

To Inv. B. Preston real and C. K. Gardner nominal Surveyors Genl of the Territories of Oregon and Washington.

Gentlemen:

We have seen your advertisement addressed to us dated Apl 20, 1854, signed by C. K. Gardner, and published in the Oregonian of the 22d inst.

In this advertisement you notify us that if we do not have our claims surveyed by authority of your office within four months from the date of your notice, you will take our claims from us and give them to others.

We have flattered ourselves with the hope that our claims were already surveyed by the authority of your office, as we will remember, it recommended that we should have our claims surveyed and afterwards forced us to do so by refusing our notifications unless accompanied by a survey.

It is true "the office" refused to send us any of its pet deputies to do the work when applied to for that purpose, but obliged us to find surveyors for ourselves, some of these had your commission, as deputy surveyors the others may not have been so favored. They surveyed our claims, we paid them, and you received and sanctioned their work, and if you have discharged the duty assigned you by the law you have "noted temporarily on the Township plats the tract or tracts so designated with the boundaries" and "entered a description of such claims in a book to be kept by you for that purpose."

Now gentlemen so far, all this is straight along. You required a survey of our claims, so does the law, it has been made at our expense,- you have received and sanctioned it, it preceded the notification which of right it ought to do,- in all this you have followed the directions of the law,- So have we.

If there were errors, irregularities, or omissions in the surveys of our claims it was clearly your duty to withhold your approval until such defects were removed: it is now too late to make such corrections as your approval covers and cures all defects.

Now G^{entlemen} we have paid for one Survey which you have said in your official capacities was sufficient you have noted them on the Township plat, and recorded them in a book kept by you for that purpose you now wish under the color of a second survey to put your hands again into our pockets, to draw out from each of us forty or fifty dollars to create a second mercantile capital to set up the nominal head of your office when he "walks the plank" which he may soon expect to do in the "footsteps of his illustrious predecessor" whose evil counsils he has so faithfully followed.

To accomplish this nefarious object you think to intimidate us into compliance by threatening to take away from us our claims, claims which a Government grateful for the services rendered it by the early planters of civilization on the shores of the Pacific intended should be to them a free gift, but which you gentlemen by your misdirection and lawless exactions have made a nuisance to the country and a curse to ourselves.

But Gentlemen you have greatly mistaken the squatter character, they are a race easily coaxed or cajoled out of their money, but they cannot be forced "to fork over" a single dime.

You should consider Gentlemen that since your open and shameless peccations and filchings have drawn the public eye upon you that you cannot continue such practices while under its searching gaze, and that your threat to deprive us of a gift solemnly bestowed upon us by our Government unless we submit to this new robbery is so like the thefts of Bardolph "so open and out of time" that your assumptions are as ridiculous, as the object to be accomplished is unauthorized and unjust.

Had you Gentlemen in the highly important trust reposed in you taken the law as your guide, and discharged conscientiously by the duties assigned you under it, you would have won for yourselves besides a good name which the Book that does not err says "is better than riches" the respect and approbation of your fellow citizens. - But when you ask of us more than the law authorizes or sanctions and threaten in case we refuse your unlawful requirements to deprive us of the benefits conferred upon us by the law, we feel that it is our duty to resist an unauthorized demand and to dare the perils of a lawless threat.

And as we also have acquired rights under the same law from which you derive your authority, we hereby give you notice that having on our part fully complied with all the requirements of the Act of 2nd September 1850 known as the Oregon Land Law, that any change alteration or amendment made upon our Surveys plats or recorded boundaries, shall be made only with our consent and approbation and not at our expense, and any change or attempt to change, alter or amend any survey or record touching our rights acquired under said law without our consent will be firmly resisted, "and at the peril" of the party so interfering whoever he may be or under whatever authority he pretends to act.

In conclusion we beg leave to express the hope Gentlemen that you will soon be permitted to retire to private life, that your successor whoever he may at least possess common honesty and common sense, qualities we are sorry to say your own official courses have not made manifest.

Your humble servant,
The Settlers.

To Mr. B. Preston real and C. H. Gardner nominal
Surveyors Genl. of the Territories of Oregon and Washington,
Gentlemen,

We have seen your advertisement addressed to us dated April 20, 1854, signed by C. H. Gardner and published in the Oregonian of the 22^d inst.

In this advertisement you notify us that if we do not have our claims surveyed by authority of your Office within four months from the date of your notice, you will take our claims from us and give them to others.

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And as we also have acquired rights under the same law from which you derive your authority, we hereby give you notice that having on our part fully complied with all the requirements of the Act of 27th September 1851 known as the Oregon Land Law, that any change or amendment made upon our surveys, plats or recorded boundaries, shall be made only with our consent and approbation and not at our expense, and any change or attempt to change, alter or amend any survey or record touching our rights acquired under said law without our consent will be firmly resisted, and at the peril of the party so interfering whoever he may be or under whatever authority he pretends to act.

In conclusion we beg leave to express the hope Gentlemen that you will soon be permitted to retire to private life, that your successor whoever he may be may at least possess common honesty and common sense, qualities we are sorry to say your own official courses have not made manifest to

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