

Bandon Recorder

Published Every Thursday by the

Recorder Publishing Company.

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Subscription, \$1.50 per Year in Advance. Advertising Rates Made Known on Application. Job Printing a Specialty. Entered at the Bandon Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

THURSDAY.....August 11, 1910

Should be left to Legislature

There are no less than eight applications for the creation of new counties to be voted upon by the people of Oregon at this Fall's election. Though there may be one or more of these new county schemes possessing some degree of merit and are promoted by good faith, it would appear that in the main they are not entitled to the favorable consideration of the people at large, and as a matter of expediency and good public policy all of them should be defeated.

In the first place, the Herald believes that the creation of a new county is a matter devolving upon the Legislature and should not be submitted to a vote of the people at large, who cannot possibly have any intelligent idea of the demand for such proposed new counties, and are, therefore, in no sense competent to vote upon the measures. What does the average voter of the north-eastern part of the state know about the practicability or wisdom of the clamor of the southwestern portion of the state for the creation of a new county? Certainly, in the majority of cases, he would not be able to cast an intelligent vote on the proposition.

The submission to a vote of the people of the whole state of these various county division schemes, therefore, would seem highly impracticable, if not unwise. Moreover, the success of these various division schemes would establish a bad precedent, which might tend to retard the healthy growth and reasonable prosperity of many counties of the state.

There are doubtless counties in Oregon which should be divided into two separate county organizations, but these, the Herald believes, should be taken care of by the Legislature and not voted upon by the people of the state at large, who cannot possibly judge of the merits or wisdom of the proposed division of a remote section of the state, and in which the voters at large can have no reasonable interest.

Many of the county schemes up for consideration this Fall are without question ill-advised, and the Herald suggests a negative vote on all county measures as the most practical remedy for the present county division epidemic.—Albany Herald.

How to Beat the "Porkers"

Senator Burton, the recognized authority upon waterway transportation, who has made a life study, not alone of American, but also of European rivers and harbors, and who led the fight on the last "Pork-Barrel" appropriation, has offered two suggestions for the relief of the waterways from unfair railroad competition.

The first is that the Interstate Commerce Commission shall be given the power to fix minimum railroad rates where water competition exists, in the same manner as they now have the power to determine maximum rates. An analogous system prevails in France where the railroads are compelled to

charge 20 per cent more than boat lines for transporting freight between competing points. The American people are not prepared for such radical legislation as that which has maintained the prosperity of French waterways, but if this suggested power be conferred upon the Interstate Commerce Commission, it will at least prohibit the economic phenomenon of railroads carrying freight between given points at an absolute financial loss.

The second suggestion is that the railroads be forbidden to increase a rate when it has once been lowered, where the manifest purpose of the reduction was to destroy waterway competition. This is similar to the system practiced in England, where the railroads are not permitted to raise rates once lowered except on the approval of the board of trade. In Germany and Belgium, with the states owning the railroads and controlling the waterways, the railroads are not permitted to carry certain coarser classes of freight which lend themselves readily to transportation by boats.—World's Work.

Agricultural Development

Commercial bodies of this state are being invited by the Twice-a-Week Spokesman-Review, Spokane, to express an opinion on the most promising agricultural development in their own sections and the means used to further the advance. An interchange of ideas along these lines will be helpful. This paper has taken an active interest in the intensive development of the Northwest and is doing much to further it.

The agricultural interests of any community, where agriculture is possible, are the most sure of development of that section, because this is an industry that never wears out but instead is always on the increase.

Every man who is interested in the development of a country is interested in agriculture. Steps should be taken to build up this industry in Coos county in a more rapid degree than has been the case in the past. It has been demonstrated, beyond doubt, that there is no more fertile soil anywhere than here, and though there is a quite rapid development going on at the present time, yet there is always room for improvement.

Panama-Pacific Exposition

Up to August 1st, San Francisco has raised close to \$6,500,000 towards financing the proposed Panama-Pacific Exposition to be held for the celebration of the completion of the Panama Canal in 1915. It is going before Congress next December to ask for Government recognition, and confidently expects to get it. Meanwhile, the entire West is lining up in support of San Francisco, endorsing the big project. As between San Francisco and New Orleans, which also wants the Fair, Western men feel there can be no comparison. The building of the canal is essentially a Pacific Coast event, opening the Pacific to the commerce of the world, and that means surely that the celebration

should be held at the largest American port on the Pacific. Then, again, the summer climate of San Francisco is worth coming far to enjoy, while nothing can be said for New Orleans in this respect. Another big argument is, Eastern visitors can easily go through the canal on their way to San Francisco, returning home overland. Again, there are many things worth seeing in the West—the Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, the Yosemite, Shasta, and a vacation country generally. Still another strong argument that might appeal to Congress is the fact that San Francisco has, within a radius of 200 miles, fully 1,500,000 people, and it is that nearby population, according to previous records, that makes such affairs successful financially.

This Exposition is essentially a Western project and the directors of it are urging all friends of the movement to get busy with their congressmen. Not only should Western congressmen be seen and written to and pledged for the Exposition, but all Eastern residents who know Eastern or Middle West congressmen, or have friends in the East who have influence with any members of Congress, are expected to lose no time in securing desirable support in favor of San Francisco as the one place where it is fitting to hold this Canal-Celebration Exposition.

Oregon Fir

Leonard Bronson, manager of the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, with headquarters at Chicago is making a tour of the Pacific coast in the interest of the organization and the lumber industry. He believes that the opening of the Panama canal will be a great thing for Oregon fir, because it will open fields to the Oregon lumber manufacturer from which he is now excluded by the high transportation charges. Lumber manufactured in Oregon reaches the middle states only in such quantities as might be required for special purposes because competition with yellow pine from the south will not permit paying the high freight. But with the completion of the Panama canal it will be possible to ship lumber from Oregon points to New York or other Atlantic coast ports by water for about half the rate now charged by the railroads. Thus markets, 500 miles or more inland from the Atlantic coast may be reached on competitive terms.—Lakeport Banner.

May Get Redman Home.

Dr. J. D. Wetmore, who has just returned from Astoria where he attended the Great Council of Redmen, brings back a most favorable report on the matter of locating the home for aged and feeble Redmen at Myrtle Point, and it is evident that Myrtle Point has the best chance of securing the home providing the citizens give the proposition their support. On his return the doctor presented the matter to the city council, and while not all were present he feels assured that they will give the proposition their unqualified sanction and support. No big donations and bonuses have been asked, but the citizens are expected to give their hearty endorsement to the proposal. The Enterprise is crowded for space this week, but next week expects to present the situation in detail.—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

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Notice

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