

It being of great interest to our readers in Southern Grant, we delay THE HERALD long enough to publish the Harney County Bill, which got in just as we were going to press. The bill is satisfactory, and the urgency clause is well put in, and, if enacted, will save to the citizens of the Harney country not less than \$3,000 at next term of circuit court in expense of mileage alone.

In speaking of assessment and taxation, Gov. Penoyer in his message says: "A change is needed in our laws relating to assessment and taxation. Under it the honest men of the State have to bear the brunt of taxation, while the dishonest man, who, through the aid of the banks, returns a fictitious indebtedness, is rewarded by a relief from just taxation. The law, as it now stands and as it is now enforced, is really a law to punish by tax a man for honesty, and to reward by exemption from tax a man for dishonesty. Such a law is a disgrace to any commonwealth. A change should be effected. Everything should be taxed—property of all kinds, both real and personal—and no deduction whatever for indebtedness should be allowed. It is urged by those who favor deduction of indebtedness that without such deduction there will be in certain cases a double taxation. Granting this to be true, it is equally true that with deduction of indebtedness the honest man who pays on all of his property is doubly taxed also, because his neighbor throws the extra burden upon him by avoiding taxation himself through fictitious indebtedness. It is impossible to secure absolutely just taxation, but it can be nearest arrived at by taxing everything at its full value, and making no deductions whatever. But there can never be any near approach to equal taxation in this State until deduction for indebtedness—that rock behind which rogues can hide—is removed from our statute books. In order to secure assessment of property at its fair value throughout the State, some supervision over the county assessors should be had either by a State officer or by the county commissioners. It would be advantageous also to provide for a meeting of the various county assessors each year just prior to the time for making assessments, by which a degree of uniformity could be arrived at by consultation and agreement. A tax on all incomes in excess of \$5,000 would be a most just and equitable provision of law.

It costs \$18 mileage to serve a County Court summons on a man in Burns; the same in Harney; \$28 in Silver Creek; \$33 in Drewsey; \$40 in Blitzen Valley; the same in Happy Valley; \$42 in Diamond Valley; and \$54 in Catlow and Barren Valleys—with of course the same mileage on every subpoena. All those places ask relief through the Harney county bill.

The Harney country has a population of over 4,000 persons. Numerous letters received this winter indicate that the immigration will be 4,000 more within the present year. Will the Legislature compel all these to depend for two years more on a county seat situated from 75 to 200 miles away?

It is reported that C. W. Parrish, Esq., a prominent attorney of Canyon City, has been employed and has started for the State capital to work for the defeat of the bill creating Harney County.

It is a well known fact that Mr. Parrish is one of the ablest attorneys in Eastern Oregon and works indefatigably in the interest of his clients, be they poor or rich, many or few. It is for this reason that he has been engaged to plead the weak cause of the handful of opponents of county division.

We have been and are willing to accord to the opponents of division all the respect due to an honest difference of opinion; but when it comes to the point of a mere handful of its residents, however wealthy, controlling, in their own interests and to the detriment of the great

majority, a country so rich in its resources and possessing so many natural advantages for an agricultural community, and insisting on maintaining a county of such unwieldy proportions, we one and all emphatically protest. Not satisfied with the immeasurable inconvenience and expense to which the great and growing majority of their fellow citizens of Harney valley have been subjected, through a far away and comparatively inaccessible county seat, they now use every means within their power to defeat the only means by which this great obstacle to the progress and development of our valley can be removed.

It is to be hoped that our legislators will not disregard the interests of so large a majority of our people, by allowing a meagre minority and their retained lobby to mislead them. We have used every honorable means (and none but honorable means) to secure county division. We have represented our interests as they are, and have the fullest confidence that our legislators can be neither deceived nor cajoled in a matter of such vital interest.

The newspapers represent the wishes of the people; every newspaper in the Harney country wishes success to the Harney county bill.

Ed. Herald: Probably the wish of a people to be set off into a separate county, was never more nearly unanimous than that of the bona fide settlers and residents of the great Harney country; and by that term I mean to include Happy, Diamond, Blitzen, Catlow, Barren and Silver Creek Valleys, all of which latter are distant from one hundred to two hundred miles from the county seat at Canyon City, by their several routes of travel through Harney Valley.

Let it be remembered that the nearest point of any of this country to the county seat is seventy-five miles, where the mountains bound Harney Valley on the north.

The distance to be traveled to attend before the Board of Equalization, renders it a nullity to any but the heaviest taxpayers, so far as relief from unfair assessment is concerned.

As a consequence, the delinquent tax list against residents of the Harney country has recently embraced many names, occasioned in the great majority of cases through various mistakes and misunderstandings without fault of the taxpayer.

On each one of these the very lowest costs of collection for mileage has necessarily been \$15, being 10 cents per mile, 75 miles and return.

Regarding county roads in Harney it is still worse. The expense of prosecuting a suit in equity for the protection of a riparian right would be a small matter compared with the expense of establishing and opening a new county road.

One of such roads was recently opened through a cattle range in the Blitzen valley, about 140 miles from the county seat, and it is safe to say that the farmers who succeeded in getting it will not feel able to undertake another job of the kind for several years to come, unless the county is divided.

It cannot be denied that there are some persons having property here, whose interests would be best subserved by leaving the county seat at Canyon City, or moving it to The Dalles, or, better still, to Tillamook Rock.

They followed close upon the heels of the Indian, for which they will please accept our thanks, and already hear their doom sounded in the merry tinkle of the sheep bells.

Happy firesides are seen and the merry laughter of children heard in the Harney country where two years ago the vacquero and cayote reigned supreme.

Not a member of our Legislature but has either relatives or friends among us. Then let us hope that this honorable body will be able to view the situation as we see it here, and that by the creation of Harney county they will enable us to join in the prosperity enjoyed by other portions of our State.

We acknowledge receipt of Gov. Penoyer's biennial message to the Oregon Legislature. It is a good document, and our readers will find it on our desk for reference.

GRANT COUNTY is 225 miles long, north and south, with the county seat in the north end. Divide it on the Blue mountains and Harney County will then be larger than the Willamette Valley.

County Division.

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Rough on the Harney School Marns. There are more than a dozen ladies, all well qualified, who have for the past year or two been engaged in teaching in the various school districts in the Harney country, where they all reside.

By a general order of the Grant county School Superintendent, in whose dominions they unfortunately are, they are required to journey to the classic vale of Canyon City, jointly or severally, as they may see fit, then and there to be examined and true answers make touching their qualifications as such school marns, and pay for their certificates if they should happen to get them at all.

If by any unfortunate and disastrous possibility the bill creating Harney County should fail to pass, it is suggested that a law be enacted providing that where the school to be taught is distant more than 150 miles from the county seat or residence of the School Superintendent, and where the necessary expense of a trip there would amount to more than the salary of the teacher for a three months term, the necessity of a certificate may be temporarily dispensed with by order of the directors.

To be compelled to attend Circuit Court at Canyon City over a hundred miles away twice a year is almost as burdensome as the military service of Germany.

The following publications are added to our Free Reading Room this week: The Religious Herald, weekly, Hartford, Conn., \$2 a year; The World's Advance Thought, a monthly, Portland, Or., \$1; The Signs of the Times, a weekly, Oakland, Cal., \$2; The American Sentinel, a monthly, 50c a year, Oakland, Cal.; Pacific Health Journal, a monthly, \$1, Oakland, Cal.

The above are all very handsomely gotten up, full of ripe thought, and a most welcome addition to the list of periodicals already entered.

FACTS ABOUT SEEDS. Many Seedsmen assert that the stocks they offer are simply infallible—this is mischievous. It is true nearly all of the popular seeds of the day are excellent under favorable conditions. It is equally true, however, that with but few exceptions, the best of them are often used in localities to which they are in no degree adapted.

The Experimental Stations are now doing much to determine the habits and characteristics of commercial seeds and plants. A prominent institution of this kind is the "Station" under supervision of the Sterling Syrup Works at Sterling, Kan. So extended, systematic and faithful are the tests made at these grounds that reports of all the more important work will be published from time to time by the National Government.

Referring to the seed tests of the past season the "Station" writes the Lewiston Seed Company, Lewiston, Idaho: "You kindly sent us trial packages of Vegetable Seeds last spring. We planted them with seeds received from Eastern growers and were pleased with the 'West-Test' seeds. In growing plants two things seem to be entirely proven. The first is that specialists who grow seeds only, who improve the plants by selecting and by hybridizing and by importing new kinds, who make a careful study of the plants, produce very much better seeds than those who grow the plants and save the seeds for their own use. Expert seedsmen in the last few years have improved plants more than inexperienced plant growers had previously done in a hundred years. The second point is that many plants when removed to new conditions of soil and climate require to be acclimated and it takes some seasons to do this. Seeds grown on the Gulf coast where rainfall is excessive and where growing seasons are long and warm, and seeds grown in the humid air of the seaboard States, where there are frequent rains and fogs and mists and dews, do not at first succeed well when suddenly transplanted to the dry air of the interior of this great continent."

"The man who buys seed from reliable and skilled seedsmen, who grow the seeds under conditions of soil and climate which are not essentially different from his own conditions of soil and climate, will produce better plants and receive greater reward for his trouble, than one is each year beginning anew to acclimate seeds which have been grown under very different conditions. With these points in view we regard the 'West-Test' seeds, grown in the interior of the continent by experienced seed-growers as much the more useful seeds for those living in the dry climate of the Western States."

STERLING SYRUP WORKS.

The Harney people are awful tired of going away up north to Canyon City to transact their Circuit Court and County business.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE HERALD.

THE Harney people are awful tired of going away up north to Canyon City to transact their Circuit Court and County business.

BILL FOR FORMATION OF HARNEY COUNTY.

As introduced in the House by Hon. G. W. Gilham, and read first time January 6, 1889:

A BILL, for an Act to create the County of Harney and fix the Salaries of County Judge and Treasurer thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. That all of that portion of Grant county lying south of the following described line and the same hereby is created and organized into a separate county by the name of Harney, viz: Beginning at a point where the west line of Grant county crosses the township line between townships 18 and 19 in said county of Grant, and running thence east on said township line to the west line of the old Malheur Indian reservation in said county of Grant; thence north following the west line of said Indian reservation six miles; thence east to the east line of Grant county.

Sec. 2. That the said territory shall comprise a county for all civil and military purposes, and shall be subject to the same laws and restrictions and be entitled to elect the same officers as the other counties in this State: Provided, that it shall be the duty of the Governor, as soon as convenient after this Act shall have become a law, to appoint for Harney county and from its citizens the several county officers allowed by law to other counties in this State, which said officers, after duly qualifying according to law, shall be entitled to hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected at the general election of 1890, and have duly qualified according to law.

Sec. 3. It is hereby made the duty of the Governor of Oregon to locate the temporary county seat of the said Harney county, until otherwise located, as provided by this Act. At the next general election the question of the location of county seat shall be submitted to the legal voters of said county and the place receiving the majority of all votes cast shall be the permanent county seat of said county.

The county court of Harney county shall not expend a larger sum than five hundred dollars of the funds of said county for the erection of county buildings until after the first day of July, 1890.

Sec. 4. The counties of Grant and Harney shall constitute one representative district, and the legal voters of said district shall be entitled to elect jointly one representative to the legislative assembly of the State, and the counties of Grant, Morrow and Harney shall constitute one Senatorial district, and the legal voters of said district shall be entitled to elect jointly one senator to the legislative assembly of this State.

Sec. 5. The county clerk of Grant county shall send to the county clerk of Harney county, within thirty days after this Act becomes a law, a certified transcript of all delinquent taxes from the assessment roll of 1888 that were assessed within the limits of Harney county for 1888, and the said taxes shall be payable to the proper officer of Harney county.

The county treasurer of Harney county shall out of the first money collected for taxation by the treasurer of the county the full amount of the State tax on the assessment roll of 1888 due from the citizens of Harney county.

The said clerk of Grant county shall also make out and send to the clerk of Harney county, within the time above limited, a transcript of all cases pending in the circuit and county courts of Grant county between parties residing in Harney county and to be tried in Harney county.

Sec. 6. The county of Harney shall be attached to the sixth judicial district for judicial purposes, and the terms of the circuit court of said county shall commence on the third Monday of May and second Monday in October of each year.

Sec. 7. The first term of the county court of Harney county shall commence on the fifth Monday after the Act becomes a law, and thereafter the regular terms of said county court shall commence on the first Monday of April, June, August, October, December and February of each year.

Sec. 8. Until otherwise provided, the county judge of Harney county shall receive an annual salary of three hundred dollars, to be paid by the county of Harney.

Sec. 9. The county of Harney, within one year after the creation by the appointment of its officers as herein provided, shall assume and pay to the county of Grant, a just proportion of the indebtedness of Grant county, after deducting therefrom the value of the public property of Harney county, and the county judge of Grant and Harney counties are hereby appointed a board to determine the value of such property, and the amount of indebtedness to be assumed by said Harney county; said board shall meet at the county seat of Grant county on the first Monday in May, 1889, or as soon thereafter as convenient, and proceed with said work, and when completed file a report of their conclusions in duplicate with the clerks of Grant and Harney counties; and in case of disagreement between the said county judge of Grant and Harney counties in their conclusions, they shall call to their assistance one of the circuit judges of the sixth judicial district, whose duty it shall be to see to it determining as to what is just and equitable between the said counties of Grant and Harney, and shall have the casting vote in case of a tie vote between the said county judges. The said county judges consulting said board shall receive for their services the sum of five dollars per day for each day actually employed traveling to and from said county seat of Grant county, and for each day consumed in work for which they are appointed, and mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile in going to and returning from said county seat of Grant county, and such expenses shall be borne equally by Grant and Harney counties, and in case the said circuit judge be called to assist in said work he shall receive the same compensation as herein provided for the said county judge, to be paid equally by the said Grant and Harney counties.

Sec. 10. It is hereby made the duty of the treasurer of Grant county within thirty days after this Act becomes a law, to pay over to the treasurer of Harney county, upon the order of the school superintendent of said county, all school funds then in his charge belonging to the several school districts of Harney county.

Sec. 11. Inasmuch as the citizens residing within the limits of the territory contained in the present county of Harney labor under great inconvenience in the transaction of necessary business their county seat (Canyon City) this Act shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval by the Governor.

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