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SWEETGRASS COUNTY.

If Created Will Be One of the Grandest Counties In the Grand State of Montana.

LIVINGSTON MAKES HER REGULAR KICK.

All Residents of the Proposed New County Strongly in Favor Of Its Creation--The Chronic Kickers of Livingston Prepare A Unique Document in Protest.

That the proposed county of Sweetgrass would in a few years, if formed, be one of the grandest of the many grand counties in Montana there can be no question. Embracing within its boundaries a wealth of mineral, stock and agricultural lands it needs only the proper form of self government to develop its resources and to make it more than self sustaining.

For many years the people living within its territory have been compelled to go many miles to exercise their legal rights. The expenses of trips to Livingston, White Sulphur Springs and to Billings have been great; and as a tax, have proven to be burdensome. Their business could be transacted at Big Timber more satisfactorily and at less expense than at any other point and they know it. The request to the legislature to pass this bill is therefore reasonable and should be granted.

The assessable wealth of the proposed county at the present time is \$2,500,000, when the county comes into existence, January 1, 1895, it will easily amount to more than \$3,500,000. More than enough at the present time to maintain a county at a low rate of taxation when conservatively managed. The expenses of managing Sweetgrass county will be comparatively low, and criminal cases will be extremely rare. Since the formation of Park county there has never been a murder committed in the territory that is proposed to be taken from her.

The same may be said of the country to be embraced lying in Meagher county. Peaceful, prosperous and law abiding, the citizens will, if Sweetgrass county is formed, take a pride and a personal interest in managing, developing and maintaining the law and order of their county. Such are the people, clear headed and energetic and it is with singular and rare unanimity of purpose that they have entered this fight to win. With an honest upright way, concealing nothing and encroaching upon no one they ask only for what is theirs and insist that just deserts be granted.

In all or nearly all of the new counties that have heretofore been created in Montana there are men who have strongly objected to the passage of such acts, even many of those living within the new counties. Even when the county of Park was created there were many objectors who lived in Livingston and in almost every portion of the county. Their objections, however, went for naught and the county was formed. The growth and development of the county since that time shows how groundless were their fears and showed that when a county reached a certain size it became cumbersome and that two smaller counties could be managed better at less expense than one unwieldy county covering almost all creation.

But, for a difference, there is not one person living within the limits of the proposed county of Sweetgrass but what is heartily in favor of division; not one but whom, if his vote could create the new county, would vote in favor of it. If there be such a one we have yet to hear him and hear his reasons; and we have heard either directly or indirectly from almost every taxpayer in the proposed county.

It has been stated by the chronic Livingston objectors that "the move will help Big Timber real estate." It will. It will also help real estate situated not alone in Big Timber but in every portion of the new county. Whether it is one lot or one thousand acres, their value will be increased by being situated in an independent

county and not assisting to form the tail end of three or four large counties whose very size make them extremely expensive and a burden for the taxpayers to carry.

As their business interests lie that way the people of Red Lodge will be found to favor being annexed to Yellowstone county.

THEIR REMONSTRANCE.

One of the Best Arguments Yet Advanced for the Creation of Sweetgrass County.

As was expected Livingston has made a kick. As, however, they have kicked for years on every proposition for public good, their kick will bear little fruit. They have prepared, after several days hard work, a remonstrance against the passage of the Sweetgrass county bill and as the remonstrance contains many things that are not facts, but are falsehoods; and many things that are facts and are in themselves good and sufficient reasons for the creation of the county of Sweetgrass, we present the remonstrance in its entirety, as follows:

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

GENTLEMEN: Whereas, there has been introduced and is now pending before you for consideration, Senate Bill No. 1, for the creation of the County of Sweetgrass out of a portion of what is now Park County; and whereas, the creation of said county is in our opinion unnecessary and would be detrimental to the best interests of Park County and its inhabitants.

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned bona fide residents of the present County of Park would respectfully petition your honorable bodies to refuse to pass said bill, and to bring protest in the most earnest manner against its passage, and in support of this our petition and protest present the following facts:

First--That the present county of Park was created in 1877 out of the territory of Gallatin at that time the only county of Park contained 2,500 inhabitants, with an assessed value of \$2,500,000. The present county of Park contains 35,000 inhabitants, with an assessed value of \$2,500,000. The population is based on a small district situated in Livingston, Big Timber, Torr, Corvallis, Elk Lodge, Cooke, Boulder, and Meagher.

Second--That at the present time the County contains not to exceed 3,000 people. Its present indebtedness, including loans, warrants and outstanding obligations, is about \$500,000; its assessed valuation of property subject to taxation only amounts to about \$5,000,000. The present tax levy of 15 mills does not suffice to pay the interest on the bonds of the county and interest on debt and provide a sinking fund for payment of outstanding bonds; the county has to public property except a jail worth about \$25,000, and lots for Court House site worth about \$2,500, and two poor farms worth about \$5,000. The present indebtedness and expenses of the county have been found to be a serious burden for our people to carry, and efforts to load for the construction of public buildings have been recently defeated owing to the feeling against increasing those burdens.

Third--That the county, while large in area, is sparsely settled in the country districts and contains large tracts of land unsuitable for farming purposes. It is estimated that the population is based on a small district situated in Livingston, Big Timber, Torr, Corvallis, Elk Lodge, Cooke, Boulder, and Meagher.

Fourth--That the future prosperity of the County is based upon the development of its mineral resources and agricultural lands. The present law takes from our County the mineral regions of Cooke and Boulder, the coal fields of Red Lodge and Meagher, the agricultural regions of Melville, Sweetgrass and the Yellowstone valley. It takes from us a population of about 3,000 people, and about one-half of the taxable property of the County. The agricultural regions included in it are among the most fertile in our boundaries and those with the best timber and the best prospects for settlement and growth in the near future. To thus dismember the county of Park is to greatly injure its present prospects and deprive it of any substantial hope of future growth.

Fifth--That the proposed bill, if it becomes a law, would include within the new County the town of Cooke and the New World Mining district, a district that has recently been the subject of a memorial from your honorable bodies to the United States Congress. This District and town is pointed from the rest of the proposed new County and County Seat by an impassable range of Mountains,

and access thereto can be had only by way of Livingston. The people of that portion of the new county would thus have imposed upon them the additional burden of traveling from Livingston to Big Timber with no recompense therefor.

Sixth--That the only persons to be benefited by the creation of the new County would be the inhabitants of the town of Big Timber, and they only by the increased price which they might be able to obtain for their town lots, owing to the location of the County Seat at that place.

Seventh--That the effect of the creation of the new county would be to double the burdens of the inhabitants without any material increase in their ability to bear them. The above facts are submitted for your consideration, in the confident hope that you will not permit this great injustice to be done us.

ISANSWER.

"Facts" first and second are in themselves reasons all sufficient for our cutting loose. They show on their face the grossest mismanagement and show further that the county is too large to properly manage. It is a well known fact that a proper assessment will show the present taxable wealth of Park county to be more than \$6,000,000. Of this amount the new county is to take about \$1,250,000.

Third. In this "fact" a remarkable shortness of memory is shown when such settlements as Clyde Park, Myersburg, Fridley, Howie, Emigrant, McLeod and several more are omitted, all rich in stock and agriculture.

Fourth. The future prosperity of the county depends not upon a portion of it remaining in Park county but upon its being separate and distinct. The new county takes from Park less than one-fourth of the taxable wealth. Park county will be a very rich county after the new county is made, having within its borders many thousands of acres of agricultural, coal and mineral lands, as any one conversant with the facts can state.

Fifth. This so called fact is a falsehood, pure and simple. The people of Cooke and the New World Mining district are not separated from Big Timber by an impassable range of mountains and we make the assertion that the people living there will soon make Big Timber their outlet, via the Boulder route, whether the Sweetgrass county bill passes or not.

Sixth and Seventh are "facts" too silly to answer and bear their absurdity upon their face.

A CONTRADICTION.

"Fact" fourth says: "It takes from us a population of about 3,000 people, and about one-half of the taxable property of the County." The agricultural regions included in it are among the most fertile in our boundaries and those within which there are the best prospects for settlement and growth in the near future." Now that looks like we were going to have a good strong county, but it can not be so for "fact." Seven says "that the effect of the creation of the new county would be to about double the burdens of the inhabitants without any material increase in their ability to bear them."

As for losing Red Lodge, Park county can well afford to. The taxable wealth of Red Lodge is very small while the expense, owing to its distance from the county seat, is very large. By being annexed to Billings some 25 miles of travel to and from their county seat would be saved and their burdens would be lessened as well as the burdens of the county to which they belong.

GREAT INDIGNATION.

A Meeting at Livingston with a Few Associates.

Special dispatch to the Pioneer via the Montana Mail to explain the following:

COTTONWOOD, Feb. 1, 1893. "And 'Judge Henry' presided" and "Mr. Roth acted as secretary." Where were the balance of the other leaders? Didn't H. Miller act as clerk? C. C. McGraw as water carrier extraordinary, Alby Bailey as soap coroner, surveyor and sheriff. Surely Alderson must have held the exalted position and George Wright something subordinate to Alderson.

Herald: J. B. Woods foreman of the Ellis sheep ranch, was in from the Boulder Monday. He reports that on Friday last two of the employes of Mr. Ellis, went to the mountain ranch to secure their best clothes for the purpose of attending a dance and found that burglars had entered the house during their absence and carried clothing and other goods to the amount of \$100. Among the articles taken was a collection of English colts valued at \$10. The burglary is supposed to have been committed by holoes.

FOR AND AGAINST.

Statements of Valued Exchanges on the Subject of the Proposed Sweetgrass County.

Bozeman Chronicle: The people around Big Timber are making an effort through their representatives in the legislature to have a new county formed out of Park, Meagher and Yellowstone, with Big Timber as the county seat. It is to be called Sweetgrass county, provided it is called anything, and with Hatch and Van Cleave both working for it the chances for its formation are very favorable.

Stillwater Bulletin: The citizens of Big Timber are out with petitions praying for the division of Park county. The proposed new county of Boulder embraces all that portion of Park east of a line running north and south near Springdale. The valuation of which will more than equal that of the old county. This move has been brought about by the constant refusal of Livingston to recognize the rights of eastern Park county, all of which goes to prove that impartiality is the proper course to pursue in county affairs.

Red Lodge Picket: The news of this movement, the details of which are given in our news columns, comes just at the hour of going to press and we have but little time or space for comment, but that it will meet with a determined opposition from the citizens of Red Lodge and vicinity, and especially of the residents of the fine agricultural section on our west, we have every reason to believe. All of that country south of the Yellowstone river to the Wyoming line, lying west side of the divide between Plover creek and Clark's fork to the Stillwater and its tributaries, is bound together by commercial interests which county lines cannot sever without inconvenience to its inhabitants. It is proposed to place more than half of this territory in Sweetgrass county and compel the residents thereof to transact their county business at Big Timber, a town as remote from them as far as business interests are concerned, as Bozeman or Helena. The inhabitants of this territory it is proposed to segregate from Park and Yellowstone counties are, by their geographical position, compelled to transact their commercial business at either Red Lodge or in Yellowstone county, and to compel them to transact their business in Big Timber, to reach which point they must cross a high mountain range or travel to the proposed county seat by way of Stillwater, would be a burden which we do not think the legislature will impose when the full facts are laid before that body.

Helena Independent: Yesterday a new aspirant was entered, Sweetgrass. The bill for this county was introduced in the senate by Hatch. It contemplates creating a new county composed in part of a strip from the eastern side of Park county, the remainder of Meagher county below a point ten miles below Martinsdale on the Musselshell river. It includes also a large portion of the 1,900,000 acres of Crow Indian reservation opened by proclamation of President Harrison October last. This county bill differs from the other county division measures before the legislature; it being modeled after the bill of 1895 creating Fergus county, providing for organization after the next general election, at which time the officers for the new county will be elected. Big Timber is the designated county seat. In the opinion of Senator Hatch and Representative Van Cleave whose homes are within the boundaries of Sweetgrass county (should the bill become a law) now was made for the county by the opening of the Crow reservation. There may, however, be a difference of opinion as to the county seat of Park county. Friends of the Sweetgrass bill say it will be an odd proposition for Livingston to be upon the other side of county division argument, after the long and hard contest the people there made with Gallatin for division.

Livingston Enterprise: According to the Pioneer the people of Big Timber have launched another county division scheme upon an unsuspecting public. The only definite information regarding the provisions of this latest scheme to furnish an opening for additional office seekers is that Big Timber is to be the seat of government and the territory enclosed in this new geographical division--alleged to contain \$2,500,000 taxable property--is to come from Park county. As the total assessed valuation of Park county is only \$5,000,000, it is difficult to figure out the valuation claimed by the promoters of this scheme without permitting them to encroach upon the territory naturally tributary to Livingston, and thus seriously cripple the old county and make the maintenance of the new county exceedingly burdensome to the residents of eastern Park county. No doubt Big Timber is relying on a portion at least of the ceded Crow reservation, but as this

territory will not be available for taxation for several years, or until title is secured by individuals for this land, this anticipated resource would not materialize. Even the personal property, which consists chiefly of the herds of large stockgrowers, would seek relief from burdensome taxation, and owners would drive to neighboring counties where the tax levy would not absorb the entire profits of their flocks and herds.

WHERE IS TOMMY ASH?

Livingston Claims That She is not Represented in the Legislature.

Except from Livingston special to the Helena Independent: A committee was also appointed to formulate an address to members of the senate setting forth the fact that the people of Park county, having been deserted by their representative, are obliged to use other means to be heard by that body.

There are bills pending in the legislative assembly to create a board of dental examiners, a board of pharmacy, a board of charities and reforms; to establish the office of commissioner of immigration, deputy state treasurer, deputy state auditor, two water or irrigation commissioners and several others. If all the bills pass there will be few private left, but the army of captains will be large.

When news was received here this evening that the house, in committee of the whole, had taken favorable action on the Flathead county bill there was great rejoicing. In addition to the lengthy petition sent to Helena Monday the whole valley has been canvassed, and outside Columbia Falls there is not the slightest opposition to the bill, and the taxpayers from all parts of the proposed new county are urging the citizens of Kalispell to do everything possible to secure its passage. The only dissatisfied persons are those who have failed to secure an office. Progress in this newly developed section will be retarded unless local government be given the Flathead by this legislature. The business men and ranchman of the valley regard those who oppose the bill as enemies to the best interests of this promising territory."--Kalispell special to the Independent.

Insert the name of Livingston in the place of Columbia Falls and the special will apply to Sweetgrass county.

From the Anaconda Standard we glean some statistics regarding the number and nativity of convicts in the Montana state penitentiary during the year 1892.

On December 1, last, there were 333 prisoners at Deer Lodge. Of this number Silver Bow county furnished most, its contribution being 80. Lewis & Clark was second, with 51; Chouteau third, 31; Deer Lodge fourth, 29; Dawson county sent only one convict.

Of the entire number, 12 were foreigners, and of these, Ireland contributed 23; Canada 21; Germany 12 and England 11. No other country had more than five representatives at the Montana institution of labor.

The American contingent amounted to 251. Of these New York furnished 47, or nearly one-fifth of the number. The other great states ranked as follows: Illinois, Massachusetts and Michigan with 17; Pennsylvania and Missouri 16; California 13, Minnesota 12, Ohio 11. The "bad men from Texas" were not very numerous, only six of them being sent up.

The largest number sent up for any crime were 169 for burglary. Sixty-three are serving terms for grand larceny, 26 for murder in the second degree, 22 for robbery, 19 for assault to kill and 10 for manslaughter.

At Butte, Charles Bruise shot his wife through the arm, put two bullets into Waldo Whipple and then blew out his own brains. Whipple can not live. The trouble which caused the shooting was the same old story, a woman deserting her husband for another man, who she became infatuated with and a husband taking his revenge for the wrong done him. Whipple is a song and dance man, while Bruise is a saloon-keeper at San Francisco, to which place he went a short time ago from Montana. He was a Mason in good standing, having been a member of Consort Lodge No. 52 of Montreal. Prior to marrying Bruise, the woman was an actress in San Francisco, and in the performance of her professional duties met Whipple and fell in love with him. A short time ago her husband visited Montreal, and on his return to the coast he discovered that his wife had eloped with Whipple during his absence and came to Butte. He followed the guilty pair, arriving Wednesday evening. This morning he sought them at their lodgings at West Mercury street and the tragedy followed. From letters and newspaper clippings found in Bruise's possession he stood well in the places he had resided. He was forty-three years old, while his wife was twenty-eight.