

Lake County Examiner

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LAKEVIEW, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 1907.

NO. 4

WOULD MAKE RICH COUNTY.

Rich in Timber and Agricultural Lands.

SCHEME IS SHREWDLY PLANNED

Principal Cities of District Left Out—Would be Rivals of Town to be Benefitted.

As The Examiner stated a couple of weeks ago that there would be need for special representation at the 1907 session of the Oregon legislature from this section of the county to cope with measures that would be brought before that body affecting Lake county, there is a measure up now for the creation of Deschutes county out of portions of Lake, Klamath and Crook counties. The proposed new county includes the west half of Crook county, about 700,000 acres from Klamath county and about 400,000 acres from Lake county, of the North end, taking in Silver Lake and all the rich farming lands and the valuable timbered area of the Northern end of the county.

The new county, as the lines have been drawn by the promoters, would be the richest in natural wealth of any county in the state, and would make Bend the county seat of the greatest county in the West.

The lines were so drawn as to take in what of the valuable agricultural and timber lands from three counties, but cutting out the towns of Lakeview, Klamath Falls, and Prineville, as either or all of these cities would be rivals of Bend for the county seat.

No doubt if the scheme could be slipped through the legislature as was probably intended it should, Mr. J. M. Lawrence, who is now at the bottom of it, would probably make another stagger to have the Roseburg Land office moved to Bend. It seems there is not business enough at Roseburg to keep Mr. Lawrence from making "mud pies."

A Swift Team.

Prof. Willis tells of a circumstance that reflects great credit on a fine driving team he owns. Just before he started to Bly last Saturday afternoon, he went into the telephone office at Reynolds store and sent a message to Will McKee, at the 70 ranch in Drews valley, a distance of 20 miles, telling him that they would be there for supper. He then climbed into his sleigh and "hit the road" west, arriving at the 70 ranch just as the message he had sent arrived.

No Money for Expenses.

Klamath Falls is apt to be in money straits before another opportunity rolls around for the city dads to make another levy for administration expenses, according to the Klamath Falls Express' view of the situation. The state law provides that city council must make a levy and have the same filed with the county clerk before January first. This the Klamath Falls council failed to do, and when they did present their levy to the clerk, that official refused to file it, consequently there will be no tax collected for city purposes this year, and as the Express says the town is already in a bad way from a financial standpoint, the bottom of the towns' exchequer will be scraped before another January one, rolls around.



FREDERICK W. MULKEY, who was elected United States Senator yesterday for the short term commencing at once and expiring March 4th, next. Mr. Mulkey is the first United States Senator to be elected by the people of Oregon. His nomination by the Republican party and election by the people at the general election in June being ratified by the Legislature.

Shot in the Neck.

Word was received here this week that Charlie Trumbo, who lives at Republic, Wash. accidentally shot himself in the neck with a .22-calibre rifle. The injury was quite serious, and was thought would result fatally. His brother Oris of Alturas received at telegram acquainting him of the accident and left at once for Republic.

Farmers Anxious.

J. C. Oliver was over from the West Side last Saturday. He says the farmers of that side of the valley are anxious to hear the proposition to be made them by the Hewitt Co., who propose to irrigate the West Side. Mr. McKendree, who is acting for the company here, will start for Tacoma in a few days, and will return with the plans for the carrying out of the project shortly.

DELIGHTED!



—Philadelphia Press.

RELIEF PROMISED FROM GOVERNOR.

Chamberlain Will Intervene in Matter of our Burden of Unjust State Taxation.

Governor Chamberlain, in answer to a letter from Dr. Daly, has promised to help this county to secure relief, at the present session of the legislature, from its unjust burden of state taxation.

In Dr. Daly's vigorous letter to Governor Chamberlain, he has marshalled fact after fact in that logical sequence which makes his argument unanswerable. He shows that this county has been paying more than double its share of the state taxes since 1901, as compared with the other counties of the state, and that if no relief be granted by the legislature, at its present session, it is the intention of the tax commission to increase the tax which Lake county is now paying, so that it becomes a matter of great importance to the people of this county that something be done in order to not only prevent the threatened increase in the state tax, but that a substantial reduction be secured in the present per cent. that the county now pays.

Here follows Dr. Daly's letter and Governor Chamberlain's answer thereto: LAKEVIEW, OREGON, December 31, 1906.

HON. GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN,

Governor of Oregon, Salem, Oregon.

Dear Governor:—Section 4, of an act to prescribe the method in which the state taxes shall be apportioned between the several counties of the state, approved February 27th, 1901, provides as follows:

"In order to ascertain the proportion of such taxes to be paid by the several counties, said state officers shall ascertain from the reports of expenditure of the several counties, on file in the office of the secretary of state, the average amount of expenditure in each county during a period of five years; and each county shall pay such proportion of said state taxes as the average amount of expenditure for such period bears to the total amount of expenditures in all the counties of the state, such computations to be made by the said state officers in January, 1905, and in January in each fifth year thereafter. Until the January, 1905, computation, the proportion of the state taxes to be paid by the several counties shall be based on the assessments of the several counties for the past five years."

The computed per cent. for Lake county to pay, under the provisions of this act, is far in excess of the amount that it should pay in proportion to the amount of taxable property it now has, and this inequality is becoming more unequal each year. The assessment of 1905 shows that Josephine county, with property valued at \$1,190,555, paid only \$9,225 state tax on that assessment; Walla county, with property assessed at \$4,081,515, paid but \$7,482.50, while Lake county on that year's assessment of only \$2,013,748, paid \$10,967.50, a sum out of all proportion to that paid by any other county in the state.

Under the provisions of the law a new computation should have been made in January, 1905, at which time Lake county expected that full justice would have been done in equalizing its part of the state taxes, but for some reason the legislature at that session provided that no computation should be made until 1910, thereby compelling the several counties of the state to continue to pay the per cent. for state taxes that was fixed in 1901 on property of that and the four preceding years without any change for a period of ten years.

Such a law violates every principle of equitable taxation, for the reason that many of the counties of the state have more than doubled in wealth since 1901, when the present rate was fixed, while Lake county, being far remote from railroad facilities, and large centers of population, has remained practically without any material increase of wealth, but with a noticeable decrease in population.

The assessment of 1901 shows that Multnomah county had property amounting to \$33,107,502, while in 1905 it had property assessed at \$143,800,258; in 1901 Lake county had property assessed at \$1,630,325, while in 1905 its assessment was \$2,013,748. The wealth of Multnomah county shows an increase of nearly 500 per cent. during the past five years, while that of Lake county during the same period, increased only about 30 per cent. but according to the law of 1905 the tax fixed on the property values of 1901 and on the four years prior thereto must remain in force until 1910 regardless of the increase or decrease of the wealth of the several counties of the state.

When the tax commission was provided for and appointed the people of the state hoped that a practical method for equal and uniform taxation would be prepared and submitted to the legislative assembly at its 1907 session, to assist the members of that body in the enactment of an equitable law upon that subject, but the majority report of the commission is very disappointing, for instead of its recommendations being based on the wealth of the several counties of the state, its data seems to have been based upon imaginary conditions and arbitrary findings, because the commission say, in its report: "In the case of Harney and Lake counties no data being at hand, the commission made an arbitrary estimate of 50 per cent." which means that the commission, without any information whatever, arbitrarily increased the assessment of Lake county from \$2,013,748 in 1905 to \$4,027,496, and recommended that its per cent. for state taxes be also increased from .0107 to .0119 per cent.

It is difficult to understand upon what process of reasoning the commission decided that an arbitrary assessment of the property values of Lake county, without any information to justify such action, would conform to the constitutional provision which requires that, "All taxes shall be equal and uniform," when as a matter of fact, a full, fair and equitable amount for Lake County to pay, based on its present wealth and also in proportion to the wealth of the several counties of the state, would be, not to exceed .0069 per cent. of the state taxes, instead of .0107 per cent. which the county has been paying since 1901.

Mr. W. J. Lachner, in dissenting from the majority report of the commission, recommends that all taxes should be apportioned according to the wealth in each county; this theory is not only just and equitable, but it is the only theory of taxation that conforms to the mandatory requirements of the constitution on that subject.

In view of the fact that Lake county has no resident, a member of the legislature, to speak in its behalf, nor any other member of the legislative assembly of 1907 that is in any way familiar with the peculiar local conditions of the county; I would, therefore, most respectfully request, if not inconsistent with your high sense of public duty, that you recommend that the committee on Assessment and Taxation of the House and Senate make a thorough investigation of the property values of Lake county for the purpose of assessment, in order that an equitable law be passed relieving its people from the unequal burden of state taxation, which has been so patiently borne since 1901.

Yours Very Respectfully, B. Daly.

SALEM, OREGON, January 9th, 1907.

HON. B. DALY, Lakeview, Oregon.

Dear Judge:—I beg to own the receipt of your favor of the 31st, ultimo, having reference to the apportionment of taxes against your county, and requesting me to recommend that the committee on Assessment and Taxation of the House and Senate make a thorough investigation of the property valuation of Lake county for the purpose of assessment in order that an equitable law may be passed relieving its people from the unequal burden of state taxation imposed under the Act of 1901, to which you refer.

Under the showing made by your letter there is no question but that under the present system of apportionment of taxes your county is not treated fairly, and some measure of relief should be afforded by the legislature at this session. Prior to the receipt of your letter my message had been printed, and therefore your communication comes too late to have the subject matter thereof mentioned in it, but I promise you that when the legislature convenes I will take pleasure in submitting your letter to the proper committee, and ask for your county that consideration which your people are entitled to have at their hands.

I have the honor to remain, Yours Very Sincerely, Geo. E. Chamberlain.

How to Measure Hay.

The rules for measuring hay in the stack vary according to the length of time the hay has been stacked, the kind and quality of the hay and also according to the character of the stack. With alfalfa or prairie hay which has been stacked for thirty days it is usual to compute an 8 foot cube, of 512 cubic feet as a ton. When the hay has been stacked five or six months usually a 7 1/2 foot cube or 422 cubic feet is calculated for a ton. In old stacks which have stood for a year or more a 7 foot cube or 343 cubic feet is allowed for a ton. There are different methods of measuring stacks, depending upon the shape of the stack and also its size. For a long stack, or rick the usual method is to throw a line over the stack, measuring the distance over from the bottom on one side of the bottom on the other; add to these the average width of the stack, divide this sum by four—which equals one side of the square—and multiply the quotient by itself and this product by the length of the stack. This will give the number of cubic feet in the stack, which may be divided by 422, or 343 in order to find the number of tons.

Fences to Come Down.

Commissioner Richards of the General land office has caused to be sent out circulars to all registers and receivers of land offices, calling attention to their duties as regards the law to prevent the unlawful occupancy of public lands. The circular, after quoting the amendment to the act of February 25, 1885, instructs special agents and receivers and registers of local land offices throughout the United States, to give the widest publicity thereto that the provisions of said act for the summary destruction of inclosures and obstructions existing in violation of said act will be rigidly enforced on and after April 1, 1907.

How to Order Meals.

"There are all sorts of ways of ordering from a bill of fare. Some people go in with an air of being on familiar terms with the establishment," writes Elizabeth M. Rhodes in the February Delineator. "They call the waiter 'Henry' as a beginning, and give their order in a confidential tone, as if to imply that Henry understands that they are used to the best and nothing short of that is good enough for them. Just as Henry thinks that he has the order, they beckon him back and say, 'Just a little ice in that, please', or, 'You understand—no Worcestershire with mine.' And when Henry goes off they lean back complacently, as who would say, 'You see, I'm quite used to living in this style then.'"

Miss Rhodes gives a concise summary of the conventionalities of the restaurant, including choice of table, ordering a la carte and table d'hôte, payment of bill and tipping the waiter.

We understand that Messrs. Williams, Ivory and Dorris, the gentlemen from Alturas, came up with the expectation of buying the Brattain band of horses. They will go to Chewaucan to look at the horses.

COUNTY DIVISION IS TO BOOM BEND.

Not Looked Upon With By The Press.

SILVER LAKE HAS ASPIRATIONS.

All Three Counties Involved are Opposed to the Creation of The New County.

The Silver Lake Oregonian and the Klamath Falls Herald treat the subject of county division as follows. It will be noticed that Silver Lake is to be included in the new county:

(Klamath Falls Herald.)

From this distance, it appears to be simply a boom for Bend, as it would be the probable location of the county seat. A vast amount of land included within the boundaries of the new county is practically worthless at present, and in order to raise the required revenue for the transaction of county business it is necessary to draw heavily from Klamath and Lake. It is not likely that the scheme will prove successful but nevertheless steps should be taken to let our representatives in the Legislature know that it does not meet approval of our citizens and the scheme to boom Bend should be nipped in the bud. It is understood that both Representatives Merryman and Belknap are opposed to the division, and will do their utmost to defeat it, and they should be backed up in their work by the people of Klamath.

(Silver Lake Oregonian.)

But such a move will undoubtedly be strongly opposed by the Klamath and Lake county people, and if the promoters of this scheme wish to make it a success it will probably be necessary for them to confine their boundary lines within the limits of Crook. Then they will have no opposition to contend with. Lake county can ill afford to lose any of her taxable property at the present time, and when the time does arrive that a county division in Lake seems a feasible proposition, the citizens of this end of the county have aspirations of their own.

Miller Buys Cattle.

F. M. Miller returned from the 77 ranch Tuesday. Mr. Miller has bought 1000 head of young cows from the French-Glenn Co., and will go about the 1st of Feb. to brand the cattle. They will be put on the 77 ranch. Miller says the cattle are doing fine in Warner. They are feeding only their calves and a few cows, there being no snow to prevent stronger cattle to find all the grass they need.



JONATHAN BOURNE JR., who was elected United States Senator by the Oregon Legislature yesterday, for the term of six years, succeeding Senator J. H. Mitchell. Mr. Bourne was nominated by the Republican party at the primary election last April, and elected by the people at the general election in June, ratified by the Legislature yesterday.