

# The Big Meeting Will Be Held at Ekalaka on the 17th of April Regardless of Other Movements

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## SHOULD HAVE COUNTY DIVISION LOCAL NEWS AROUND

### A Few Reasons Why We Believe In Dividing Custer North and South.

**T**HE question of the Division of Custer County is one that has been in the minds of the people for several years, but until the present time it has been impossible to make such a division. The aversion of the people of the western part of the county, which we must highly respect, has made it impossible to secure legislation for the division of the county, but at the last session of our legislature a bill known as S. B. No. 35 made it possible for the people living in a certain community, who desired to form a new county to do so, without applying to the legislature. The people of the eastern part of Custer County have long felt the need of a county of their own and we believe it only fair to all parties interested to give to the public our reason, at least in part, why we believe Custer County should be divided from north to south, and thus creating a new county from the eastern part of Custer County. In the past few years this portion of the county has developed so rapidly that the volume of business, which must necessarily be transacted at the county seat, has increased. It is a well known fact that the people living in the southeastern part of the county must travel over 100 miles to a railroad point and over another 100 miles on the railroad to reach the present county seat. This means one week of travel and an expenditure of \$50. or more, which also means the paying out of many thousands of dollars annually in that way.

From a commercial point of view the eastern half of Custer county is no longer contiguous to Miles City. The Milwaukee railroad now brings our supplies to the railroad towns of Baker and Ismay and other towns along the line so that it is no longer necessary to freight our goods from Miles City as in former years. We have our trading points well established in the eastern part of the county. We are no longer compelled to drive our stock to Miles City for shipment. Our banking business can be cared for largely by the banks of the eastern part of the county, which was not the case several years ago. In fact, we now have all the necessary business conveniences in the eastern half of Custer County which in former years were at Miles City.

The question naturally presents itself, what will be gained financially by a division of Custer county? We will gain this: Last year the taxes of this county, without special road, special poor or local taxes were 18 1-2 mills. The part of Custer county that we propose to create into a new county has an assessed valuation, according to the assessors books of over \$6,200,000. 18 1-2 mills on this amount means nearly \$115,000. Not one cent of this \$115,000 has been returned to the eastern part of the county in the way of depositing it in local banks. You can readily see that, by the creation of a new county, we can retain from \$115,000 to \$125,000 in the eastern which under present conditions is shifted to the western half and which would mean a great deal for the various communities.

Another question which presents itself is, "will our taxes be higher?" In answer to this, we can only refer you to the books of the Secretary of State which show that the smaller counties govern themselves much cheaper than do the larger ones. There is but one exception to this. One small county is assessed at a lower rate than the larger ones, because a county can be governed for less money where the seat of government is located close to the work done. Let us take one item for instance. The report of the "Good Roads Commission" in Montana shows that for every dollar spent on good roads the people receive but 15 per cent in actual value, the other 85 per cent is swallowed up in various ways. One can soon see what can be saved by the people of the eastern half of Custer county with the one item of road work, if it can be maintained, as we believe, for less than 85 per cent of the money spent and paid simply for over-seeing the work. The proposition is this: Does it look reasonable that in order to get one dollars worth of work done on a road we must pay 85 per cent for over-seeing and incidental expenses and 15 per cent for the real work accomplished?

Someone has asked the question what about our bonded indebtedness? Under the present Senate Bill No. 35 it will be possible for the people of the eastern half of Custer County to form the new county and assume but very little, if any, of the present indebtedness of Custer county. A new county will mean that we will be compelled to assume more indebtedness, because it is perfectly reasonable to suppose with the number of bridges yet to be built in the central and western part of Custer county and the cry of some at the present time for more public buildings that the indebtedness in the next two years will largely increase and the new county will be compelled to assume its portion of this increase. There is another question which presents itself in asking for the creation of this new county, is it the intention of the people who are asking for this new county to immediately bond the county for the erection of county buildings? No. This is not the wish nor the intention. These buildings, of course must come in time, but until the county has reached a much larger assessed valuation, the expenditure for new buildings will be very small. Rosebud county is to-day occupying the same court house that they occupied at the time of the creation of the county, which was the old school house. Their assessed valuation has practically doubled, but they are not ready to build until they can build well and yet, make the burden a small one on the people. This is the position which is taken by those who are asking for the creation of this new county. Is it not time for us to take this wise step? when beyond all doubt we have nothing to lose and much to gain.

Your attendance at the Mass Meeting to be held at Ekalaka on Monday, April 17th is requested when this important question will be thoroughly discussed.

### Local Happenings Briefly Told Concerning People In And Out Of The Town.

Elias Traweek was in town Saturday from his ranch.

H. N. Sykes and Pat Conly of Box Elder spent the fore part of the week here.

Nick and Walter Price of Tee Dee were visitors in town yesterday morning.

F. M. Dworshak spent the fore part of the week between here and Baker making repairs on the telephone line.

Wm. Welker professor of the public schools was confined to his room the fore part of the week with the grippe.

Mrs. E. C. Metheny returned from Camp Crook last week where she had been visiting with her mother, Mrs. Moody.

Dad Lambert returned to town the fore part of the week from the Took ranch where he has been doing some carpenter work.

"Turkey" Bert shut up shop last week in his "mulligan" parlors and now is spending his time improving the farmstead.

P. A. Malmquist and Frank Thompson went to Baker this week with four polo ponies that the former gentleman will ship east.

Three fellows filed and located in the seat of the saddle on a broncho here Tuesday afternoon, two of whom, without much desire, soon relinquished.

Roy Caylor left Tuesday morning for N. D. Roy has signed out with the Devils Lake base ball team and will do the twirling stunt for them this season.

Last week we sent a letter to one of the big department stores in Miles which read: "Kindly send us at once 25 volumes of Brooks 'Seekers of Jesus' etc." and after waiting about three days received the following answer: "No seekers of Jesus in Miles, try Baker."

It is reported that Lew Jim, a chinaman from Baker will open up the restaurant vacated by Zink Bros. in the near future.

The Zink brothers have closed their restaurant in the Custer house and will go to farming (?) soon. The restaurant business in town is therefor sadly on the "bum".

The addition being built on the Thompson lodging house will soon be completed and when finished will fill a long felt want in town in the way of sleeping accommodations.

If we dared to print a testimonial from ourselves on the fact that it pays to advertise in the Eagle we sure could do it up proper citing as one case, that our fountain pen was delivered within thirty minutes after the last issue reached the post-office.

S. A. Holt of Box Elder has been secured as the druggist for the new drug store and arrived in town this week to get acquainted with the new establishment. Mr. Holt has spent a good many years of his life in that business and will make good in the new position.

There is some talk of the Commercial Club and the Fire Department giving several dances in the near future, the proceeds of which will be used in furnishing the upper room in the new fire hall. Should they decide to go ahead with the move, everyone interested in the welfare of the town should purchase a ticket and help in a good cause.

A surprise party was given Miss Myrtle Castleberry last Saturday, the group of young folks consisting of five girls and six boys leaving town at about 10 o'clock in the morning and not returning until nearly 5 o'clock in the evening. Delicious refreshments were served at one o'clock after which different games were played and a general good time had. This was Miss Myrtle's thirteenth birthday and that it will be long remembered for the excellent time spent is without doubt. Those in attendance were all school mates of the young lady.

### LOCALS NEWS AROUND TOWN

Fred Malmquist returned from a trip to Baker Saturday.

W. I. Maxwell spent Tuesday afternoon in town from his ranch.

The band boys have arranged to practice every Monday and Thursday evening.

The W. H. Peck Co. have recently added a new hitching rack in the front of their store.

Elmo Asbury was among the visitors in the city on Saturday.

The Commercial club met Tuesday evening and voted in some new members.

E. W. Jolley is building an addition to his livery and feed stable on the northeast side.

A. L. Tubb's freighting outfit returned Sunday with a load of supplies for local merchants.

"Bud" Ferguson was in town from his ranch on Box Elder the fore part of the week on land business.

E. A. Tooke left this week for Redfield, S. D. where he went to load out his household goods and visit his family who will return with him in a short time.

Wilson & Olsen are having their basement enlarged and are preparing for the erection of an addition about 18 x 40 to their building on the northeast side. Then intend taking out the northeast wall and making the entire building into one large room. As soon as completed they will enlarge the space for the postoffice section also.

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