

# COUNTY PAPERS LIKE DIVISION

## COMMENT FROM EACH SECTION

Crook County Journal Agrees That New Counties Would be a Convenience—Question One of Cost—Opinions from Culver, La Pine

The county division question is naturally creating considerable discussion in the different sections of the county and the various county papers are giving considerable space to the subject. In a leading article in its issue of July 23 the Crook County Journal of Prineville states the question to be one of cost and convenience agreeing as to the latter point on question can be raised. A portion of the article is as follows:

"Shall Crook county be divided into two or more counties? This is a question that will not down. It arises in greater or less force at each recurring biennial election and sooner or later must be finally decided. The question is an important one and should be approached fairly, judiciously and without prejudice. In this spirit, apparently, a movement is now on to call this question up for decision at the coming election. The time for open, frank and fair discussion is now here.

The very fact that this county division question continues to live and to grow would seem to prove the necessity for such a movement, leaving only the time, place and conditions to be settled. Tensely stated, the question of whether or not Crook county should be divided at the present time resolves itself into two elements—that of convenience and cost. As to the first element there could be no discussion. The county is large—too large to be convenient to many of its citizens. Particularly is this true in the matter of county seat facilities. In such a large area of country it would undoubtedly be a great convenience to a majority of the people to have two or more county seats instead of one as we now have. The affirmative of this element of county division must be conceded.

Upon the second element to be considered—that of cost, it is not so easy to arrive at a wise conclusion. Would it cost more to establish and conduct three counties in the given area than one, or would it cost less, if more, how much more, if less, how much less. Upon the satisfactory answer of these questions almost the whole case should be decided. The Jefferson County View. From the north end of Crook coun-

ty come accounts of the movement there, the following being from The Deschutes Valley Tribune of Culver: County division is going to be one of the biggest issues of the election this fall. The workers in the Jefferson county movement are already in the field and have already secured more than enough names required to be on the petition by law. This petition will later be presented to the county court asking that this question be submitted to the voters this fall.

The people of Bend and vicinity have been studying the matter for some time and the Commercial Club of that place have endorsed the Jefferson county movement. Only recently, however, have steps been taken by them to petition for a new county in the southwestern part of Crook to be known as Deschutes county.

Some time ago a number of Bend people visited Redmond in order to find out how the Redmond people looked upon the question of county division, but very little was accomplished at that meeting. Later a number of people from Bend asked for a meeting in Prineville in order that a line satisfactory to both eastern and western portions of the present county might be determined upon. At that meeting a line which seemed to be agreeable to all present was determined upon, and since that time the people of Bend have been busy circulating the petition for the creation of Deschutes county. During the first week of their work some 500 names were secured.

The line for the proposed new county begins at a point near Onell on the line of the proposed Jefferson county, and runs south 20 miles, and from that point bears southeastwardly by angles on a line which takes into consideration as nearly as possible the convenience of the people, natural centers of trade controlling to a large extent.

On last Saturday a committee from the northern part of Crook county met with the Bend Commercial Club at their regular Saturday luncheon and discussed the matter of county division. The trend of the discussion showed that those present considered the question of county division a good thing to be decided now because it would be better for all portions of the present county. That the county at present is so large that there is very little interest in common between the distant sections so far as road improvement is concerned, and that there will be constant difficulty concerning these affairs. Another argument is that the natural commercial outlet is toward the railroads, and that the average taxpayer expends a large amount each year in going to and from the present county seat to transact business with the county. This is a large expense which is not usually figured.

The Inter-Mountain on Division. The La Pine Inter-Mountain treats the question in an able manner, pointing out the desire for home rule that actuates the supporters of the movement. In its issue of the 23rd it says:

County division is a live question; the air is full of it. It isn't a matter any more as to whether Crook county shall be divided, but the

question is, "How shall it be cut up?" A few months ago Prineville was against it but now they see the straws all leaning one way, and they admit that "all the same it must be decided at the ballot box this fall." The empire of fine country in the southern part of old Crook county is fast undergoing a great change, new blood has rapidly settled up the broad acres and the great desire that we have home rule over this part of the broad domain makes that nervous, uneasy feeling which will maintain until we have a county of our own. County division is sure to come, and it is a good thing for us that the November election of this fall is as close and that it will determine the boundaries. It is proposed to make three counties out of old Crook county, the north end of the present county to be known as Jefferson county, the south end, in which is located La Pine, to be known as Deschutes county, and the northeast part to remain as Crook county.

A hot campaign is on in both new counties, and we understand that fully 95 per cent of the legal voters everywhere are signing the petition calling the election. In La Pine the petition has been quite generally signed.

### MEETING URGES UNITED ACTION

(Continued from page one.)

action of the settlers might better be directed against the Desert Land Board than the company and it was on his suggestion that the vote of the meeting contemplated proceedings against the Board as well as against the company.

Hudson Urges Co-operation. One of the last speakers was C. S. Hudson, who was drawn into the argument because the resolution presented to the meeting purported to unite the business men of this section with the settlers against the company. Pointing out the flat contradiction of each other as to the board for the repair of the flume he urged that there was an opportunity to "get" either Mr. Lewis or Mr. Howard, to which Mr. Howard nodded assent. He said, too, that Mr. Howard's offer to open the company's books for examination should be accepted. "If Mr. Howard is right," he said, "let's all get in and push him ahead and help the company all we can. If he is wrong, let's all help to push him out!"

Ranchers from all over the project attended the meeting, some coming from as far as Terrebonne. The meeting was held in the council rooms immediately following the butter auction at the creamery and lasted nearly three hours.

DEATH OF MRS. VOORHEES. Mrs. Katherine Voorhees died of heart failure at the home of her son, R. B. Voorhees, in Kenwood on Thursday. She was 72 years of age and had been ill at her son's home for the past five weeks. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. A.

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Smith at the Niawonger undertaking parlors Friday evening and the body was taken to Vancouver, Washington, for burial beside the body of her husband who died six years ago. Three sons and four daughters survive.

### STATE GETS EASEMENT

#### Decision Rendered Making Roads in Tumalo Project Possible.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—The commissioner general of the land office has rendered a decision recalling and vacating the general land office decision dated June 15, last, and recognizes the State of Oregon as an eligible and competent applicant for a grantee of the easements granted by act of congress March 3, 1891. This decision opens the way for Oregon to secure a right of way in the Tumalo Irrigation Project.

This action makes possible the construction of roads by the state on public land adjoining the Tumalo Project.

### NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

#### Gift in Memory of Earl McClure—Pay Shelf Volumes.

A number of new books have recently been added to the collection at the library. Among them is a complete set of Bret Harjo given to the Boy Scouts in memory of Earl McClure, who was drowned in the river in the spring of 1913. The set was at first put in charge of Scoutmaster A. M. Lara and is now placed in the library as being a more convenient place for the boys to obtain them. The following letter accompanied the gift when made last year: "To the Boy Scouts of America, of Bend, Oregon. We dedicate these books in the memory of our dear beloved boy, Earl A. McClure. May

you all 'be prepared.' J. W. McClure, Ella M. McClure, Tressa A. McClure, Marie H. McClure."

The other new volumes go on the "pay shelf" at the library and are as follows:

Trying out Torch, Sewell Ford; Buttered Side Down, Edna Ferber; Friar Tuck, R. A. Wason; Aunt Jane of Kentucky, E. C. Hall; The Plundered, Roy Norton; The Forester's Daughter, H. Garland; It Happened in Egypt, Williamson; You Never Know Your Luck, G. Parker; Chance, J. Conrad; The Martyrs, Bacon; The League of the Leopard, H. Bindles; The Call of the Cumberlanda, Chas. Buck; Janet of the Dunes, H. Comstock.

### GOOD ROADS MEETING

#### Tri-State Association Gathering at Medford This Week.

The Tri-State Good Roads Association is meeting at Medford this week with delegates present from California, Oregon and Washington. The program of the meeting includes a discussion of the route over which the Pacific Highway shall run after leaving Medford, and it is understood that a vigorous effort will be made to bring the highway over into Central Oregon from that point.

According to dispatches from Medford, in the opinion of a number of local members of the association, Sam Hill is exerting all his influence toward routing the Pacific Highway through Central Oregon and then by the Columbia river to Portland. This route would include the present Pacific Highway now being constructed in Jackson county from the California line as far as Medford and would then branch toward Crater Lake, La Pine, and Bend.

According to the friends of Mr. Hill the sentiment in the Willamette Valley against good roads bonds has led to this change and it is believed that State Highway Engineer Howley also is in favor of the Central Oregon route.

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The Courts.

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