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A New County.

That Big Stone Gap is to become one of the most important towns of southwest Virginia is unquestionable; that the bigger part of the legal business of the county is now transacted through Big Stone Gap attorneys is an undisputed fact; that the disadvantage of being located twenty miles away from the county seat is an inconvenience that cannot be expected to long exist is the reasonable conclusion that will be arrived at by all fair-minded citizens who study the question; that some action should be taken, looking toward arranging for the convenience of the town and the surrounding section that would receive a like benefit by the formation of a new county, is a matter that deserves the consideration of all concerned, whether for or against such a measure, and the Post places the idea before those interested merely in the shape of a suggestion; to be considered by them, and would be glad to hear from citizens—expressing their ideas as to its advisability—living in the three different counties—Lee, Scott and Wise—from which the territory would have to be taken to form the new county.

In regard to the formation of new counties, the Constitution of Virginia says:

SEC. 19. No new county shall be formed with an area of less than six hundred square miles; nor shall the number of counties from which it is formed be reduced below that area; nor shall any county having a population less than ten thousand be deprived of more than one-fifth of such population; nor shall a county, having a larger population, be reduced below eight thousand. But any county, the length of which is three times its mean breadth, or which exceeds fifty miles in length, may be divided at the discretion of the general assembly.

SEC. 20. In general elections the voters in any county not entitled to separate representation, shall vote in the same election district.

The law governing the formation of new counties is given in the Code of Virginia, as follows:

SEC. 799. Notice of petition for new county, how given, and what to contain.—When it is intended to petition the General Assembly to create a new county, notice of such intention shall be posted on a court day, at least sixty days next preceding an election of delegates to the General Assembly, at the front door of the courthouse of each of the counties from which the new county is proposed to be formed, which notice shall set forth the names of such counties, the metes and bounds proposed for the new county, and the place at which it is proposed to establish the seat of justice therefor.

SEC. 791. When notice, with proof of posting, is produced to the clerk, there shall be produced to the clerk of the county court of every such county, a copy of the notice, with an affidavit that the same had been posted in each of the counties from which the new county is proposed to be formed, which affidavit shall be signed by the affiant and attested by a justice.

SEC. 792. How polls taken for and against new county.—If a copy of the notice with the affidavit is so produced to the clerk, he shall cause poll books to be prepared, with a caption stating the counties from which the new county is proposed to be formed, and the metes and bounds, and seat of justice, proposed therefor; and cause to be provided ballot boxes, in which shall be deposited the ballots of the qualified voters of such county, who desire to vote. The ballot shall be headed, respectively, "For the new county," and "Against the new county;" and the said polls and ballots shall be taken, certified, disposed of, and the result ascertained and determined at the same time and places, by the same persons, and under the same regulations and restrictions, as the polls and ballots for a delegate to the General Assembly. The copies of the notice, and the affidavits and certificates, produced to the clerk of the court, shall accompany said polls. If, at any place for opening said polls, no vote be polled for or against the new county, that fact shall be certified on the poll books.

SEC. 793. Who entitled to vote.—Any male citizen of the commonwealth aged twenty-one years or upwards, residing within any of the counties from which the new county is proposed to be formed, qualified to vote in the county of his residence for members of the General Assembly, or who shall have been assessed with any part of the tax of his county within the preceding year, and shall actually have paid the same, may vote in the county in which he resides, at any poll so opened; and the names of such of the voters as reside within the metes and bounds of the proposed new county shall be distinguished from the rest.

SEC. 794. Penalty on officers.—If any officer fail to perform any duty prescribed by section seven hundred and ninety-two, he shall be fined not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars.

SEC. 795. Copy of polls, &c. to be sent to clerk of House of Delegates.—A copy of the polls delivered to the clerk, the copies of the notice, and the affidavits and certificates, shall be transmitted by him to the clerk of the House of Delegates, at least ten days before the commencement of the next General Assembly.

SEC. 796. Survey boundary lines of new county.—The survey of the boundary lines of a new county shall be made by a commission of three persons, to be appointed by the General Assembly.

effect an evidence. Pay of surveyors.—The boundary lines of a new county shall be marked by the surveyor therefor, and the surveyors of counties out of which the same is formed. They shall make a report to the court of each of the said counties, and also the board of public works, of their proceedings, accompanied by a plat showing the courses and distances, and the streams and other natural or artificial objects or points referred to in the act, which report and plat shall be recorded in the office of each of the said courts, and shall be conclusive evidence of the true boundary lines. Each of the said counties, whose surveyor may act, shall allow him compensation therefor, which shall be chargeable on said county.

SEC. 797. Entries for lands to be delivered to surveyor of new county.—Within one month after the boundary lines of such new county have been so run and marked, the surveyors of the counties out of which the same may be formed shall make out attested copies of all entries for lands in such new county remaining to be surveyed; and shall, on the application of the surveyor of the new county, deliver the same, with the warrants on which the entries were founded, to such surveyor, upon his paying five cents for every such attested copy. Any surveyor failing to comply with this section shall forfeit one hundred and fifty dollars.

SEC. 798. Jurisdiction of courts and officers of old counties.—The courts which, at the time of the passage of the act creating a new county, had jurisdiction over the counties from which it is formed, and the sheriffs and other officers of those counties shall, until a court is held for the new county, continue to have and exercise all the jurisdiction, power, and authority which they had at the time of the passage of such act. Any person residing within the limits of the new county who was, at the time of its creation, a justice of any county from which it was formed, shall be a justice for the new county.

SEC. 799. What to be done with cases pending in courts of old counties.—The courts first mentioned in the preceding section may, after the time of holding a court for the new county, continue to exercise jurisdiction over all cases depending in the said courts at that time; or the court wherein any case is so depending, of which a court of the new county would have had jurisdiction if brought after the said time, may remove such case to the circuit court of the new county, if the case was depending in a circuit court.

Now, after considering the necessity of forming a new county, then comes the question as to whether or not the necessary territory can be legally secured from the three different counties mentioned, and at the same time leave each of them their required population. As a rough sketch of the boundary lines for the new county, the following has been suggested:

Commencing at Camp Rock, a point on the Wise and Scott county line, thence a straight line to the top of High Knob; thence a straight line to the mouth of branch at Snodgrass mill, west of Norton; thence, running with the dividing waters between Powell's and Guest's rivers to the Kentucky line; thence with the Kentucky line to a point opposite Pennington's Gap; thence to Powell's river, so as to include Pennington's Gap; thence, running southeast, to Powell's Mountain, to a point one mile west of the crossing of the state road; thence to the top of what is known as Slippery Hill, at the head of Devil's Race Path, so as to include Pattonville; thence a straight line to the top of Thunderstuck Knob, on the south side of Powell's Mountain; thence to Carter's Camp, on Little Powell's Mountain, to the line between Wise and Scott, and with said line to the beginning.

Of course, no immediate action can be taken in this matter until the time for electing delegates to the General Assembly, which comes up in September, 1893; but, if there is any likelihood of the formation of a new county, it is time the people were discussing it, and forming their opinion as to whether it should be done or not.

Write the Post your views on the subject.

This year's Presidential vote, figures having been sent in from all the different states, shows the following result: Cleveland, 5,567,099; Harrison, 5,176,611; Weaver, 1,025,060; Bidwell, 258,347. Cleveland's plurality, 391,379.

It was announced in last week's Post that no paper would be issued this week; but owing to the fact that several legal notices are running in the paper, which, by a week's suspension of the publication of the paper, would put its friends and legal patrons to extra trouble and loss of time; therefore, in justice to them the Post comes out on time.

The New York Sun says that Superintendent Byrnes, of the New York detective force, will have Mr. Cleveland under the particular care of one of his trusted and best men until he leaves the city for Washington to take his seat as President. This is intended as a precautionary measure to protect him from being annoyed or molested by stray cranks.

Is this idea a good one? If there is a crank who has unfriendly feelings toward Mr. Cleveland will not an action of the kind have a tendency to urge him on to commit whatever rash act he may have conceived in his addled brain? The best thing to do is to let Mr. Cleveland take care of himself—which no doubt he is capable of doing—the same as any other private citizen of the United States at the time rolls around for him to assume the duties of the chief magistracy.

The Post is glad to note the fact that Judge Skeen, of the last term of county court, granted an order to locate and survey the road recently mentioned in its columns, leading from the mouth of Callahan creek to the top of Black mountain, at the Kentucky line. It is to be made a first-class mountain road, and will be built as soon as the necessary survey is completed. The commissioners appointed are S. W. Thacker, L. M. Riggs and W. B. Kilburn. They are instructed to make the survey and hand in their report at next term of county court.

The building of this road is of great importance to Big Stone Gap, as it will open up a new territory that will contribute thousands of dollars of additional trade yearly to the business of the place.

Three cheers for Judge Skeen for his promptness in this important move.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, Dec. 26, 1892.

Did speaker Crisp find in his Christmas stocking something from Mr. Cleveland? It is said here that he did, and that it was nothing less, than the assurance of the President-elect that he either had not expected to have a candidate for speaker of the next House, and would be pleased to see Mr. Crisp re-elected. Neither those who are regarded as confidential friends of the Speaker, nor those who enjoy the same relations with the President-elect will talk for publication about this reported endorsement of Mr. Crisp's candidacy; but it is known that a movement has been engineered by mutual friends of the Speaker and of the President-elect, the sole object of which was to bring about that endorsement and avoid the fight which has seemed to be impending over the Speakership of the next House. Mr. Crisp is going to New York this week, it is said, upon Mr. Cleveland's invitation.

It was this movement which brought out the announcement several days ago that 140 out of the 247 democrats elected to the next House had intimatedly declared their preference for Mr. Crisp for Speaker. It is said this announcement was made as a final argument towards convincing Mr. Cleveland that it would be good policy for him to endorse the candidacy of Mr. Crisp, and that he had been assured before that Mr. Crisp was willing to pledge himself to be guided in tariff and financial matters by his advice. Representative Springer who will probably continue at the head of the House Ways and Means committee, if Mr. Crisp is re-elected Speaker, unless the talk of having the committee assignments made by caucus, as in the Senate, shall materialize into a rule, has already jumped down on the Cleveland side of the tariff bill, instead of a number of bills each attacking single clauses of the tariff, such as were passed by the House at the last session.

The attempt to get up some excitement in administration circles because of the alleged violation of a treaty between Great Britain and this country, prohibiting either nation placing warships on the Great Lakes, was not a shining success. It was argued generally that even if Canada's armed revenue cutters are properly classed as warships we would have no good reason to complain, for the very simple reason that the Treasury and Navy departments have the plans already drawn for two revenue cutters, and the bill appropriating the money to build them has been passed by the Senate, for service in the Great Lakes, which when completed will be as distinctly war vessels as any in our navy.

It is a matter for general congratulation that partisan politics have been kept out of the immigration question. The House and Senate committees are practically of one mind, and the different bills approved, one by the Senate and the other by the House committee—one suspending immigration for one year, and the other authorizing the President to suspend it whenever and for as long as he deems necessary—have precisely the same end in view. These committees are also taking advantage of the holiday recess to obtain more immigration in formation. They appointed one joint sub-committee to go on an investigating tour to Cuba, and another to confer with the Treasury officials having charge of immigration. The news that cholera has again broken out in Hamburg adds to the importance and to the certainty of this legislation.

It is expected that silver will occupy a prominent place in the deliberations of Congress almost as soon as the recess is over. A strong effort is now being made, supported by all the influence that Mr. Cleveland can command, to bring about the repeal of the Sherman silver law, or at least a suspension of the purchase of silver bullion. Senator Stewart is authority for the statement that any change except that to the free and unlimited coinage of silver will be fought by the men; he has a free coinage amendment to Senator Hill's bill, providing for a repeal of the Sherman law, now pending in the Senate, and, as the amendment will have to be voted on first, the Senate will have an opportunity to vote for free coinage if the bill is called up. Senator McPherson's resolution providing for a suspension of the purchase of silver bullion will probably be the first in the field. The petitions from eastern bankers, now pouring into Washington, asking that the purchase of silver be suspended are having a contrary effect to that intended by those who send them.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary efforts that are being made by its opponents to form combinations to side-track the anti-option bill without voting upon it, Senator Washburn assured your correspondent that he felt certain it would be passed before the 15th of January.

Mr. Blaine has slowly improved for several days, although the improvement is hardly marked enough to base expectations of his ultimate recovery upon.

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SOUTH ATLANTIC AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY. Big Stone Gap, Va., Card No. 20, DECEMBER 12, 1892. Trains East. No. 2 leaves 9:29 a. m.; arrives at Bristol 12:35 p. m. No. 4 leaves 12:30 p. m.; arrives at Bristol 4 p. m. Trains West. No. 11 leaves 8:45 a. m.; No. 3 leaves 5:45 p. m. Connections. Nos. 2 and 4 connect with the N. & W. and E. T. V. & G., at Bristol. No. 1 connects with the L. & N., at Double Tunnel. Eastern standard time. L. A. Pritchard, Agent.

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