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HERE IS THE WAY A PIONEER OF THIS SECTION LOOKS AT THE COUNTY SEAT ISSUE

To the taxpayers of Malheur county concerning the county seat question:

No doubt you have all heard the arguments of both Vale and Ontario through the press and their public speakers. Now let us, as taxpayers, sum these arguments up together. I have no interest in either Vale or Ontario, more than love and friendship for their citizens. A man old settler, coming here before Malheur county was cut off from Baker county. I have traveled across the country by way of the "Old Stone house" to attend court at Baker city; was there in the county convention at which the Mr. Lockett was nominated to represent Baker county. During the time he represented us, their county was divided from Baker county, and through his influence the county seat was located at what was then known as the "Old Stone House on the Malheur." Through Mr. Lockett, Mr. Rhinehart and others influential friends the appointive offices were filled. Dr. Froman who owned a ranch near what is now Vale was appointed Judge; Henry Murray of that vicinity was appointed sheriff, and E. H. Test, clerk. These appointments held good for two years, until the next general election, at which time we elected county officers and also decided on the present location of the county seat. They built a temporary court house and jail which served until this present court house was built.

Being deeply interested in county politics at that time, I distinctly remember many of Vale's schemes to win at that election. Ontario, then a small village, was Vale's strongest opponent. In order to defeat her, Vale sent her emissaries to Jordan Valley, inciting them to enter the race for the county seat, thus making it a three-cornered affair, splitting the vote against her. In this way Vale easily won the victory. This was an astute political move, and the race of Vale politicians is not dead yet. My Nyssa friends, you must bear in mind that the old Vale ring is still on the turf, let me tell you that they are trying to play the same card on you that they played in Jordan Valley. They are advising you that this county seat move a little previous, representing that when Nyssa becomes the end of the railroad division and gets those railroad shops, she will then have the best chance of winning the county seat. But let me tell you that if these things even should come to pass, you will find in Vale your worst enemy. I notice in the Enterprise a letter from my old friend Uncle John Zimmerman. In that letter he asks us "Why we should tear down Vale to build up Ontario?" I wish to state as a taxpayer that no one wishes to pull Vale down. But we do believe that the county property belongs to the taxpayers of the county and not to Vale or any other town. We do believe after duly weighing the arguments on both sides that it is to the benefit of the taxpayers of Malheur county to accept this legal building and bona fide offer of a new court house by the Ontario citizens. Uncle John would lead you to believe that this offer is not made in good faith.

Now let me ask you as taxpayers: If you held a note for \$25,000 due on

demand, signed by the leading business men of Ontario who are together worth at least two million dollars, wouldn't you consider your paper good?

Uncle John refers to the "Grand Old Stone House," but fails to tell you of the cracks in the walls, forgets to tell you how a few weeks ago two prisoners dug a hole through its wall, table knives, neglects to tell you of its unsanitary condition and that it is full of vermin, and also fails to tell you that the valuable records belonging to the taxpayers are exposed to loss by fire or misadventure.

Now, Mr. Taxpayer, do not be misled by such statements, when Ontario is offering free of any cost whatever to the taxpayers to build a house with sufficient vault room to secure our papers and documents.

We notice on the same page of the Enterprise that our old friend Judge Lamberson of Westfall takes his pen in hand to inform his old friends that he is well with the exception of a severe shock brought on by the taxpayers of Malheur county signing a petition 2500 strong in favor of Ontario. As the Judge's fine ranch is west of Vale, we do not wonder at his bias in its favor, but he fails to explain why Mr. Jones, his partner in business and holding property in the same locality is so strongly in favor of Ontario.

The Judge says that the court house is ample for all needs and is a beautiful building a credit to the county. "Examination of county records shows what a good many of our old timers remember—that the citizens of Vale built its walls and foundation for about \$5000 and then petitioned the county for about \$3000 to finish it with, thus bringing its present cost to about \$8000.

Now, the same people are around telling us that Ontario can't even put in a basement with \$25,000. Now, Mr. Taxpayer, weigh this well. How could Vale with \$8000 build us a court house which Judge says is beautiful and a credit to the county if Ontario can't even start one with \$25,000? I put this question straight to them when they were at my house, and they answered it by saying that during those hard times they hired skilled labor for \$1.50 per day. At the same time the court house was being built, I was a contractor in Ontario and I had to pay \$4.50 for the same class of labor. Now, Mr. Taxpayer, see how unreasonable this is. They tell us that Ontario can't furnish their building for less than \$150,000. Now I am acquainted with the architect who drew this plan, the contractor who gives bonds to furnish it according to specifications for \$25,000 and with many of the men who signed the bond and I am thoroughly satisfied that if Ontario wins she will carry out every detail of her contract, and if she does not finish it on \$25,000, that is none of our lookout for she is under an iron clad bond to finish it at no cost whatever to us, and if she wants to spend as much as \$200,000 on that new court house for us, she is welcome to.

J. S. PINKSTON,
Owyhee, Oregon.

PLAYING ALL SIDES OF THE GAME BEFORE THE MINERS

The Humboldt Mine,
Malheur County, Ore., Oct. 27, 1914.
To the Editor of the Argus:

We have had two sets of distinguished visitors here this week. First Rev. Hilman and Mrs. Dunlop came and sang and preached to us, assuring us that all is now well and should not be disturbed.

From the other side of the Basin Jack Dolan came in with a load of whiskey and beer with the compliments of the good citizens of Vale.

We enjoyed the singing, but the preaching and booze did not fit in. There was no argument in it and what we want in this county seat contest is something tangible to tie to.

That bond the Ontario people put up showed us where our bread is buttered. We know some of those people and know they are good for any reasonable amount and will come through.

Yours,
SUMPTER.

Should the welfare of eighty per cent of the people be considered or that of twenty per cent.

FORMER RESIDENT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE CONTEST

Cambridge, Idaho, Oct. 20, 1914.
M. E. Baine, Ontario Oregon.
Dear Mr. Baine:

I want you to know how much we enjoy the Argus and we are not missing any of the Vale-Ontario war. To me it is of more interest than the European war and more human. It seems to me that Vale's inconsistency and the malicious manner in which she is misrepresenting her cause, would if for no other reason convince the voters of Malheur county that it would be to their interest to vote for the removal of the court house from Vale to Ontario. There's an old saying that "right conquers might," but with "right" and "might," both on one side we feel sure there is no doubt of Ontario gaining to county seat.

With best wishes for the best of results at your election,
I am yours very truly,
MRS. J. S. THARP.

Laugh and the world laughs with you, unless you are telling the joke. This country is becoming almost expert in the art of remaining neutral.

DO WE WANT A COURT HOUSE WHERE THE FLOODS WILL FILL CELLARS AND STREETS

To the Voters of Malheur County

While it is customary in the construction of any permanent improvement to look well to the foundation upon which the structure or improvement is to be built, in the present county seat location is a pertinent question and one of vital interest to the people of Malheur County, and should be carefully considered by every voter before he casts his ballot.

It is a fact well known and not questioned that the course of the Malheur River is very uncertain, has no permanent channel whatever, but will slough off from one side and build up on the other side all the way from its mouth to the canyon. The condition of the Malheur River at Vale, has changed to some extent since our last big ice gorge, and we have been favored since the construction of the steel bridge by escaping what has actually happened several times in Vale, the overflow of the Malheur River covering the townsite of Vale and rendering it possible to navigate the streets entirely around our present court house, in a row boat, and since it is a fact that this condition has existed in Vale, in recent years in fact water run over the doorstep in the present court house at Vale either in the spring of 1910 or 1911 when a veritable river flowed across the townsite through the present court house grounds at Vale, and continued down the principal streets of Vale to the Railroad and the people there used sacks of flour, sacks of cement, and anything at hand to stop up their doorways to keep the mud and drift matter of the River out of their buildings, evidence of this can now be seen on the foundations of the principal buildings of The City of Vale.

This condition can easily occur again and seems very certain that it will occur many times more, since the formation, situation and location of Vale, is in the natural course of high water, which could not be expected or

Induced to go up over the hills in order that it may avoid the present County Seat of Malheur County, the lowly situated townsite of the City of Vale.

The last experience of Vale in the matter of high water was not occasioned by an ice gorge but simply a matter of high water in flood conditions, and now since the construction of a concrete dam across Malheur River less than a mile below the City of Vale the same amount of water experienced would render at least a foot more water over the townsite of Vale, or in other words with the same amount of water had in their last flood, would raise the high water mark, in the City of Vale at least one foot, due to the fact that this dam reduces the fall to that point of the Malheur River.

And it is a now pertinent question in this County Seat matter to be seriously considered by the Voters of Malheur County on November 3rd, of this year, and the question asked, do you want to continue for all time to come the adoption of such a treacherous and unsafe foundation for the location of our County Seat or will you accept the proposition of the City of Ontario to locate and construct out of the reach of maddened rivers or flood conditions a good substantial, modern, safe and sane building, utterly without cost to the people of Malheur County, outside of the prosperous and thriving City of Ontario.

This matter is not a campaign statement which can be denied by anyone who knows the geographical situation of Vale. And since we the undersigned time honored residents of Ontario, know the foregoing to be facts we ask you these questions?

Do you believe the statements in the above to be true?

If so are you willing to locate your County Seat of this treacherous and unsafe foundation at the City of Vale?

GEO. W. BLANTON,
Ontario, October 27, 1914.

BILLY JONES HAS A FEW WARM WORDS FOR THE TWO JOHNS AND OTHERS OF VALE

Juntura, Oct. 26, 1914.

The Ontario Argus.

Gentlemen: Just happened to see this week's Enterprise, and note that I hold a mortgage on the hotel, but it is in the name of the First Bank of Juntura: that's funny; most banks change it around the other way and have their real mortgages put in the name of one of their directors, but of course, we do things different up here. Did it ever strike some of you Vale big-hearted generous men, perhaps the people of Juntura could present the new county of Davis with a new court-house, in about the same way as you presented the people of Malheur with a big barn-like affair you have in Vale, as shown in this week's Argus, along about 1901; you certainly are a generous bunch, with other people's money. And talking about money; I should like to state that if I should go to sleep with Chas. Becker, even if it were in a horse-stall, I would throw my pants around anywhere and know what little money was in them would be there in the morning, but if I should happen to have to go to bed with either Pay-roll John or Pay-role John, and had only 25 cents in my pants pocket, I should roll my pants up carefully and put them below my pillow; There talk about any one stealing a court-house, makes me tired; For the past two weeks they have had a bunch of boosters with a dozen copies of the Enterprise striking out of their pockets running around us here, telling us

how much they love us, and that the Enterprise does not represent the town of Vale; they must think we are a lot of suckers; and they have been making a big holler about Malheur county being out of debt, yet according to this week's Enterprise, the bridge at the Harper could not be built because the county did not have the money to pay for it, and so forth. They have suddenly developed a great love for every section of the county; big brass band across the Big Bend country; another up Willow Creek and a delegation to Westfall with a bunch of ladies belonging to the society entertainers; I am willing to gamble that the Big Bend Bridge proposition, along with every other proposition that does not put a dollar in Vale's pocket, gets snowed under in Vale; then, Dalabolous, (Whoever in H— he is) talks about me being peeved, etc. If I had lived as long as he has and laid up as little as he seems to have done, judging from the mortgage on the Enterprise plant, I think I would feel peeved, but I guess there isn't much need for me to worry. Talk about slush; why, everybody knows that I am no smooth talker, but take off my hat to Roberts and Rigby, when it comes to slinging mud, and I will sign my name to my letters.

Election day will show whether or not the Enterprise represents Vale.

Yours truly,
WM. JONES.

Notice for Publication.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
U. S. Land Office at Vale, Oregon,
October 27th, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that August Senkbeil, of Payette, Idaho, who, on April 28th, 1911, made homestead application No. 01825, for the nw 1/4, sec 12, t 17 s, r 46 e, and who on March 19, 1912, made additional entry No. 02171, for the sw 1/4, sec 12, t 17 s, r 46 e, w m., has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver, U. S. Land Office, at Vale, Oregon, on the 30th day of November, 1914.

Claimant names as witnesses: George D. Warren, of Payette, Idaho; John Taylor, of Payette, Idaho; Fred Morton, of Ontario, Oregon; Ira Book, of Payette, Idaho.
BRUCE R. KESTER,
Register

Notice for Publication.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
U. S. Land Office at Vale, Oregon,
October 27th, 1914.

Notice is hereby given that Charles D. Warren, of Payette, Idaho, who on April 28th, 1911, made homestead application No. 01833, for the s 1/4, sec 2 and n 1/4, sec 11, t 17 s, r 46 e, w m., has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver, U. S. Land Office at Vale, Oregon, on the 30th day of November, 1914.

Claimant names as witnesses: August Senkbeil, of Payette, Idaho, Fred Morton, of Ontario, Oregon, John Taylor, of Payette, Idaho; and Levi Crull, of Payette, Idaho.
BRUCE R. KESTER,
Register.

Should the welfare of eighty per cent of the people be considered or that of twenty per cent.