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EARLY LEGISLATURE

Of Historical Interest to Entire State.

Held in Salem in 1853

Chauncey Nye Writes an Interesting Letter About the Early Session.

The following interesting reminiscence letter from Chauncey Nye, who was one of Oregon's earliest legislators, was received by Governor Geer recently, and contains so much of historical interest to the entire state that the Governor has allowed it to be copied for publication:

"Prospect, Jackson County, Or., Dec. 23, 1901.—My Dear Governor: I saw in the newspapers last summer a report of your address at Newport, giving some extracts from the early laws of Oregon, among them some made by the legislature of 1853. You also said that, as far as known, Grover and Boise were the only members living of those comprising that legislature.

"I was a member of that legislature, from Jackson county, and have resided here ever since, and, as I am in a reminiscent mood, will say something about that body.

"It was a working body, and got right down to business. A former legislature had authorized and elected a commission of three to make a code of laws for the territory. This was done, and the commission's work was printed and referred to both bodies of the legislature at the commencement of the session, for amendment, approval or rejection. M. P. Deady and J. K. Kelly, two of that commission, had been elected to the council, and naturally wanted their code adopted, with as few amendments as possible, but notwithstanding this, a great many changes were made.

"As in all bodies we had those members of certain peculiarities and eccentricities. There was Hadley, of Lane. When he arose and said, in his peculiar manner, 'I do now move that we now adjourn,' it was always agreed to and adjournment was had. There was John F. Miller, who wanted every subject referred to a select committee, and he was known as 'Select Committee.'

"There was Uncle Billy Martin, of Douglas, who used as little of the King's English as possible. He was pleased to find one morning, as he took his seat, that some one had caricatured him on the wall at the end of his seat, a leaning forward and holding out a bill, and underneath was written:

"I want to present a bill for the perfection of warnic treas.'

"He said he knew that some Missourian had done this, as all Missourians used the name 'warnic' instead of 'walnut.' Shuck, of Yamhill, piled up the King's English, so that it was most ludicrous.

"There was two lawyers in each house. Politically, the council was composed of eight democrats and one whig—Scott of Umpqua, the founder of Scottsburg, and after whom that place was named. The house had 21 democrats and four whigs. The latter were: Goff, of Lane; Durham, of Clackamas; Dr. Thompson, of Umpqua, and Nye,

of Jackson. The officers of each house were two clerks, a sergeant-at-arms and a doorkeeper, and yet we got along about as well as a modern legislative body.

"As in all mining towns in California, before county organizations were perfected, an Alcalde was elected in each Southern Oregon town to administer justice in all cases. The same was done in Jacksonville. This officers' authority extended over everything, from a petty offense to a trial for life. The day I arrived in Jacksonville a murder was committed. The murderer was immediately arrested, and the next day a jury was empaneled, a prosecuting attorney and counsel for the defense were appointed, the defendant was duly convicted, and he was sentenced to be executed in 10 days, which sentence was duly carried out. During about one year and a half this was the only court held in what now constitutes the counties of Jackson, Josephine, Lake and Klamath. For about one-half of this time I was the Alcalde, and had quite a number of interesting cases before me.

"While in the legislature I introduced a bill to legalize all the proceedings and acts of these Alcaldes, but Grover objected, as the organic act of the Territory of Oregon did not give justices of the peace such large jurisdiction, and he wished the law to conform to the organic law. My bill was thus amended and so passed, but I did not consider it of much value in that shape. However, the acts of these Alcaldes were never questioned as to their legality. These Alcaldes had but about a dozen laws or articles for their guidance, and no technicalities were allowed. A trial consisted of the statements of the parties and the evidence of witnesses, if any, and the case was decided by the court, or the jury, if either party wished one. There was but little dissatisfaction with the decisions of the court. In fact, the whole community was ready to help enforce the decision if it was necessary.

"While I was mining in Yreka, Cal., a case came before the Alcalde that was not only summary, but rather novel. A man from Linn county, Oregon, had employed a boy to drive a team of oxen to the mines for his board, and after arrival there the man had agreed to give the lad a certain amount to help him in mining. After a couple of months' work the fellow sold his cattle, wagons and mining claims and was ready to start for home, but being one of those men who believed that a boy had no rights a man is bound to respect, he refused to pay the lad for his work. The boy went to the Alcalde and started his case; the defendant was brought before the officer, and did not deny the boy's claim, but said he had no money, so the court ordered the constable to take and turn the defendant the other end up and shake him. The constable, being a big, burly fellow, did as he was ordered, when a large purse of gold dust dropped from his pocket. The Alcalde picked up the purse, weighed out the amount of the boy's claim, and a half-ounce for the court's fees in the case, and the same amount for the constable, handed the purse back and wished the Oregonian safe

journey home, and the case was closed.

"I attended the republican county convention at Ashland four years ago, and had an introduction to you, and in the short conversation we had I told you of putting up the first bakery in Salem in 1851. It was in the northern part of town, alongside of Cook's Hotel, and across the street from the home of Elijah Williams, father of Richard and George, who were then boys. Yours truly,

"CHAUNCEY NYE."

Sisters Siftings.

Thinking a few lines from this place might not be amiss I will pencil the latest happenings.

Christmas has come and gone and we have all enjoyed the festal occasion. We had a Christmas tree, one that was a surprise to all, for the least one could say was, "Oh, how beautiful!" Far beyond what one would expect out here. It was decorated in good style and there was hardly room for the many presents which it held. A nice program was rendered consisting of speeches, songs and music.

Christmas night came the dance, which was one of the events of the year at this place. It had been given out that there would be a masque ball and there were fully 100 spectators. There was a good turn out of masquers and some fine costumes. The judges were unable to decide who had won the prize of the evening. Forty numbers were sold and the floor was chock full from the time the dance started until six o'clock the next morning. Everything went smoothly and there were no disturbing elements present. The supper was given by Mrs. W. T. E. Wilson and was as fine a spread as one would wish to sit down to—everything in abundance and of the best obtainable.

Most every one out here has decided that all that is necessary to have a good time is to leave off that article called by the white man whiskey and by the Indian firewater.

J. E.

Dec. 27, 1901.

No More Books Exchanged.

On December 31 the exchange of school books under the exchange law, ceased and they can now only be bought at the price established by law. We were informed of this fact on Monday morning by the distributors at this place, Michel & Risser. It is a matter that should have been brought to the attention of the public some weeks ago, but we did not have the information at hand. When the agents of the state make a selection of school books they should select a series that is published by substantial people and those who will keep abreast of the times and then these changes would not be necessary so often, nor be such a nuisance to the general public, let alone the unnecessary expense.

The drawing at the Bee Hive New Years eve resulted in the following numbers being drawn from the box: 1st, 2240; 2nd, 2279; 3d, 3585. The second prize, a set of silver knives and forks, was drawn by Mrs. Jesse Yancey, but up to going to press the other winning numbers had not been presented.

Austin Craig, charged with appropriating funds from the Bank of Sumpter, was released by furnishing \$1,500 bonds.

NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges News Notes of the Week Timely Topics

The total deposit in the four national banks in Portland on December 10, 1901, were closely in the neighborhood of ten million dollars.

The heaviest fall of snow known in 50 years has fallen in Scotland, entailing great loss of sheep in drifts from 10 to 20 feet deep. The storm appears to be general all over Europe.

Attorney-General Blackburn has recently rendered an opinion at request of State School Superintendent Ackerman that teachers are entitled to receive and can collect their salaries during the time their schools are closed on account of the prevalence of a contagious disease. This is the case unless contracts specify otherwise.

The new town of Whitney has experienced its first disastrous fire, which occurred last week when the big livery and stage barn occupied by the Williams stage company and C. B. Comstock & Co., was laid in ashes. The barn was filled with hay and grain, all of which was burned with eleven head of horses belonging to the two companies mentioned.

Alexander Meldrum, who was convicted at Baker City last week on the charge of horse stealing, was sentenced by Judge Eakin in the circuit court to serve three years in the penitentiary. Meldrum was indicted jointly with Manny Howard last spring, but demanded a separate trial. The first trial resulted in a hung jury and the second in conviction.

Charles Emory Smith, of Philadelphia, has tendered to the President his formal resignation as postmaster-general to take effect early this month, and Henry C. Payne, of Wisconsin, vice chairman of the republican national committee has accepted a tender of the office to which he will be nominated after the holiday recess.

The north and south bound Southern Pacific coast limited trains running between San Francisco and Los Angeles, came together early last Thursday morning in a head-on collision at Uplands. The fireman, express messenger and baggageman were killed and twenty-five passengers more or less injured, probably none fatally.

From Lamonta.

From our regular correspondent.

William Sande and John Coleman are making some improvements by way of building another room to Coleman's residence and an addition to Sands' barn.

Grandma Newbill is home again. She has been visiting with friends and relatives on Willow creek for the past three weeks. She has reached the ripe old age of eighty-five and still enjoys fairly good health. She is of a kind and gentle disposition, loved by all who know her.

J. C. Rush met with a very pain-

ful accident last Monday. He got his right foot caught in a wagon wheel and badly bruised.

Our school is under the able management of J. C. Banks. Am glad to say that due to the teachers unremitting attention the pupils have made very satisfactory progress in all their studies.

Wednesday night a light fall of snow covered the ground, barely giving it a white appearance. Since it has been quite cold, the ground freezing at night and thawing out during the day, which makes slow progress in farm work. The opinion prevails that the present weather conditions may continue for several weeks.

On Christmas day the home of J. C. Rush was open to a company of relatives and friends who accepted an invitation issued by a member of the family to share in their hospitality in celebrating Mother Rush's sixty-third birthday. At 12 m. the guests were invited to the dining room where a table was spread with a dainty luncheon. The evening was spent in the usual manner, while the guests vied with each other in assisting their hostess to make the evening one of pleasure. It is needless to say that their efforts were successful.

It seems to me that beekeeping should receive some attention in this county. It is one of the pleasant and surest ways of realizing on a small investment that is to be found. Any farmer who raises alfalfa, or any one who lives in a region where alfalfa is cultivated, can keep bees at a small expense.

capital and labor and a large profit. The bee and the alfalfa blossom are an ideal combination. Experiments made by the entomological department of the University of Kansas have shown that the seed crop in alfalfa upon which the bees work is 66 per cent greater than the crop taken from alfalfa which was dependent for polination on other agents. The greatest of English bee raisers, Mr. Cheshire, describing an ideal honey, he said a sample with a delicate, but characteristic aroma, a rich flavor and leaving a distinct impression on the back part of the palate, pale straw or amber in color, with perfect clearness and a density amounting almost to toughness. At the meeting of the National Beekeepers Association at Omaha two years ago a test was made to determine the qualities of honey made from the principal honey producing plants of Kansas and Nebraska. Six samples were tested and the alfalfa honey was declared by a competent judge to be the one most nearly approaching the standard.

JENNIE B.

LAMONTA, Or., Dec. 28, 1901.

One day last week, so we are informed, a citizen had a hog killed for winter supply. The animal was taken to one of the hot springs used for the purpose, to have it scalded and the hair removed. It was lowered into the seething water easily enough, but being a very large and heavy hog, additional help was required to pull it out. Before such help could be secured the hog was cooked clear through from snout to tail. Thus the trouble of cooking the pork by piecemeal is dispensed with.—Klamath Republican.