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# Cottage Grove Leader

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## COUNTY DIVISION MEASURE

### If Passed Would Put An End to County Division in Oregon

(Portland Journal)  
Salem, Jan. 23.—Very soon will be introduced the general county division bill that has been in preparation for several days by Senators Frank J. Miller of Lane and Linn and C. J. Smith of Umatilla. It will have a tendency to discourage the formation of new counties, and will make county division a local question, without making it possible to carry such questions before a legislature or before the people by initiative. County division fights are reputed to be among the most acrimonious subjects that take up the time of legislators. The clash in the effort to create Nesmith county from Lane and Douglas has already generated much heat. It is being hinted that some ambitious job hunters are behind the movement. Lane and Douglas representatives alike declare that it would be the height of injustice to slice up their counties for the sake of a new one, while admitting that at some time in the future it may be advisable to cut up their counties. When the coast section of the two counties becomes populous enough, it has been suggested no serious objection will be made to a new government there, but the appropriation of a part of the Willamette valley section is resisted.

#### PROVISIONS OF NEW BILL

The constitution provides that new counties must have at least 1200 population and not less than 400 square miles of territory. In addition to this, the new bill provides that at least 75 per cent of the new county shall be outside of forest reserves, and that it shall have taxable property of \$2,500,000.

It provides that 50 per cent of the people of any proposed new county shall petition the county court of the existing county or counties from which the territory is to be taken. When it is determined that 50 per cent have signed, the county court of each county affected must call an election. At the election 75 per cent of the people remaining in the old county or counties must vote in favor of division. If they do so vote, that ends the matter, except as to the adjustment of financial obligations and other questions incident to separation, the basis

(CONCLUDED ON LAST PAGE)

## WHY NESMITH COUNTY SHOULD BE CREATED BY THE LEGISLATURE

Monday morning the Oregon senators and representatives found the following circular on their desks in both the house and senate: To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

Why should the proposed new county of Nesmith be created? Because it contains an area of 1956 square miles; has a population of 7964 people; an assessed valuation of \$4,915,933; has 1091 school children; has an assessed valuation of \$617.26 per capita.

Because a levy of 15 mills (the levy in Lane County for 1909) will raise the sum of \$72,738.99 in taxes.

Because the County Seats of Lane and Douglas counties out of which it is proposed to create said county are situated 75 miles apart and cannot and do not serve the needs and demands of the people residing within the territory of the proposed county.

Because the people within said territory pay vast sums in taxes into the treasuries of said counties of Lane and Douglas and get no corresponding returns in public improvements.

Because the present Lane and Douglas division line divides the Bohemia mining district and vast timber holdings east of Cottage Grove, causing much inconvenience, trouble and extra expense in their development.

Because if said new county is created, there will remain in Lane county taxable property of the assessed value of more than \$15,000,000 and a population of more than 20,000 and a larger portion in Douglas county.

Because the situation and topography of the country are such that the population of the new county as well as the old counties is left in a more concentrated and compact condition.

Because of the fact that being more concentrated, the affairs of the several counties can be more economically administered than in their present condition.

Because it has been the history of all the new counties in the state that when they had been created the country upon the whole has improved more rapidly and made more progress than before.

Because the people of said proposed new county are taxed with-

out representation, not having a representative or county officer residing in or elected from said territory.

#### HISTORY AND CREATION OF NEW COUNTIES.

There is always a struggle over the creation of a new county, and yet county divisions have always proven beneficial to the whole state. Two times Hood River county came knocking at the doors of the Legislature, and at last was admitted by the almost unanimous vote of the people. The creation of that county was opposed by the politicians of the counties out of which it was created. But the fair sister sitting under the snow-capped dome of Mt. Hood, with her lap full of red apples and her brow wreathed with the blooms of the strawberries, owes her creation to the people, and not to the legislature. This Legislature has an opportunity to do an act of justice, and honor the name of the man who was a friend and confidential adviser of the great Lincoln, whose memory we are to honor on February 12, by creating the county of Nesmith.

Shall we be compelled to come knocking at your doors in 1911 and 1913, or will you help promote the logical development of Oregon by giving us a charter in 1909? Within the borders of the proposed county of Nesmith we have not only great productive resources of mineral, agricultural and horticultural wealth, we have a public-spirited and hospitable people, but we have many of the hardy pioneers yet living in green old age, under the finest climate in the world, who expelled murderous tribes of Indians, and who helped save Oregon to the Nation.

We do not come asking political favors, but speedily justice at your hands, that we, as a self-sustaining community, may be permitted to work out our own salvation.

The County Seat political rings can no more put up a feasible and practical argument against the division of Oregon's mammoth counties than they can against the dividing up of Oregon's great donation land claims and large farm holdings. The division of both means a greater Oregon.

## THE JOHNSON GOOD ROADS BILL IN BRIEF

### Synopsis of a Very Important and Meritorious Measure

1—Appointment, by the Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer, of a State Highway Commission, consisting of three members, one of whom shall be appointed from the state at large, who shall be a civil engineer and a practical road builder and shall be chairman of the Commission; the other two shall be appointed one each from the two Congressional Districts.

2—The resident owners of real estate within two miles on each side of a road and within one mile from the end of it may petition the county court for its improvement. That court shall then look into the matter and if in its opinion such road is one of general travel, one of the main highways of the county, it shall recommend the matter to the State Highway Commission. If this Commission agrees that this road should be built it so directs and then the expense of said improvement is ascertained, and if satisfactory to the property owners in said district and the county court the road is then constructed, either by contract, or if satisfactory contracts cannot be made, then by direct employment. The work of construction

#### COUNTY SEAT TOWNS

are always against county division.—Portland Daily Journal.

ion is done under direction of the county court with supervisory control by the State Road Engineer and according to plans and specifications prepared by him.

3—Three-eighths of the expense is to be paid by the state, three-eighths by the county, and two-eighths by the owners of property within the district petitioning for the road. In the first instance the county pays both the three-eighths to be paid by it and also the two-eighths to be paid by the property owners and then the property owners pay their part to the county in six equal annual payments, with interest thereon at six per cent per annum, but all or any of these payments may be made at any time before they become due.

4—After it has been determined by the county court and the State Highway Commission that the road is a main highway and the contract has been let for building the same, appraisers appointed by the county court shall proceed to determine how one-fourth of the cost of said improvement shall be apportioned among the property owners of the district, taking into consideration the benefits accruing to each tract, and if no remonstrance is made to said apportionment by the interested property owners the county court shall approve the report and findings of the appraisers and the costs shall be apportioned in accordance therewith.

5—The county court upon a proper showing that, by reason of rivers, streams, canyons, proximity to other improved roads or any other good and reasonable cause it would be unjust and inequitable to maintain the two mile limit for a road district may diminish the size of same; also upon a showing that it would be best to increase the size of district it may add to the two mile limit.

6—The county court may, if it so desires, without any petition, select a definite part of any principal road or main highway for improvement and present the matter

## SOME PERTINENT COMMENT ON CREATION OF NESMITH COUNTY

There's no use in denying the fact that Cottage Grove can put up some pretty good arguments for a new county.—Junction City Times.

Queer how much attention the county seat papers and county seat political rings give Nesmith county, which they assert is a forlorn hope.

If the Roseburg and Eugene political ringsters could have their way, any means of creating new counties would be quickly abolished.

The new bill providing for county division is lame in more respects than one. It should fail, get lost, be indefinitely postponed, yea, killed.

The advantage of the new county of Nesmith would be to unite the Bohemia mining district and the logging and lumber interests in the same section.—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

Vote for the creation of Nesmith county, ye Oregon solons, and thereby perpetuate the almost forgotten name of one of pioneer Oregon's grand old soldier-statesmen, few of whom were more deserving of such substantial recognition.

The bill providing for the creation of new counties falls short of its object and should be promptly defeated. There would not be a new county created in Oregon in a hundred years by its requirements. Better let well enough alone, gentlemen.

to the Highway Commission and the improvement may be made the same as if it had been petitioned for as mentioned in subdivision two above, and in that case the county shall pay five-eighths and the state three-eighths of the expense.

7—When it is shown that the benefit or said improvement to the adjacent property does not warrant the payment of one-fourth of the costs of same, but it does appear that said improvement is of great benefit to the county at large, the county court may, in its discretion, proceed with said improvement, paying in addition to its three-eighths of costs the whole or any part of the one-fourth of said costs required to be paid by property owners of road district.

8—The amount to be expended by the state in any one year is limited to one-half of one mill upon the assessed value of the property of the state.

9—Applications for improvement of roads under this law shall be taken up by the Highway Commission in the order in which they are made, but no county shall be entitled to receive more than twenty thousand dollars from the state in any one year until every other county shall have had a fair opportunity to make application for and receive its portion of said state aid.

This is, of course, but a brief summary of the main features of this bill, but it contains all the essential elements and shows the scope and purpose of the measure. It is to be noted that the county court shall determine what road shall be improved. The Highway Commission cannot designate the road, though it may, for good and sufficient reasons, refuse to sanction the improvement asked for. The bill provides that it is the intention that roads leading to the principal market places in the county shall first be improved and leaves the selection of the particular roads to the county court.

An act to provide for working purposes serving sentences in county, city and town jails, is also included as well as an act to provide for working inmates of the penitentiary in the preparation of material for road construction in

We have the Eugene and Roseburg county seat ringsters greatly agitated for Nesmith county is beginning to loom up before them like old Mt. Hood.

The fame of the Hood river section has become so well and favorably known throughout the state for its lustrous qualities and fine fruit that so MODEST A REQUEST as to be formed into a new county of its own will readily be acquiesced in by the people generally.—EUGENE REGISTER, May 25, 1908.

Now that the unconstitutionality of the creation of Nesmith county by the legislature has been knocked into cocked hat by Attorney-General Crawford, what will be the next silly move on the part of the Eugene Knockers club. These old selfish county seat ringsters and bosses do die hard.

The Leader has just been informed by a prominent Douglas county citizen that Roseburg as a whole as well as Douglas county, is caring little about the outcome of the Nesmith county movement. He says the loss of the wild undeveloped territory required of Douglas in the creation of Nesmith county, is looked upon as good and timely riddance of territory that may become expensive to the county in the future, by the rank and file of Douglas county people. He says, "I care little how soon Nesmith county becomes a reality."

the various counties.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Each county in this state is hereby authorized and empowered to issue bonds to the amount of not exceeding one per cent of the assessed valuation of its property, but in no case to exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, to raise money to be used for the construction of permanent county roads within such county and for no other purpose.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON COUNTY DIVISION

In an opinion handed down by Attorney-General Crawford Wednesday relative to the county division at the hands of the legislature, he holds that a county is not strictly a municipality, and therefore is subject to change by vote of the legislature. This opinion has been forwarded to the Cottage Grove Commercial Club who are backing the movement to create "Nesmith" county.—Guard.

## CO. E ANNUAL INSPECTION

### A Large Attendance and a Splendid Showing Was Made.

The annual inspection of Co. E Fourth Regiment, O. N. G., took place last night before one of the largest crowds ever seen in the armory. The galleries and stage was packed and every bit of the available seating space was occupied. A great many stood up to see the ceremonies of inspection.

Major McGlachlin of the regular army, acted as inspecting officer in place of Inspector General Jackson, of the O. N. G., who has conducted the annual inspections heretofore. He was assisted by Col. G. O. Voran and Capt. B. K. Lawson. The company was put through several evolutions and every movement seemed to be carried out almost perfectly. The arms and accoutrements of the members of the company were found to be in excellent shape. There was an attendance of 69 out of 73 men, two of whom were absent on furlough, there being 69 enlisted men and officers who answered to their names at roll call. This record has been maintained by Co. E and each member makes it a point to be in the city no matter how far away he is, at the time of annual inspection.

Credit for the splendid showing made by the company last night is due to Captain J. C. Johnson and his two lieutenants, H. K. Metcalf and H. H. Petrie as well as to the individual effort of the enlisted men themselves.

It was shown that Company E has qualified 14 expert riflemen, 6 sharpshooters, 40 marksmen, all of whom were presented with the regulation medals by Col. Voran of Eugene, who in a neat speech complimented the company and its officers.

## SPLENDID MUSICAL RECITAL NEXT WEEK

Those of our people who enjoy good music will be pleased to learn that the Chorus Club of Royal Academy of Silk creek, will give another of their splendid musical recitals in the armory hall at this place Wednesday evening, Feb. 3rd. Those who heard this club in its first recital here last fall will want to hear them again, and those who did not hear them should avail themselves of this opportunity. It is a home talent entertainment worthy of the patronage and assistance of all. Silk creek valley is generous in its attendance at Cottage Grove events of importance. Let us return the compliment at this time.

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## WILL SOON OPEN PAINT STORE IN THIS CITY

D. H. Weyant, president and manager of the Oregon Sienna Paint Co., with headquarters and factory at Salem and which uses the material from the Simmons paint mine, Lane county, with which to manufacture its paint, was in the city Saturday arranging to open a branch store in Eugene. The store will be opened just as soon as a suitable building can be secured and a complete line of goods will be carried. Another branch will be established at Cottage Grove, says the Eugene Guard.

Mr. Weyant has charge of the forestry exhibit at the Seattle exposition. This was his last trip to the upper valley as all of his time from now until after the exposition closes will be taken up with his duties there. He says the Booth-Reilly Lumber Company of this city has already sent a splendid exhibit to the exposition. It consists of all kinds of finishing material gotten up in excellent shape.

## BILLIE PERMAN LOSES PIANIST AND SINGER

Myron C. Wickham or "Wick" as he was familiarly known, whose fine baritone voice has entertained the patrons of the Crescent theatre, in Roseburg, since its opening last July, and Miss Hazel Patterson, daughter of Contractor F. F. Patterson, his accompanist on the piano for the past two months, left together last Saturday morning for Redding, Calif.

Wm. Perman discovered that Wickham had appropriated the box office receipts of the last four days that he was in charge of the theatre. While Mr. Perman cannot state the exact amount of the money taken, he estimates it at between \$70 and \$80.

## Clothing Sale

Men's Fine Suits and Overcoats

Ladies' Furs and Shoes

### AT COST

W. H. ABRAMS, Assignee.