

COUNTY DIVISION ABUSES.

The more one studies the gross unfairness of the law which permits the state to vote on such matters of local interest as the division of counties, the stronger do resolutions become fixed in the minds of the people to take a whack at killing the measure at the first opportunity. Petitions for the division of no less than eight counties are now being circulated throughout the state in order that they may be voted upon at the next general election. However, it is a healthy sentiment which the papers of the state are instilling into the minds of readers, admonishing that all voters would do well to postpone the creation of any new counties in the state until the people have placed a law upon the statute books permitting only voters of the territory affected to vote on any question that affects the division of that territory. Otherwise, as one of our exchanges remarks, your home, "your life's work, is at the mercy of every ambitious hamlet and would-be office holder within your county boundaries." The Portland Oregonian sizes up the proposition correctly when it says:

"Eight schemes for partition of counties are projected for the initiative election next November, and the end is not yet. Clark county is to be carved out of Grant; Orchard and Hudson counties out of Umatilla; Otis county out of Malheur; Nesmith, Umpqua and Williams counties out of Douglas and Lane; and a slice of Clackamas is to be annexed to Multnomah. Voters of the entire state are to be called upon to legislate upon these local matters. Boundaries of Orchard and Hudson overlap each other; also boundaries of Nesmith, Umpqua and Williams. Question now vexing direct legislation statesmanship is, what will happen from enactment of all these counties with conflicting boundaries? The initiative is too easily reached by selfish interests and fadisms. Only 8 per cent of the number of electors voting for Supreme Judge are required on a petition to initiate a bill for statutory or constitutional enactment, and only a majority of the electors voting on a measure are required to enact it into law. This low per centage of petitioners and bare majority of voters expose the commonwealth to initiate nuisances that are becoming intolerable. The number of signatures for petition and votes for enactment should be increased. Also here is need of a general law confining initiative elections for division and partition of counties to the local territory affected. Electors of the state do not possess the knowledge required for intelligent

voting on these county questions." After the manner in which the newspapers of the state are going after this law which permits a selfish town or village to corral territory with unwilling inhabitants, for the purpose of gratifying county seat ambitions, there seems to be a fair possibility that a crimp is likely to be put into the calculations of certain division manipulators, in this as well as other counties, which are infested with territory grabbers. We believe the people of the state would welcome the opportunity of voting the present county division law out of existence, and it is up to those counties befouled with division bugs to see to it that the opportunity is available by ballot at the coming election.

It is reported that H. G. Case will establish a new paper in this city. It is understood that Mr. Case has had considerable experience in the newspaper business in different parts of the United States and is thoroughly conversant with every detail that insures success in the publication of a country journal. Almost every other line of business in Athena boasts of healthy competition, and it has long been a mystery to many why the newspaper field here was left to be cultivated by only one sheet—its editor the personification of "mossbackism," a "prevaricator of the first water," and who has other failings too numerous to mention. In Mr. Case the Press believes the community will have a man who will voice its sentiments on all questions, without fear or favor. Mr. Case has property interests at The Dalles, in Missouri, and draws a princely salary from the school district as principal, which resources should qualify him financially to engage in the newspaper business either for pleasure or profit. The Press is pleased to welcome Mr. Case as a contemporary.

An earnest fight against the forest fires which annually lay waste millions of dollars worth of timber, the greatest natural resource of the Northwest, is being waged this year by the Washington Forest Fire association which has a force of patrolmen in the field to watch for incipient fires and stop them before they grow beyond control.

We had always supposed that railroad men were "supplied" at all times and under all circumstances, but that woman-bitten-by-a-rattle-snake story that comes from Central Oregon, in which Louis Hill of the Great Northern figures as the hero, would make it appear otherwise. How about it, Lou?

The Press has one to spring on Jim Hayes. He announces himself as being opposed to division on the "Orchard" county lines. It beats the band, but true nevertheless, the Press and "Jim" are squinting down the same groove at this question.

Those cottonwood trees are the only touch of nature left in the city park, and they should not be marred by edge of ax or point of nail.

The Maroons may be a little late in getting their stride, but now that they have struck it, it's a winner for sure. And it suits the fans.

A Startling Comparison.
In silent absorption they consumed delicious cherry pie.
"James," said the hostess to the butler, "save all the cherry stones, please. Wash and dry them and put them on a shelf in the attic."
"Why," a guest inquired, "do you save cherry stones?"
"You never saw them burn," said the hostess, "or you wouldn't ask that question. All winter long I keep a copper jar of them on the drawing room hearth. As the fire burns up I stoop and throw a handful of the cherry stones in the blaze. The effect is wonderful. The stones crackle and send forth delicate green flames, and puffs of exquisite odor, an odor as sweet as cherry blossoms, float through the room."
"There's sandalwood," began another guest.
"Oh," said the hostess, "I use sandalwood, too, but it compares to cherry stones in fragrance as limburger cheese compares to bellotrope."—Minneapolis Journal.

An Embarrassing Question.
Mrs. Monroe was carefully explaining to her small daughter Margaret what she must do that evening. Company would be there for dinner, and Margaret was going to be allowed the privilege of sitting at the table. She listened very attentively and faithfully promised to obey. During the first part of the meal she never spoke, but remained quiet and thoughtful, but it seemed a long time to her before the dessert came. Finally a large dish was placed near her of which the contents looked most appetizing. For some time she gazed at it, and when no longer able to resist the temptation she reached over and put her dainty finger deep into the jelly and cream, then licked her finger and continued to smack her lips with great satisfaction. Before the mortified mother could say anything Margaret remarked:
"Say, mamma, is this the jelly which the cat licked the cream off of and you said it didn't matter, there was more cream?"—Los Angeles Times.

Origin of Heraldry.
According to the highest authorities, heraldry finds its starting point in the totemism of prehistoric man. In the barbaric custom of painting or carving the totem on oars, the bows and sides of canoes, weapons, pillars in front of houses, etc., and in tattooing it on the various parts of the body, we have the real origin of the insignia that are so precious to the upper tandom of today. It was in the ignorant superstition of the savages that he sprang from a crane or a bear or some other animal that the various "coats of arms" of the "big families" of the present time found their inception.—New York American.

Asking a Favor.
Lizzie Ann was a servant girl. She said bitterly to her mistress one morning:
"Here's another letter, ma'am, I've got from Mrs. Jones' cook, Marie. Marie says they've given her a conservatory now. It fairly makes one sick. Fibber!"
Lizzie Ann hesitated, then said diffidently:
"I bin thinkin', if I hired an auto and a photographer, would ye mind, ma'am, if me and the master was took on the front seat together? It would settle that Marie when I sent her the picture."—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Where They Ought to Be.
"I wonder," said the wild looking man, with the multiplied whiskers.
"You wonder what?" asked the meek looking boob with the concentrated eyebrows.
"If the man who figured out the length of a week was referred to as a weekling."
"Sure," said the boob. "They also called the man who discovered ink an inkling."
Whereupon the driver from the asylum backed his wagon up and the pair were dumped in.—St. Louis Star.

A Victim of Draconian Law.
Father (who has caught Patrick stealing)—I thought you knew better than to commit a theft. You know how the law punishes people for small offenses. Patrick—How about you, father, when you stole mother's heart? You never got punished for that. Father—I got a very severe punishment, my son. I got penal servitude for life, and I am doing it now.—London Tit-Bits.

Just Like a Man.
Mr. Kadley—How mannish she is! Miss Bright—Isn't she, though? Mr. Kadley—Yes, and the funny part of it is she thinks people admire her for being so. She doesn't seem to see that people are merely laughing at her. Miss Bright—Yes, she's mannish even to that extent.—Catholic Standard and Times.

The Thing That Puzzled the Patient.
"You may be thankful for your excellent constitution. It has pulled you through many a spell of sickness."
"But, doctor, if I have such a blamed strong constitution why am I always getting sick?"—Chicago Tribune.

Ethyl's Complaint.
Claire—Ethyl is awfully angry with Jack. He threw a kiss at her. Lotta—Why did that make her angry? Claire—Oh, she says there are some things that ought to be delivered in person.—Lippincott's.

Funny to Her.
"Is he really a humorist?"
"He certainly is," replied the sweet young thing. "He actually asked me to marry him."

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