

THE COUNTY SEAT

A Letter That Should be Read by Everybody.

A VERY TRANSPARENT SCHEME.

Section 6 of The Enabling Act is a Snare For The Unwary.

TELECASTER, May 10th, 1890.
EDITOR OREGON SCOTT:—

The Gazette of May 2nd makes a desperate effort to convince the people of Union county that their financial salvation depends on the removal of the county seat to La Grande, and were it not for the fact that there are several points at issue designed to deceive the people I should pass its arguments by unheeded. We are always ready to receive with due consideration any arguments based upon reason and common sense, but are not willing to be stuffed with a lot of balderdash that will not bear dissection. Referring to section 6 of the enabling act the Gazette says:

It may be stated as a fact, which everybody will admit, that the enabling act was gotten up by friends of La Grande, and Section 6 of that act was originated and inserted by the friends of La Grande. The object of the section is to guard the taxpayers. It is restrictive in its character, and puts a limit on the amount the County Court may expend in case the county seat is removed. It would be foolish to have the enabling act passed without restriction, because in that case La Grande's cause would stand before the public of the country the same as Union's now is, and there would be no limit to the amount that might be expended for new county buildings.

By the friends of La Grande, indeed! Not by the friends of the county of Union irrespective of any particular town or locality; not by the friends of the taxpayers of the county, that their burdens might be lessened, and taxation reduced; but by the friends of La Grande, that La Grande might build up at the expense of the entire county. Every precinct, and every individual taxpayer in Union county is not only asked to contribute, but asked to make it more binding upon themselves by voting for a law compelling them to pay a stipulated sum yearly and for what? Is it asked for the purpose of relieving the citizens, or even a majority of them, of any great inconvenience or hardship to which they are subjected by reason of the inaccessibility of the present location of the county seat? Was it because there was a general murmur of dissatisfaction all over the county demanding that this change be made? No. But it was "gotten up by the friends of La Grande" that the people of the entire county might be compelled to pay tribute to her.

We herewith submit section 6 that no one may misunderstand the content:

Section 6. Should the legal voters of said county decide to change the location of said county seat, and should the same be located at some other point than where the same is now located, the county court of said county shall not have the power or authority to appropriate any sum of money to exceed \$25,000 for the construction of new county buildings, and shall not have power or authority to levy any tax upon the property of said county in excess of two and one-half (2½) mills on the dollar of the taxable property of said Union county annually for that purpose.

They claim that the object of this section is to protect the taxpayer, as it is restrictive in its character and "puts a limit on the amount the county court may expend in case the county seat is removed." Now Mr. Gazette, section 6 does not say any such thing, and the only reason you use the word "expend" is simply for the purpose of deceiving the people into the belief that \$25,000 is the limit of expenditures that the county court may make for new county buildings, as the following plainly shows:

Remember, again that not more than 2½ mills can be levied in any one year to make up this gross amount of \$25,000. In Sec. 6 the word "appropriate" is used instead of the word "expend" which places a limit only on that amount the court may appropriate but places no limit on what it may expend for county buildings, for which it shall not have power to "levy any tax upon the property of said county in excess of two and one-half (2½) mills on the dollar of the taxable property of said Union county annually for that purpose." For what purpose? Not, as you make it appear, for the purpose of "making up" this gross amount of \$25,000, but for the purpose of constructing new county buildings.

It is absurd to contend that a county

court cannot construct county buildings without first getting a permit from the legislature; it is also just as absurd to presume for a moment that the county court must consult the legislature as to its requirements in the line of buildings. Oregon might just as well ask the congress of the United States what kind of state buildings she requires.

So far as the construction of county buildings is concerned the court can as well construct buildings under this act costing \$150,000, as she can \$25,000 and that without going through the mockery of appropriating a single dollar, merely by a levy of two and one-half mills on the dollar indefinitely, or until the completion and payment for such buildings as the county should require. We do not wish to be understood as taking the position that the legislature had no power to restrict in this particular act, but we do take the position that there is no restriction as to the amount that the expenditure may ultimately reach by a levy of not to exceed 2½ mills on the dollar per annum, and as there is no limit as to time it is left wholly to the people of the county, through the county court, to say what these new buildings shall cost. And again, had the legislature limited the cost of the new buildings to \$25,000, and it afterward appeared that the amount was insufficient, the legislature would not, and could not well refuse to grant the county court the power to expend any further sum which might be necessary for the completion of said buildings, and this is just what the taxpayers would have to submit to, had there been such limitation in the act.

W. A. C.

THE PARK.

The Grain Crop—News Notes—Social Gatherings and Personal Mention.

Fruit of all kinds will be plentiful this year.

Several of the Park children have the measles.

Bear, and game of all kinds is very scarce this spring.

Crops are in and all of the spring sowing is coming up.

Fine prospects for good hay crops. Timothy, wild grass and rye look fine.

Mr. Cornelius Van is in the Park. He is in very poor health, being afflicted with the shaking palsy.

There is more acres put in grain this spring than ever before, at one time, since the Park was settled.

The poem "Busted in Butte," by B. W. Huffman, is a good one for young men to read and take heed to.

Many strangers are passing through the Park. We don't know whether they are candidates or Hunt's spies.

The mill company here have bought the boiler that the Union flouring mill had, and it is now here and will soon be put in operation.

The directors of the Park school have concluded to not have any school till fall. Then they will give some good looking teacher a chance.

Mrs. Ella Shaw presented her husband with a ten pound son, recently. Mother and son doing well but San ford hurt his toes kicking things out of his way.

Mr. Sam'l Vanorder went to Union recently after hay and one of his horses was taken with something like the blind staggers and he had to leave his hay till next morning.

The sawmill has been started again and if the candidates who come around do not set up the cigars they may get "sawed off" next June. Where are all the candidates, anyway?

The folks of the Park met on the 28th ult. at the home of grandpa and grandma South to celebrate the 59th year of their married life. All had a good time and went home happy.

Mrs. Truesdale, Miss Graham and Bud and Ed. Truesdale of La Grande, returned home from a visit here, a few days ago. Etta Truesdale and her pony, likewise her poodle, is going to stay in the Park for a while. Everybody knows Etta.

The Americans are a peaceable and long suffering people. They will endure a wrong a long time but when they get enough they will put things to rights. It is to be hoped that the monopolies will bear down on the people so hard that they will get enough and do something for themselves. The farmers and workmen have got the power in their hands if they will only use it. But no, they must follow one or the other of the old parties, right or wrong, and complain and growl and talk about what ought to be done.

MOORE.

SPARTA.

The Langrell Planing and Shingle Mills.

THE BUTTE CITY OF OREGON.

A Bond in Their Making—The Little Pittsburg to be sold.

Camp full of strangers.

Mines and mining interests are all the talk.

The Langrell saw, planing and shingle mills commenced work May 5th and are busy filling orders.

Sparta is now called the Butte City of Oregon—and the outlook justifies the comparison, and time will prove this no misnomer.

The Windsor mine owned and operated by Dr. Marrotte and brother continues to improve in quantity and quality as the work of development goes on and when a mill is up the Windsor will prove a heavy producer.

Fluor mining is more extensively carried on than for many years past, owing to the large supply of free water and the gold yield will be larger this summer than at any time since 1871. Everybody that can run a rocker or ground sluice has money, consequently everybody is happy.

A. G. Waldron, contractor has completed a three hundred and fifty foot tunnel for Clough & Reed, owners of the Gray Eagle and Union mines and a second contract to drift five hundred feet on the ledge in the same mines has been let for the owners to the same contractor.

The tunnel on the Arkansaw Belle has been driven four hundred feet, and Mr. Garand the contractor is instructed by the owners, who live in Portland, to continue the tunnel one hundred feet further unless the ledge is cut before that time. Several small stratas of ore, rich in gold, have been cut, and several hundred tons of low grade sulphur ore has been dumped, and the indications are favorable for a rich ore body when the main pay chute is encountered.

Contracts are let for sinking an incline wing on the ledge, at the bottom of the air shaft in the 447 foot tunnel, on the Del Monte now owned by Geo. Henderson, and thus far, this is the most promising property in camp, as the pay dirt is over three feet in thickness and while it carries fine gold enough to pay all expenses of mining and milling the sulphurets assay \$40 in gold to the ton.

The Little Pittsburg owned by W. P. Arble & Co. will soon pass into the hands of a wealthy Portland syndicate and from mill runs made, and from ore in sight the Little Pittsburg will soon be enumerated among the heavy dividend payers of the country.

O. S. B.

INDEMNITY.

The Summerville Annotator Sires up the Last Scheme of the La Grande Ballot-Box Stuffers to Defraud the People.

For months the La Grande Gazette has been paying marked attention to the tax-payers of Union county. But its billing and coining, sighing and wailing is not a mere passing fancy or an irresistible fascination toward the tax-payers of the north end of the county. It is not an affair of the heart, but a well matured plot to captivate their vote by fulsome flattery and a hollow pretense of sympathy and affection. The heaviest load of their intimidation and bribery was heaved upon the people, in 500 extra copies of the Gazette, last week in the following language:

"A bond was drawn up yesterday and is now being circulated for signatures in which the signers of the same bind themselves to pay to the county court of Union county an amount equal to the value of Union county's buildings."

The bond referred to was hatched out in the nest of the political bribers who attempted to stuff the ballot box in the recent city election of La Grande, and is not worth as much as Snodgrass' note to the tax-payers of Union county. "Come into my parlor, said the spider to the fly." Are the tax-payers of the north end of the county willing to play fly for the La Grande spider? Are the people of the county generally gullible enough to play cat's paw for the La Grande monkey?

No fair-minded man will believe the honeyed buncombe which is being dealt out so liberally to the tax-payers by those ultra politeness of the ballot box in La Grande. Money can procure almost anything, and has procured, in

this county, blind deception of the people, which deception is fast passing away, and the robbers' occupation will soon be at an end. Then W. J. Snodgrass, N. Blum and their followers "will go back into their kennels and lie down and go to sleep."

The Gazette seems to think that the honest tax-payers of the north end of the county should vote a tax upon themselves, by voting for La Grande for the county seat, simply to gratify the selfish, insane ambition of a few contemptible ballot box stuffers, of the town that wears an air of: "You all shall sweetly obey my will."

We will admit that there are some truly good and honest people in La Grande, but they are throwing no court house mud, and will not sacrifice their honor by signing a deceptive bond in order to play a confidence game and thus dupe their neighbors.

THE COVE.

May 14, 1890.

The destructive wire worm has made its appearance on the Sandridge and attacked the grain. Several fields have already been resown.

There are several cases of the measles in the vicinity. All are doing well. The disease has not yet interfered with the attendance at school.

J. T. Jewell, road supervisor has been leveling the principal street of Cove this week. It will help appearances very much, besides improving the thoroughfare as a driveway.

Advertised letters in the Cove post office May 13th:—Mrs. Jane Cameron, Miss Anna Makin, (2) Jas. McManis, D. H. Perkins, J. G. Smith, W. L. Tucker.—JASPER G. STEVENS, P. M.

The cherry crop excepting sour varieties will be a failure this year, apples will yield very well, plums, prunes and pears will be short. The prospect for a good supply of strawberries is flattering. They will commence to ripen in about three weeks.

Copies of the Gazette containing not much besides county seat scribbles are being sent in a perfect torrent over the county. Every voter gets one or more. Several deluded Coveites have already said they would vote for La Grande for the county seat.

It is whispered that two couple, born and bred in Cove and grown up together, will bid themselves to La Grande early next month for the avowed purpose of launching their barks on the sea of matrimony. May their experience in double harness be as one long summer day.

We had the pleasure of a brief call at the Cove tannery this week. The gentlemanly superintendent, Mr. Adam Crossman took us through the different departments and pointed out the various processes through which the hide passes before being finished into leather ready for the market. A large water wheel furnishes power for the establishment and it is proposed to run a dynamo and light the premises by electricity. The products of the tannery have been pronounced by experts to be of the very best grade. Several thousand dollar's worth of stock is now on hand, and every saddle and harness maker in Eastern Oregon should patronize home industry by sending in a sample order. It is found that Cove leather is cheaper than that of California manufacture with freight added.

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