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OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

SKETCHES OF EARLY DAYS.—MEN AND TIMES IN THE FORTIES.

BY S. A. CLARKE

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In 1849 Alex Ross published "Adventures of the First Settlers of the Oregon on Columbia River," that ended with the overthrow of the Pacific Fur Company to which he belonged.

His claims to have "spent forty-four years of his life without a single day's intermission in Indian territories of North America; the first fifteen in the region of Columbia, that farthest of the far northwest." His work is valuable in throwing light on the Indian question early in this century, as it gives many particulars of the tribes of the whole region from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean, showing their numbers, habits, character and disposition. All these points are touched on, as well as the inner life of the fur companies, and the variegated and uncertain material in their employ.

Mr. Ross was one of those who went from the Pacific Fur Company to its successor and rival, and gives a history of its career until it, in turn, was consolidated with another rival, the Hudson's Bay Company. Ross did not admire the ways of the new company, and delights to tell how the egotism of its all-sufficient leaders was frequently taken down by their misfortunes invited by bad management. The "Northwesters" tried to improve on the previous management, but miserably failed, and were obliged to follow in the ways of their predecessors.

The fur hunters had not succeeded in conciliating the savages, and the men in their employ continually fomented troubles and invited danger. They frequently sent out large companies, made up of the most heterogeneous material; unruly, thieving and notorious often, and withal as careless as possible in securing property committed to their care.

As soon as the Northwesters had secured the Astor equipment, they fitted out a company to go to the company's headquarters and carry back the important news. Keith and Stuart went in command of only twenty men. They made light of caution given as to crossing the Cascades and Dalles portages with a few men; intimating that those unruly Indians would take no liberties when they found they had Northwesters to deal with. When transporting their baggage and supplies over the Cascade portage the Indians, who were then in great numbers, rushed in on them when they were scattered on the road, and pounced on all their valuable effects. A sharp battle ensued; Stuart was wounded with three iron-barbed arrows. The Indians brandished their lances and bows and arrows, and owing to the wet weather, the whites were unable to make their flint-lock guns work well. They returned to Astoria—or rather to Fort George, for they had changed the name to suit their nationality—minus their guns in port, as well as the good they were taking to up-country stations, and many effects of value. The Indian who shot Stuart had been killed at this fact made the savages more illatured than ever. A year before Astor's company had sent six men, under Mr. Reid, to hunt in the Snake country and it was learned that this whole party had been murdered. An attempt to hunt in the Willamette valley had been frustrated by the Indians, and the Dalles portage was beset by the most impudent bands in the whole region, so the "Northwesters" were put on their mettle. Revenge and retribution was determined on, and a war party was equipped to punish the Cascades' offenders. For a week war's alarms were sounded at Fort George and the clang of arms filled the place. Be-

sides guns, swords and pistols, they rigged two great cannon, six swivels, procured cutlasses, hand-granades and handcuffs, and with ten days' provision, eighty-five picked men set forth on the 29th of January, 1814. There were ten vessels with flags flying and all the men were full of expected victory. The tribes along the river were terror-stricken, and the two Chinook interpreters couldn't sleep for grieving over the destruction about to visit their Cascade friends. The third day they cast anchor at an island near the foot of the rapids, called Strawberry island, and the Indians were summoned to give an account of their doings. The Northwesters assumed a commanding air and lordly tone. It was necessary to show these marauders that they had not any longer the easy-going men of the Astor type to deal with them.

In answer to the demand to instantly deliver up all the stolen property the Cascade chief coolly set up a counter charge. They were—as all Indians are—diplomatic in a remarkable degree and it was a mortifying matter with the whites that the savages were not in the least intimidated by their formidable armament and magnificent array. War's magnificently stern array was every day business to them and with their paint and feathers on they had no occasion to be second fiddle to anybody, so they sent back this answer: "The whites have killed two of our people, and when they send us the murderers we will send them their property." Then they sent their wives and children to the thick woods and arming themselves took position for battle. M'Avish, the leader, sent to invite them to smoke and talk, but their answer was still, "When you pay us for the two men killed we will smoke, and not before." So went one day. Another day came and the interpreter went to sound them again. They sent some cotton cloth that had been all torn to tatters and said: "Take your property and give us the murderers." In the evening two chiefs brought some more rubbish and made plausible statements as to their own loyalty to the whites. The third day the interpreters were told that if they came again and did not bring the murderers they would be fired on. The fourth day they discovered that in the night the Indians had come into their camp and had stolen guns, kettles and clothing. They became insolent and whooped and yelled as if they were intending to attack. The savages were all this time under shelter and the whites exposed. The interpreters said the Indians were receiving constant reinforcements and after five days of inglorious palaver the glorious Northwesters actually backed down and carried their formidable armament home, with nobody hurt and no goods recovered. Actually the Indians had added insult to injury. If the whites had kept the chiefs as hostages they would have recovered their goods and could have made peace on their own terms.

The foregoing illustrates the difficulties that attended management of the Indians and shows that the Cascades and Dalles always had importance, and their owners demanded tribute of the world then as much as those who control transportation have done since white men have possessed the country. The natural thing for all who control those passes will be to make the world recognize that their monopoly is a valuable franchise.

Insurance.

This fine bred trotting stallion will return to Salem, after an absence of a year in British Columbia, and make the season of 1886, at Ganes Fishers' stables, Salem, Oregon, commencing March 20. This horse is too well known to need any further description at our hand. Those persons desiring to breed should call early as his book is now nearly full. Contracts can be made with Dr. Jeffrey, V. S., at Minto's livery stable. 17

MR. J. B. KNAPP'S ADDRESS.

Delivered before the Northern Pacific Dairy Association at Portland.

To the officers and members of the Northwest Coast Dairy Association:

A year having passed since this Association was formed and commenced its efforts for dairy reform. It might be opportune at this time to enquire: what have we accomplished? Has any good resulted to ourselves or to the State? Were we to contrast the condition of this market for dairy products one year ago with its condition at the present time it would afford a pretty fair answer to the enquiry.

One year ago our commission houses were overloaded with Oregon butter of so poor a quality, it had little or no commercial value. The better brands were neglected and the preference given to California importations and bogus products. What is the present condition? There is now no surplus in sight; good brands of Oregon butter command a premium over the best importations from California and bogus butter through the persevering efforts of our Dairy Commissioner has gone from our sight, and we trust has gone to stay. If bogus products have any friends in this community they lay low and keep very quiet. Prices are now better than one year ago and the outlook for the future of the season more encouraging. Enquiry among commission houses and dealers develop the admitted fact that there has been a marked improvement. Dairymen have been impressed that they must improve or quit the business. Farmers who keep only a few cows and do their dairying in the kitchen after the most primitive methods and sell the product to the nearest country store have found during the year that it no longer had any commercial value; their product was worthless in a commercial sense; and the necessity of making some change has been forced upon them, and as a consequence we have this result; creameries are being started at central points where the milk of several hundred cows can be concentrated. These will be under the management of skilled dairymen and the product will rank from the start as first class and the small farmer of a few cows who has heretofore not realized ten dollars profit per cow for the season may now under such system realize from thirty to perhaps fifty dollars per cow. In many localities of this State and the adjoining Territory this matter of starting creameries is being talked up; information on the subject is being sought and obtained and plans matured, and the result will be in the near future the starting of creameries in all parts of the State and Territory.

So I think we claim, without vanity, to have made some improvement; a fair beginning. But we have only just begun to improve; the field for improvement before us is a broad one. We need to improve our pastures and meadows; to improve our dairy stock; to improve our manner of feeding and sheltering them and caring for them. In short in every part of the dairy there is still room for improvement. We must commence a system of improving our dairy stock and continue it until one cow shall produce more in one year than two cows do now. We must improve our methods of feeding and producing feed until one acre shall produce more feed than four or five acres do now. Such improvement cannot be accomplished in a month or a year, but is the result of pursuing an intelligent system for a series of years. We need also a more intelligent system of marketing dairy products. To accomplish these improvements we must have associated effort. Such is the object of our Association. Single handed and alone very little will be accomplished. Association arouses our ambition and begets a spirit of emulation. Every dairymen and every farmer has a direct interest in this business and ought to

join us and lend a helping hand in this work of dairy reform. So far we have held our meetings quarterly, I think we should meet monthly and at each meeting select subjects of general interest in the dairy for discussion at the next meeting. We then have a definite object in view for the meeting and members come prepared for an interchange of ideas on the question proposed.

The past year has been one of unusual depression in the dairy business throughout the United States; the principal cause for which, in addition to hard times generally, is the manufacture of bogus products coloring and flavoring so as almost to deceive an expert, putting it upon the market as genuine butter and selling at a price that genuine butter cannot be produced for and leave any margin for profit. To such an extent has the manufacture of imitation butter been carried that it has threatened to paralyze legitimate dairying. It is the most gigantic swindle even perpetrated upon the American people. Our foreign trade in dairy products has been sadly crippled by the introduction of skim cheese and imitation butter. So rapidly have these spurious products increased in volume that it has created a general alarm among dairymen throughout the dairy States and around them to the necessity of combatting it and contracting this evil. Many of the States have passed stringent enactments for the protection of the dairy.

A National Dairy Association has been formed for the purpose of securing national legislation. This National Association has appointed a committee in every State of the Union to co-operate with them in securing such legislation. The subject has been introduced into the present Congress, but is likely to be carried over to the next Congress. It is one of the most important questions to come before the next Congress. It is high time we were making the preparation to meet it. The dairy industry of the United States involves an investment of capital greater than almost any other industry in the country. The sixty millions of our population have a direct interest in this question, either as producers or consumers of dairy products. Very few dairymen even comprehend the magnitude of this business or have clear ideas as to the best manner of combatting this bogus business. Every State in the Union ought to send one or more dairymen as representatives to the next Congress, men who comprehend the necessities of the situation and who will work faithfully to defend and protect the interests of this great industry as well as all other interests pertaining to agriculture. We appeal to you dairymen and farmers throughout the State to enroll yourselves with us and be ready to assist us in this business. We shall not call on you for pecuniary assistance, but may call on you to circulate petitions and exact pledges of those who may go to represent us that they will earnestly and faithfully do so on this question. The session of present Congress is more than half gone. Important questions now before it and political questions arising will occupy its attention till the close, and the great interests of the farmer will be neglected and carried over. Perhaps it is well for our cause that it is so. It gives us time to prepare for the contest; to compare notes, to discuss methods of procedure; to formulate plans and arrange our forces. This work of preparation must be done by dairymen. If we don't do it, it will only be half done or neglected entirely. Hence I say each State should send one or more dairymen as representatives to the next Congress. Already the political parties of this State are preparing for the coming election which is likely to take place before our next regular quarterly meeting. The enactments of our last State Legislature in favor of the dairy interest has prevented bogus factories becoming established in our midst; and the unceasing vigilance of our dairy Commissioner has prevented the importation of bogus products. Now, dairymen, you stand upon solid ground; your industry is well protected in this State and you have an improved outlook for the future; your success will depend upon your own individual exertions at home and your vigilance and co-operation in combatting the evils that threaten us from a distance, all of which is respectfully submitted.

BEE NOTES FOR APRIL.

BY E. Y. CHASE.

Races of Bees.

When enumerating the causes of deterioration of productive capacity of stocks, there is an important cause that I failed to mention, viz: The effect of constant breeding in-and-in. Raisers of fowls and domestic animals, all know the necessity of frequently infusing new blood, to attain and preserve the highest degree of perfection of form, with the highest degree of vitality and consequent greatest productive capacity. Bees are no exception to the rule. By keeping them for many years in the same yard, they become too closely related, and mating with each other year after year, gradually become less vigorous, and consequently less profitable; hence an occasional change of colonies from one locality to another is highly beneficial. Some breeders who do not believe in the superiority of Italians over the common or German bee, attribute all the benefit obtained by their introduction, simply to the revivifying quality of the new blood infused into old stocks that have degenerated through years of in-breeding.

This matter of in-breeding is one of the first importance and should have our earnest attention, for it is a fact that there is just as much difference in stocks of bees, or perhaps I should say of queens, which determine the quality of each colony, as there is between individuals of any other stocks. He who keeps half a dozen stands of even common black bees, knows how much more productive some of his colonies are than others, kept in the same yard. The reason is because the superior vitality and prolificness of some of the queens over others. So managing that all new stocks shall be the progeny of only the best queens, this will very much enhance the value of all. It should be made an invariable rule to supersede the queen or remove every colony, that during a fair season, does not yield a considerable surplus to its owner over and above its own needs. It damages the root by reproducing and perpetuating its own defects. Careful selection, and increase only from the best makes possible a yard filled with colonies, all of which give large returns. Another thing, very much larger and more vigorous bees are those bred in new combs; every time a young bee emerges from its cell, it leaves behind a thin cocoon, which permanently remains, and in very old combs the caliber of the cells has become so much diminished by the remains left by numerous and successive generations that bees born in them are smaller and less perfectly developed, not so unfrequently deformed, and of course not vigorous workers. Such comb is often abandoned by the bees, their instinct teaching them its worthlessness.

Some of the best bee-men say, that for this reason it pays to renew the combs every year or two, by taking away old combs and substituting new sheets of foundation. It is wonderful how soon they draw out cells on a fresh sheet of foundation and fill them with eggs; this they will do in four days when the card is placed in the middle of the brood nest, as I frequently verified last season, when engaged in queen rearing. For this purpose I consider foundation much superior to empty combs; if the latter is used, when honey is coming in fast, the bees will fill its cells with honey before the queen has time to deposit eggs while with foundation, as cells have to be built out first, she will lay her eggs before they are deep enough to hold honey.

Probably I have said enough to show the importance of care in selecting and propagating only the best. Proper methods of working will be considered another time, also the merits of different races. It is not a mere fancy or fashion that causes us to like the new races, there is no question but that fine blooded bees excel common bees in a degree fully as high as that of any kind of domestic animal, just as a fine Berkshire pig excels common stock, or a thoroughbred Arabian horse excels a calico mustang of the prairie.