### Oregon Scout

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1890.

A COMPARISON,

The La Grande Gazette in presenting the claims of its town for the county seat says:

"On the question of location and natural advantages there can be no doubt of La Grande's supremacy and it may be argued for her also that no other town in Union county has ever shown any of the business enterprise that has contributed so largely to the building up of La Grande. When the people of a county have any favors to bestow, they should be inclined to help that place which helps itself. The town that simply exists by virtue of its situation and what little nature may have done for it, deserves no special aid from the people. To g ve aid to the deserving place, to the town whose citizens are adding, by their enterprise and business, materially to the wealth of the county, is only a matter of justice.

Let us analyze this statement. On the question of "location and natural advantages" what has La Grande to boast of? Absolutely nothing. Situated as it is in a remote corner of the county, shut in on three sides by rugged mountains, which will soon be stripped of timber; located on a barren plateau where trees will not grow and wholesome water is a thing the inhabitants long for but never enjoy, in full range of the stormy winds which prein the miasnatic vapors from the tule to "natural advantages" worth speaking of. As to "artificial advantages," these it has enjoyed to a certain extent, for several years past by reason of being the shipping point for the lower end of the valley and the entire Wallewa county, but what will be the result when the branch line to Elgin and the Hunt road are completed? Any man, however inexperienced, can easily see. Four-fifths of the trade that La Grande has had heretofore will be diverted to other points, freight teams will no more be seen on its streets, stage lines will be discontinued and travel to and from the town will almost cease. The fate that overtook Arlington will overtake La Grande, and in less than two years from this time it will not have one third of the inhabitants it has to-day, and will be the least importent town in the county. No sophistry can cover up the true state of affairs and this will be the result as sure as the days roll 'round, and whether La Grande is or is not the county seat will not change it in the least. So much for La Grande's acquired advantages.

The Gazette says that no town in Union county has ever shown any of the business enterprise that La Grande has. Will the Gazette tell the people of this county what enterprise La Grande has ever engaged in calculated to benefit the county. It cannot point to a single one. On the contrary the town has subsisted on the patronage given it by the O. R. & N. Co. (an organization that was itself an enemy of the people) and while thus subsist- both. Its tariff bill is a disappoint- for the reason that it is against public ing the only enterprise it engaged in ment. \* \* \* It undertakes to policy. No court anywhere would enwas to concoct falsehoods, scheme for | bring about the necessary reduction of | force a contract or bond of this charits own advancement, oppose the pro- the revenue by indirect and clum-y acter, and if a taxpayer should go into gress of any other town in the county, methods, which diminish the possible a court of law or equity and attempt fight every measure for the public benefit to the consumer. It shows a to enforce it, thus tainted with all the good, figure to give away the best per- tender care for the interest of the elements of bribery he would have no tion of the county for its own agran- manufacturing monopolist, and offers standing in court and would be so rediscment and raise the devil generally. the rural consumer a perty tariff on buked by the judgment of the court Such is the measure of La Grande's butter and eggs instead of a reduction | that he would be glad to get out emp-"enterprise."

bestow they should be inclined to help list. It adds to the cost of cannod sons above set forth, viz: First, bethat place which helps itself," Now goods by increasing the duty on tin cause there is only one contracting let us consider what Union has done plate, and stops the repeal of the sugar party. Second, because there is no in the way of enterprises, not par duty just where it would begin to affect consideration, and third, because it is ticularly to benefit itself, but Ifor the the profits of the sugar trust and hone- against public policy, either one of good of the whole county. First we fit the consumer. It increases the duty which reasons being sufficient to inmay mention the building of the Hunt on wool because the wool growers are validate it. The lawyers of La Grande railroad and the branch road from La organized and powerful, but leaves who drafted this bond and the people Grande to Elgin. Neither of these hides on the free list because the west there generally know that it is void roads would have been built if it had ern ranchmen are too poor and scatter- and cannot be enforced. The making not been for the enterprise and tireless od to rival the influence of the New and executing of this contract or bond industry of the people of Union, who, England leather manufactories. It and everything done in connection besides their work, put up \$85,000 in promises protection to the American therewith is all for buncombe and of hard coin to make the enterprise a producer with one voice and whispers such thin, gausy nature that the intelsuccess. The building of the Cornu- reciprocity treaties with Spanish Amer- ligent voters cannot fail to see through copia road may be mentioned as an- ica to the Eastern importers with an- the whole business. Not a dollar other enterprise of Union's which has other. It shifts and palters, traffice do the people of La Grande purpose been of incalculable benefit to the peo- and evades, doubles, hesitates and is putting up for county buildings or to ple and united firmly to us the south- lost. It is a bill to catch campaign pay for those lost by removal of the ern end of the county which La contributions, not to attract votes. It county seat. The lies, misrepresenta-Grande has been so anxious to give will not help the party in the next tions and frauds which they have been away. The consstruction of the motor campaign." line from this city may also be mentioned which will redound to the credit Prosbyterian college is another enter- ty seat move," for some time, but are of the people of this county and humprise which it took money to secure, giving their entire attention to the burgery now is out of the question.

We guess not. But they do, and will, look to Union and will not be disap-

What of the natural advantages of Union? They are unlimited and unsurpassed. Situated in the exact center of the county, easy of access from all quarters, with abundance of pure water for comestic use and manfacturing purposes, its climate heathful and salubrious beyond comparison, it groves and gardens make it a veritable Eden which visitors delight to look upon -a peerless picture which they treas ure in their memory as a pleasant reminder of Union county. These are the natural advantages of Union and should be sufficient in themselves to cause evey man who has a pride in his home and county to vote for the county seat to remain where it is.

The artificial or acquired advantage of Union are numerous and will develop rapidly. The motor line, virtu ally, places the U. P. railroad depot on Main street. The Hunt road will pass through the town on the other side and will, also, be connected with the various portions of the town by the motor line. Thus it is seen that two transcontinental railroad lines will pass through the city, radiating out in four directions, passing through every part of the county. The residents of Sandridge, Indian valley, La Grande North Powder, Eagle and Pine valleys Sparta and Cornucopia, can step on board the cars near their homes and without walking twenty steps be sedown at the court house door in Union. vail at times and continually enveloped | Taxpayers, think of all this and judge whether Union should be rewarded swamps, it certainly cannot lay claim for bringing it about or La Grande rewarded for trying to thwart every beneficial movement and render them of no avail.

WHOLESOME TRUTES.

It is seldom that any thing like the Read what it says:

of La Grande to secure these things? road and will be equally fruitless. , only proposes to make good to the lected.

THAT INDEMNITY BOND.

As might have been expected, La Grande comes forward at this time and

iles with the county clerk what pur-

ports to be an indemnity bond, signed by a number of its citizens, by the forms of which it is agreed that in case of the removal of the county seat to La Grande they will indemnify the taxpayers for the loss of county buildings. The object of this bond is apparent to every one and the securing of this object is the sole and only purpose of its execution. La Grande is orely in need of votes and this scheme it is hoped by them will influence the taxpayers to support them and cause them as well to lose sight of other considerations which might influence their vote. They seem to believe that if the taxpayer is indemnified against any loss resulting from a removal of the county seat then he is ready to vote with them. This may be true, but we doubt it. But let us see about the validity of an instrument of this kind. Can it be enforced, and if so by whom? This instrument has one high contracting party, and one only, La Grande. It is a well and generally understood rule of law that it takes two to make a contract that is binding. No one can enter into a contract with himself. The editor of THE Scott might draw up a contract between himself and John Doc, but not until its terms has been mutually agreed upon is it binding between the contracting parties. In the case of this bond La Grande has agreed with this contract or bond suits La Grande gone to the expense of filing the intruth, politically, is enunciated by the this instrument has no considerations Portland Oregonian, the leading re- expressed or is there any passing from publican paper of the state, but oc- one contracting party to the other, casionally it gets down to solid facts. and a most excellent reason exists why can succeed in humbougging the county methods as were recently employed. "The republican party has no reason only one contracting party and it they can certainly manipulate much take warning right now, however, to to be proud of its legislative achieve- would be an absurdity to talk about a easier the appraising of buildings. not try any of that sort of thing on the ments in this session of congress. For consideration in such a case. It has Beware fellow citizens of this bond good people of this county at the electhe first time in fifteen years it has had been a rule of law from time immemo- scheme which is simply a bait for Jou tion in June. Let them deal square entire control of all departments of the rial that most people are well acquain- to bite at. Your vote is what they are with the people and there will be no government. It has possessed com- ted with, that a contract without a plete power to legislate and incurred consideration passing is null and void. complete responsibility for legislative Such a contract could not be enforced and give bonds by the wholesale and results. Its use of its power has been anywhere, not even among heathers, and any amount so long as they are a disappointment to its best friends, and | With proper parties, there must be a sure they will not have to comply the weight of responsibility is likely to consideration to make a contract or with their terms. It is expected that be a grevious burden for it in the future. | bond valid, and it must not only be | La Grande will do this because they Judged by its performances so far, the expressed in the instrument but must have no argument to present justifyrepublican party is distinctly less fit actually pass in order to make a good ling a removal of the county seat at for the functions of government and contract. Any contract or bond given the present time and must buy votes legislation than it was when it lost or entered into which is against public if possible. Bartering and bribery control of the house in 1874. \* \* \* policy, made so by its terms, is void will be their stock in trade as they can-By long odds the most important puls | and cannot be enforced. This bond or | not hope to win in any other way. lie questions of the present session are agreement to indemnify taxpayers is Honesty justice and fair dealings are fiscal questions. The most vital legis- against public policy and cannot be lation with which the party in power valid. By the terms of this instrument that the honest voters and taxpayers has had to deal was that touching the it is calculated to influence votes of this county will give them a just C. C. COFFINSERRY. tariff and the currency. Tariff revision | through the hope of pecuniary gain | rebuke the second day of next month was imperatively demanded, and the and is therefore indirectly if not diconditions of the coinage made some rectly an attempt at bribery and an modification of the silver policy of the attempt to tamper with the freedom country urgent. The republican party of the elective franchise. Any conhas attacked both problems. It is not | tract, bond or other contrivance which premature to say that it has failed with thus tends to influence votes is void upon manufactured goods he has to ty handed and free from the shackles The Gazette says, truly, "When the buy. It takes the tax off tobacco, but of the criminal. This bend is void people of a county have any favors to does not materially increase the free and cannot be enforced, for the reaguilty of, reaching back to these per-The La Granders have not called to the positions for the enabling act,

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and they have taken the trouble and anchor the county seat at La Grande. please. So we can find no great solace in strument with the custodian of all our | accepting the terms of their little voprecious documents of public purport, ting incubator, We still have new after and will do anything to secure it. complaints about the result. They will make all manner of promises uot on their side, and we feel confident

> THE Gazette calls in question the veracity of several men who signed the statement that the court house is a Farm Wachinery, good and substantial building because they were not residents of Union at the time. These men have been residents of Union for a long time and each one of them is perfectly familiar with the county premises, and subscribed to what he knew to be the truth. This recent discovery of the La Grande agitators concerning the court house, is the thinnest thing yet and it looks like they would be ashamed of themselves. But shame is something they evidently know nothing about. What it would take to cause a blush on the cheeks of one of them would cause the hair on the jowls of a government mule to turn gray.

FO FAR as the county judge is concerned it will be admitted that he should be a man well acquainted with the needs and requirements of the people, and the various sections throughout the county. Mr. Sanders, for this reason, we do not think is as well qualified for the office as Mr Rinehart, who has been a resident of the county for twenty-five years, and is well known by everybody. We have never heard Mr. Rinehart express his opinions on local affairs, but we believe that he is an honest man and will do justice to all if elected. We can ask no more than that.

THE county clerk's office of Union petrated by them in getting signatures county is the most systematic and well kept office in the state, and in orand well being of the county. The the building of the Hunt road "a countries are indelibly impressed upon the minds der to have it continue so, we believe the people should employ Mr. Turner Oliver as clerk for the next two years. Woolen mills, factories and manufact- county court house. The lies they age Even if this fine bond scheme was He will have nothing to learn and is a urers of various kinds are needed in circulating about the condition of this perisetly straight and the instrument man whom everybody has the most HOUSCHOICI the county to-day and must be built, building are even more burefaced than valid, another proposition arises to implicit confidence in. We do not Will the people look to the enterprise those they circulated about the Hint stire the taxpayers in the face. It think that a better man could be se-

county whatever two disinterested(?) The Gazette says that "only twentyparties shall decide the county build- five thousand dollars" can be appro ings at Union to be worth. Simply priated for county buildings in case proposing to put the county even, the county seat is moved to La Grande. with no county buildings. Or in other That kind of a construction may be words the county can wipe out so far put on the provisions of the enabling as buildings are concerned and start act but just let the county seat be in anew on fancy business principles. moved and see what the result will be, itself upon the terms of a contract The taxpayer will then be asked to go The \$25,000 will be used to lay the purporting to be entered into with the down into the depths of his shining foundation for a structure that it will people of the county. The terms of and silvery trousers' pocket and dig take \$100,000 to complete, and, in time, up \$75,000 or \$100,000 for brand new it will be completed and the taxp yers whether they sait anybody else or not, county buildings such as will for ages may kick about it as much as they

An honest vote on the county seat question will result in Union coming buildings to erect besides sustaining out at least five hundred ahead, and a certain loss in the appraisement of the only hopes the La Grande schemers the property at Uction. If La Grande can have is in bribery, fraud and such there is none, for the fact is, there is at large into accepting their overtures in the city election there. They may

THE county court house is a good Chicago. and substantial building sufficient for all purposes for many years to come. Main Line, Nos. 3 and 4. "The Limited Fast Mail," carry Pullman Dining and Sleeping Cars between Portland and Chi-This assertion is substantiated by the sworn statement of a committee composed of the best men in the county and the signatures of 150 citizens of Union. Let no man be deserved by lying reports to the contrary. Union is also supplied with one of the best county jails in the state, safe and substantial in every respect.

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