

COMMUNICATION FROM TAXPAYER

NORTH ENDER WRITES PIONEER

Study of County Division Question Made—Administrative Costs Considered and Opportunities to Make Savings Pointed Out.

The following study of the county division question appears as a communication in the current issue of the Madras Pioneer:

"If you will permit me space I have something to say to the voters of Crook county in the matter of county division.

"There are a number of questions which merit consideration and careful study upon the part of every voter in Crook county. Both in the territory proposed to be formed into new counties and that which will remain in the old if the new should be formed.

"First is the question of increased cost of administration should one or more new counties be formed. This item of cost of administration is the most difficult to solve to the satisfaction of the people and yet it is the one to be primarily considered. The newspapers of Prineville are naturally raising this question of taxation and one of them asked for someone 'with the figures' to come forward and enlighten the people. This request is in the very nature of things one that cannot be complied with, for the reason that any figures or statements upon this question must be relative and can only be determined by comparison and probability. There are some things, however, that can be determined as settled facts, which are self-evident and from these self-evident facts we must draw our conclusions and make our deductions.

"It is self-evident that a county which can be administered by its elective officers without the aid of deputies can, other things being equal, be most economically administered. If the population and area are such that the officers are able to do the necessary work without deputy hire, then it would naturally follow that the division of such a county would materially decrease the cost of administration and therefore decrease taxes.

"Crook county, as now constituted, both in area and population, makes it a physical impossibility for the officers to do the county work without deputy assistants at a heavy cost to the county over and above the salary of the officers. Let us go through the list and see what the conditions are. The Sheriff has during the year a number of deputies at heavy cost and expense to the taxpayers of the county. The clerk, assessor and other officers must have deputies all of whose salaries are paid by the county. The county court is required to do the work of the entire county and the commissioners are paid five dollars per day and ten cents per mile and they must give, or at least should give, to each and every part of the county due consideration and this requires a great deal of their time and considerable travel; therefore the cost of the county court would not be materially increased by a division of the county, neither would the expense of other officers necessarily be increased. It would require no more time, in days, for the courts to do the work for the same territory than it would for one court to do it. For example, if the present court transacted all of the county business of Crook county in ninety days, then the same work could be done by three courts in thirty days and the expense to the taxpayer would be the same with the exception that there would actually be a saving in the lesser mileage paid. The same holds good with reference to the other officers where deputies are required, and if a county clerk and two deputies can do the work of the county as at present constituted, then three clerks without deputies could do the work for the same territory and the same people, if the county should be divided into three.

"If the county should be divided, that portion remaining in Crook county can dispense with her deputies and thereby reduce expenses and the officers will be able to do the work, practically unaided, as it will be materially decreased in volume by the division.

"The new county or counties can take some of these discarded deputies or others, and make them their officers at no great increase in salary and the number of office holders will, for practical purposes and with one or two exceptions, remain the same.

"Not only will there be little or no increase in salary expenditures but there will be considerable saving in decreased mileage fees of jurors, witnesses, court officers and others and this saving will in all probability at least balance any small increase in salaries caused by the change. Not only will there be a saving and convenience in the county administration but to those who must and do have civil matters the saving to them in court costs will be very great. Under present conditions those having suits and actions must take their witnesses to Prineville, and many of them have to go from sixty to eighty miles and even further to attend court, and I believe that an average of fifty miles would be fair as to the distance most people have to travel to the county seat. The mileage of witnesses is ten cents per mile each way, which would make the mileage fee of each witness in each trial ten dollars. If there should be ten witnesses in the case, which is a fair

average, the cost of this one item of mileage alone would mean one hundred dollars in each case. Very much the larger part of the circuit court's time is taken in the trial of civil cases and the saving to litigants, in the matter of mileage alone in the smaller county unit would be very great. The same holds good in criminal cases and in jury mileage.

"That there will be some additional costs to the new counties in the matter of office buildings and equipment there can be no doubt, but this cost will be small and the buildings for offices will be furnished at a nominal rental for the first two years, at least, or until the question of a permanent county seat is determined.

"I believe that the division of Crook county into three smaller counties will not, to any appreciable extent, increase the cost of administration, and the taxes of each section will be expended at home with greater economy and efficiency and with much more satisfaction to the taxpayer.

"Second, this brings us to another phase of the question and that is the future development of the county. With the county so large and diverse in its interests as at present administered we find dissatisfaction, jealousy and bickering between the different sections of the county. Each locality thinks, or pretends to think, that it is not being fairly treated, and we hear of 'rings' and 'counter rings'; of roads built and improvements made in one part of the county to the dissatisfaction of the other; of bridges built in this part to the injury to that, etc., ad infinitum, throughout the entire category. That these misunderstandings, fault findings and bickerings are, and have been, detrimental to the general development and settlement of the county, there can be no question. This dissatisfaction is talked everywhere and about the first thing a newcomer hears when he reaches this county is that 'the high taxes are caused by the misadministration or by useless expenditures'; that assessments are unfair for we are assessed higher than other parts of the county, and so forth and so on. The prospective settler after hearing these things thinks that this country is a good place to leave alone and so he returns to his home or to other sections of the state and tells his friends and we lose numerous good citizens. If the new counties are formed each section will handle its own money paid in taxes, its citizens will better be able to know how it is expended; they will know their officers better and hold them to a more

strict accounting of their stewardship. There will cease to be cause for antagonism between the new counties and the old and we can and will all put our shoulders to the wheel and with a long pull and a strong pull and altogether make this

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A Grave Injustice

Do those who advocate the absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic liquors realize the seriousness of the social and economic crisis that would be precipitated by such legislation? Are they aware of the fact that the heads of families aggregating probably not less than three million people would suddenly be deprived of their sole means of livelihood, and that properties valued in the aggregate at perhaps two billion dollars would as suddenly become worthless?

It is doubtful if they do fully realize this, yet these are figures given by no less a writer than Dr. Henry Smith Williams in an article in the "Ladies Home Journal," reviewing the prohibition movement. And he adds: "Personally I am at a loss to understand how anyone who has the slightest grasp of economic questions can contemplate with equanimity the anarchistic possibilities—nay, certainties—which reveal themselves through the slightest use of the imagination in connection with these figures. To me, at least, it seems obvious that the only thing which has kept the prohibition movement before the people of the United States is the simple fact that prohibition does not prohibit."

Thinking men and women who seek the truth and are unswayed by prejudice, and who give the foregoing facts the consideration they deserve cannot escape a like conclusion. —Paid Advertisement.

E. D. ULRICH, Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon

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the greatest section of the great State of Oregon.

"There need be little, if anything, said in favor of the great convenience of the people by reason of division as this will be readily perceived by everyone.

"That Crook county MUST be divided sooner or later is conceded by all and it would seem that this is the 'psychological moment' in which to bring it about and it should be accomplished without friction or ill-feeling but with hearty good will to the old and the new and with a closer feeling of friendship and desire to advance and develop Central Oregon. A TAXPAYER."

MARKET REPORT.

NORTH PORTLAND, AUG. 7.—Receipts for the week have been, cattle 2579, calves 122, hogs 1652, sheep 6984. A good big run of cattle for the week, about eighty-five cars being marketed, but prices held well. Prime light steers \$7.50; top cows \$6 and \$6.25; bulls \$4 to \$4.75, according to weight; top light veal calves \$8.25. Hog liquidation was light for the seven day period, prices fluctuated considerably, as every hog market in the country has been subject to advances and declines but the Portland market closed with a strong "come back" tendency and best light swine brought 9 cents. Moderate receipts of sheep and lambs, top grade steady with last week. Prime wethers \$4.50 to \$4.75; prime ewes \$3.55 to \$4.00; medium ewes \$3.25 to \$3.75; spring lambs \$5.50 to \$6.

Refresh yourself with a cold drink. Full pints at 5 and 10 cents. American Bakery.—Adv. 221f

AUGUST CROP REPORT

Forecasts for Present Month Show Falling Off From July Totals.

The August crop report issued on Saturday by the Department of Agriculture shows a slight falling off from the July totals for Oregon in a few instances, decreases being noted in corn, wheat and oats. In the case of barley and potatoes the August forecast is higher than that for July.

The report is as follows: Corn—August 1, forecast, Oregon 600,000 bushels, United States 2,630,000 bushels; July 1 forecast, Oregon 624,000 bushels, United States 2,916,572,000 bushels. Final, average 5 years, 1909-1913, Oregon, 542,000 bushels, United States 2,708,334,000 bushels.

Winter wheat—August 1, preliminary estimate, Oregon 13,700,000 bushels, United States 675,000,000 bushels. July 1 forecast Oregon 15,227,000 bushels, United States 652,975,000 bushels. Final, average 5 years, 1909-1913, Oregon 12,955,000 bushels, United States 441,212,000 bushels.

Spring wheat—August 1 forecast, Oregon 3,350,000 bushels, United States 236,000,000 bushels. July 1 forecast, Oregon 3,382,000 bushels, United States 274,003,000 bushels. Final, average 5 years, 1909-1913, Oregon 3,399,000, United States 245,479,000 bushels.

Oats—August 1 forecast, Oregon 12,700,000 bushels, United States 1,150,000,000 bushels. July 1 forecast, Oregon 13,628,000 bushels, United States 1,197,105,000 bushels. Final, average 5 years, 1909-1913, Oregon 12,906,000 bushels, United States 1,331,175,000 bushels.

Barley—August 1 forecast, Oregon 4,260,000 bushels, United States 203,000,000 bushels. July 1, forecast, Oregon 4,173,000 bushels, United States 211,319,000 bushels. Final, average, 5 years 1909-1913, Oregon 3,673,000 bushels, United States 181,873,000 bushels.

Potatoes—August 1 forecast, Oregon 6,350,000 bushels, United States 370,000,000 bushels. July 1 forecast Oregon 6,311,000 bushels, United States 360,614,000 bushels. Final, average 5 years, 1909-1913, Oregon 6,408,000 bushels, United States 356,827,000 bushels.

Hay, (tame):—August 1 forecast Oregon 1,950,000 tons, United States 49,000,000 tons. Final, average 5 years, 1909-1913, Oregon 1,575,000 tons, United States 65,987,000 tons.

Citrolax! It's a laxative, of course—and the nicest hot weather drink you ever tasted. Flushes thoroughly, and pleasantly, too. F. C. Cryslar, Syracuse, N. Y., says: "Have used laxatives for 15 years but this Citrolax has got everything else beat a mile." Try it. Patterson Drug Co.—Adv.

FARMERS' MEETS WILL BE HELD

DATE FOR BEND SEPTEMBER 1

County Agriculturist Lovett Has Secured Three Professors to Take Part in Program—Large Attendance Means More Institutes.

Beginning August 22 there will be held a series of Farmers' Institute meetings throughout Crook county. The one at Bend will be held on Tuesday, September 1.

Through the activities of the Extension Department of the Oregon Agricultural College and the efforts of A. E. Lovett, Crook county Agriculturist, three professors from the college will be present at each meeting for the purpose of assisting the farmers of this county to solve their farming problems. The staff of speakers will be as follows: Prof. John E. Larson, agronomist, Prof. R. E. Reynolds, stockman and Prof. A. E. Lovett, entomologist. One day meetings will be held at various places. The time and arrangement of the program will be in the hands of each local farmers' organization or local commercial club in co-operation with the county agriculturist but general plans will be to hold the meetings in the afternoon, beginning about 1:30 p. m., the agriculturist with the professors visiting farms in the neighborhood of place of meeting during the forenoon.

Schedule of meetings as arranged is as follows: Saturday, August 22, Prineville; Monday, August 24, Madras; Tuesday, August 25, Metolius; Wednesday, August 26, Culver; Thursday, August 27, Laidlaw; Friday, August 28, Cloverdale near Sisters; Friday, August 29, Opal City; Saturday, August 31, Redmond; Monday, September 1, Bend. The meeting at Opal City will be in the nature of a picnic on the farm of Tom Alderdice. Attendance at these meetings will largely influence meetings to be held during the winter.

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