

Crook County Journal

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CROOK COUNTY

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County Division Forces Working Overtime

Prineville business men have been attending the 3-in-1, or conversely, the 1-in-3 meetings held by the county divisionists of Madras at Lamonta, Round Butte and other places. Quite lively sessions marked the proceedings at every point.

The county divisionists are having hard sledding to make the farmer believe that three county governments can be supported as cheaply as one. Where both sides are given an equal hearing the "pros" get the worst of it.

"Graft and extravagance" have to bear the brunt of the argument for cutting up the county. The "graft" talk has been exploded so thoroughly by searching investigations that it no longer appeals to a man of ordinary intelligence. The "extravagance" dope can be made to appear plausible if the underlying causes are not brought out. The comparisons made in county expenses between the years 1908 and 1913 are misleading and will deceive no one. Before the advent of the railroads development was slow and county expenses light. At one time the county clerk had to do his own work, or pay for having it done, out of his own pocket. In time a deputy was allowed and when recording piled

up more help was needed and paid for by the county. The fees from the office, of course, more than pay office expenses.

The same is true of the assessor's office. There is ten times as much work to do now as formerly. If deputy assessors are to visit every home and every piece of ground it is going to take time and money. Assessor Foster claims that every resident of the county is entitled to a personal visit from the man who does his assessing and all this adds to the expenses of his office.

The same is true of the county superintendent's office. New schools are forming all the time until now there are 100 in the county. This calls for two school supervisors by law but one only is employed. The superintendent is busy all the time trying to improve school standards. He must keep in close touch with every school district if he is to do any good. This takes time and money.

And so on down the list. State taxes have more than trebled since 1908. The county has nothing to do with levying this tax.

The expenses of the county last year were (omitting the cents column), according to Expert Ball: County court.....\$ 2,525 Sheriff.....11,978

Clerk.....	5,206
Treasurer.....	1,115
School Superintendent.....	3,678
Surveyor.....	2,892
Assessor.....	6,371
Total.....	\$33,625

It will be noted that the expenses of the sheriff were unusually heavy, much more than common, by reason of the long trips made for horse and cattle thieves and other contingent expenses. Include everything, and McE Ball didn't overlook anything, out of \$411,143.20 collected only \$33,625 was used for county running expenses. If you want county efficiency you must pay for it. It costs as much for the county as in any other line of business. It is a whole lot cheaper in the long run.

When you cast your ballot November 3 for county division make it read "X NO."

Are Opposed to County Division

Dry Lake, Ore., Oct 9, 1914.

Editor Journal:—Reading the article "Circular Has no Signature," in the Bend Bulletin of September 30, as the article seems to have been written by L. H. Irving, secretary of Jefferson county, proposed.

First let us look at the map as published in the Bend Bulletin of the same date. Look for Prineville, the present county seat, then note the boundary lines of the proposed Deschutes and Jefferson counties. Any one with a mite of education

can figure out the proposition of a benefit of such boundary lines. Take a look at the map, following the boundary lines of the proposed Deschutes county. It covers 80 miles east and west on the Crook county line, commencing at the southwest corner, thence west 80 miles, thence north 12 miles, thence west 6 miles, thence north 6 miles, thence west 12 miles, thence north 5 miles thence west 5 miles, thence north 12 miles, thence west 6 miles, thence north 3 miles, thence west 6 miles, thence north 15 miles, thence west 37 miles, thence south on the Crook county boundary to the commencement at the southwest corner. Again look at the map of the proposed county. It is a similar picture, and oh! bless the Crook portion left!

Now we ask as to the wonderful savings of such proposed division. Is there a county in the state of Oregon that can show us that they reduce the expense of running the county by paying less salary because they are small? Take for example Multnomah county, Hood River and we undoubtedly will find that they have deputies in the field assisting on all lines and drawing salaries the same as in other larger counties. The territory of a county does not necessarily have to enlarge the number of deputies. But rather the real cause for the great expense of counties is the extravagance found in such offices as that of the sheriff, where you will note by examining the records that there are many special trips with no excuse for same and no reason for same, and other

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Another Slap at Chopping Up the County

Editor Journal: The enthusiastic organs of the County Division schemes where enthusiasm is evidently kindled by the hope of pecuniary returns from the benefits accruing from the establishment of county seats, where all the enthusiasm is emanating, take occasion to comment on the small amount of newspaper space used against the dividing of the county, but if they were not so blinded by their mad rush to split up the county and reap the reward of their efforts out of the pockets of the already burdened taxpayers, they might see the utter uselessness of asserting and repeating that two and two make four, or that county division will increase taxes and entail other hardships upon the citizens of the county at large, and they might also see that no amount of newspaper space or circularizing of the county will "pull the wool over the eyes" of the voters to such a self-evident and apparent fact, and those opposed to county division are perfectly willing to leave the matter to the good judgment of the voters as to whether or not county division will increase taxes, which is admittedly the paramount issue involved in the controversy.

That the cost of maintaining three county governments will be a

great deal more than one is a self-evident fact and that additional burden of taxation will be imposed on the same number of people and the same property, and it is not to be assumed that county division will bring more people into the country and develop it. In fact, the added load of taxes will have the opposite effect of keeping out investors and settlers and discouraging those we already have. It is admitted by the county divisionists themselves, not in print of course, but privately, that taxes are bound to increase, but they say this will only be so until conditions are adjusted in the new counties, which is, so to speak, "getting the cart before the horse," for why not wait until the development of the country justifies the change so that the adjustment they speak of may be an assured fact and thus dispense with the long and indefinite interim of high taxes and discouragement.

The taxpayers are not to be misled by promises of free rent for courthouses for certain periods of time, because they realize that this means only the deferring of the building of expensive courthouses and causing a decided increase in

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Trade at Home!

Many people throughout this section have the impression that in order to get right prices on merchandise that they must send to outside points. This impression is wrong. We have one of the largest stocks of groceries in this section as well as large stocks of shelf hardware, ammunition, stoves and ranges, shoes, furnishings, staple dry goods, etc., and if actual freight cost is added to prices quoted from catalogues it will be found in many instances that our prices are lowest. We absolutely guarantee every item we sell, and if not found exactly as represented we will gladly refund the purchase price. We are right here where you can see what you are buying. We sell merchandise of known quality. Let us figure with you on your orders. An opportunity is all we ask.

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