

THE BEND BULLETIN.

VOL. IV

BEND, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1907.

NO. 45

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Several new subscribers put on this week. Your turn next.

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J. H. HANER,
ABSTRACTER OF TITLES
NOTARY PUBLIC

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Your Choice Now for \$1.00
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REDMOND, OREGON
My fowls took seven firsts and three seconds at the fair

THE REASONS WHY

A Sufficient Statement for County Division.

BELL'S ARGUMENTS REFUTED

Quotations from Tax Roll that Show No Small Graft in Favor of the County Seat Taxpayers.

In some three or four columns of "flapdoodle" the Crook County Journal of last week set up a howl about the proposed creation of a new county from parts of Crook, Lake and Klamath. It was about as profound as one would expect from a base ball "rooter". It is the world-old style of "goble" used by those who have no argument that will appeal to a reasonable mind, viz: that it is all done by one man for his own selfish interest. Such an accusation can be made by anyone even in the total absence of evidence but it is used almost exclusively by the shallow-minded. It deserves no answer.

All will be anxious to learn the facts impelling the west side to this separation. We shall state a few collected from the tax-roll in the office of the county clerk. If you should take the second volume of the tax list including all names from M to Z you would find that no person whose address is now Prineville is assessed over \$750 on a timber claim; and that no person whose address is Bend is assessed less than \$1000 on one or \$1750 on two. When called upon to explain this at Powell Buttes Monday night Judge Bell gave the specious reason that claims "in the Cascades" are selling for \$2000 to \$2500 while those in the Blue mountains are difficult to sell at \$1000. Even as late as May a man in Bend sold a claim for \$1,200 and this was the first sale reported even at that price. Now, at what rate should property valuation be fixed. Listen to the statutes (B & C Code Sec. 3057.)

After qualifying and "forthwith" assessing all property in the county the assessor "shall return to the county clerk on or before the first Monday in September next following the assessment roll with a full and complete assessment of such taxable property entered thereon including a full and precise description of the lands or lots owned by each person therein named on March 1, at the hour of 1 o'clock a. m. * * * and every person shall be assessed in the county where he resides on the first day of March."

Now have the board of equalization any right to place upon property the valuation it possesses in September when the law sets the time at March 1. For instance, a man at Howard, visited by the assessor and swearing in his property in March, has a mine that is worth virtually nothing, but before September he makes a "strike" that yields phenomenal profits. Would the board tax the value in September? Suppose a mill company, visited by the assessor and swearing their property in March, have 4,000,000 feet of lumber worth \$10 per thousand at retail. Before September, as occurred on the Pacific coast last year, lumber rises \$5.00 or more. Would the board assess the company for \$2000 additional? Or suppose the lumber should burn, there being no insurance. Would the board strike the name of the mill company from the tax roll? Of course not. The question is self evident. Judge Bell's reason is only a flimsy excuse. The discrimination is a graft, pure and simple, and no one knows it better than the judge.

Judge Bell also gave the different items of expenditure from the general fund for 1907. Among them was "Salary of Water Master \$4000." This office is provided for in a bill drafted by the Chamber of Commerce committee in Portland and not yet introduced in the

The tax roll shows that Prineville merchants are taxed at from 17 per cent to 27 per cent of their stocks. Merchants outside of Prineville are taxed on from 50 to 85 per cent of their stocks. Mr. Lafollette says that perhaps it is "because the outside merchants are more honest." Guff!

legislature. Suppose a few more such bills were drafted and fail to pass. It would be easy to build court houses with the surplus in the general fund.

The judge showed that after all such legitimate "expenses" were paid there would be only \$5,000 left in the county general fund. This was to prove that heavy valuation on the west side is not a court house graft. Then some impudent citizen asked how they could pay for a court house foundation costing \$18,000. The judge replied that he knew "but he didn't have to tell." Keep your weather eye on that \$4,000.

The judge further had the copper plated gall to boast that Prineville had always assisted development in the west end; that they even sent a delegation to the Portland Irrigation Congress when the first segregation near Bend was applied for. The fact is that they fought the segregation claiming it to be timber land on account of the juniper, and their leading spokesman at the congress in Portland, J. N. Williamson, denounced it as a landgrabbing scheme. And behold the county general fund suffered to the extent of \$200. County records show it was to pay the expenses of the delegation mentioned above. The records also show that the same fund shrunk \$200 to pay the lobby against the Stockman county bill. Judge Bell admitted this at the Sisters Wednesday night but said if anybody "kicked" he would "pay it back." What a prodigy of public honor. Now some one burglarize the judge's house and if you get caught "give it back." If Deschutes county fails, wonder how much the lobby bill will be this time.

There is one question, however, which the county court does not explain and even the judge with his oily logic shies entirely around it. A clear majority of the electorate of Crook county last June requested that no court house be built. The court proposes to build it anyhow. Why? To benefit Prineville. They say, with the blindest innocence that when the county is divided we will get our share of the appraised value. In view of the rankly unfair assessment, it would be a case of Prineville putting in two bits, and Western Crook putting in four bits, and then dividing the pot. And does

It would probably be well worth while for that part of Crook which is left after the creation of Deschutes county to upset this grossly unequal tax roll. It will be an easy matter, and a salutary lesson to the Prineville grafters.

anyone for a moment suppose that the building five years from now will be appraised at its original cost?

The I-own-the-earth-you-keep-off-the-grass swagger and the John L. Sullivan sneer of Prineville is gone. The Journal pathetically wails that they "are up against the real article this time" and old Crook hath nowhere to hang her hat. Of course its bad but you can't repeal human nature by an act of county court. Men are prone to suffer as long as evils are sufferable, but a persistent policy of corruption and equivocation will make the most patient secede.

Prineville is just hanging onto the band wagon with her toe-nails, and she doesn't look well after her record of insolence for years. In the past she has been as bashful as the sailor was with his landlady:

"Jack," said my lady, "is it grog you'll try.
Or punch or toddy, if perhaps you're dry?"
"Oh," said the sailor "though I can't refuse,
You see, my lady 'taint for me to choose.
I'll take the grog to finish off my lunch.
And drink the toddy while you mix the punch."
—A VOTER.

Everybody reads The Bulletin.

ANOTHER HILL RUMOR

Will Build from the Coast over Cascade Range.

CONFIRMS DESCHUTES LINE

Recent Transactions in Railroad Circles Indicate that Hill Will Tap Oregon with Many Roads.

Announcement has been made in Portland that the Northern Pacific has purchased the Astoria & Columbia River railroad. It is now said that it is a part of a Hill plan to build down the west coast of Oregon from Astoria, across the Cascade range and connect with a line to be built up the Deschutes river, the line across the Cascades to be pushed across the state to the eastern boundary.

Such a report as the above is of interest to the people of the upper Deschutes valley, as it confirms the belief that it is Hill's intention to build up the Deschutes river. It has long been surmised, on pretty good grounds, that the Oregon Trunk Line was backed by Hill and this report from Portland only confirms the belief. Work on the Oregon Trunk Line up the Deschutes canon is now suspended, due to the action of the reclamation service, but it is also generally believed that right of way through the canon will ultimately be granted the Trunk Line.

The Portland Journal, in reporting the sale of the Astoria & Columbia River road to the Northern Pacific, says:

"Surveyors have been in the field for some time between Seaside, the coast terminus, and Tillamook. They have been working ostensibly under orders from the Hammond management, but it is now believed that these operations are but a part of the Hill scheme of invasion of Harriman territory. This explains the warmth of the contest that has been on between the Astoria & Columbia River and the Pacific Railroad & Navigation company agents for rights of way between Seaside and Tillamook."

"It is reported that the Oregon Coast & Eastern, promoted by Baker & Crabtree of St. Louis, is a part of a great scheme of Hill to rib-Oregon from north to south and from east to west, in conjunction with the proposed line from the mouth of the Deschutes river to central Oregon. If such a plan is worked out, the Hill companies will have a system paralleling the coast and crossing the state from the mouth of the Siuslaw, via Eugene, to central Oregon, and there connecting with the Deschutes river line, completely hemming in the most productive portions of the state."

MONEY SPENT ON ROADS.

Prineville Pays No Road Tax Yet Gobbles Greater Part of Fund.

A careful canvass of the records discloses the fact that the amount expended in 1905 on roads in the area proposed to be included in Deschutes county was \$405.20, and that in 1906 it was \$296.50. The county judge has stated that the amount expended in this area for road purposes last year was between \$6,000 and \$8,000. The astonishing difference between the judge's statement and the facts which the county records disclose can only be explained upon the theory that the county has two sets of books—one of which is not open to the inspection of the general public. Perhaps Judge Bell, by reference to these private accounts, can explain why \$16.00 worth of beer furnished to a crew working on the Prineville-Shaniko road last year is charged up to the county as "incidental expense."

As a matter of fact, anyone conversant with Crook county conditions knows that practically all of the road expenditure for 1906 (the voucher to the road master calls for \$5,400) has been made on the highway between Prineville and Hay Creek, a road which Western Crook never uses. That is to say, the area proposed to be included in Deschutes county pays over one-half the total county road tax, Prineville pays not a penny of it and then she bogs the fund for her own particular roads. No wonder this division will be like "cutting off both a man's legs," as a Prineville man remarked.

When property in Prineville is assessed at from one-sixth to one-third its value, while that on the west side is assessed at from one-half to one and one-half, and when in addition to this Prineville people pay no road tax (though its roads and bridges cost the county a pretty figure annually) Prineville can certainly afford to subscribe \$6,000 toward building Judge Bell's Prineville court house—and she will be ahead of the game then.

A comparative statement of the levy paid by Prineville and by the balance of Crook county for the past three years follows:

	1904	1905	1906
Prineville.....	18 1/2	18 1/2	13 1/2
Crook county.....	27	21	15

That is to say Prineville in three years has been exempted 7 mills, or one half of the present total county taxes! The rest of Crook county is going to find out why.

JUDGE BELL ADMITS GRAFT

Says Money Was Paid from County Funds to Defeat Stockman County Division.

While numerous glaring inequalities in the county assessments have been brought to light during the different county division meetings, a more sensational matter was brought to light at Sisters. At this meeting L. D. Wiest stated that inasmuch as Judge Bell, in his speech at Powell Buttes, had accused the division movement of charging graft in county matters and as the judge was now present to defend the court, he (Mr. Wiest) would now charge the court of graft in their official capacity. Turning to Judge Bell he said "Is it not a fact that the county court allowed a bill for lobbying at the state legislature to defeat the Stockman county movement two years ago?" The judge replied "It is." "Under what statute of the laws of Oregon was this allowed?" This the judge refused to answer, whereupon Mr. Wiest not only claimed that there was no authority by law but that the payment was graft. In his address Judge Bell made the startling admission that the bill was allowed on account of an appeal by some of the citizens of the county to send a delegation; that he was one of the recipients of this money and that if the act was wrong he was willing to return his share of the county funds.

ON HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS.

Remarks Made by Citizens Regarding County Division.

"Then again you must provide for highways and bridges and a thousand and one other things never dreamed of at the time of creating a county."—Crook County Journal.

Which is better? To pay for highways and bridges and not get them, or have county division, pay less taxes, and have necessary bridges and roads built. If county division will give us highways and bridges then let us have that division. Now the taxpayer pays his good money into the maw at Prineville and no roads are built except those that benefit directly the county seat.

"It is true that timber interests on the

All of Crook county except Prineville pays road taxes. Prineville, on whose roads and bridges 90 per cent of the county road funds are annually expended, pays none.

Crook County wants to know why.

west side are largely owned by outside capital and can be milked to the limit."—Crook County Journal.

What! Does the Journal admit it? It has long been stated that the "ring" deemed it proper and just to "milk" the timber interests on the west side. They now practically admit it. It is worthy of note, in this connection, that practically all the timber interests on the west side favor the division.

"Prineville had a close call in the new county deal. We came within an ace of being annexed to Bend."—Journal.

Nay, Nay, Brother! We are not asking for what we do not want.

"Wouldn't that jar you? Two new counties out of old Crook. If you don't watch out there will not be a knob big enough to hang your hat on."—Journal.

That new \$43,000 court house if it is well propped might make a knob large enough for the judge to hang his hat on.

Reciprocal Demurrage.

More miles of railroad have been built in Texas in 1906 than in any other state in the union. Texas has a reciprocal demurrage law. Evidently the passage of reasonable demurrage laws does not prevent railroads from extending their operations wherever the business justifies expansion.