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Bert H. Finch

Estacada, - Oregon

Hardware

Implements

Harness

Antagonism Growing

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its municipal cognomen. At the recent State Fair and Land Products Show, its circulation, owing to that name and its inconvenient form was a serious matter.

The maintaining of a commercial organization in this part of the county is a difficult matter, for Estacada alone is a small city and a successful organization must have a large rural membership, which is more or less impossible, owing to distances and the long hours that a farmer has to work.

The editorial says: "The interests of eastern and western Clackamas County are the same, etc." It is correct, and if careful inquiry is made in the sections mentioned, it will be found that there is much dissatisfaction against the domination of Oregon City in those places too.

The main bone of contention is not jealousy or the strivings of a few men to make Estacada a county seat, but to get a square deal, with a fair return expended in this section, in proportion to the large taxes paid, by the land owners and the corporations.

County seat domination always causes dissatisfaction, where the smaller, growing towns are made to suffer.

Clackamas County is an agricultural county and even the Live Wires advertise it as such, but its county seat is purely a manufacturing city. The thousands of workers in the monstrous paper and woolen mills at Oregon City, who,

as a rule, are not land or property owners, and accordingly not tax payers, are legally allowed to vote and by their numbers alone, can overbalance the voting power of the rural tax payer, and the rural tax payer pays the bill, whether for or against his interests.

An agricultural county should be governed by men whose interests are closely allied to agriculture and its county seat should be a conveniently located town, in the midst of the community.

There is no need at this time to discuss the material advantages that would accrue to eastern Clackamas if a county was formed, for these advantages are many fold, the main ones being cheaper administration and tax collected at home, spent at home. The deputy clerk hire which is necessary for eastern Clackamas, in the office of nearly every county official, is more than sufficient to maintain an officer here.

As an illustration of county seat domination, consider the recently defeated road bonding measure for Clackamas County: \$600,000.00 was to be expended for roads and the specifications called for 90% of those roads to radiate from Oregon City, or for connecting branches. No money was to be spent nearer to Estacada than several miles and mighty little was specified for east-Clackamas. The measure as presented was an insult to this community and to other outlying parts of the county.

The Enterprise does not state who shall be the judge, as to when

county division should be allowed, but it is likely that the Live Wires would be willing to act in that judicial capacity. Local men can easily recall similar promises made by that organization, during the Cascade County fight of a few years past. The club's hospitality could not be improved upon, but we waited in vain for a square deal and a report from their organization as to the promised assurance that they would investigate our cause and if right, consider it favorably.

As in the days of '76 "Taxation without proper Representation" is at the bottom of the dissatisfaction. May the Live Wires continue to flourish and prosper, for they are accomplishing for their ends, what a similar organization should be obtaining for this part of the county.

S. H. Gruber of Portland has returned to his Garfield ranch, where he is giving his attention to his orchards.

A number of the friends and parents attended the Viola school Washington's Birthday exercises given by Miss Woodle's pupils.

Mr. and Mrs. Bagnell of Portland and Miss Roberts of Gresham, gave exhibitions of the Maxixe and Hesitation waltzes at the recent Eagle Creek dance.

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