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THE MAGNET CASH STORE

Clements & Wilson. Court and Cottonwood

East Oregonian

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1900.

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BY THE
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STATE DIVISION.

State division is a surprise to most of us. We have grown accustomed to county seat wars, county division schemes, railroad surveys into unexpected localities, booms and stampedes, town site surprises, mining rushes, smallpox scares, train robberies, football casualties, election bats, the birth of triplets, postoffice frauds, Japanese "necrosis," Boer victories and McKinley prosperity, but this sacrificial threat to lay the dividing knife upon the sacred skirt of Oregon is a new one to us.

Divide Oregon? Who would remain the old beloved Oregon, and who would suffer to be rechristened? Why Oregon is too small now. Extend Oregon in every direction! Make her borders wider, to contain the splendid future assured her. Push back the barriers around her, and touch into being the possibilities within her borders. Don't touch her with that political carving knife. Don't lay upon her the violating hand of senatorial aspiration. She is too small for her prospects now. Her bounties of the 20th century will slip over the edge. Her rainbow can't find standing room on her own soil today, but rests one foot upon the Pacific and one upon the Seven Devils, and is cramped for room, at that! Give us a slice of expansion. We don't want to discourage anybody, but Oregon is not big enough to divide. Make her better, not smaller. The very proposition of dividing Oregon is ridiculous and it is selfish because, it must have been born in the little brain of some one who hopes to see the supply of public offices increased.

"STORIES OF OREGON."

Oregon history should be made more of a special aim in Oregon schools. Topics which lie around us so closely that we can't turn without learning of them beauty and charm, must be more thoroughly unearthed. How many school boys of fifteen, in Oregon, can tell you anything of early home history, romance, discovery or household legends? They know by heart the story of the "Pine Tree Shilling;" the stories of King Philip; the tales of witchcraft, of Governor Bradford, of Capt. Smith and Pocahontas; of the suggestive gift of the quiver full of arrows, and the swift reply of the rattlesnake skin, crammed with powder and shot. They know New England legends one and all. They love to read the charming romances of Irving, Cooper or Hawthorne. The old tales of Puritan settlement they know full well.

But of our own story they are almost entirely ignorant. Western history in detail has not entered our schools. It is not found among our text books. The old romances of the early settlement, discovery, dispute and final triumph of American rights in Oregon are confined to a few clumsy government reports. No more intensely thrilling narrative ever rang in our ears than Oregon history. Its old huntsmen, trappers, traders, adventurers, scouts, frontiersmen, Indian chiefs and missionaries and their perilous checkered lives, if learned and remembered by Oregon youth, would be within itself a good historical education. Who of us younger ones know who named our famous rivers, mountains and valleys? Who first blazed Oregon trails, and built and named Oregon cities? These subjects belong in front rank in Oregon public schools.

The pioneers are passing. Much of the best of our family history will pass away with them. We must gather it piece by piece and page by page, before it is too late. We must search for

stream to its confluence with the Snake; passed down the Snake river to the Columbia, and thence down the great river of the west, until, on November 7, 1805, "They beheld to their great joy the horizon line of the Pacific ocean."

Space will not permit a detailed account of the party's explorations. It passed the winter of 1805-6 near the Columbia's mouth, the spot selected for the fort being about 200 yards from the bank of Lewis river, near its entrance into the bay, on the Clatsop or Oregon shore.

The winter was passed in hunting for food, in making treaties with the surrounding tribes, and distributing medals and certificates of kindness to the leading chiefs. Before starting on the long return journey, Lewis and Clarke posted this notice in the fort:

"The object of this is, that through the medium of some civilized person, who may see the same, it may be made known to the world, that the party consisting of the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, and who were sent out by the government of the United States, to explore the interior of the continent of North America, did penetrate the same by the way of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, to the discharge of the latter into the Pacific ocean, where they arrived on the 13th day of November, 1805, and departed the 23d day of March, 1806, by the same route by which they had come out."

The assertion is occasionally heard that Lewis and Clark claimed the Pacific northwest as territory of the United States, but is not well founded. The time was not yet opportune for bold and sweeping a claim, and its advancement then would have alarmed the powers of Europe, and might have lost us the great empire which is now our noble heritage.

There is strange fascination in reflecting on what might have been. We won the Oregon country by a narrow margin, with nothing to spare in statecraft and diplomacy. If Jefferson had not conceived the great idea, pictured it in his fertile mind, and advanced it to the point of daring action, history might record a very different story. If Ledyard had not met our ambassador at Paris, nor poured into his ready ear the ambitious plan of northwestern civilization and conquest, a different purpose might have controlled the lofty spirit of Jefferson. The red eagle of Britain might wave where now floats the beauteous banner of our glorious Union.—Spokesman-Kid.

AN IDEA, AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

The Oregon Historical society proposes a commemorative celebration at Portland, in 1903, of the centennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clarke expedition to the Pacific coast. Invitations will be extended to the governors of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming to share in the interesting historical festival.

The reflection is fascinating that every notable and great achievement in the world's history sprang from an idea born in the mind of one person. The fact is interesting that the thought which led up to the Lewis and Clarke expedition, and to which are traceable the history and growth and romance of the Pacific northwest, came into the fertile mind of Jefferson when that eminent statesman was serving as United States minister to France.

"Thomas Jefferson," says one historian, "was the father of United States explorations. While lesser minds were absorbed in proximate events, his profound sagacity penetrated forests, and sought to reveal the extent and resources of the new nation. And chief among the incidents which adorned him in a more than ordinary interest in the subject was the appearance, in 1786, at the United States legation in Paris, while Jefferson was minister to France, of that most remarkable man, John Ledyard of Connecticut."

Ledyard was with Captain Cook in his voyage to the Pacific, and had been the first in Europe or America to propose a trading voyage to the northwest coast, "and was now in Paris, panting for fresh adventure."

A constant guest of Jefferson, he inspired in that great American the noble dream of exploration that was to add an empire to the young republic.

Returning in 1789 to the United States, the thought grew upon Jefferson, and in 1792, while secretary of state, he proposed to the American Philosophical society that some competent person be engaged to ascend the Missouri river, cross the Rocky mountains, and follow a western river to the sea. The plan was attempted, but was not carried to consummation. Jefferson, however, never lost sight of his favorite project, and when he entered the White House in 1801, the idea developed into the stupendous diplomacy which gave us Louisiana, and put our western border in contact with the distant Pacific northwest, the mysterious No Man's Land of the Oregon.

Jefferson was dissatisfied that it should not fully confirm No Man's Land, and in a confidential message of January 18, 1803, he urged congress to authorize a military expedition across the continent. The measure was sanctioned by congress, and the Lewis and Clark expedition followed.

Besides 14 United States soldiers, the party included nine young Kentuckians, two French voyageurs, a number, an interpreter, and a negro servant of Captain Clarke. It passed the winter of 1803-4 at the mouth of the Missouri. In the spring of 1804, it was reinforced by a detachment of soldiers under a corporal, with nine men, and proceeded, by leisurely stages up the Missouri river. It went into winter quarters in October, in the country of the Mandans.

In the spring of 1805, the party took its toilsome way up the Missouri, crossed the Rocky mountains, and after enduring severe hardships and encountering innumerable perils, followed a tributary of the Clearwater, and after that the

Snake, and finally the Columbia, to the Pacific ocean.

Besides the color of the shirts, collars and cuffs that are done up at the Domestic Laundry, Santa Claus knows a good thing when he sees it, and the faultless beauty of the linen laundered here will excite his admiration, as well as the man who loves to dress well and have his linen perfect in color and finish.

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