

ARE WE COUNTING THE COST?

Selo, January 27, 1891.

**Editors Democrat:**  
There being an effort made to create a new county in the Forks of the Santiam and being a citizen and legal voter of the proposed new county, I desire to offer some reasons to the tax payers of the new county why this measure should not prevail.

First, then, our limited number of people make it unadvisable to divide the county now. The small amount of taxes now paid by the taxpayers in the limits of the proposed new county show that it would be a grave mistake for us to undertake to assume the burdens of a new county. The amount of taxes paid by the taxpayers of Selo, Franklin Butte, Santiam, Fox Valley and Rock Creek Precincts this year under an 18 mill tax will be \$11,149.53. There is a small portion of Lebanon, Waterloo and Sweet Home precincts that lie within the limits of the new county. This would increase the amount of taxes paid this year to about \$13,000. Five eightieths of this would go to the school fund which would be \$3,600 leaving \$9,400 to run a county. Of course if a county were organized the deed, mortgage, will, probate, circuit and county court journals and other records of Linn county so far as they would apply to the new county, would have to be copied for the use of the new county. The most careful estimate shows that to buy record books and do this work would cost at the lowest figure \$6000. This would leave only \$3,400 for bridges, roads, county officers, paupers, etc. etc. Then, of course, the new county would have to have a court house and jail. There would be no escaping this. Then think of the bridges that we, single handed, and alone, would have to keep in repair. Suppose high waters should wash two or three out. Without old Linn to fall back on our plight would be a sorry one, indeed. Our taxpayers should not forget that we have more bridges than all the balance of the county. The truth is, that with our limited amount of taxable property and the great number of bridges to build and keep in repair, it would not be to exceed three years until our new county would be bankrupt. The total amount of taxes raised in Linn county this year under an 18 mill tax is \$117,220.50. The proposed new county pays \$13,000 or about one eight of it. But this new county would have nearly half the expense for roads and bridges to bear. But to my mind the very strongest objection that every taxpayer and especially every father and mother would have, would be the death blow it would give to our schools. The amount of school funds that will be raised in the limits of the new county this year is \$3600. There are 33 school districts in the limits of the proposed county. Let us see how much these districts would draw as a new county as compared with the amount actually drawn this year. Under the law for distributing school funds each district first receives \$50 and then what is left of the fund is divided between the districts in proportion to the number of pupils in each. Under such division the following table shows the result.

No. District	Am't rec'd this year	Am't as new county.
1	\$175.30	\$ 91.00
2	202.80	130.00
4	323.20	140.00
8	478.80	191.00
9	186.60	95.00
10	179.00	93.60
11	390.20	133.00
12	269.00	123.00
21	224.60	113.00
22	202.80	130.00
23	171.50	90.00
33	228.20	109.00
34	243.50	114.00
57	.....	.....
60	209.90	123.00
61	137.50	89.00
62	194.20	98.00
65	133.50	78.00
68	160.00	87.00
70	251.00	116.00
71	228.20	109.00
73	417.90	172.00
75	247.20	115.00
76	167.85	89.00
77	160.00	97.00
79	194.20	98.00
82	224.40	108.00
83	186.60	95.00
84	215.85	112.00
95	279.70	125.00
96	209.35	103.00
98	163.85	88.00
104	.....	.....

Districts 104 and 57 were organized since the last apportionment was made.  
The above table takes no account of the State fund as it would make no difference.

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Let me be understood. District no 1 last year drew from the County School fund (when taxes were 15 mills on the dollar) \$175.30. But this year when taxes are 18 mills it there was a new county it would draw \$91.00. This comes from the fact that in the forks of the Santiam there are a great many more children in proportion to the taxable property than in other portions of the county. District 34 last year drew \$243.50 but as a new county it would have drawn only \$114.00. Under a new county we would be compelled to go back to the three months school a year plan or else raise our taxes to 30 mills on the dollar. This is the stern, frozen truth and those who have children to educate should ponder over it long and carefully before asking for a new county. Fathers and mothers of the forks, are you willing to have but three months school a year? or are you, as taxpayers, willing to be taxed at the rate of 25 to 30 mills on the dollar to have five and six months?

The truth is that more money is paid back to the forks of the Santiam than we pay to the county in taxes. Then let every taxpayer in the forks who has the good of himself and children at heart write to our members in the legislature protesting against the creation of a new county.

I want to say that the figures regarding the amount of school funds drawn by the districts above named is taken from the records and cannot be gainsayed. The amount of taxes paid in the five precincts named above is taken from the assessment roll and cannot be disputed.  
H. S. WILLIAMS

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