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OREGON TERRITORY

Percy Woodcock, a member of our senior class, gives some additional data of historical value in reference to that great section of our country known in the early days as the "Oregon Territory." His interesting article follows:

The first claim of the United States to the Oregon Territory was by right of discovery. In 1792 Captain Robert Gray, a fur trader, sailed into a river which he called the Columbia after his ship. Captain Gray ascended the river twenty-five miles. Many fur traders had been working into this country, but farther north. They bought furs from the Indians for small trinkets and beads. Then they sold these furs for many times their cost.

When this discovery was announced, a boat, under orders of the British Royal Navy, set sail under Lieutenant Broughton and arrived at the Columbia River on October 24, 1792. They traveled up the river to a point above what is now the town of Washougal, making observations and soundings, and bestowing names upon the islands and tributary streams along the way.

In the year of 1803 President Thomas Jefferson had the sum of \$2,500 appropriated by Congress for an expedition into the Oregon Country, overland. This expedition was to make agreements with the Indians on the value of furs and to make peace with them.

This expedition was under Lewis and Clark. With their party they left St. Louis in May, 1804. They traveled up the Missouri River as far as possible. Their orders were to have peace councils with all chiefs and tribes possible along the way.

The Lewis and Clark party wintered at Mandan, a village near what is now the capitol of North Dakota. Here they gathered much valuable information from the Indians and made reports of the exploration.

At this Mandan village was found Sacajawea, a Shoshone Indian who had been captured and sold into slavery. With her husband, a French fur trader, they were engaged as guides to the expedition. While they were of invaluable service to the party as interpreters on the trip, Sacajawea proved of incalculable value to the white explorers by bringing on peaceful relations between them and her people, the Shoshones.

The Journey was very hard at times, brought on by scarcity of and inferior food. When they reached the Columbia River they built canoes. Paddling with the current, they reached the mouth of the Columbia on November 11, 1804. The expedition built Fort Clapoop. They spent the winter here, making maps and journals of the land.

The party returned in the early spring and reached St. Louis in April, 1805, bearing another basis of claim for the United States, that of having been the first people to cross the continent into this territory.

A fur trading post was founded in 1811 by John Jacob Astor and it was called Astoria, after the founder. The prospects for this company looked bright, but war was going on with Great Britain. Anticipating a seizure of the fort, it was sold to a British company on the west coast.

After the war of 1812 the United States sent Captain Biddle to assert the claims of the United States for the Oregon Country. The American flag was again allowed to float over Astoria, but the northern boundry was not yet determined.

In the year of 1818 the United States and Great Britain entered into a Joint Occupation treaty to settle their contentions for a period of ten years. The citizens of each country were given the right to settle and trade on an equal basis.

Only temporarily was this settled, for forces stronger than agreements of diplomacy were moving and working into the Oregon territory. These were emigrants, missionaries, and fur traders, who came to realize the value and vastness of this land by documents that men had made who came before them.

As early as 1817 a schoolmaster in Boston by the name of Hall J. Kelley directed public attention to the Oregon Country. He had views of colonizing the Puget Sound country, but failed from lack of support when he attempted a land expedition in 1828.

Dr. John McLaughlin took charge of the Hudson Bay Company at Astoria and became an important figure in history. He saw that by moving farther up the Columbia he would be able to trade more with the Indians. He moved to a location near the mouth of

(Continued on page 4)