

STORY OF HENRY CLAY BY F. W. SPEIRS

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THE OREGONIAN'S HOMESTUDY CIRCLE. DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON
GREAT AMERICAN STATESMEN

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XV. HENRY CLAY.

BY FREDERIC W. SPEIRS, Ph. D.

An adequate biography of Henry Clay would require as its background a complete sketch of the political history of our country during the first half of this century. As speaker of the house of representatives, as foreign envoy, as secretary of state, as senator and general officer, as a leader for the presidency, the statesman from Kentucky was a factor of commanding importance in every political struggle from the administration of Madison to the election of Buchanan.

Early Career.
Henry Clay was born in 1771 in Virginia. He received scant education, but he made excellent use of his limited opportunities and presently found an open road to the study of law. At 21 he became a lawyer in the frontier country of Kentucky, so in 1797 he became the adopted son of the state which he was destined to represent in congress so long and so ably. The remarkable power of oratory which was later to give him a nation soon manifested itself in the little backwoods town of Lexington, and Clay's practice grew apace.

The brilliant young lawyer was very naturally attracted to political career, and his talents joined to a winning personality gave him easy entrance to the political field. In 1802 he was elected a member of the Kentucky state legislature, and three years later he took his seat in the United States senate to fill an unexpired term. He was the youngest man who ever gained admittance to that body, which by general custom has always been the province of its mature members, the assembly of the elders. Indeed, Clay lacked three months of the constitutional minimum of 30 years.

At the end of his first senatorial term he was returned to the Kentucky legislature, and in 1806 he was again sent to the United States senate to fill an unexpired term. Meantime he was acquiring increasing influence in the national councils, although his opportunity for great distinction had not yet come.

In 1811 he became a member of the national house of representatives and was immediately made speaker. The transfer from the senate to the house was seen as a step backward, but the ardent young statesman found the larger body in closer touch with the people, a field more congenial as well as more influential.

The War of 1812.
When he entered the house our relations with England were assuming critical form. Napoleon and England had been at war for several years, and the restrictions which the European belligerents had placed upon commerce with neutral nations had destroyed a considerable part of our trade. Our feeble attempts at retaliation in the nonimportation act of 1806 and the embargo of 1807 had failed. Meantime England was vigorously asserting her "right of visitation" and had imposed a step backward, but the ardent young statesman found the larger body in closer touch with the people, a field more congenial as well as more influential.

The Missouri Compromise.
When he next took the center of the political stage he made his first appearance in the role for which he is chiefly distinguished in American history, that of the "great pacifier." In 1819 Missouri applied for admission as a state, and for the first time there was distinct alignment of North against South over the slavery issue. At that time a few enthusiasts dreamed of interference with slavery in the states where it was already established, but an influential party in the free North was determined that the new territory should not be polluted. A proposal that Missouri be admitted on condition that no slavery exist within her borders precipitated the "irrepressible conflict." It raged fiercely until Clay, the statesman of compromise, leaped into the arena to the proposal of a senator from Illinois that Missouri be admitted without restriction as to slavery, but that in all the rest of the territory west of the Mississippi known as the Louisiana purchase territory be forever prohibited north of the parallel 36 deg. 30 min., this being the southern boundary of Missouri. The Missouri compromise of 1820 is the first of three notable compromises between North and South, which stand to the credit of the "great pacifier."

Clay and Jackson.
Soon after this, Clay entered upon the heart-breaking race for the presidency, which was to last for nearly a generation. The election of 1824 gave Jackson 30 votes, John Quincy Adams 34, Crawford 41, and Clay 37. As no candidate had received a majority, the election devolved upon the house of representatives, and the contest was confined to the three highest on the list, Clay was out of the contest. Now arose a curious situation. Clay was defeated in the house, and although he did not procure his own reelection, the defeated candidate held the glittering prize he himself coveted at his absolute disposal so far as his three rivals were concerned. As president-elect he ignored Jackson, who had received the largest electoral vote, and chose John Quincy Adams. Adams made Clay secretary of state.

That good hater, Andrew Jackson, now turned the full current of his hate upon the man who had denied him the presidency, and raised the cry of "bargain and corruption" over the appointment of Clay to the secretaryship of state.

The personal fight that followed the election of both leaders descended to depths of political depravity that had never before been sounded in American political life. The feud between Jackson and Clay ended only with death, and the personal strife had great influence in molding political results.

The Tariff Compromise of 1833.
The protective tariff was now threatening to cause serious conflict between North and South. In 1828 Clay had appeared as the champion of a high protective tariff. In a series of speeches more remarkable for their eloquence than for their logic, he had urged the enactment of the "American system," as he christened it. In 1832 still higher schedule of duties was imposed, and then the agricultural South began to get very restless under a system which the Southern states regarded as the manufacturing North at their expense. When the tariff bill of 1832 was passed, South Carolina, under the lead of Calhoun, made her famous nullification ordinance, declaring that the tariff act was null and void within the boundaries of South Carolina, thus asserting the doctrine of state sovereignty and threatening secession. The specter of disunion loomed large, and in 1832, the statesman of compromise brought forward a tariff bill proposing a gradual reduction of duties during a period of 10 years, so that by 1842 the tariff on dutiable goods would reach a uniform level of 20 per cent. The adoption of the tariff compromise of 1833 soothed the South, and Clay had scored his second triumph as the great pacifier.

The Struggle for the Presidency.
Clay had now entered the senate, and from that vantage ground he led the whig

party in its fight against Jackson and his admirers. Meantime he was enacting the great tragedy of his political life, his never-ceasing fruitless attempt to attain the presidency. In 1824 he had the office with him in his gift and had given it to Adams; in 1828 he had not been a candidate, but in 1832 he received the unanimous nomination of the whig party, only to be overwhelmingly defeated by Jackson. In 1838 the whigs were divided and dispirited, and went into the campaign without making a national nomination. The result was Van Buren's election by a large majority.

In 1840 Clay had a plurality of votes in the whig nominating convention at the outset, but by shrewd political trickery he was turned down in favor of Harrison. The whigs won the election, but their real leader was not in the presidential chair. We can sympathize with Clay's comment:

"I am the most unfortunate man in the history of parties; always run by my friends when sure to be defeated and now betrayed for a nomination when I, or any one, would be sure of an election."

In 1840 and 1848 his words were to receive confirmation. In 1844 he was nominated by acclamation as the whig candidate, and he lost the election by the defection of the anti-slavery wing in the state of New York. In 1848 he failed to receive the whig nomination by a narrow majority, and for the second and last time he was defeated in the presidential election.

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are left without one for the distance of eight blocks. This seems all the more strange when we consider that Tillamook street is the main thoroughfare, leading eastward, in that part of the city.

Since the city engineer has decided to keep our neighborhood in the dark, perhaps he will be kind enough, by way of compensation, to enlighten us as to his reasons for favoring the residents of Eugene street so much at our expense.

"ONE OF THE PETITIONERS."

REVENUE OF WILLAMETTE

Tongue's Bill Appropriating \$25,000 for That Purpose.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—The bill introduced by Representative Tongue, appropriating \$25,000 for the construction of a revetment to be located about one mile below Independence, on the left bank of the Willamette river, is the first new measure so far introduced that affects the Oregon river. Mr. Tongue, by the bill, hopes to remedy an evil that has already been allowed to run too long. In its present condition the Willamette over-

flows its banks at this point, and the water runs in a low chute, leading into La Creole creek. This overflow has proved very detrimental to the farmers owning land that is within reach of the water. Mr. Tongue, in speaking of his bill, Representative Tongue said:

"About a mile from Independence there is a low place on the left bank of the Willamette river. The water runs over this, and about 400 yards distant is a slough, the bottom of which is nearly as low as the bed of the river. The slough runs on into La Creole creek. There has been a great deal of water in that place, and it has done a great deal of damage to the farmers owning land that is within reach of the water. Mr. Tongue, in speaking of his bill, Representative Tongue said:

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REPORT OF THE MINORITY

CHAIRMAN STROWBRIDGE'S FIGURES ON THE SCHOOLS.

He is at Variance With the Other Members of the Board of Education.

Following is the full text of the minority report of the board of school directors, said minority consisting of Chairman J. A. Strowbridge, in it will be found many figures not given in the majority report, and its text differs materially from that of the majority report.

To the Honorable School District No. 1, Multnomah County, State of Oregon—Ladies and Gentlemen: We hereby respectfully submit for your inspection and consideration an annual report of the financial condition of the district, and such other matters pertaining to the schools and their business management as will inform you of the present situation, and that you may make such provision therefor as you may deem just and right. You have heard the annual report of the school clerk, showing the amount of money he has received from the several school tax levies upon the property of the district No. 1, and the items for which he has paid out this large amount, during the past school year.

Census.
The school census just completed shows the total number of children of school age in the district to be 25,452, being an increase of 104 over last year. The actual school attendance is now 10,052, being an increase over the corresponding period of last year of 263.

Buildings Erected and Remodeled.
In 1895 the old Fulton school building was remodeled, and 10 rooms and a large assembly hall added, at a cost of \$25,359.56, making a handsome schoolhouse of 20 rooms, considered one of the best in the district for its cost. D. D. New, architect.

In 1895, Williams-avenue building was changed, and six rooms added, making 16 rooms, with a large assembly hall, at a cost of \$14,819.90. Maxon, architect. This is one of the best schoolhouses in the city.

In 1895-96, Ainsworth schoolhouse, a good four-room building, was erected on Portland Heights, at a cost of \$8300.83. R. Miller, architect.

In 1896-97, Chapman schoolhouse was remodeled, and eight rooms and a large assembly hall added, making it a 12-room building. Cost, \$22,685.15. McCaw & Martin, architects. Chapman is a model schoolhouse.

In 1897-98, four rooms were added to Central school, the new building called New Central was built upon the same block. Cost, \$10,000.00. R. Miller, architect.

In 1898-99, block 65, Fulton Park, was bought for \$1000, and Fulton Park schoolhouse, a one-story building of three rooms, was erected thereon. Cost, \$540.49. R. Miller, architect.

In 1897, members of the school board traded the Homestead school block for block 17, Central Albina, district No. 1, paying a cash difference of \$500. In 1898 a building was erected on the same block, and the Homestead schoolhouse was moved from Homestead block, Central Albina, to block 17, Albina, at a cost of \$450.00. R. Miller, architect.

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Moving and remodeling Homestead school building, 1899. Then, if Homestead block is of equal value to block 17, and we think it is, the value of Homestead block will have to be charged to D. P. Thompson school. R. Miller, architect.

In 1898, block 1, Highland, was bought for \$3500, and in this year the Homestead schoolhouse was moved from Homestead block, Central Albina, to block 1, Highland, at a cost of \$450.00. R. Miller, architect.

However, there is a very material difference in the reports of Clerk Allen and Superintendent Rigler, regarding the cost of Highland building. Clerk Allen's report shows that it cost \$450.00, and Superintendent Rigler's, \$14,348.38.

But his report about moving Multnomah schoolhouse from its present location to some other school block to be purchased. It will cost as much money to move this building as it would to build a new one of the same size. Multnomah is a four-room building, situated on about 100 pupils in attendance.

At the time the aforementioned buildings were constructed, building material was very low.

January 23, 1899, in the estimated disbursements for school district No. 1 there were \$20,000 recommended to be used for the school buildings, and it was generally understood that this amount was partly for the purpose of building a new Holladay schoolhouse.

The four-room Holladay annex has been erected, and the rooms and a large assembly hall added. We regret to say that, on account of the great advance in building material, the new building will cost the district more than was expected, and as the contract was let late in the season the building is not at this time completed, but hope it will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the February term.

The cost of this building, when completed, will be \$43,490.75, on which \$23,354.35 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$20,136.40. R. Miller, architect.

We are confident there is no locality in the district where the people who are entitled to school facilities have been more patient and forbearing than those of South Portland. Believing that these patrons have been so patient and forbearing, we made an effort to get such a building erected upon the handsomely block owned by the district for many years, but had to take what we could get. The building, when completed, will cost \$20,136.40, upon which \$23,354.35 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$20,136.40. R. Miller, architect.

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Ten pupils belonging to district No. 1, but living near the Woodstock line, were too far from Clinton Kelly school to be able to attend that school. Believing that these patrons have been so patient and forbearing, we made an effort to get such a building erected upon the handsomely block owned by the district for many years, but had to take what we could get. The building, when completed, will cost \$20,136.40, upon which \$23,354.35 has been paid, leaving a balance of \$20,136.40. R. Miller, architect.

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struction, made to comply with ordinance No. 11,263. (Signed)

"M. P. FLEMING,
Inspector of Plumbing."
"In my opinion, the building in Holladay schoolhouse should and must be made to comply with ordinance No. 11,263, and I suggest that this board so instruct Architect Miller at once, and put an end to the controversy over the plumbing in Holladay school. Respectfully,
"J. A. STROWBRIDGE, Chairman."

Nonresident Pupils.
It has been reported that there are 130 nonresident pupils attending Portland public schools, but how many of these 130 are nonresidents has not yet been determined, as the school rules require persons who are willing to give homes to nonresident pupils, to legally adopt them before they can attend school free.

Rented Rooms.
We have rented at this time one room at Failing, one at Woodlawn, and two at Sunnyside, and one near Woodstock. The new South Portland building will relieve the room at Failing, and the arrangements at Woodlawn and Sunnyside are very satisfactory.

Rent of rooms for school purposes will be 18 cents per month, beginning with the February term.

We have visited nearly all of the schools during the past three months, and found them all in fine condition, in charge of efficient principals and good teachers, the pupils doing excellent work and the buildings well cared for by the janitors. In some of the schools there are rooms which are rather full, while in others the classes are small. We believe the additional room at New Holladay and South Portland buildings, and a change in some of the school boundary lines, there will be plenty of room for all.

New Buildings.
The amount of money expended in buildings during the last five years is as follows:

Year.	School.	Amount.
1896-97	Clark	\$25,359.56
1897-98	Williams-avenue	\$14,819.90
1898-99	New Central	\$10,000.00
1899-00	Chapman	\$22,685.15
1900-01	Fulton Park	\$540.49
1901-02	Highland	\$3,500.00
1902-03	South Portland	\$6,989.90
1903-04	Chapman	\$22,685.15
Total		\$162,183.21

Repairs.
The repairs to school buildings are as follows:

Year.	School.	Amount.
1896-97	Clark	\$1,745.53
1897-98	Williams-avenue	\$10,501.34
1898-99	New Central	\$4,918.38
1899-00	Chapman	\$7,815.20
Total		\$35,121.05

The cost of repairs has increased so rapidly, and there has been so much money expended for this purpose during the past five years, that we are certain there will be little work to be done on the school buildings during the coming year, hence our low estimate for repairs.

Bonded Indebtedness.
The total bonded indebtedness of the district is at this time \$130,000. The annual interest upon this amount is \$7800, or 6 per cent. Of this bonded indebtedness \$30,000 was assumed by district No. 1 when the cities of Portland, East Portland and Albina were consolidated. One hundred thousand dollars of this amount was lost through the failure of banks and from other causes.

Local Indebtedness.
As per school clerk's report, district No. 1 was indebted to banks of Portland on January 23, 1899, \$15,000, borrowed from banks, February and March, 1899, \$75,000, borrowed from banks, August, November and December, 1899, \$22,000. Total local indebtedness, \$112,000.

We are glad to be able to report to you that this large local indebtedness has been paid.

Teachers' salaries have also been paid promptly, as well as claims against the district for repairs, and the value of school furniture, about \$37,000.

We believe the amount of insurance carried by district No. 1 at this time, is at least \$100,000 more than is necessary to fully protect the school buildings and furniture.

Recommendations.
First—We respectfully recommend: That the school clerk, and all persons doing business with the district, to furnish Guaranty Company's bond instead of personal bond.

Second—Where so much money is required for repairs, and the school board, it is only right and due the taxpayers to have expert accountants pass upon the books and vouchers of the district at stated intervals.

We expected to recommend that this be done at the present time, but the financial condition of the district may be known.

Third—We recommend that the position of superintendent of repairs be abolished, and the work heretofore done by this officer be done during vacation and under the supervision of the board.

Fourth—That the 5-mill county school tax levied by the board of district No. 1 from the state treasuries fund, be applied only to the paying of the salaries of teachers and janitors, and the purchasing of supplies for the district.

Fifth—That a state bill be prepared requiring the county school superintendent to apportion the county school money belonging to district No. 1 on the basis of every three months.

Sometimes there are large sums of money in the hands of the county treasurer, which cannot be turned over to district No. 1 on account of the present law.

Sixth—We should be glad to see modern buildings in certain localities in the district, but, as the school buildings are all in good condition, and building material of all kinds has advanced from 20 to 30 per cent, and the shrinkage this year in the assessed value of the property of the district from \$3,500,000 to \$2,565,611, we have no estimate for new school buildings.

Estimated Income.
Seventh—Our estimated income for the coming year will be, from the 5-mill county school tax levied on the assessed value of all the property of school district No. 1 (which is the same as the city, and is \$3,567,611), \$12,500.85; special levy to be levied tonight on the assessed value of 419.82; state school fund, \$20,000; unpaid taxes due the district, \$55,000; cash balance this date, \$12,311.21; total, \$22,010.87. Mortgage taxes not included.

Estimated Disbursements.
Teachers' salaries.....\$32,000.00
Janitors' salaries.....15,000.00
School clerk's salary.....1,500.00
Superintendent's salary.....2,000.00
Interest.....10,000.00
Insurance.....1,250.00
Fuel.....1,000.00
Stationery.....2,300.00
Water.....1,750.00
Repairs.....2,000.00
Telephone.....150.00
Rented rooms (four).....380.00
Gas.....250.00
Printing.....400.00
Stationery.....500.00
High school laboratory.....300.00
Advertising.....300.00
Election expenses.....300.00
Attorneys' fees.....250.00
School census.....250.00
Total.....\$72,430.00

Balance, South Portland school.....\$3,934.15
Total.....\$76,364.15

We do not wish to recommend any high-

er special tax levy than will be required to maintain the present standard of the schools, based upon a careful business management.

I am, in addition to the 5-mill county school tax, the state school fund and the amount of unpaid tax due the district, that it is safe to say that 2½ mills special tax, giving the amount of \$71,630, will be all that is necessary to carry on the schools of the district for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

"J. A. STROWBRIDGE, Chairman."

I am not a candidate for re-election, but I deem it my duty, before retiring from the board, to call the attention of the taxpayers to some matters pertaining to the business management of the schools, which I have every reason to believe they do not understand, and, as a taxpayer, to most emphatically protest against the enormous special tax of 4.5 mills, recommended by the majority report, and voted by the taxpayers at their annual meeting held January 15, 1899. In my statement of 2½ mills as amply sufficient to meet all requirements, I base my statement upon the most careful estimate, and with full knowledge of the existing conditions. I would not sanction any measure which could in any way impair the efficiency of the schools. The assertion made at the meeting—that a special levy of 2½ mills was not sufficient, and would cause a further reduction of salaries—false and intended to mislead the taxpayers.

I wish to call attention to the amount of special tax voted by the taxpayers at their annual meetings for the past five years:

January, 1896-97, 1 mill was voted.
January, 1897-98, 1 mill was voted.
January, 1898-99, 4½ mills were voted.
January, 1899-00, 4½ mills were voted.

For number of buildings erected and repairs made during each of the above years see my report.

My estimate for the coming year is:

Resources.....	\$20,010.87
Expenditures.....	\$76,364.15
Balance.....	\$3,934.15

The difference between my estimate of resources and expenditures of \$56,353.28 will more than cover any possible shrinkage in the district on back taxes.

J. A. STROWBRIDGE, Chairman.

"PIETY" OF THE BOERS.

Professor Henry Ward's Sunday Experience as a Guest.

New York Sun.

In the course of his last extended collecting tour in the Transvaal, Dr. Henry Ward Beecher, the naturalist, who recently returned to this country after wandering over a considerable portion of three continents, fell in with the Boers in South Africa, and had of observation some of their customs. For a time Professor Ward was the guest of a Boer family of the Transvaal, whose habitation was a simple hut, and he was shown this as his headquarters, he hunted and collected with great success, and as birds and animals which he wanted were as likely as not to stray