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NO. 49

Vote 77 and 79 X NO and Save Increased Taxes

Ten Reasons Why Crook County Should Not Now Be Divided

First—It is too costly. We cannot afford it at the present time.

Second—It would tend to lower the present high standard of our schools.

Third—It would force the taxpayers of the present county to sustain three county and circuit courts, three sets of county buildings and three sets of county officials instead of one.

Fourth—The present county seat is located in the geographical and business center of the county. In none of the proposed counties would the county seat be so centrally located.

Fifth—It would be a positive injustice to the remaining portion of Crook county, forcing the taxpayers of that division of the county to assume the entire indebtedness of the three new counties, when nearly all of the indebtedness has been incurred in the development of the two proposed counties on the west side.

Sixth—We are forced to LOWER taxation. We will never do it by such a revolutionary proceeding. It can only be done by creating LESS not MORE expenses.

Seventh—A large majority of the heavy taxpayers in the whole county are against it.

Eighth—Apparently in an effort to fool somebody, a lot of half-baked estimates of setting up and operating new counties have been industriously circulated by the divisionists. Any cause that resorts to such methods is UNSAFE and should be let alone.

Ninth—Crook county as it now stands is of more consequence when state matters are under consideration than if it were cut into small, inconsequential municipalities.

Tenth—The present proposed lines were drawn arbitrarily and behind closed doors. The public was not in any manner consulted. Evidently the welfare of Madras and Bend only as county seats were considered. No man knows where the business centers on the south and west side will be in a few years.

Extravagance in County Management

The charge of extravagance in county affairs is freely made and loudly proclaimed by the county divisionists. The little new Crook county is blamed for it all when not a dollar of it can be traced to the citizens of the new Crook county as proposed by the divisionists. NOT A DOLLAR OF IT and the reason is plain. The county court audits all bills as everybody knows. Since 1908 not a single member of the county court has come from the proposed little Crook county. Every one of them has come from the proposed Jefferson and Deschutes counties. Note this Mr. Divisionist, and answer it if you can. The question is: What kind of philosophy is it that would permit the other fellow to do the dancing and at the same time require us to pay for the fiddler? Artemus Ward would call it dampfool philosophy.

There may, and no doubt will, come a time when Crook county should be divided. When that time does come all interests in all sections of the county as nearly as may be should be consulted. Such an important movement should not be sprung upon the people suddenly among the complications attending a state and county election.

Abstract of Registration of Crook County Electors

PRECINCTS	Total	Republican	Democratic	Prohibition	Socialist	Progressive	Independent, etc.
East Prineville	316	197	100	5	4	3	7
West Prineville	265	132	117	3	6	1	6
North Bend	278	124	116	13	4	10	11
South Bend	330	185	116	10	5	4	10
Sisters	187	83	64	8	21	5	6
Haystack	174	76	65	17	11	5	3
McKay	106	66	33	—	3	—	3
Hay Creek	77	56	15	—	6	—	—
Willow Creek	84	33	21	—	6	—	4
Cross Keys	38	33	2	—	3	—	—
Ashwood	112	67	31	1	10	—	3
Deschutes	324	158	124	18	3	11	10
Johnson Creek	93	51	32	—	4	2	4
Mill Creek	45	11	29	—	2	—	3
Howard	28	17	11	—	—	—	—
Summit	13	6	6	—	—	—	1
Bear Creek	86	42	33	1	1	3	2
Camp Creek	127	70	39	1	6	6	5
White Butte	34	20	14	—	—	—	—
Beaver Creek	97	47	44	1	2	3	—
Maurey	24	7	16	—	1	—	—
Newsom	65	29	36	—	—	—	—
Kutcher	201	105	62	6	10	7	11
Breese	14	11	3	—	—	—	—
Powell Butte	67	38	19	3	3	2	2
Warm Spring	42	25	11	3	1	1	1
Tetherow	159	78	49	28	1	2	1
Laidlaw	275	141	79	9	14	14	18
Lamonta	112	58	37	3	3	—	11
Lytle Gap	121	76	19	9	4	4	9
Madras	177	95	56	9	9	—	8
Lava	18	6	10	—	1	1	—
Redmond	231	131	68	19	4	4	5
Hillman	144	61	37	21	10	6	9
Cline Falls	84	29	28	4	6	2	15
Hat Rock	96	34	27	—	3	1	1
Fife	20	11	7	—	—	—	—
Black Butte	81	28	36	8	3	3	3
Centralo	73	35	19	5	6	4	4
Millican	95	46	26	4	7	9	3
Opal City	85	41	28	1	11	—	4
Alfalfa	83	40	25	1	10	—	7
Lower Bridge	48	20	17	4	2	1	4
Montgomery	53	23	21	1	5	1	2
Metolius	168	88	53	3	13	2	9
Imperial	223	102	72	10	16	13	10
Ireland	92	43	27	—	—	3	19
Totals	5614	2875	1000	229	244	129	237

Beware of the Fate of Hood River— Taxes Increase 282 Per Cent After Division.

After hearing so much about how cheaply the proposed new counties can theoretically be run and what great economy will assuredly result from division into three small counties, it is interesting to note just what it actually costs the taxpayers in Hood River county to operate their county—the last county to be formed in Oregon and the smallest in size. County divisionists will tell you the millage has been decreased in Hood River county. But while millage was being reduced the amount actually paid for taxes increased. It does not matter to you as a taxpayer whether the millage is high and valuations low or vice versa. It is the amount in dollars and cents you have to pay that affects you.

From complete certified copies of tax rolls of Hood River county in the possession of Crook County Lower Tax League, we find that taxpayers of Hood River county are now paying on an average \$3.82 in taxes where they had paid only \$1.00 before county division on the same identical properties.

Now, Mr. Taxpayer, if there ever was a small county that could be operated cheaply, it is Hood River. The values are high, property highly developed and population concentrated in a very small district.

The area of Hood River county is 543 square miles, with only about 216 square miles, or about six townships outside the forest reserve. The assessor estimates that 90 per cent of the assessed valuation and population of the county are within ten miles of the county seat. He says there are as high as 100 property owners on one section of land in some districts. This concentration of population makes necessary the maintenance of but comparatively few schools. Hood River county has but 16

school districts and over 8,000 population. In Crook county we have 100 school districts and about 12,000 population. Concentration of population also necessitates less road construction.

If in Hood River county, the richest area of its size in the state, so admirably situated for economical administration and with an assessed valuation in 1913 of \$12,000,000, if under these ideal conditions county division has almost quadrupled the tax burden, who can estimate the burden of the tax payers of this county will have to pay to support separate county governments in the proposed Deschutes county, with an assessed valuation of about \$5,000,000, in the proposed Jefferson county, with \$3,500,000 valuation, and old Crook county with only \$3,150,000 and \$100,000 in debt.

Also note this carefully, Mr. Taxpayer, in the proposed new counties. No courthouse has been built in Hood River—no great sums of money spent for office furniture and equipment. Why? Taxes have been so high since division that no one has cared to urge upon the overburdened taxpayers this additional expense. But would the promoters of Deschutes and Jefferson counties be so thoughtful about the wishes of the taxpayers? The city of Hood River is the only city in Hood River county. There is no danger of any other town springing up and demanding the county seat. But how different here. In the proposed Deschutes county at the present reported rate of immigration from Bend, Redmond, Sisters, Deschutes, LaPine, Imperial or Laidlaw might in the course of a years outstrip Bend and claim the county seat if the Bend boosters would delay the construction of an

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A Thought or Two for Home Consumption

Some few people in eastern Crook pretend to favor the proposed county division. They are growing fewer but now and then one remains. What few are left, like Napoleon's old guard, "die, but never surrender." One more attempt to reason with them and then we are done.

Are you sure you have thought it over, gentlemen? Where are you going to get your money to pay the indebtedness of all three of these new counties?

The law says you must pay it. Where are you going to get the one hundred thousand dollars, gentlemen?

You know what the parrot said about the kind of a time he had with the monkey. Don't you think you would have about the same kind of a time with that hundred thousand dollars? Think it over, once more, gentlemen.

Then, there is our county high school. Every mother's son of us is proud of it. What are you going to do with it when we are reduced to less than one-third our present size? Keep on building it up? Yes, you will—not.

Then, if division goes, we, of little new Crook, will fall heir to county buildings too large for our needs and several other things quite costly for a small community to maintain. Will you continue to maintain them creditably and build them up—or down? You see, there are several things to think over. It's like a bread and butter proposition. It will bear very regular attention.

Then again, a great many of us want lower taxation. Most of us want it. The fact is, ALL of us are protesting against such high taxes. How on earth are you going to lower taxes and carry all this load—carry the burden that the whole county is carrying now?

You know you cannot do it. Even the boosters of Madras and Bend know that. At least they are making their campaign for new counties and using as their chief argument that the law will force what remains of Crook county, after they are through with it, to pay all the indebtedness of the whole of the present county. And you are going to bite at it, are you? What are you thinking about anyway?

You see, according to these east side division boys, they are tired of a big, fine Crook county. They want a little Crook county. Just a small fraction of the present county is enough for them. The present county is too big—too unwieldy for them. They want something small—something about their size—something they can handle.

Now, boys, honor bright, isn't that about the truth? Something that will be easy for you to handle. This is too big. It has gotten away from you. Isn't that about right?

During the past six years, Crook county has expended \$394,000 on public highways. Two-thirds of this money has been spent within the proposed Jefferson and Deschutes counties.

During the past six years \$217,740 of county money has been spent for public schools in Crook county. Three-fourths of this money has been spent within the proposed Jefferson and Deschutes counties. These are facts. Such being the case, why should the proposed Crook county, which is less than one-third of the present county, shoulder the entire county indebtedness? Is it right?