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SYSTEM RADICALLY WRONG.

Division Should be Decided by Each County.

That the system now in vogue in Oregon is radically wrong for the division of counties, is the belief of the Astoria Budget, which in its issue of July 7, says that it should be left to the people of each county themselves to decide whether or not they want to create new counties. The Budget says:

"Among the initiative measures that are to be voted upon at the election next November is one to create Nesmith county by taking portions of Lane and Douglas counties. This is a measure which is of course only of direct interest to the people residing in the districts affected, but under the provisions of the law, it is to be voted upon by the people of the entire state. Judging from matter that is being sent out by the commercial clubs of Lane and Douglas counties the great majority of the residents of those sections are opposed to the bill and the only ones there are who are favoring it are those who are endeavoring to create a real estate boom in what is to be the new county seat. That being the case, the one thing for electors who reside outside the affected districts, to do is vote against it. The fact of the matter is that the method now in vogue for the division of counties is altogether wrong. Such questions should be left entirely to the people whose homes are in the section directly concerned and whose interests are thus affected and not to the voters of the state at large, the majority of whom know or care absolutely nothing about the matter at issue. One grave danger of granting these petitions for divisions of counties by a vote of the people of the entire state is that some time the question may come closer to home. Some one, for instance, may want to get up a petition to divide our own county and under the existing law, the people of other sections of the state would determine the question by their votes. The safer way is to kill all measures of this kind that come up and thus nip all prospective petitions in the bud, at least until such time as the state laws are amended so as to provide for what may be termed "home rule," by restricting the vote on these strictly local measures to the voters residing within the district concerned."

MR. VOTER.

Do you think it right to vote to create new counties and double their expenses. You can not know conditions in remote counties and should vote against all division and vote for the law allowing counties to settle their local matters among themselves.

Thanks for the Pool.
(East Oregonian).

Above Gibbon the middle of the Umatilla river is to be the dividing line between Umatilla county and the proposed new county, which has not yet been christened. Under this arrangement the Wenaha Springs resort will be in the new county. All excepting the pool. Thanks for the pool.

NEW COUNTIES.

When alone in the election booth on November 8th, when scanning your ballot you will read substantially the following:

- A Bill to Create the County of Clarke. 234 Yes. 235 X No.
- A Bill to Create the County of Deschutes. 250 Yes. 251 X No.
- A Bill to Annex a Portion of Clackamas County to Multnomah. 222 Yes. 223 X No.
- A Bill to Annex a Portion of Washington County to Multnomah. 238 Yes. 239 X No.
- A Bill to Create the County of Nesmith. 216 Yes. 217 X No.
- A Bill to Create Orchard County. 232 Yes. 233 X No.
- A Bill to Create the County of Otta. 220 Yes. 221 X No.
- A Bill to Create the County of Williams. 234 Yes. 235 X No.
- A Bill for an Act providing for the Creation of New Counties, Towns, etc., and changing boundaries of existing counties, etc. 252 X Yes. 253 No.

You are asked to consider well the above measures and by voting "No" on all division measures, and "Yes" on the bill giving the counties full control of all local matters, you will be relieved of such duties at future elections. Your careful, conscientious consideration is asked. Respectfully,
STATE ANTI-DIVISION COMMITTEE.

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INNUMERABLE BILLS CONFUSE THE VOTER

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. Echiffler, a Pendleton tailor who owns property in Hood River, found his taxes increased \$1.4 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 Athens. They have good reason for being opposed. Division will mean increased taxation and that business now held by Athens 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 Free water are opposed to the proposition. In communications to this paper they have so declared themselves. Even the newspapers of Milton and Free water have failed to take up with the proposition. Neither the Free water Times or the Milton Eagle advocates the division measure editorially and this fact has caused much comment. The Weston Leader and the Athens 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, is to vote to create Nesmith county and this applies as well to all the proposed new counties.

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