the leader, and his principal lieutenants were C. T. Lanman, of the McIntosh Times; Dr. Archibald McEachren, Charles L. Conger, S. H. Drew, O. E. Stover, Anton Jensen, W. G. Hunt, and C. F. Page. These men started and led the movement originally.

In the contest of 1902 the leading fighters were Johnson, Lanman, Conger, Drew, Jensen, and Hunt, and they were re-enforced by Thomas Lawrence, Wells S. Short, Paul W. Carpenter, E. A. Webster, Andrew Trovaaten, T. N. J. Reese, John L. Hagen, Thomas R. Brownlee, and Leslie Shadduck.

A prominent former Columbia County partisan, who has furnished much information for this article, writes the compiler on the subject and says: "The separation of the Thirteen Towns from Polk County and the creation of Columbia could yet be made at any general election were it possible for the villages of Fosston, McIntosh, and Erskine to agree upon a county seat. But as each village will vote against any proposition that will locate the county seat in any other village, all hope of dividing the county has been abandoned.

The only loser of a claim for money against Columbia is Barnard & Co., the St. Louis printers, who furnished the blank books and other stationery, amounting to over $2,500. When Columbia County vanished they brought suit against Polk County as "the successor" of Columbia. But Polk County denied that it was anybody's "successor." It declared it had no sort of responsibility for Barnard & Co.'s claim, and eventually the Supreme Court (98 Minn., p. 289) sustained this county's contention. The Court's decision declared that when the attempt to create a new county out of the territory of an existing county results in a de facto county, which is subsequently dissolved the original county is not liable for debts contracted by the de facto county. The old county is not the successor of the de facto county.