which can be exploited with as much genuine pride as could be possible should it remain the area proposed to be organized into the county of Nesmith.

As to Douglas, it would still have 4,393 square miles, great in resources, and all desirable improvements and developments would keep its ever increasing population engaged to its fullest capacity for many decades to come.

Benefits Large Number of People.

The people of southern Lane and northern Douglas counties feel that they are eminently qualified to economically administer their own governmental affairs, and crave the opportunity, believing the nearer home government the cheaper; that laws are more effectively enforced; that greater development of country is attainable; that more and better highways are possible; that the citizens would be inconvenienced; that taxation and representation should go hand in hand; and that by the creation of Nesmith county the efforts of a large community would be rendered more effective in increasing population, and developing the resources.

Francisco Ferrer
(Continued from Page One)

for itself and its votaries. In this power are both clericals and non-clericals. To their aid the clericals seek to bring all the power of the church, and they appeal to bigotry and superstition, but the organization is the state, not the church.

What was Ferrer's offense? It was that which in the very last moment of existence, when wife, children, friends, enemies, loved and hated were all forgotten, lived upon his lips--the Modern School. What is the Modern School? It is the

conception that the education of the child is the foundation for the thought of the age to come. That he is now not being taught to think, is not having his individuality developed, but is being dominated by the prepared thought of those in authority over him. He is being forced through a machine which brings out all alike, without independence; without originality; taught to worship discipline and authority as the holiest things; to accept, not to question.

The Modern School, on the other hand, founds itself on these ideas: That there is nothing in heaven or earth which may not be questioned, searched, studied and rejected in the search for truth. That truth is the only thing worth knowing or keeping. That the great scientists shall be spotted in and politics history shall be studied. All without bias or preconceived notion. All without command or prejudice from the teacher; and as the child's mind finds the truth and follows so let it be--though both church and state fall before it. That each child's mind shall be led out, into its own observation of this world and all the phenomena among which we live. Children shall not study birds, flowers, buds and insects from books in school-rooms, blind to the birds, flowers, buds and insects all around them, but shall be led to nature and taught to observe and think. That the teachers themselves shall be set free from authority and shall handle all pupils as they, the teachers, deem best, and each pupil as his particular genius requires. That teachers shall not simply transfer to pupils the knowledge they themselves possess, but shall rather remain in the background and lead out each pupil into his own field of original discovery and acquirement.

In other words, to abolish the cut-and-dried; to abolish the arbitrary; to abolish the universal monotony and substitute the natural appetite for knowledge which every child has. To stand to one side and direct it. To let it follow where it likes. To cultivate the differences of individuality, not force a universal sameness. To throw away the club of meaning less discipline and let in everywhere a sense of freedom and personality.

In fact, his text-books were (as he said before the court) the works of the great truth-bearers, either the glorious classics or the modern thinkers, accepted all over the world. If dogma, theology or authority had to fail, this was no concern of his. That which was not true had better fail, just as dogma and theology had finally to yield before Galileo's truth that the earth moves. Personally, his thought had led him to reject the orthodox theology, so he had rejected the consolations of the priests. He believed the masses were the disinherited, poor victims bearing the superstructure called "society" and "government" and a state church upon their backs. He did not believe that the wretched ones could reach up to the finger-tips of justice by physical force, but only by the force of truth, and that this could only be set in action by education. Hence he sought to establish schools which, little by little, should take away the pupils of the church schools, or state schools, until finally the coming generation would be taught to think without fetters, and freedom would show her face to long-suffering men. This was the Modern School; a school seeking the truth. Teachers and pupils free, and the end universal brotherhood. Universal happiness.

Oh, that the bullets of ignorance and tyranny should have crashed in the temples and ozzed out the brain which held so divine a dream. "Forgive them, Father. They know not what they do." "Aim carefully, my children. It is not your fault." So died Francisco Ferrer--freedom's martyr. May our brothers elsewhere gear their skulls and shackles weigh our wrists if ever we suffer to be forgotten how and why he died.

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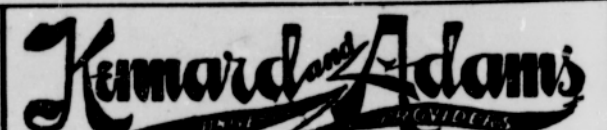
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