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Tuesdays and Fridays.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1909.

BOOSTER VS. KNOCKERS.

The Eugene Register's editorial argument against the proposed creation of Nesmith county from south Lane and north Douglas territory, is the same old stereotyped argument put up by the county seat papers in the old counties of Oregon from which so many prosperous, thriving young counties have been carved in the past few years. Suppose Wasco county seat papers and citizens should have been successful in the strenuous fight put up by them against the creation of the four new counties which have been

carved from that immense territory? There would today be four less prosperous counties in Oregon and the Coyote, Jack rabbit and Sage hen would still be the sole inhabitants of a vast territory, which today blossoms as the rose, the direct result of concentrated effort and energy directed in a territory which formerly could receive but little attention from the old seat of government, which had such a vast territory to receive its attention. Take for example our large farms and donation land claims, which a few years ago supported a single pioneer family, but which through the agitation of the newspapers, among them the Eugene and Roseburg papers, have been in many instances cut up into 25, 50 and 100 acre tracts, many of which farms today not only support from five to a dozen families, but through special intensified farming is enabling these families to lay up bank accounts, and with little or no more effort than was put forth by the pioneer land owner who could cultivate and develop but little of his vast territory, but who was in most cases, just as reluctant to part with a single acre of his vast unimproved and unproductive territory as the old pioneer county seat towns and papers are in giving up any of their vast undeveloped territory. In both cases, the opposition to such advancement and development is inspired solely by selfish, nonprogressive motives, and while Eugene and Roseburg are boasting of their

public spirit, enterprise and down-to-date boosting proclivities, they are shamefully, unblushingly and most selfishly knocking one of the most progressive and enterprising movements which has ever been undertaken in Lane and Douglas counties: one which means more for the development of the Bohemia mines and the vast timber interests of this territory than all the promotion literature which could be distributed in ten years; a movement which would enhance property values throughout both counties and provide homes for scores of people as well as a rich field for investors. In opposing the creation of the new county of Nesmith, the Commercial Clubs of Eugene and Roseburg render themselves unworthy the name and the principles which they are supposed to represent, and brands their many so-called boosters, in reality "knockers" of the latest and most improved type. The spectacle is enough to bring a blush of shame to the cheek of every true advocate and booster for a greater Oregon. How can our state progress and develop if every great move to create a larger representation in her legislature, the development of her mines and other natural resources, creation of new counties, building up of new towns and other great progressive movements are to be opposed by a coterie of selfish, wealth-absorbing county seat political ringsters, organized under the fictitious and cunningly devised name of "boosters?" This is plain talk, but it is the kind the Leader deals in and proposes to employ in showing up the selfish motives back of the unreasonable and non-progressive county seat opposition to our most fair, worthy and progressive movement for the creation of the county of Nesmith. More anon.

DRAIN'S ATTEMPTED LAND GRAB.

The Drain people, in running out the boundary lines for their proposed new county add that "they are established on more consistent lines than the new Nesmith county boundary." Consistent, indeed. Shades of Ananias! The Drain scheme is to take in the

Divide country, Latham, Coast Fork valley, Upper Mosby creek and Sharp's creek in south Lane county, in fact their north boundary line comes within one mile of Cottage Grove and the Calapooia chain of mountains runs between this territory and Drain, the proposed county seat, and every man, woman and child in this territory would be compelled to come to Cottage Grove to take passage on a train to Drain 20 miles south. Of all the inconsistent, impractical, idiotic attempted land grabs, this Drain scheme takes the permission. In fact the whole plan is so glaringly inconsistent as to brand the action of the Drain people as insincere, hopeless and only concocted for the sole purpose and hope of defeating the only original and practical county division plan which was originated by south Lane and north Douglas people twenty years ago and is just now becoming developed, in the movement for the creation of Nesmith county.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

This time Drain has been seized with an epidemic of county division—we wish to say for the benefit of the citizens of that thriving little village that we would rather see them accomplish their purpose than to witness the materialization of the present "Cottage Grove" scheme.—Roseburg News.

The above is conclusive proof that the Roseburg opposition to the formation of Nesmith county from a small strip of Douglas and the southern portion of Lane, is actuated solely by inconsistent selfish motives and not from the probable loss of small undeveloped territory nor a small amount of assessable property, or those papers would even more strenuously oppose the Drain scheme, the purpose of which is to grab fully one-fourth of Douglas county territory and over \$8,000,000 in assessable property. Boiled down, the writer of the above excerpt is actuated by mercenary, selfish, prejudiced and unfair motives in his stand against the Nesmith county movement. The above declaration adds insult to injury and is the outcropping of pure cussedness.

The Eugene Register has just discovered that Cottage Grove is in real earnest regarding the creation of the new county of Nesmith, and in discussing the proposition Wednesday concluded as follows: "It should be borne in mind, however, that Cottage Grove is in earnest in its effort to secure a new county and that, in all probability, if turned down by the legislature will try the initiative and if they invoke the initiative are very likely to succeed for the people are so wedded to this new vehicle of legislative power that they uses it indiscriminately without regard to merit of the measure up for consideration."

That was a very curt, pointed retort the Eugene Commercial Club received from H. O. Thompson, president of the Cottage Grove club, while he was in the act of removing the large relief map of Nesmith county from the Eugene club room walls, after the conference Monday evening. "Leave that map on the wall here for our inspection," exclaimed a county seat man. "Gentlemen," replied Mr. Thompson, "the next time you see the map of Nesmith county it will be in the new Rand, McNally Oregon edition or in your children's school books."

When Hon. R. M. Veatch arose to address the Eugene Commercial Club on county division, he was urged to "come to the platform." "Oh, I can come as near getting some facts in the backs of your heads as I can in the forefront of them, anyway," he replied. He says at first he was sorry he was so pertinent, but after the club went on record, he was glad of it.

In his message to the legislature Governor Chamberlain recommended that the people's choice for United States senator be ratified.

The caucuses held Monday at the capitol were the first ever held in this state to which the news paper men were admitted.

It was Dr. Paine who gave the Cottage Grove people a pain at the Eugene county division conference.

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