

FITZGERALD ENTERPRISE

Volume X

FITZGERALD, GEORGIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1905,

Number 9

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BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST

Northern County Defeated

Before the House Committee, Which Fails to Recommend Its Formation.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

After five weeks of strenuous, unremitting work a report has been rendered to the house of representatives by the committee on new counties and county lines.

This report which was submitted to the house by Chairman Hall just at the close of the session yesterday afternoon, provides for the creation of all eight of the new counties as follows:

Jenkins county, to be formed from parts of Burke, Bullock, Screven and Emanuel with Millen as the county seat.

Tift county, to be formed from parts of Berrien, Worth and Irwin, with Tifton as the county seat.

Turner county, to be formed from parts of Worth, Dooly and Irwin, with Ashburn as the county seat.

Crisp county, to be formed from Dooly county with Cordele as the county seat.

Stephens county (formerly known as Bleckley) to be formed from parts of Habersham and Franklin, with Toccoa as the county seat.

Toombs county, to be formed from parts of Montgomery, and Tattnall, with Lyons as the county seat.

Jeff Davis county (formerly known as Cromartie) to be formed from parts of Appling and Coffee, with Hazlehurst as the county seat.

Grady county, to be formed from parts of Thomas and Decatur, with Cairo as the county seat.

With the exception of one county, Turner, these are the counties named in the Constitution yesterday as the counties which would be favorably reported upon by the committee.

It was determined by the committee yesterday that no county created should bear the name of a man now living; hence the change in the name of Bleckley to Stephens and Cromartie to Jeff Davis.

NO MINORITY REPORT.

It is understood that Mr. Hall, chairman of the committee, stated that the report of the committee was substantially unanimous. As was expected there was some opposition to some of the counties reported.

There will be no minority report, which is further indication that the report as made was substantially unanimous.

It is generally known that there was some opposition to all eight of the new counties being reported or being acted upon at the present session of the legislature, several members of both

The House Committee on New Counties made its report to the Legislature yesterday and recommended the formation of the following new counties:

Jenkins county, with Millen as the county seat.

Tift county, with Tifton as the county seat.

Turner county, with Ashburn as the county seat.

Crisp county, with Cordele as the county seat.

Stephens county, with Toccoa as the county seat.

Toombs county, with Lyons as the county seat.

Jeff Davis, with county seat at Hazlehurst.

Grady county, with county seat at Cairo.

When the Atlanta Constitution arrived in this city yesterday morning a great deal of enthusiasm was aroused among our citizens by an article which it contained placing Northern on the list of New Counties favorably reported by the House committee. But, alas, later reports would tend to show that our jubilation was premature. What our people are anxious to ascertain is what happened to that report between the time the Constitution got its inside information and its presentation to the House. The Senate committee has not yet submitted its report and, as we have unquestionably one of the strongest propositions presented, we may yet receive favorable consideration from that body, though such an event is hardly probable.

committees expressing the opinion that it was best to create only a portion of the eight, four or five, and allow sentiment to crystallize upon the others between this time and the meeting of the general assembly next year.

It seems on the other hand, that public opinion is against this proposition and in favor of all eight of the new counties being reported upon and acted upon at the present session.

When seen after the house committee had made its report, Senator Wheatley, chairman of the senate committee on new counties and county lines, stated that it was his belief that the committee would favor the report of the house committee. He stated that he did not know this positively, but that from what had transpired while the committees had been in informal joint sessions he believed the senate committee would make a favorable report to the upper house on the eight counties named in the report of the house committee.

ACTION TO BE FAVORABLE.

A number of members of both houses seen late yesterday after-

noon stated they believed that the report of the committee of the house would be adopted by that body and that the counties named would be favorably passed upon by both houses at this session.

No committees of the general assembly have had as strenuous a time as the two committees appointed to consider the matter of new counties, and several members of both committees expressed themselves yesterday as being greatly relieved upon learning that a report had been formulated and transmitted to the house.

The members of the house committee who have had the matter in charge are Chairman Hall, Anderson, of Chatham; Steel, of Carroll; Branch, of Brooks; McMullan, of Hart; Jackson, of Muscogee; Moore, of Cherokee; Hayes, of Macon; Almand, Boykin and Matthews.

Members of the senate committee on new counties are Chairman Wheatley, Bunn, King, Copelan, Hogan, Rose and Bennett.

The report of the committee will doubtless be taken up by the house as soon as the general tax act has been disposed of.

Opposition Crystallizing Rapidly

Doubtful if All the New Counties Will Be Created This Session.

From The Atlanta Journal.

All sorts of opinions were expressed Wednesday as to the outcome of the new county proposition and it is yet a moot question as to what will be done. The house committees will render a report on five counties perhaps six Thursday morning and then the fight is going to begin.

These new counties have been practically agreed upon so it is stated, though Chairman Hall's house committee says not, and he states that no definite action will be taken until the meeting of the committee Wednesday afternoon.

The senate committee will make no report on the new county matter until the house committee has reported. This was positively announced Wednesday by members of the senate committee, some of whom were very dubious about any action being taken this year.

At a session of house committee on new counties held Wednesday morning two counties were decided on positively. They are Jenkins county with Millen as the county site and Tift county with Tifton as the county seat. Toombs, Cromartie and Bleckley counties are also said to be certain, with a probability in Grady county.

Members of the house and senate committee have very little to say on the situation. The report of the house committee which is to be made Thursday morning will solve the situation completely as to those in favor.

Already there is talk of opposition among the people who want counties and who will fight to get a favorable report. It is the plan to get all the forces together and to oppose every new county measure regardless of its merits until the end of the session, and then begin the fight anew at the next session.

The tax act is yet to be disposed of in the house and senate.

The appropriations bill must go back to the house from the senate for condurrance, and with only eight days left it looks exceedingly blue for any of the new county bills, especially as there are many pet local measures that the members are anxious to pass through, and if the opposition develops there is not much likelihood of more than two counties going through and these two will be Jenkins and Tift, to which there is practically no opposition.

The reports concerning proposed recommendations of the committee have brought

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