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La Grande Evening Observer

Currey Bros., Ed's and Prop

Published daily except Sunday Entered at the Post Office at La Grande, Oregon, as Second Class Mail Matter.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 1905.

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ADVERTISING BATES Display AG rates farmished upon apptic Local reading notices to per line first tion, so per line for each subsequent tion.

LAND GRABBERS

The pioneer men and women who left their homes and crossed the border line that separated civilization and savagery, to make homes and establish a hertiage for their children in the wilderness, have ever met two opposing, but different forces, each in its way retarding the settlement of the country. The one marshalled the painted red men in deadly array against the settlers and the other sought by their influence with the law makers to have the laws for the disposition of the public lands so framed that they could by out traveling the immigrant's pack animals and wagons get shead of them and secure large tracts of public land at a small cost and then complacently wait the arrival of the sunburned, ragged immigrants, squatters as they called the homeseekers, to make by their labor and privation their holdings valuable. These speculators contributed little or nothing toward either developing the new country or protecting the squatters from the rifle and scalping knife of the Indians. They just comfortably abided in their eastern homes until the labor of the squatters made them rich by enhancing the value of their wild

Indians, made farms, built roads, church-houses, school houses, grist and saw mills while the speculators did nothing but wait, or at least nothing toward improving the country in which they had selected the choicest locations and places most convienent to wood and water in the prairie west, and richest bottom lands in the timber regions. If a speculator made an annual visit to his western holding, on his return east the pictures of western life and people with which he regailed his pedautic neighbors, on his return were derogatory in the extreme of western people and their intelli gence. The literature of the east become colored with their over-drawn and exaggerated ideas of the people of the west, that until this day a person who has read the books and newspaper articles professing to give a portrait of life in the west, finds that when he or she comes west it takes a year or two to unlearn the false teachings he has had and learn the real character of the men and women of the western half of this great nation.

The squatters subdued the

The land grabbers in Oregon are following in the footsteps of the spectators who obstructed the growth of the middle west and they are found resorting to all sorts of expedients to secure valuable lands in advance of settlement not to make homes

thereon, but to sell at high prices to those who want them to use in developing the country. It is the land grabbers who have nearly defeated the irrigation plans of the United States to reclaim millions of acres of sage desert in eastern Oregon for actual home seekers.

Our people should do a little more shouting for their own town, "Watch Tacoma grow" has done more to advertise that town than most men think. If our people are not profundly impressed with the advantages of La Grande how can we expect outside people to be? Let us convince ourselves that there are no skies sunvier than those which bend lovingly over our city; no breezes gentler than those which temper our atmosphere; no schools better than those in which our children are taught; no ladies lovelier than those who walk our streets; no men sturdier than those who do our work; and no soil more fertile than that of the beautiful val ey in which we dwell. Shout for La Grande.

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