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By the publishers of
The Statesman }
No. 131 1/2 Main }

Molalla Settlement

10th November 1857.

Editor of the Statesman

Sir: Hoping you will pardon the trespass on your ~~time~~ time, I venture to call your attention to a subject which at ~~the~~ present time is of some interest to the people of this neighborhood and may be in other parts of the country. The foundation to the excitement to which I refer is a letter which appeared in the Spectator of the 19th August over the signature of J. B. Preston Surveyor General. As doubtless this letter was prepared for publication with the best intentions, it is to be regretted that by a misprint it should not only become ambiguous but be construed to mean entirely different to what must have been the intention of the writer.

I refer to that part of the printed letter which by its erroneous reading, advises each claimant to have all his corners established and his lines marked (in amount survey) in advance of the regular survey of the country which it states is about to be made.

To understand this properly it is necessary to introduce the quotation from the 6th Section of the Land Law as given in Mr. Preston's letter which is as follows: "That within three months after the survey has been made, or where the survey has been made before the settlement commenced, then within three months from the commencement of such settlement, each of said settlers shall notify the Surveyor General to be appointed by this act, of the precise tract or tracts claimed by them respectively under this law, and in all cases it shall be in a compact form." After this quotation the letter goes on to say: "In order to describe the precise tract or tracts claimed, the miles and bounds must be given, and the boundaries should be marked to enable the Deputy Surveyors to locate the lines of each claim properly as he progresses with the survey; if this is done it will prevent much confusion and delay in adjusting boundaries and locating claims on the township plats."

That this sentence is erroneously published, both from its errors in grammar and the construction of the Land Law must be evident to the most careless reader. ~~The~~ Error is nothing uncommon in the Spectator, as the more serious ones in the Land Law prove the Editor but a negligent reader of his proof sheet; but as this has a mischievous tendency it is ^{to me} matter of surprise the Surveyor General did not himself have it corrected.

But as that respected functionary - must be now continually employed in examining the notes of returning deputies, and dispatching others to the field the letter has perhaps never fell under his notice.

To make the sentence conform to the rules of Grammar as well as the Land Law it should read: "In order to describe the precise tract or tracts claimed the miles and bounds must be given, and the boundary lines should be marked by the Deputy Surveyor as he progresses with the survey, in order to enable the claimant of each claim properly to locate it: if this is done it will prevent ^{much confusion &c.} That the writer merely wished to secure the attendance of the ~~claimant~~ ^{claimant} ~~at the time of the survey~~ ^{at the time of the survey} is the true meaning of the sentence is plain. for as it now stands the Surveyor General appears to pay as little respect to the rights of the people under the law of Congress as he does to the law of language, he requires claims to be located before the survey when the law allows the claimant three months after. he requires claimants to mark lines and establish corners which can only lawfully be done by Deputy Surveyors acting under a special contract and commission from himself. and lastly a compliance with the requisitions of his letter by the Settlers would cut them off from the alternative expressly guaranteed to them by the 6th Section of the Land Law that of taking their claims by the legal subdivisions, and so far from the law requiring a survey of the claims, it is only permitted where the claims cannot be taken by the legal subdivisions.

The people are now paying out their money to get their claims surveyed in advance of the regular survey of the country and thereby creating the confusion he wishes to prevent, and not being able to obtain the services of the authorized deputies who came with Mr. Preston to the country, are employing men in that capacity, whose ignorance and old-fashioned instruments are held by him in proper contempt, and even if by accident they make or are qualified to make a correct survey, without his authority to do so, their work all goes for nothing. ~~but they~~ ~~do not get the benefit of it.~~

I address this letter to you Mr. Bush because the hearty support the people give you entitles them to expect yours, and as their in-

terests are at stake in this matter. I hope you will try to get Mr Preston to explain the meaning of his letter, which he will no doubt do as he is said to be a fine man. — If he sees proper to write another letter to the people tell him to publish it in the Statesman as nearly all the people read it and but few read the Spectator.

With best regards,

I remain your humble

Servant.

Pierre Point-