

THAT MANIFESTO.

Slater's Defense of His Chants Demurred to.

HIS REMARKABLE ACUMEN.

The Old Saying is That "Figures Wont Lie." But Some Figures Do.

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT:

In the issue of the La Grande Gazette of the 16th inst. appears an article from the pen of an Ex-United States Senator, Ex-Congressman, Ex-Railroad Commissioner, Ex-Prosecuting Attorney, in fact, from one who lives a life of expectancy—expecting himself and family to be supported by the people—and in this he has not been expecting in vain.

Some of the statements made in this communication are shot so wide of the mark that they are deserving of a place in your Youth's Column as furnishing cheap amusement for the school children. But they were not penned for the Gazette for that purpose. On the contrary they come with the same view and intention and with the same laborious effort that this same party many years ago attempted to hoodwink and deceive his constituents in regard to his support of the back salary grab when the certificate of the clerk of the senate was against him, and he had his ill gotten gains in his pocket.

The people of Union county had hoped that "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind" would induce one who has been so long supported and favored at the hands of the people of every section and locality of Union county, and for which favoritism they have so little to show, to quietly rest in the selection that has been the natural result of his lamentable incompetency, lack of executive ability and determination to deceive the public in order to screen himself from the odium engendered by his own acts. But in this they are again deceived, hence it becomes our duty to briefly review the article that seems to have convinced its author beyond question that La Grande is the most eligible point for the county seat.

Mr. Slater says that he is a taxpayer and that his property lies so that it is not effected either way the question may be decided. Besides, for years he has deprecated the agitation of this question.

It's too bad that Mr. Slater has so completely lost his influence in his home town and that after years of pleading they pay no attention whatever to his counsel, and even resort to stuffing their own ballot boxes to demonstrate the effects of his counsel. It must have been a gloomy outlook for him when he took his seat to pen the article under consideration, to think that if it has no more effect on the voters of Union county than his "deprecations for years" have had with his own townsmen, that this last attempt to influence voters would prove as barren of results as did his attempt to mislead and deceive the people of this county on a former occasion when trying to cover up and deny his course in regard to the back salary steal, or to influence his townsmen to not engage in this contest.

We agree with Mr. Slater as to one statement, and that is that "the relocation of the county seat is a matter of public concern rather than of mere local interest," and that I think he will find it the opinion of the taxpayers of Union county everywhere. Local interest in La Grande, for La Grande and by the people of La Grande, being the only motive in this matter from beginning to end.

Mr. Slater says, "it is a fair and plain proposition that that place should be selected which, all things considered, is most convenient and accessible to the public." If the county had just been set aside or cut off from Baker and had no county buildings, or county poor farm, and the expenses were to be incurred, this would be exactly the thing to carefully consider, and if so considered, is there one voter in Union county who, looking at the situation through any other than La Grande goggles would choose La Grande as the point? Under the circumstances La Grande would not be in the race at all, for Island City would command three votes to her one.

Mr. Slater starts out by preparing a table of votes, made for the occasion, that is so erroneous and so twisted and warped to suit his purpose that there is not a living soul that has read his article who has not felt humiliated that one who has held such high positions

in our midst would stoop so low in order to deceive the public by patching up a hypothesis in order to give himself an opportunity to discuss an important question in a manner best calculated to deceive the people.

By tabulating the vote of Nov., 1888, he arrives at the fact that there were cast 2,326 votes. He then estimates that the vote will stand in June as follows:

Cast in Nov. '88	Will cast in June.
La Grande 113	799
Union 343	491
Island City 174	260
Summerville 254	400
Indian Valley 213	350
Cove 176	260
Hilgard 129	400
Starkey 26	50
Camp Carson 6	25
North Powder 173	173
Antelope 27	50
Big Creek 69	50
Red Rock 42	50
Sparta 37	50
Eagle 30	100
Pine 145	150
Cornucopia 81	50
Sanger 28	50
Total	2,326 2,326

Now just look over this table and study it a moment and see the manner in which it has been warped to suit his purpose.

In June, 1888, La Grande was enjoying a boom, and it is very doubtful if she has any more legitimate voters to-day than she had then, and yet he complacently adds in her favor to his imaginary list 187, while to Union, that has had a steady and constantly increasing vote, he generously allows to have increased 57, and also allows the Cove to have gained 21; but to Hilgard, that on April 3, 1890 had 276 votes, he allows to cast 400, while at Camp Carson he allows her vote to swell from 6 to 25, and to North Powder with her vast lumbering interests which seems to have such a wonderful effect on the vote of Hilgard he graciously allows an increase of actually five votes, while to Cornucopia, with her miners just beginning to go in to work for the summer, he in his magnanimity deducts 44 votes.

By carefully investigating this sliding scale invented to deceive the public by the same sluggish brain that conceived the idea of preparing and placing on record a bond composed largely of such responsible parties as Prof. Strange of La Grande *who pays no taxes, but signs the bond evidently in order to give it some financial standing* one can readily see that Mr. Slater's effort to prove that the majority of the people's interests was really consulted at the time that the county seat should remain right where it is as it undoubtedly will.

Having arranged his straw man and stuffed him and hung him up just to suit, he proceeds to thrash him in great style.

His figures however partake so much of the flavor of his old "figurative speech" on tariff for revenue only that has so frequently furnished the old timers an opportunity to enjoy a good comfortable nap that they are entirely void of interest when the reader understands thoroughly that his premises are made wilfully erroneous to begin with, and that the wilful misrepresentations in his table of estimate is the only basis and was made on purpose to enable him to draw erroneous conclusions and then parade them before the public as "A Few Facts" and that "Figures Wont Lie" much as the party handling the figures seem to desire them to.

Passing over erroneous conclusions drawn from a purposely distorted hypothesis as entirely unworthy of notice or space in your columns. Mr. Slater proceeds to criticize the railroad situation and charges that the building of the Hunt road or the "masquerading at building" is "work being done simply to aid Union to retain the county seat" and yet he admits that the building of the Hunt road will certainly greatly benefit the whole county. Its completion means competition in the transportation business and means cheaper rates to the farmers and that means greater prosperity to the whole people. In this prosperity La Grande will have her full share without doubt. Mr. Slater also with something of the same low cunning that prompted him to file a bond in the clerks office that he, knowing as little of law as even he is accredited with knowing, will not claim is legally worth as much as was the blank paper that was spoiled with the nonsense it contains, sets to work to outline a system of roads for the Union Pacific to build even to the Cove "when Hunt sets earnestly to work in the construction of his road."

The more we read and endeavor to decipher the true inwardness of this remarkable essay the more we are impressed with the dishonesty of the motives that give it birth and

the desperate straits to which the author was driven in order to bolster up his case that in the very beginning was erected on a foundation of sand.

In one paragraph he tells the people that the Hunt road is only a masquerade party to catch votes for Union. In the next he says the building of the Hunt road will certainly very greatly benefit the whole county and contemplate the results "when Hunt sets earnestly to work."

In the beginning Mr. Slater very candidly stated his property which is situated almost in the middle of the valley was not materially affected by the removal or remaining of the county seat at its present location. His property however is largely advanced by the building of the Hunt system which will very greatly benefit the whole county and of which La Grande will have her full share. Does any one know just how many dollars Mr. Slater subscribed toward an enterprise that he is now throwing cold water at and that has already increased the value of his broad acres at least fifteen dollars per acre? If La Grande will have her full share of these benefits can he point to where she has contributed to a full share of anything but opposition toward the Hunt system. It is not an exhibition of cheek that should be put on the road under canvas with reserved seats at high prices for himself and other citizens of La Grande to do all they can do against this great enterprise that "will greatly benefit the whole community" and in which "La Grande will have her full share" and then come to the front and ask the very men who have gone deep down in their pockets to bring the Hunt system which means "a contest for the traffic of Grand Ronde valley" and "cheaper rates to the farmers and greater prosperity to the whole people" to vote to such a craven, selfish, illiberal people, the county seat of this county. For chrysalized gall in colossal quantities go to Jas. H. Slater.

But little less of the above which seems to be their only stock in trade is the claiming of all votes north and west of La Grande as tributary to that city of magnificent self-conceit. Imagine the voters and taxpayers of Iowa, Summerville, and Indian valley passing through Island City, a beautiful location with magnificent water power and all the natural facilities for the upbuilding of a city, and passing out onto the arid flat on the southwest to do business at the county seat when they themselves were responsible for so unwise a move. If it is the interest of the people according to Mr. Slater's own table which everybody knows is not correct or according to the facts as they exist La Grande does not accommodate one hundred taxpayers outside its corporation that would not be better accommodated at Island City, and the people fully realize these facts and taxpayers will see to it that no change is made at their expense in June, as they will also see that no additional expenses are accrued in erecting new buildings at Union until they are actually needed, which will be far in the future, and at that time some other point, even the Cove with its net work of railroads forced in by the Hunt system may stand a much better show than does La Grande at this time.

La Grande, situated in a barren flat, bounded on the south by the old cemetery of her former greatness, on the west by up the creek, and with not enough room to the north to allow her people to cast the grounds out of their coffee pots without imposing on their more fortunately located neighbors of Island City. Verily she needs the county seat, and if the people had half a dozen to contribute, they all combined would not be equal to her requirements.

PIONEER.

ELGIN ECHOES.

May, 14, 1890.

Mr. Thos. Beam is very sick at present.

The grain crops look well since the late rains.

Gibson & Co. will start up their new saw mill in a short time.

Elgin can show up several Union men and don't you forget it.

Mr. A. N. Hamilton and Mr. John Eaton were in town to-day.

Several good buildings are under way and will be completed soon.

J. R. Johnson, proprietor of the Weston house has a fine register on his desk.

Look out for the Elgin Baseball Club. They will be heard from in the near future.

The frosts have injured the plum and prune trees considerably, in this part of the country.

J. C.

THE COUNTY SEAT CONTEST.

An Able Editorial on The Subject From The Summerville Annotator.

The following editorial clipped from the last issue of the Summerville Annotator is a clear and concise statement of facts, and should be carefully read by every taxpayer in the county:

"The time does not seem when the voters of the county will be called upon to decide some very important questions. The county seat contest we must own occupies very largely the attention of most people who have the interest of the county and their own individual interest at heart.

In reference to this contest we not only wish to present a few points of argument to taxpayers but we also desire to call the attention of the laborer and wage earner to facts and conditions which ought to weigh very heavily in favor of leaving the county seat where it now is for the present. According to our best information, our county is now considerably in debt, reaching no doubt the sum of \$60,000, and probably \$70,000. A large portion of this debt has been brought about in expenditure upon county road bridges, which are a necessity, and expenditures for which the taxpayer would not have the least cause for complaint. Necessary expenditures and those calculated to build and improve the county and better the facilities for getting about are as a rule, welcomed by the taxpayer, so long as their funds are not squandered and misappropriated. Is the expenditure attending the removal of the county seat desired by the taxpayers? Is the removal of the county seat and the erection of new county buildings a necessity of the present time? We say no to both propositions. We think the present court house and jail buildings at Union amply sufficient for the county's needs for the present, and for many years to come.

The incurring of the expense which would no doubt be a large one, of erecting new county buildings at La Grande or any other point so long as our present ones are amply commodious and substantial, would seem to us one of the most nonsensical proceedings an intelligent people ever engaged in. They would certainly be leaping into the dark with a fair prospect of being considerably jammed in fighting. A close reading of the enabling act submitting the question to a vote will discover to the mind a very neat deception with regard to the amount that may be expended for county buildings. The fact is by the terms of the section referring to the amount that may be expended, an unlimited sum can be levied upon the taxpayers for the erection of buildings. The indemnity bond we have heard about ostensibly to provide in case of removal of the county seat, we will hardly notice as the object of it is very apparent is simply to catch the votes of the unaware, with the full knowledge on part of its executors that the bond is in fact a nullity and cannot be enforced.

To the worker for wages on the farm, in the woods, on the range or in the mines, we would say a few words. You are dependent to a certain extent upon the prosperity and development of a country for employment and the more active the capitalist in his efforts to develop the resources of a country, the better for the wage worker. The more money comes in to develop mining industries, lumber industries and in fact all the different industries that a country is capable of maintaining the better for the wage worker. When the employer is happy and prospering as a rule his employees are moderately so. Whatever tends to embarrass and checkmate the business of the employer has its effects on the employed. If a county is heavily in debt and the property owners and employers are compelled to pay increased taxes they retrench usually in the amount paid for labor in their business and the laborer usually helps to bear his losses. Do not deter capital from coming into our country, and help to drive capital out by voting to double the present indebtedness of our county.

Cast your vote so that it will assist in building up the county at large instead of pulling it down. To-day you are laboring for daily wages, next year you may be a large property holder. Vote for the interest of the county at large and you will be doing a duty, you owe to yourself, your best friends, and to the county."

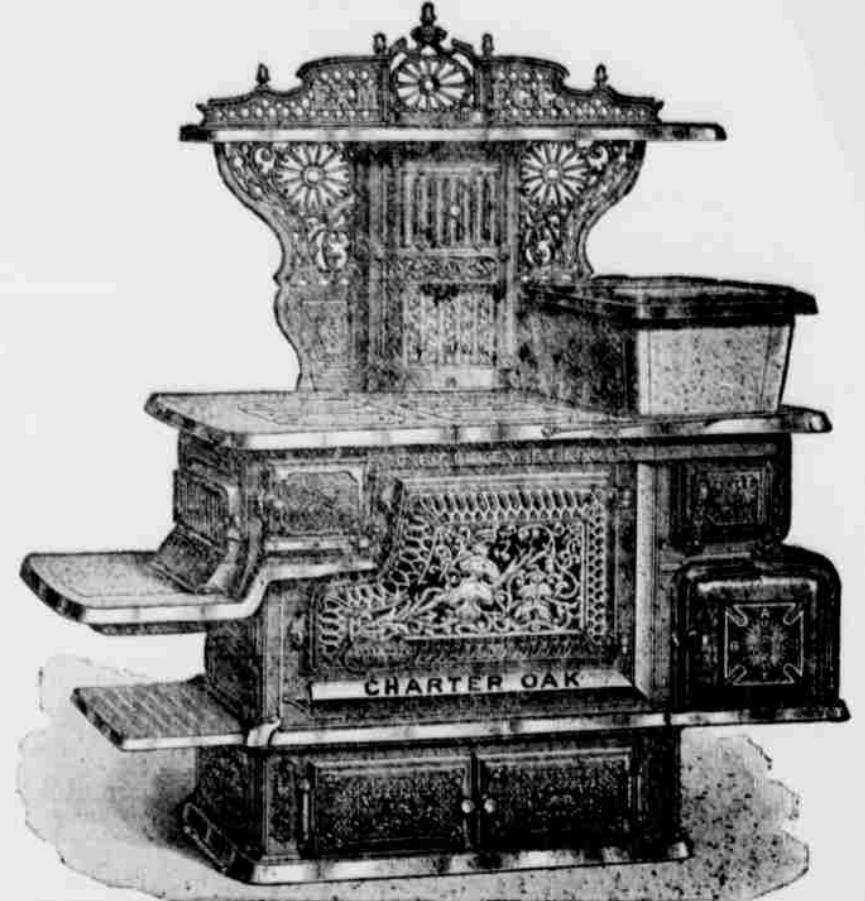
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