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THURSDAY January 24, 1907

FACTS AND FIGURES

The only way in which we can gauge the ability of the proposed Jefferson county to maintain its county government economically and without an increase in taxes, is to compare it with some similar county, and for that purpose no other of the small counties created out of the original big counties of Eastern Oregon offers so fair an example as does Sherman county. Similar in its compactness and in the character of its principal industry, that county presents an object lesson which is at once an inspiration and a hope. For this reason an abstract of the tax-levy, assessment, and expenses of that county was obtained, and those figures throw an interesting and most encouraging light upon the claims of this section that it is ready for self-government.

In 1889 when Sherman county was created, that county only had \$617,572 of taxable property, which with the tax-levy of 18 mills that year produced \$11,116. Jefferson county will have in round figures \$1,350,000 of taxable property, more than double that of Sherman, and at our present tax-levy of 15 mills, more than \$20,000 will be collected this year, to pay county expenses. When created Sherman county assumed of Wasco's indebtedness \$11,586.70, while Jefferson county would start into business without a dollar of indebtedness. With this kind of a start, Sherman county developed and grew until today it has more than three million dollars upon its tax-roll, with the low rate of 10 mills taxation. In May 1901, and with a tax-roll of \$1,500,000 at that time, only a trifle more than Jefferson county will have to begin with, Sherman county had expended for buildings and other improvements \$17,045, had paid all county indebtedness, and was paying her county warrants as they were issued. During the past seven years, during which time the county's finances have been in good shape and she may be presumed not to have unnecessarily stunted herself, all of the expenses of conducting the county have averaged only \$13,500 per annum, and those figures represent the annual expenditure for schools, roads, and all county purposes. Jefferson county would have nearly \$7000 more than that the first year, and its taxable property is increasing as rapidly as any other section of the state of Oregon.

These figures are secured from the county records, and are incontrovertible evidence of the preparedness of this section for maintaining its own county government. The history of other small counties has been similar, and no stronger argument can be made for county division and smaller county areas, than is found in the records of those smaller counties themselves. Crook county is too large; it covers more territory than several of our states do; and the increasing cost of maintaining it should condemn it in the eyes of the Legislature in favor of the smaller, more compact and more economically maintained counties.

OFF FOR SALE

G. Springer of Culver left Saturday for the state capital, where he goes to urge the creation of Jefferson county, in which movement he is taking a deep interest. In this connection it may be stated that Mr. Springer's interest in the new county movement arises from a firm conviction that the proposed county division is demanded for the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the affected district. He is one of the old settlers of the district and has seen this section of Crook develop from a sparsely

settled stock country into a populous farming district, with an increased demand for the benefits of community government and relationship. That these benefits can best be obtained in small compact counties where a community of interest exists, the experience of half a dozen newly created counties in this state has proven. Mr. Springer has observed these things, and having at heart the best interests of this section of Crook, he believes that the time has arrived when our people should conduct their own county affairs, and reap the benefits that accrue from taxation. He is a representative citizen of the territory which desires self-government; he cannot be charged with having a county-seat ambition to gratify, for his private interests lie fifteen miles away from the proposed countyseat, and his endorsement and support of the new county movement are a strong guarantee the merit of the proposed division.

COUNTY DIVISION

Crook county is large enough and has taxable property sufficient to maintain the three counties into which it is asked to be divided. It is not many years since the old county, with all of its tremendous area, maintained its county government and paid all of its expenses upon a less amount of money than either of the two proposed new counties will have from the first year's taxes. And the compactness in form means decreased mileage bills and easily maintained roads, which will greatly reduce the expense account of each of the three counties into which Crook would be cut.

It has been many years since Crook county cut off from Wasco. It had a tremendous area and a correspondingly small tax-roll. And yet Crook county soon distanced the parent county, paying off the indebtedness which it had assumed, and maintaining itself at a rate of taxation lower than that paid in the parent county. Sherman and Wheeler likewise were created out of portions of Wasco, and they in turn prospered. Sherman county is today the envy of every other county in the state, with its treasury box full and a very low tax rate. And the proposed Jefferson county is similar to Sherman county in its compactness, its dense settlement and the character of its industries, while Jefferson county would begin business with more taxable property on its rolls than Sherman had at the time of its creation.

County division in Crook county from this time forward will be a live issue until it becomes an actuality. The old county is unwieldy in size, and friction which exists between the old regime, whose interests center in Prineville, and the newer population who have settled in this section and in the irrigation district to the south, will only be aggravated with the postponement of that division.

Opposition to division arises only from purely selfish motives at the countyseat, for Crook county, after Jefferson and Deschutes are cut off, will still have more property on its tax-roll than it had last year, and twice as much money from one year's taxes as it took to run the entire county five years ago. With such a showing the countyseat patriots will have difficulty in presenting any good reason why both Jefferson and Deschutes should not be created, and the taxpayers of those districts be permitted to maintain their own county.

Cascade county, which citizens of Hood River are trying to create out of a portion of Wasco county, is before the Legislature again this session. It is thought that Cascade will have pretty hard sledding as the three representatives from Wasco county in the two houses of the Legislature are said to be opposed to the new county. One of the most bitter fights in the legislative session of two years ago developed over the Cascade county fight.

SUPPORT FROM PRINEVILLE

The Bend Bulletin says, "There is no fight against Prineville. All Western Crook wants is a square deal." The Bulletin may say this, but it is the private opinion of many that all Bend wants has no limits. And we might add that there never was a fight against Prineville until Bend came into existence, and after it Laidlaw and Madras. These three towns are doing all the fighting now. There is certainly none elsewhere; and a few people around have expressed themselves as not only willing but anxious that the two counties be taken from Crook, just to get rid of a bunch of knockers.—Prineville Review.

Our brother talks like a prophet. Until Western Crook county and Bend, Laidlaw and Madras grew strong enough to voice a protest, Prineville had things all her own way, but with the growth and development of Western Crook has also developed a desire to participate in the benefits of county government. And now, with the Prineville Review favoring the county division movement, we move to make it unanimous.

With unwonted enterprise the Crook County Journal last week "scooped" all of its competitors in the Crook county newspaper field, by naming the officers of the proposed new counties of Jefferson and Deschutes. With a certificate from the county official organ of Crook county those officials might begin right now to draw their salaries. Long familiarity with "ring politics" at Prineville has made the Journal an adept at fixing up a "slate", and so it tenders its services to the proposed new counties—although some people might think it was none of the Journal's business.

Hard pressed for an argument against the proposed county division in Western Crook, the Prineville Journal was forced to resort to personalities last week. The Journal simply had to say something, just as at other times in the recent past it had to say nothing, in order to earn that \$350 prize it draws down annually from the county court. It is a wise Journal which knows when to keep silent and when to "holler".

GRAIN NOT DAMAGED BY FREEZE

No bad effects resulted to the growing wheat in this section from the severe cold weather last week, and farmers say that fall-sown wheat is growing nicely. When the cold spell came the ground was covered with snow to a depth of from three to five inches, affording ample protection from the frost. This week the weather has been unusually fine, and the snow has been gradually melting and sinking into the ground. The outlook for a good big grain crop next harvest is better now than it has been at this season for several years past, although the area of fall sown grain is much smaller than it was last season.

TEMPERATURE AT WARMSRING

C. C. Covey, superintendent of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, was in town on Tuesday. He says that the thermometers at the weather station at the Agency showed 19 below zero to have been the coldest weather at that point during the recent spell. At the Agency the water pipes froze and the entire water service has since been out of commission. Mr. Covey says that the records of the Agency show that in the Winter of 1861-62 there was one spell of cold weather during which the mercury got down to 40 below zero, and when the ground was covered with snow to a depth of from four to eight feet at the Agency. That was the coldest Winter of which they have any record. Compared with it, the recent cold spell was a Summer zephyr.

OLD INDIANS DIE

Joe Lane and His Wife Die Within One Day of Each Other

Two deaths occurred on the Warm Springs reservation last week, old Joe Lane, a well known Indian, and his wife, having died within a day of each other. They had both been ill for some time with pneumonia. The wife died first, and while the Indians were burying her remains, the husband died at home where he had been left alone. After the burial of the wife several of the Indians went back to the house to look after Joe, and to attend to his horses and cattle, of which he had quite a number, and when they went into the house they found the old man lying on the floor dead. He had evidently arisen from his bed during their absence, and while trying to cross the floor had fallen. Joe Lane and his wife both had valuable allotments of land on the reservation, and in addition they owned quite a number of cattle and horses.

Most of the illness recently reported on the reservation was the result of exposure during the recent cold weather. Superintendent Covey says that there is very little sickness there now.

I. O. O. F. PLAN FOR FEBRUARY 2

The local lodge of Odd Fellows will be instituted at this place on the evening of February 2, and District Deputy Grand Master T. H. LaFollette and other members of the Prineville I. O. O. F. are expected to be present and assist in the exercises. Local members of the order are making arrangements to entertain the visitors from Prineville, and to make the birth of the order at this place a gala occasion. There are about 15 old members of I. O. O. F. already here, and about 8 new members will be initiated at their first meeting.

WILL USE DESCHUTES POWER

The Northwestern Gas and Electric Light company, a concern owned by Philadelphia capitalists, is said to be one of the power companies which expects to utilize the waters of the Deschutes river for power purposes. This company owns plants at Walla Walla, Spokane, Baker City, Pendleton, The Dalles and other points in Washington and Oregon, and it is claimed will generate power from Deschutes falls for plants in both Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington.

BUYS QUARTER SECTION

C. C. Covey of Warm Springs has purchased the Frank Heath place adjoining the John Wagelbiast homestead on Agency Plains, and consisting of a quarter section. Mr. Covey says that he has plenty of faith in this section of country and believes that within a few years it will be the equal of any section of Oregon as a grain district. He bought the Heath place as an investment.

USE OF COUNTY FUNDS

While the legislature is passing a law providing for the distribution of state funds among the banks of the state, it should also provide that county funds should be put at interest as well. The matter of placing county funds at interest is more important to the people and much more easily handled than the subject of state funds, because the funds of the county would always be within easy reach of the treasurer, no matter what bank secured them and the monthly balances would bring in an income sufficient to pay the salary of the treasurer. It would take the county funds and the treasurer's office out of politics, besides, for the bank bidding the highest rate would have use of the funds.—East Oregonian.

IRRIGATED LAND GOES UP

It is understood that the D. I. & P. company has been given power by the state land board to raise the price of their land, the augmented price being \$100 for a forty plus \$15 for each and every irrigable acre. This makes the price of a full forty, or one all of which is irrigable, \$200, an increase of \$110 over the old price. Some who wish to convert their holdings into cash are very much pleased over this, but some of us who are here to stay feel that our land is worth just what it will produce and that this move adds nothing whatever to our wealth. It may have a tendency to hasten the settlement of the segregation and if it does we feel that it is a good thing both for us and for those who are coming.—Redmond Correspondent in Bend Bulletin.

ANGLERS TO BE LICENSED

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature providing that every person over the age of 16 years must have a license before he shall be permitted to fish in the streams of this state, for which license an annual fee of \$1 must be paid. The funds thus secured are to be set apart in the state treasury for the purpose of defraying the expenses of maintaining the Game Fish Commission and constructing and operating game fish hatcheries.

The judiciary committee of the United States Senate has reported adversely upon the appointment of William C. Bristol as U. S. District Attorney for Oregon, and as a result his appointment will be turned down by the Senate. This occurred once before, and the President promptly re-appointed Mr. Bristol, whose ability as a lawyer and freedom from the "political taint" of the old Mitchell wing of the republican party in this state strongly recommended him for the place. Unfortunately for Mr. Bristol, however, the President and Senator Fulton do not appear to be able to agree upon the kind of a man Oregon needs in the District Attorney's office.

A joint memorial has been introduced in the Senate, asking Congress to compel the owners of the Oregon & California Railroad Company to sell its grant lands at the price stipulated in the grant. This grant covered every alternate section in a strip 20 miles wide and 362 miles long, and it was stipulated in the grant that this land should be sold to actual settlers at not to exceed \$2.50 per acre, at which price the railroad company has refused to sell it.

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Leave	2:15 p.m.	Biggs	11:30 a.m.
	2:35 p.m.	Gilbane	11:50 a.m.
	2:55 p.m.	Sinks	12:10 p.m.
	3:15 p.m.	Wasco	12:30 p.m.
	3:35 p.m.	Klamath	12:50 p.m.
	3:55 p.m.	Summit	1:10 p.m.
	4:15 p.m.	Hay C. J.	1:30 p.m.
	4:35 p.m.	McDonnell	1:50 p.m.
	4:55 p.m.	DeWitt	2:10 p.m.
	5:15 p.m.	Noto	2:30 p.m.
	5:35 p.m.	Erskineville	2:50 p.m.
	5:55 p.m.	Grass Valley	3:10 p.m.
	6:15 p.m.	Boyleton	3:30 p.m.
	6:35 p.m.	Kent	3:50 p.m.
	6:55 p.m.	Wilcox	4:10 p.m.
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