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**INNUMERABLE BILLS  
CONFUSE THE VOYER**

Numerous Division Measures  
Would Change State Map  
Beyond Recognition.

"Business men of Oregon will do well to take note of the innumerable county division bills for the consideration of the people next fall. Already so many division measures have been filed with the secretary of state that if half of them are adopted the map of Oregon will be so changed that it will not be recognized even by a native son," declares the Pendleton East Oregonian in its issue of July 25.

"Furthermore the indiscriminate creation of new counties cannot fail to increase taxation. This state cannot create ten new counties and provide for ten additional sets of county officers and hope to get along with present levies. The divisionists make assertions to the contrary. But that is 'campaign' talk. That same argument was advanced in favor of the creation of Hood River county. Yet E. A. Schiffler, a Pendleton tailor who owns property in Hood River, found his taxes increased 61.4 per cent the first year of the new county's existence. It is the history of every new county that division brings on increased taxation. This is only natural.

"Another feature of these division fights is the fact that division measures are sprung when the people residing in the proposed new counties do not want division at all. Take for instance the Orchard county scheme. Manifestly the people residing in the greater portion of that proposed county do not want division. Two of the four towns included in Orchard county are hotly opposed to the division. They are Weston and Athena. They have good reason for being opposed. Division will mean increased taxation and that business now held by Athena and Weston will be diverted to Walla Walla. Milton people imagine they will get that business. But they won't. Milton is practically a suburb of Walla Walla and such it will always remain. If Orchard county carries, that business will be lost to this state.

"The Orchard county measure was drafted in secret by a little clique of Milton business men. It is purely a selfish measure. Representative men living right in Milton and in Freewater are opposed to the proposition. In communications to this paper they have so declared themselves. Even the newspapers of Milton and Freewater have failed to take up with the proposition. Neither the Freewater Times or the Milton Eagle advocates the division measure editorially and this fact has caused much comment. The Weston Leader and the Athena Press have declared themselves as utterly opposed to division.

**LET POPULATION INCREASE.**  
Counties Where Division Agitated too Sparsely Settled.

The Prineville Review sizes up the situation wisely when it says that the population in most of the counties where county division is being agitated is too small and scattering. Many of the districts are too sparsely settled to permit the scheme. Residents and property owners would be taxed so high that it would mean ruin to a large number. Wait until the counties have more people and the list of taxables warrant county division. advises the Review as follows:

"It would be unwise to make any sort of division of Crook County just now. It is too thinly settled yet. In due course of time, when the parent county shall have attained 25,000 or 30,000 and the list of taxables warrants it, division will be sure to come; it is inevitable. But it is not business sanity to divide a county of less than 10,000 souls, and a moment of sober reflection should convince any one of this. When the proper time arrives and a just county division law is enacted, the three cities most concerned, Madras, Redmond and Bend, all of which have division schemes in mind, can settle the matter between themselves. But so long as the whole state is required to vote upon a matter with which only a small part is even remotely concerned, we would advise electors to vote an emphatic NO, not only on the Deschutes proposition, but every other county bill."

**NESMITH COUNTY.**  
The idea of creating Nesmith county is commendable, but is the manner of creating it commendable. It is hoped that in time a Nesmith county will be formed, but it should be done in a way that would be approved by him if he were with us today. Just as well ask the people of Portland to vote for the county officers of Lane county, or the city officers of Eugene, as to vote to create Nesmith county and this applies as well to all the proposed new counties.

The Bulletin—\$1.50 a year.

**ABUSING THE INITIATIVE.**

Initiative for Matters of General Interest.

"The initiative privilege is a valuable right and the people of Oregon are fortunate in the possession of the same. It is a right though that should be used with discretion. If the initiative is invoked indiscriminately it will be of injury rather than of benefit," says the Pendleton East Oregonian in its issue of July 19.

"By the nature of things—the initiative should be used for the settlement of questions that are of general state interest and questions upon which the people at large are capable of judging. It was proper that the direct primary law be enacted under the initiative. The law could not have been enacted in any other way. Legislatures elected under the old convention system would never have passed the direct primary law. It was proper that the corrupt practices act be enacted under the initiative and referendum. That law pertains to political morality and the people were able to judge of the merits of the law. It is all right to settle the normal school problem under the initiative. The legislature has utterly failed to handle the question.

"But the most glaring abuse of the initiative is on the part of those who have proposed county division measures. Eight bills have been filed asking for the creation of new counties or for the changing of boundary lines. In each case the question involved is of a purely local nature; not of state interest. It will be impossible for the people of the state to judge of these measures with intelligence. All division disputes should have been held in abeyance pending the passage of a law calling for the settlement of such disputes by the people directly concerned. The county divisionists, however, have refused to wait. They have submitted their bills in hopes the people will vote blindly for them. They have abused the initiative privilege and they should be rebuked for doing so. Every county division bill should be voted down.

"Inasmuch that the initiative be used only when it may be invoked with propriety."

County Division Increased Taxes 61.4 Per Cent.  
(East Oregonian.)

That county division means increased taxation for the secessionists is shown by the experience of E. A. Schiffler, the well known local tailor, who owns some property in the city of Hood River. To the East Oregonian Mr. Schiffler has exhibited his tax receipts and they show that during the first year of the existence of Hood River county Mr. Schiffler's taxes increased 61.4 per cent. His 1908 taxes which were paid in Wasco county, amounted to \$85.50. His 1909 taxes, the first levied after the creation of Hood River county and which he paid on February 14, 1910, amounted to \$138. Therefore the creation of the new county cost Mr. Schiffler the sum of \$52.50 during the first year of Hood River county's existence.

"I have always said that it is foolish to divide counties," declared Mr. Schiffler. "It only means additional expense and increased taxation."

**THE ONLY SOLUTION.**  
(East Oregonian, July 9.)

Voters of Oregon will be compelled to pass upon 32 legislative measures when they vote this fall. The number is entirely too large and many of the measures are of such a nature that voters simply cannot hope to judge intelligently as to their merits.

Conspicuous in this class are the eight county division bills that have been filed. Each of these measures pertains to an issue that is strictly local in character. The people of the state at large are not interested in county division disputes. The average voter cannot hope to judge of the merits of these division bills. From one side he will be showered with literature favorable to division; from another quarter he will be implored to vote against division. Often people residing in the proposed new counties do not want division to carry.

Now what is the poor voter to do? In the view of the East Oregonian there is but one logical way to settle county division problems. All those problems should be held in abeyance until a law has been enacted leaving the settlement of such disputes to the people who are directly interested in them. It is pretty certain that such a law will be passed by the next legislature. Such a law was passed by the last legislature, but for some unknown reason was vetoed by Governor Chamberlain following the close of the session.

**MR. TAXPAYER.**

Are not your taxes high enough? Can two county governments be supported as cheaply as one?  
The cry of division comes from real estate speculators who hope to profit by having the county seat located so as to increase values. You will have to pay for it.

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