

The Santiam News.

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NO. 16

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IS A FAIR PROPOSITION

The Proposed Nesmith County Merits Support of the Voters

The people of southern Lane and northern Douglas counties, numbering more than eight thousand souls, feeling that they are qualified to economically administer their own affairs from a governmental standpoint, have initiated a bill for the creation of a new county to be known as Nesmith, in honor of James Willis Nesmith, a pioneer, whose name shines in the firmament of illustrious Oregonians. The proposed county would contain 1940 square miles of which 1472 would come from Lane and 468 from Douglas, leaving the former 2908 square miles and the latter 4393 square miles, a sufficient area from which to still form several counties the size of Multnomah, Hood River, Columbia and Washington. The total assessed valuation of Nesmith county would be \$5,309,575, leaving Lane \$18,000,000 and Douglas over \$27,000,000. The country within the proposed new county is capable of maintaining an organization that would, we believe, be to the best interests of the people embraced within the territory, and at the same time not deprive any other people affected of their rights, nor increase their burdens, nor work them any injury whatever.

Owing to the large area of the two old counties affected many residents are put to great inconvenience, delay and expense in transacting business at the county seats. To compel residents to travel from twenty to sixty miles over bad roads in order to pay their taxes, serve on juries, or as witnesses, is to inflict a hardship upon them; yet it is more a matter of self-government for which the progressive people of this proposed county are contending. Taxation and representation should go hand in hand, but not so under present conditions. For instance: Cottage Grove, the second city in size and importance in Lane county, has never been permitted to name a county judge and it has been a quarter century since it had representation on the county board of commissioners; while the territory taken from Douglas county has never had either a county judge or commissioner. The representatives in the state legislature are from the county seats—Eugene and Roseburg—thus leaving a large tax-contributing community without voice in either local or state affairs. Ninety-two per cent of the residents within the proposed Nesmith county signed the petition, praying the voters of Oregon to grant them self-government by the creation of a new county, while one particular section immediately outside the original boundary lines petitioned the Nesmith committee for admission to the new county, preferring to take chances with the new rather than to remain with the old. This shows conclusively that the sentiment of the taxpayers of the proposed new county are practically unanimous in favor of division.

The boundary lines of Nesmith have been drawn in strict adherence to the topography of the county, its natural watersheds having been considered in every particular. The people of the new county have no desire to do anything that would result detrimentally to either of the old counties.

Jointly, Lane and Douglas have 5,800,000 acres, or more than the entire Willamette valley, and of this vast area, only a million and a quarter are asked by the new county.

The people within the territory of proposed Nesmith county are presenting their case to the voters without the slightest misrepresentation, pinning their faith in the voters to support their contention that local self-government is the ideal form of government; that the nearer home government is cheaper; that laws are more effectually enforced; that greater development of



COL. JAMES WILLIS NESMITH
Illustrious Oregonian whose name the proposed county would perpetuate.

country is possible; that its citizens are inconvenienced by nearness to the seat of government; that taxation and representation should go hand in hand and that by the creation of Nesmith county the efforts of a large and progressive community would be rendered more effective in increasing population, developing the resources and enhancing the greatness of Oregon.

(Paid Advertisement.)

An Infamous Bill

The two men who fathered the infamous Brooke-Bean bill are both candidates for re-election. Mr. Brooke is assembly candidate for joint representative from Harney and Malheur, and Mr. Bean asks to be elected joint senator for Lane and Linn. Both should be buried under an avalanche of protesting ballots.

There should be no place in public life in Oregon for men who proposed to make it a crime to subscribe to Statement One. They proposed to send to jail any legislative candidate who would publicly agree to let the people choose senator. This Brooke and Bean did, after 69,668 Oregon citizens had endorsed Statement One by making it compulsory on the legislature. The vote of the compulsory statement was so strong that it carried every county in the state.

It was within a few months after this decision by the people, that Brooke and Bean brought their infamous measure forward in the legislature. It was not only an insult to the people, but an attempt to make the legislature supercede and set aside the expressed instructions of the people. A more shameless proposition was never advocated in the Oregon legislature. The people will have opportunity to resent the infamy now and they will do it.

Mr. Brooke is opposed by Thomas P. McKnight, a strong and capable citizen. Mr. Bean is opposed by I. H. Bingham, a prominent Lane county republican. Both should be elected against the two men who proposed to make direct election of senators a crime.—Ex

Sudden Death

Mrs. Tatusek, a Bohemian lady, died very suddenly at her home in this city Sunday evening. She had been out in the yard for some purpose and coming into the house and not feeling well, laid down. When her husband attempted to arouse her, he found that she was dead. Heart trouble was the probable cause.

She leaves a husband and a large family of children to mourn her loss. The funeral and burial occurred on Thursday.

The Tatuseks came to the vicinity of Scio but a few months ago and they have lived in Scio but about one month.

I. H. Bingham is the Democratic, Independent Republican candidate for joint senator for Linn and Lane counties. His opponent, Mr. Bean, is the assembly candidate. Mr. Bingham has been a supporter of the primary law and statement No. 1 from the first. He voted for Geo. E. Chamberlain for U. S. senator.

SCIO DEMOCRATIC DAY

Fair Crowd Hears County Candidates in the Afternoon

The democratic campaign was opened at Scio last Saturday afternoon. Nevertheless the farmers are exceedingly busy with their fall crops, and that a meeting of the shareholders of the Linn County Fair association was in progress at the same time, more than 100 of our citizens assembled to hear the democratic county candidates discuss the issues of the day and, incidentally, their own fitness for the office to which they severally aspire.

The Bohemian cornet band was on hand and supplied some very excellent music. At about 2 p. m. the audience in the Wesely-Cain hall was called to order and candidate for county commissioner, C. H. Elswick, of Brownsville, was introduced. Mr. Elswick did not attempt to make an extended speech. He confined his remarks to what he conceived to be the duties of the county commissioner. He thought economy should be used in the expenditure of county funds; that good public highways, bridges, etc., were the utmost importance and that he would, if elected, favor giving to each road district the road tax collected from such district. Mr. Elswick is a carpenter and has had much experience in bridge building. He will make a practical commissioner.

Mr. A. A. Tussing, of Brownville, candidate for the legislature, seemed to have a fine mental grasp of the duties of the legislator. He thought that fewer and more practical bills should be introduced in that body and that the reform laws now on our statutes should be protected at all hazards and that the legislature had no right to amend or hamper a law enacted by the people. Mr. Tussing, if elected, will make a conscientious hard working member.

Mr. F. J. Denney, also, a candidate for the legislature, showed that he had a very clear conception of what the leading issue of this campaign is, and that is: Shall all of the people or the public service corporations and a few political bosses rule. He pointed out that it was not so much the individual candidate as what he represents and stands for. Mr. Denney made manifest that he was good legislative timber and that the people will make no mistake if they elect him. He will, if elected, represent the people in spirit and in fact.

Senator M. A. Miller spoke for nearly an hour and in a most effective manner. He explained how measures were carried through the legislature; pointed out who were mainly responsible for the Mariner bill, the purpose of which was to make the assembly method of selecting candidates legal and which would, practically, repeal the primary law; how the Bean-Brook measure would make it a crime for a legislative candidate to sign statement No. 1; that he had ever been a strong supporter of our public school and supported any and all measures which would build them up. The audience, which had been considerably increased by this time, paid Mr. Miller the compliment of listening very closely to what he had to say.

Just at the close of the afternoon meeting, United States Senator Chamberlain arrived, accompanied by Editor Humphrey, of the Jefferson Review and just at dark, Candidate for congress R. G. Smith arrived from Albany, via automobile.

At 7:30 the band rendered a couple of selections on the street, when the audience repaired to Wesely-Cain hall to listen to the distinguished gentlemen. Senator Chamberlain gave a heart to heart talk to his audience, lasting for about one hour, giving his attention to

(Continued on page 8)