

VOTE DOWN COUNTY DIVISION SCHEMES

Details Involved in Formation of New Counties Unknown to Voters.

Voters cannot inform themselves on the many local details involved and accordingly it will be their general decision to vote "No" on the entire list. This is the opinion of the Morning Oregonian in its issue of June 2, as follows:

"Nine county division schemes are bidding for enactment under the initiative, in imitation of Hood River county's success two years ago, and the end is not yet. Here is direct legislation gone to seed and disseminating trouble through the fair expanse of Oregon.

"Latest is Deschutes county, presenting a petition to the secretary of state and asking to be carved out of the northwest part of Crook county. Umpqua, Williams and Nesmith, with overlapping boundaries, seek independence from Lane and Douglas counties. Umatilla county is wrestling with the ambitious schemes of Orchard and Hudson. Clark desires separation from Grant, Otis from Malheur and Harney. A strip of Clackamas seeks annexation to Multnomah.

"Politicians, office-seekers and ambitious little towns are putting up these county partition schemes. More counties will provide additional official places and other patronage. They will also make higher taxes and more trouble for property owners.

It is reaching a point in Oregon where the electorate will feel obliged to vote uniformly against all these new counties. The voters cannot inform themselves on the many local details involved, in order to legislate, therefore they are likely to take the view that their safest action will be that of voting "No" on the 'whole bunch.'

Oregonian Comment.
The Oregonian comments gain on the scheme in its issue of June 28:

"A tenth scheme for county division appeared for initiative enactment next November—annexation of a piece of Washington county to Multnomah. These county questions are proper subjects for legislative attention where they can be studied on their merits and be amended and adjusted to suit local needs. The great trouble with the initiative measures is that each and all of them emanate from a special interest. No element should ever be allowed to frame laws regardless of other elements of the population. Yet that is what they undertake to do when they refuse to take their bills before the legislature and insist on enacting them by the 'direct' method. Lawmaking is one of the oldest of the affairs of men and ages of experience have proved the superiority of legislation by delegates instead of by the mass. Delegated, representative government is the most triumphant lesson of history."

LET THE COUNTIES DECIDE.
Division Should be Settled by People Directly Affected.

The Eugene Register declares that county division is a matter that should be settled by the people directly concerned. In reference to the issue, that paper says:

"With over thirty initiative petitions to be voted on at the general election this fall, the Oregon voter is in a good deal the same position as an old Missouri negro who recently took the civil service examination for a position as janitor in one of the capitol buildings. He went up looking pretty cheery. He thought that what he did not know about janitoring was of very little importance anyway. When he came away from taking the examination he was looking so downfallen, that someone asked him what had happened. 'Happened!' said he, 'why, boss, dey asked me things dat happened 'fo I'a bo'n.'"

"One of the arguments advanced by the county division promoters is 'More counties and a greater Oregon.' They claim that division of the large counties into smaller ones is of the same value to the state that division of the large farms into smaller tracts is to the community. Possibly, but the question is has the community at large any right to say whether John Jones, who owns a tract of a thousand acres, shall willy-nilly cut it up into small holdings, or does that right lie with John Jones alone. County division is a thing to be settled by the people concerned, and not by the state at large."

"It will be '23' for all but about nine of those 22 initiative measures to be voted on at the November election." Quercy, but the man who doesn't need credit is the one who can most easily get it.—Portland Express.

M. K. HALL

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Get in front. Lead the other fellows. Don't be the flea on the hair of the tail. Eastern Oregon should do some of the dictating.

(Paid Advertisement.)

PRESENCE OF MIND.

Wellington's Cool Interview With a Murderous Maniac.

One day as the Duke of Wellington sat writing at his library table quite alone his door was suddenly opened without a knock or announcement of any sort, and in stalked a gaunt man, who stood before the commander in chief with his hat on and a savage expression of countenance.

The duke was of course a little annoyed at such an unceremonious interruption, and, looking up, he asked, "Who are you?" "I am Dionysius," was the singular answer. "Well, what do you want?" "Your life." "My life?" "Yes; I am sent to kill you." "Very odd," said the duke, sitting back and calmly gazing at the intruder. "Not at all, for I am Dionysius," said the stranger, "and I must put you to death." "Are you obliged to perform this duty today?" asked the commander in chief. "I am very busy just now and have a large number of letters to write. It would be very inconvenient today." The visitor looked hard during a moment's pause. "Call again," continued the duke, "or write and make an appointment." "You'll be ready?" "Without fail," was the reply.

The maniac, awed doubtless by the stern old soldier, backed out of the room without further words and half an hour later was safe in bedlam.—London Graphic.

FULL OF GRATITUDE.

But the Little One Had a Queer Way of Expressing It.

Mr. Brown's business kept him so occupied during the daytime that he had little opportunity to enjoy the society of his own children. When some national holiday gave him a day of leisure his young son was usually his chosen companion. One day, however, Mr. Brown, reproached by the wistful eyes of his seven-year-old daughter, reversed the order of things and invited the little girl to go with him for a long walk.

She was a shy, silent, small person, and during the two hours' stroll not a single word could Mr. Brown induce the little maid to speak, but her shining eyes attested that she appreciated his efforts to amuse her—indeed, she fairly glowed with suppressed happiness.

Just before they reached home, however, the child managed, but only after a tremendous struggle with her inherent timidity, to find words to express her gratitude.

"Papa, what flower do you like best?" she asked.

"Why, I don't know, my dear—sunflowers, I guess."

"Then," cried the little girl, beaming with gratitude, "that's what I'll plant on your grave!"—Exchange.

Tennyson's Tactlessness.

Several stories are told of Tennyson's thoughtless speeches. "What fish is this?" he once asked his hostess where he was dining. "Whiting," she replied. "The meanest fish there is," he remarked, quite unconscious that he could have wounded any one's feelings.

Yet his kindness of heart was such that when his partridge was afterward given him almost raw he ate steadily through it for fear his hostess might be vexed.

On one occasion Tennyson was very rude to Mrs. Brotherton, a neighbor at Freshwater. The next day he came to her house with a great cabbage under each arm.

"I heard you like these, so I brought them," he said genially. It was his idea of a peace offering.

The Soft Answer.

Two men were occupying a double seat in a crowded car. One of them was a long distance whistler and the other was evidently annoyed. "You don't seem to like my whistling?" said the noisy one after a five minute continuous performance. "No, I don't," was the frank reply. "Well," continued the other, "maybe you think you are man enough to stop it?" "No, I don't think I am," rejoined the other, "but I hope you are." And the whistling was discontinued.—Argonaut.

Warmth Not Wanted.

"This would be a pleasanter world if people put more warmth—genuine warmth—in their letters," said the man of sentiment.

"I don't agree with you," replied his worried friend, "there was a warmth about some of the business letters I got this morning that I didn't at all like."

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328 X Yes

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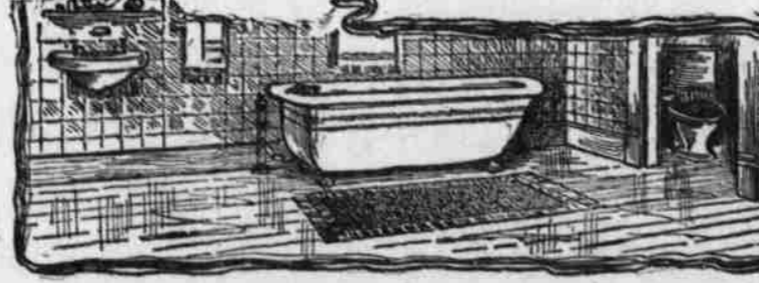
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