

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX.)

son we feared the influence of some evil disposed members, who naturally get into all such societies, though this society had many of the best citizens in the county connected with it. The object as we understood it, was protection and defense of their rights as citizens and settlers of the county against the large stock and land owners. The public must remember that a great deal of the land in this county and at that time, and is yet in dispute regarding questionable titles and possession, and as is natural, in this and all other countries similarly situated, people take advantage of such circumstances and litigation, sectional strife and animosity follow. This society was formed for the express purpose of a united effort on the part of the settlers to dispossess the large land owners of land they (the settler) considered had been obtained fraudulently, we mean swamp and desert land, believing through such organization they could more successfully fight the corporations. That this society ever committed the depredation attributed by the Oregonian writer, is a base falsehood, remember his remarks on this particular point are not qualified in any way what ever. The settlers were then and are still disputing the right of the large land owners of this county to a great deal of the land to which they claim to have titles, because upon statements shown by settlers through their attorneys of fraudulent entries and purchases made, the government has given the settler the right to contest. That stock has been purloined by all parties concerned both settlers and stockmen, we do not deny, but a general stealing by either we most emphatically deny, to cast a slur and stigmatize the whole population of our county except the cattle corporations, as a band of murderers and thieves is as vile as it is base and slanderous, such can only emanate from a low, selfish, and venomous source, from a mind which in the rebound and the truth made public will sink to that level where it properly belongs.

We can't see but that the editor of the Oregonian, being as well acquainted with our county people as we believe him to be is equally to blame for allowing such slanders upon a people, who have liberally supported his paper, to appear in its columns.

The man Miller, whom the Oregonian writer purports as having been murdered, was certainly well killed, according to his statement, having four bullets in his brain and four in his heart. Now this man Miller is a myth and his murder a lie, no such thing having transpired in the county. If ever any effort was made to intimidate the stockmen or drive them from the county, we have no knowledge of it. The injunction cases filed by the L. F. Company and sustained by Judge Clifford, were cases in which the government allowed the settlers to enter or file upon what is termed Red S. lands and contest the company's right or title, the settlers who took advantage of this are the ones we presume are mentioned in the Oregonian as land

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grabbers and claim jumpers. We think when it comes to land grabbing the "shoe is on the other foot" the writer says the corporations lay claim to 150,000 acres.

The case of David L. Shirk to which he refers is mostly an abominable lie, that Mr. Shirk killed the man he nor no one else denies, but according to the evidence given by an eye witness the man killed was lying down by a sagebrush when the shot was fired which ended his existence, with a revolver leveled at Mr. Shirk and as to Mr. Shirk firing from his own doorstep, such is not the case, the place where the man was shot, was two or three miles from the residence of Mr. Shirk, and the body laying there in the hot sun two or three days after the deed was committed through fear of Shirk or his friends, won't do either, the body might have lain there for some time because of the necessity of coroners inquest is

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