The Donation Land Law

Beneficent Results of the Act—Its Part in the Development of Oregon.

OREGON CITY, Or., Nov. 27.—An inquiry into the origin of the act of Congress of September 27, 1850, commonly known as the Oregon donation land law (the full text of which was printed in The Oregonian December 4, 1850), and the effect which that law had upon the later development of the State of Oregon, makes pertinent brief inquiry into the origin and development of our entire land system. Few men trouble themselves about the origin of things. The man who holds a fee-simple title to a town lot is satisfied to know that the original title is good, and that his own chain of title is complete. Time was, and not so very long ago, when no individual owned a foot of the soil of Oregon. What sovereignty held title before the question of individual titles became a practical topic doesn't particularly interest the average man. Who cares whether or not we now own it by virtue of Captain Gray's discovery of the Columbia River in 1791, by virtue of the purchase from France in 1803, by virtue of the treaty with Spain in 1819, or by virtue of the treaty of June 15, 1846, with Great Britain? We do know that our line should have gone to 54 degrees 40 minutes, the southern line of the Russian possessions, instead of stopping on the 49th parallel; but all of that is milk that was spilled many years ago.

Not to go too far back into the dim recesses of time to discover the origin of government title, it is pertinent to ask: How does the man who holds title through the General Government discover "where he is at," and what is the nature and origin of our system of land surveys? Under laws that have existed for over 100 years, the public lands of the United States are all surveyed under what is known as the "rectangular system." This system was reported by a committee of Congress consisting of Thomas Jefferson and Messrs. Williamson, Howell, Gerry and Reas May 7, 1784. In the ordinance submitted by this committee it was proposed that the lands of the country should be divided into "hundreds" of 10 geographical miles square, these again to be subdivided into lots of one mile square, each to be numbered from 1 to 100, commencing in the northwestern corner and counting alternately from west to east and from east to west continuously. This plan was so amended as to provide for the present system of townships six miles square, wherein we begin in our alternate numbering of the sections at the northeast corner. Each township consists of 36 sections of one mile square each. In numbering these townships north or south, we start at the established base line, and in numbering the ranges east and west we start with an established meridian line. This system of surveying, so far as is known, found its origin of this committee. It was enacted into law May 20, 1785. In the United States there are at least two dozen principal meridians, and a similar number of base lines. The Willamette meridian is coincident with longitude 122 degrees 44 minutes west from Greenwich. Its intersection with the base line is on the parallel of 45 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, and it controls the public surveys of Oregon and Washington.

The original methods for the disposal of the public lands of the country were radically different from those in force during the past 50 or 60 years. Congress in 1785 issued a proclamation forbidding settlement on the public domain. A law passed in 1804 emphasized this prohibition, and a law passed in 1807 gave the President the power of removal of settlers on the public lands. At that time settlement of the public domain was not encouraged. It was expressly prohibited. Congress then concerned itself with so handling the public lands as to secure from them the largest amount of revenue. As early as 1790 Alexander Hamilton, in response to a resolution of Congress, submitted a plan for the disposition of the public domain. It is one of the evidences of the matchless genius of this greatest of all our Revolutionary statesmen that the leading features of his plan have become a permanent part of our land system. He, however, contemplated the sale of all our public lands. That was the ruling idea of that era. At different periods our agricultural lands have been sold at the rates of 12½, 25, 50, 66 2-3 and 75 cents, and at $1, $1 25, $2 and $2 50 per acre. Today, while our agricultural lands, under the general laws, are only open to homestead entry, except in the case of arid lands or isolated tracts, timber lands are sold at $2 50 cash per acre, and coal lands at $10 and $20 per acre.

The first laws passed to encourage settlemen on the public lands were the various pre-emption laws, the act of September, 1841, being the fullest in its scope. Under this law one could enter 160 acres, and at any time after 12 months' residence, not later than 36 months from the date of entry, the claimant was entitled to patent upon the payment of $1 25 per acre.

The idea of giving any part of our public lands to individual citizens, solely in consideration of residence and cultivation, seems not to have taken root until the homestead law was passed, although the donation of lands to the states and to various public enterprises, and to individuals for military service, was common from the beginning.

Each organized territory, after 1805, was given the 16th section of each township within its borders for school purposes. Oregon Territory was the first to be granted not only the 16th, but the 36th section.

Bounty land warrants, issued for services in the Revolutionary War, covered 2,165,000 acres. For services in the War of 1812 they covered 4,930,000 acres. Scrip in lieu of land warrants for military service since 1812 covers 12,000,000 acres, and bounty land grants, under the acts of 1847, 1850, 1852 and 1855, cover 61,028,000 acres.

From 1824 to 1856 there were given away 4,424,000 acres for the construction of canals; 1,301,000 acres have been donated for the construction of military wagon roads, of which 777,000 acres was for roads in the State of Oregon.

Grants to state universities aggregate over 1,000,000 acres, while nearly 10,000,000 acres have been granted to states for the equipment of colleges, for the cultivation of agricultural and mechanical science and art.

About 52,000 acres have been granted to the states as swamp lands, and nearly 20,000,000 acres more are claimed.

A total of 155,504,994 acres have been granted to the railroads of the country, of which 8,186,582 were granted under Fillmore, 19,678,179 under Pierce, 74,295,801 under Lincoln, 24,001,297 under Johnson, and 19,321,121 under Grant.

It is interesting to contrast with these liberal, if not extravagant, concessions the statistics, which show that, although about 600,000 homestead entries have been made in the country since the homestead law took effect in 1863, they cover only about 80,000,000 acres of land, yet it required a bitter and long-continued fight to secure the passage of the homestead law. The first demand for this law was made by the Free-Soil Democracy in their National convention at Pittsburg, August 11, 1852. February 1, 1853, the first homestead bill, introduced by Hon. Galusha A. Grow, who is now the Republican Congressman-at-Large from Pennsylvania, passed the lower house of Congress by a vote of 120 to 76, all of the affirmative votes but two being from the Northern States, and all of the negative votes but eight being from the South. The bill was defeated by the Democratic leaders in the Senate. May 6, 1860, the bill was again introduced by Mr. Lovejoy, and passed the House by a vote of 115 to 65, all of the affirmative votes but one being from the North, and all of the negative votes but two being from the South. This bill was so amended in the Senate as to require the homestead entryman to pay 25 cents per acre for his claim. The House reluctantly accepted the amended bill, because, as Mr. Grow expressed it, "half a loaf is better than no bread." Even this bill was killed by the veto of President Buchanan, and the passage of the first homestead law was left to the Congress that went into power with the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. That law passed the House February 28, 1862. It passed the Senate May 5, 1862, and was signed by Lincoln May 20, 1862. According to its terms, it took effect January 1, 1863, the very day that the emancipation proclamation took effect. This furnishes an added reason why that day should be memorable in the annals of the Nation.

The only donation laws ever passed by Congress were confined in their operation to the Territory of East Florida and the Territories of Oregon, Washington and New Mexico. The acts applicable to East Florida and New Mexico granted only 160 acres to each claimant and the total amount patented under these laws were about 20,000 acres in New Mexico and 210,720 acres in East Florida. The Oregon donation land law was more liberal in its provisions and much wider in its scope. The stages attending its development cannot be fully set forth in a brief article. The authorship of the law is in dispute. In the earlier years of our history as a state this was a subject of much acrimonious discussion.

As early as August 6, 1846, President Polk, in a message to Congress bearing upon the needs of a territorial government for Oregon, expressed his desire that this region might "be filled up by a hardy and patriotic population" and urged that it was "but an act of justice that these emigrants, whilst most effectually advancing the interest and policy of the Government, should be aided by liberal grants of land." In his message of December 8, 1846, he says, referring to Oregon: "As our citizens who now reside in that distant region have been subjected to many hardships, privations and sacrifices in their emigration, and by their improvements have enhanced the value of the public lands in the neighborhood of their settlements, it is recommended that liberal grants be made to them of such portions of these lands as they may occupy, and that similar grants or rights of pre-emption be made to all who may emigrate thither within a limited period to be prescribed by law." In his message of December 7, 1847, and in a later message, specially devoted to the interests of Oregon, he earnestly renews his recommendations.

Oregon was admitted as a territory August 14, 1848, and her territorial boundaries included not only the Oregon of today, but Washington, Idaho and the western portion of Montana. Prior to her admission as a territory and under the operation of treaty stipulations for the joint occupation of the country by the United States and Great Britain, extensive settlements had grown up and the people in governing themselves had adopted land laws which made occupancy the basis of ownership between settlers. These laws had provided that every male inhabitant of the country over a certain age should have 640 acres of land. The act of Congress establishing the Territory of Oregon declared void all laws theretofore passed in the territory making grants of land, or otherwise affecting the title of lands. The temper of Congress, however, in various antecedent acts and resolutions relating to the Oregon country had been pretty thoroughly tested and the conviction was universal that in any subsequent special legislation the liberal ideas of the provisional government in regard to land grants would find favor and be enacted into law. For this reason immigration was stimulated, and it is literally true that the donation law, then in limbo and without shape or form, began to operate long before it found a place in the statutes.

The donation law, as passed September 27, 1850, provided for making surveys and donations of public lands in Oregon and related to two classes of settlers. It granted to the first class of actual settlers who were such prior to September 1, 1850, a donation of 320 acres to a single man, and of 640 acres to a married man and his wife, one-half to the husband and one-half to the wife in her own right. The second class of settlers were those who were or should become settlers between December 1, 1850, and December 1, 1853, and the date was later extended to December 1, 1855. To the settler of this class were granted, if a single man, 160 acres; if a married man 320 acres, of which one-half went to the husband and one-half to the wife in her own right. Such discrimination as was made was in favor of the man who was already in Oregon at the time of the passage of the law. This indicates that the leading and primary purpose of the law was not particularly the encouragement of immigration, but rather to meet the antecedent expectation of the pioneers who were already upon the ground, and indicates that one of the objects of the law may have been to attach to the American interest the resident servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. No discrimination was made as between native-born Americans and those who were willing to take out certificates of naturalization. Under the original law four years consecutive residence and cultivation was necessary to insure a patent from the Government. An amendment to the law passed February 14, 1853, permitted claimants after two years' residence and cultivation to secure patent on the payment of $1 25 per acre, and subsequent legislation still further reduced the time to one year.

The total number of certificates issued under the law was 7317, embracing 2,561,757 acres of land. The records of the United States Land Office at Oregon City, however, show but 5286 patents issued.

The first notification filed by any settler of his intention to take a claim under the law was that filed on February 18, 1852, by Joseph M. Blackerby; the second was John Barger, the third B. A. Leonard, the fourth E. F. Colby, the fifth Rice Dunbar, the father of Judge Dunbar, of the Washington Supreme Court, and of Register Dunbar, of the United States Land Office at Vancouver. The sixth notification was that of Wilburn King, and the seventh that of King Hibbard, to whom, on January 18, 1859, the first patent under the law was issued. Prior to the issuance of that patent no individual, since the creation, had owned a foot of the soil of Oregon. The second patent was issued to Ralph C. Geer, uncle of Governor Geer and father of L. B. Geer, State Land Agent. The land covered by these notifications was all in township 7 south, range 1 west, about 15 miles east of Salem, in the beautiful region known as the Waldo Hills, one of the richest and most picturesque sections of the Willamette Valley. The foregoing list of names is one familiar to all the pioneers of Western Oregon and will recall the best and richest traditions of the pioneer era.

The donation law expired by limitation on December 1, 1855. It long since served its purpose and has now become ancient history. So far, at least, as the land titles of the country were concerned it was the first effective instrumentality applied to bring out of the comparative chaos of the provisional days a semblance of order and of stability. While to Hon. Samuel R. Thurston, our first provisional Delegate, must be ascribed much of the credit of securing the passage of the law, even the pioneers themselves were unable to agree as to whom belonged the credit of its authorship. It can hardly be said that it was the creation of any single man, but it came as a development out of the minds of many men, and it was the creation, not of a day, but of a series of years. At the request of Governor Abernethy and many leading citizens of Oregon, Hon. J. Quinn Thornton, Supreme Judge under the provisional government, went to Washington in the Spring of 1848 to labor with Congress on behalf of Oregon, and at that time, it is said, he prepared a bill embodying the leading provisions of the donation land law as finally enacted. Mr. Thornton also claimed the credit of securing the insertion, in the law providing for the admission of Oregon as a territory, the provision giving us, for our schools, not only the 16th, but the 36th section of every township, the first law of the kind ever enacted; but this claim of Mr. Thornton has been stoutly combated by Mrs. Frances Fuller Victor and others.

It is difficult to estimate the effects of the law, either immediate or remote. As its provisions were confined to American citizens, either native-born or naturalized, it naturally alienated many of the old servants of the Hudson's Bay Company and weakened the hold of that company upon the destinies of the country. It quickened and strengthened the American spirit and it certainly exerted no small influence in stimulating immigration. The white population of Oregon in 1850, a full decade after the advent of the first missionaries, was only 13,294. The immigration of 1852 has been estimated at about 10,000. It in no way detracts from the merit of these earlier builders of the state that the hope of securing a half section of the fertile soil of the Willamette Valley, upon which to build the foundations of a life of comfort and independence, was the motive which inspired many of them to face the perils of a six months' journey across the trackless wastes of a continent. The real heroes, after all, are of the practical sort who look forward to some substantial reward for facing the dangers and privations they have the courage and perseverance to meet and overcome. The legacy of a good name and a heroic spirit, even in the absence of material achievement, is a magnificent thing to leave behind, but the reputation of having seasoned your heroism with an admixture of common sense and business thrift, is a heritage not to be despised. The Oregon pioneer who saw in the donation land law a good thing was no less heroic because of his thrift and his prescience. His ambition to secure, through that law, 320 acres of Oregon soil marked him not as a merely sordid, but as a very practical man of affairs, while in this way building up his own fortunes, he was also doing his full share in developing this great state and transmitting to those who were to follow blessings which they might not now otherwise enjoy. Every man owes something to himself and his immediate dependents. The people who have a touch of the sordid element in their composition are the people who have conquered the world for civilization, and contributed more largely than any other class to the sum total of human comfort and human happiness. Heroic sacrifice that is purely of the ideal sort makes rich material for song and story, but the Oregon pioneer whose practical eye saw in the broad acres of this new Eldorado something worthy of his quest, and whose spirit never quailed in the face of perils that were to be met in reaching the goal of his ambitions, was no less a hero because he reserved to himself a goodly portion of the reward instead of devoting it all to posterity. Few men have conquered greater perils. Few men have shown better courage. Few are the men whose ultimate motives were of a more lofty type. The Oregon donation land law made no heroes, but it has played no mean part in the development of that spirit, both heroic and conservative, which was so characteristic of the early pioneers of the state.

CHARLES B. MOORES.

THE OREGONIAN OF 1850.

Reproduction in Fac-Simile of the First Issue.

On pages 20, 21, 22 and 23 of this issue will be found reproduced in fac-simile the first Weekly Oregonian. The copy is exact in all particulars. The type has not been reset, but the photographic process has been employed to show just what The Oregonian was and how it looked 50 years ago. From the two stories, "The Trapper" and "The Fashionable Church," on the title page, to the text of the Indian bill on the fourth page, everything is exactly as it was on that interesting occasion when the first paper was with much ceremony pulled from the press.

Study and perusal of The Oregonian of 1850 is not only interesting for its historical association. It affords opportunity for comparison between the Journalism of that day and this—The Weekly Oregonian of 1850 and The Daily Oregonian of 1900.

First Oregon Printer.

W. Carey Johnson, the pioneer Oregon City lawyer, and probably the oldest person now living who learned the printer's trade in Oregon, distinctly remembers conditions existing when The Oregonian first made its appearance. He was only 13 years old when he arrived with his parents at Oregon City in 1845, his father, Rev. Hezekiah Johnson, having organized the first Baptist church in Oregon there July 4, 1847. During this year young Johnson went into the Spectator office and officiated as the "devil" while learning the printer's trade. The discovery of gold in California in 1849 induced many Oregon City people to rush for the mines, almost depopulating the place for a brief period, as far as the male inhabitants were concerned. William G. T'Vault, the publisher of the Spectator, concluded to discontinue the publication of the paper. Later Mr. Johnson worked on the Argus, founded and published by Dr. W. L. Adams. When The Oregonian first made its appearance, Major Thomas Charman and Arthur Warner, who were afterward for many years proprietors of the Pioneer store, conducted a bakery at Oregon City; general merchandise establishments also were controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company, Mr. McKinley, manager, Governor Abernethy and W. K. Kilbourn. About the only money in circulation in these days was "store orders" issued by the mercantile houses, and used as currency by the early settlers. These were usually written orders, although at a later date some of them were printed. The orders issued by the Hudson's Bay Company store were considered most valuable, as this establishment carried the largest stock of goods and was reputed to be on a solid basis. The scrip issued by this store was called "McKinley money," after the name of the manager. The lawyers in Oregon City at that date were Aaron E. Wait and James G. Kelly, who were partners, Milton Elliott and Columbus Lancaster, who was the first delegate to Congress from the Territory of Washington. Mr. Johnson commenced his law studies in Wait & Kelly's office in 1854, working on the outside four days in the week to pay his board. He began the practice of law in 1858 on his own account, and later formed a partnership with the late Captain F. O. McCown. Captains P. H. Hatch and Medorum Crawford carried on a transfer business around the falls, using oxen and horses at different times to propel the freight between the steamers on the lower and upper river. Rev. Ezra Fisher was pastor of the Baptist Church, Rev. George H. Atkinson of the Congregational Church, while Fathers Blanchet and Acolti had charge of St. John's Catholic Church.

Francis W. Pettygrove.

Francis W. Pettygrove, who was associated with Lovejoy and Overton in founding the City of Portland, and who gave it its name, was born in Calais, Me., in 1812. At the age of 30, he came to Oregon with a stock of goods. After many difficulties in getting around the Horn and up the Columbia River, he landed his cargo at Oregon City, where it was disposed of at a profit. He then engaged in the fur trade, and built a warehouse at Oregon City to handle the grain business. He became associated with A. L. Lovejoy in Portland, but in 1851, owing to malarial troubles, sold out and went to the Straits of Fuca and established the City of Port Townsend, where he remained until his death, in 1887.

Wane of the Buckwheat.

Pittsburg News.

The practical extinction of the buckwheat cake of our fathers must be laid at the door of the miller. He is accused of mixing with buckwheat flour wheat bran and shorts in the interests of economy. For a while the adulteration was undetected, but gradually consumers began to complain that the buckwheat cakes don't taste any more like they used to in the good old days back on the farm, and people began to stop buying buckwheat flour. As the demand fell off the farmers raised less and less buckwheat. A race of honest millers, co-operating with the farmers, might raise the buckwheat cake to its former proud position.

Treaties With Indians

How and Why They Were Made by the United States Commission.

THE people of Oregon Territory in 1850 had a delegate at Washington, and as the Indian title to the soil had been the ostensible cause of differences between the missionaries and the natives east of the Cascades, it was natural that the extinguishment of the native title in Western Oregon should receive early attention. To meet this want, the sixth public act of the 31st Congress was:

"An act authorizing negotiation of treaties with the Indian tribes of Oregon for the extinguishment of their claims to lands west of the Cascade Mountains, and for other purposes," passed, signed and approved June 5, 1850, and published in the first copy of The Oregonian December 4 of the same year.

The object of this bill, besides extinguishing the Indian claims to the soil of Western Oregon, and providing for the appointment of officers to effect this object, was to locate the tribes treated with east of the Cascade range, if found practicable. This was found impracticable, because the healthy wild tribes east of the mountains would have none of the diseased remnant of tribes that had been long dying on the west of the range, and the latter dreaded and feared those from east of the range when they made Summer excursions into the Willamette Valley.

The commission appointed was Anson Dart, of Wisconsin; A. G. Henry, of Illinois; Elias Wampole (not located), and H. H. Spaulding, of Oregon. To these were added Governor John P. Gaines, A. A. Skinner and B. S. Allen. Dr. Dart knew nothing of Indians; Mr. Henry never came on the ground.

Mr. Wampole was placed over the tribes of Northeastern Oregon, and was soon broken for speculating off the Indians.

Mr. Spaulding was allotted as agent over the tribes of Southern Oregon, including the Rogue Rivers and Shastas, who feared neither God nor devil nor man they could steal from or kill.

The first effort of Dr. Dart was at Champoeg, in Marion County. The Calapooias and Molallas were to be treated with. But they would sign nothing without seeing J. L. Parrish. He was sent for, advised them to sign, and they did sign in behalf of those two tribes. They gave up 80x20 miles on the east side of the Willamette River, the north boundary being the small creek making into the Willamette between Oregon City and the Clackamas. The native contracting parties were Joseph Hudson, chief of the Calapooias, and Margaret, his wife, youngest daughter of Costa, chief of the Molallas. The Indians had no idea of mile measurements. They both told the writer that the Calapooias claimed the plains and the Molallas the slopes of the Cascades to the summit eastward and to the Capaloola Mountains south. They were to receive $42,000 in cash payments in 20 annual installments.

The Clackamas tribe was bought out for $2500 annually for 10 years, one-fifth cash and the balance in food and clothing. There were 88 persons, 19 of whom were men, or had that semblance.

The Tualatin branch of the Calapooias ceded 50x30 miles west of the Willamette River. The total number of Calapooias was found to be 220.

A treaty was made with the Coast tribes, covering the coast line from Chehalis, south of the Columbia, to Yaquina, reaching inland to the mouth of the Cowlitz River, at a cost of $91,200, to be paid in 10 yearly installments. Clatsop Point, Woody and Cathlamet Islands, in the Columbia, were mentioned as reservations. In the securing of these treaties, not a single figure of the native race made itself notable in making conditions, from the date of the law authorizing them till July 2, 1856, when the followers of Chief John, of the Rogue Rivers, were cowed and worn out by a six-year contest begun by them as wayside murderers for purposes of robbery, and ending in a desperate race struggle for possession of one of the most beautiful valleys of Oregon. John was left the one unconquered man of his race, making his own conditions of submission.

On the side of the white race, General Joseph Lane fully justified his appointment as first Governor of Oregon under the United States dominion. There are few brighter spots in the history of our dealings with the Indians than Lane's courage and watchful wisdom in holding the head chief of the Rogue Rivers as hostage. That and the conduct of the brave wife, who came alone and solicited the favor of being with her husband while he was held prisoner, ought to receive the attention of both poets and painters that Oregon will produce.

True, the Table Rock treaty barely kept the peace during a year. The elements of the contest, when it became one between the races, were so divided by native bands and factions on the one side, and between volunteers and regulars on the other, that the duration of the struggle is not surprising. Its results are summed up in 6,000,000 acres ceded to the United States at a cost of about 3 cents per acre, and 4000 natives put upon reservations and guarded and protected by the Government. In constructing this brief chronicle of race strifes and changes, the writer has depended largely on Bancroft's great collection of annals and notes. To one of the latter an opposing view is submitted. Note 28, on page 412, of Bancroft's "Oregon," volume II, concludes: "Out of an appropriation of $500,000, if the Indians received $80,000 or $100,000, they were fortunate."

The efficient work of securing these treaties was done by Oregonians. A. A. Skinner superseded Dr. Dart as Commissioner; Joel Palmer succeeded Skinner. Of agents, H. H. Spaulding, being utterly misplaced over the Southern Oregon Indians, may have drawn pay without service; but no one ever doubted his honesty. J. L. Parrish was the most serviceable man in the field in the work of getting the Indians to treat. His accepted accounts came within $1 of a balance. No one in Oregon ever doubted the probity of Judge Skinner, General Palmer or J. W. Nesmith. A note following the above says: "A Special Commissioner, C. H. Mott, was sent to examine the accounts, who could find nothing wrong, and they were allowed and paid in 1859."

Mr. Bancroft's note strengthened the arbitrary action of the Third Auditor of the United States Treasury in scaling down the claims of the Oregon and Washington volunteers and robbing those soldiers and people out of two-fifths of what was found due by a Congressional committee, and is yet justly due. It supported General Wood's malevolent course against these volunteers, who were starving amid the thickets and steeps of Lower Rogue River, Coquille and other streams in the southwest corner of Oregon, on a public promise of $3 a day, when the writer of this could and did get all the labor he wanted at $4 per day in California, and from that sum to $6 for common labor prevailed all along the coast at that time. It was, of course, much more in the mines, even at Yreka and Jackson mining districts, where miners detailed parts of their separate camps to chase and run down the separate bands of wild, murderous robbers.

In using these words as descriptive of the Rogue Shastas—one tribe was divided into clins by family contentions and mountains—it is without bitterness. Within two years prior to the beginning of this contest between natives and miners the writer saw the hunters' paradise of Upper Rogue River. He saw banded antelopes lying on the swells of land opposite where the City of Ashland now is, like flocks of peaceful sheep. He saw the watchful native runner, seemingly naked, start to carry the news of our parties' presence from village to village in advance of us. He saw them closing in on the trail we made into the snows of the Siskiyous, where, according to the estimate of our leader, Jesse Applegate, they would slaughter every one of us for the property one of us carried, if we gave them the chance. When they were surprised by us, three-fourths of them were clad in deerskins, with the hair yet on. That they fought for their native valleys according to their knowledge is no disgrace to them.

JOHN MINTO.

Pulling the First Paper

W. W. Baker, a well-known Portland citizen and pioneer, was present in The Oregonian office when the first paper was lifted from the press.

"It was a most interesting ceremony," says Mr. Baker, "and I am proud to remember that I took a prominent part in it. There was a considerable crowd present in the office, attracted by the news that the long-expected and long-desired paper was about to issue from the press. Mr. Dryer was there, and Stephen Coffin, and W. W. Chapman, and others, among whom I remember only young Henry Hill. When the forms had been placed on the press, and the lever pulled, and the impression made, Coffin, Chapman, Dryer and myself took our assigned positions, one at each corner, and with great solemnity joined in lifting the sheet from the press. There were other doings of a more or less formal nature. Another incident worth recalling in connection with The Oregonian is the fact that a few years later I bought from Dryer the lot at the corner of First and Morrison, then occupied by The Oregonian. The building was off from the corner. It was agreed that I should build a two-story frame building on the corner, and that The Oregonian office should be upstairs, while W. W. Baker & Co. had a store below. The former quarters of the paper were occupied by us as a storeroom.

"I had arrrived in Portland September 17, 1850, and I at once engaged in the business of teaming. I met Dryer and he engaged me to haul his material and outfit for the new paper from the river landing to the original office on the corner. This I afterwards did."

Mr. Baker says that when he came to Portland there was just one white-painted building in the town. There were no sidewalks, and the streets were full of stumps.

Stumps on First Street

T. B. Trevett, a prominent citizen of Portland, is another pioneer whose arrival here antedates the first appearance of The Oregonian. "I came to Portland first July 8, 1850," says Mr. Trevett, "with the Massachusetts, of the United States Navy. I was captain's clerk. I had come around the Horn the year before to California, and I was the first purser of the first steamboat on the Sacramento River, the Mint. But I only made a single trip. I was taken with a protracted fever, and I finally went to the Sandwich Islands. While I was there the Massachusetts called, and I was made captain's clerk aboard her. Then she came to Portland. When we were lying in the river the officers were invited to the wedding of young Cyrus A. Reed to the daughter of Stephen Coffin. We went, and we had a very good time. The Massachusetts then made a northern cruise with the United States Commission she had aboard. I went with her and left her at San Francisco. I returned to Portland July 12, 1851, and made it my permanent home. I came in the steamer Columbia, with a number of other passengers, among them Judge Nelson, of the territorial Supreme Court; Benjamin Stark and Mrs. Dryer and her daughter, Mary, afterward Mrs. Ogden. The cabin passage was then $100. The town was somewhat rough in those days. I remember that I got up on top of a tower somewhere and counted 134 shingle roofs. There were stumps on First street, and everywhere there were the rough evidences of pioneer life. Yes, I remember the early days of The Oregonian. It was a Whig paper, and I was a Whig, and I did my share to keep it going."

How Various Monarchs Sleep.

If one is to believe in the accuracy of a paragraph going the rounds of the various German papers, some of the crowned heads lie very uneasy, at least at night.

William of Germany insists on sleeping on a narrow camp bed, the rigors of which system are somewhat mitigated by sheets of the finest linen and silk counterpanes, of which he is very fond. He goes to bed regularly at 11 and rises at 6. He is terribly agitated during his sleep.

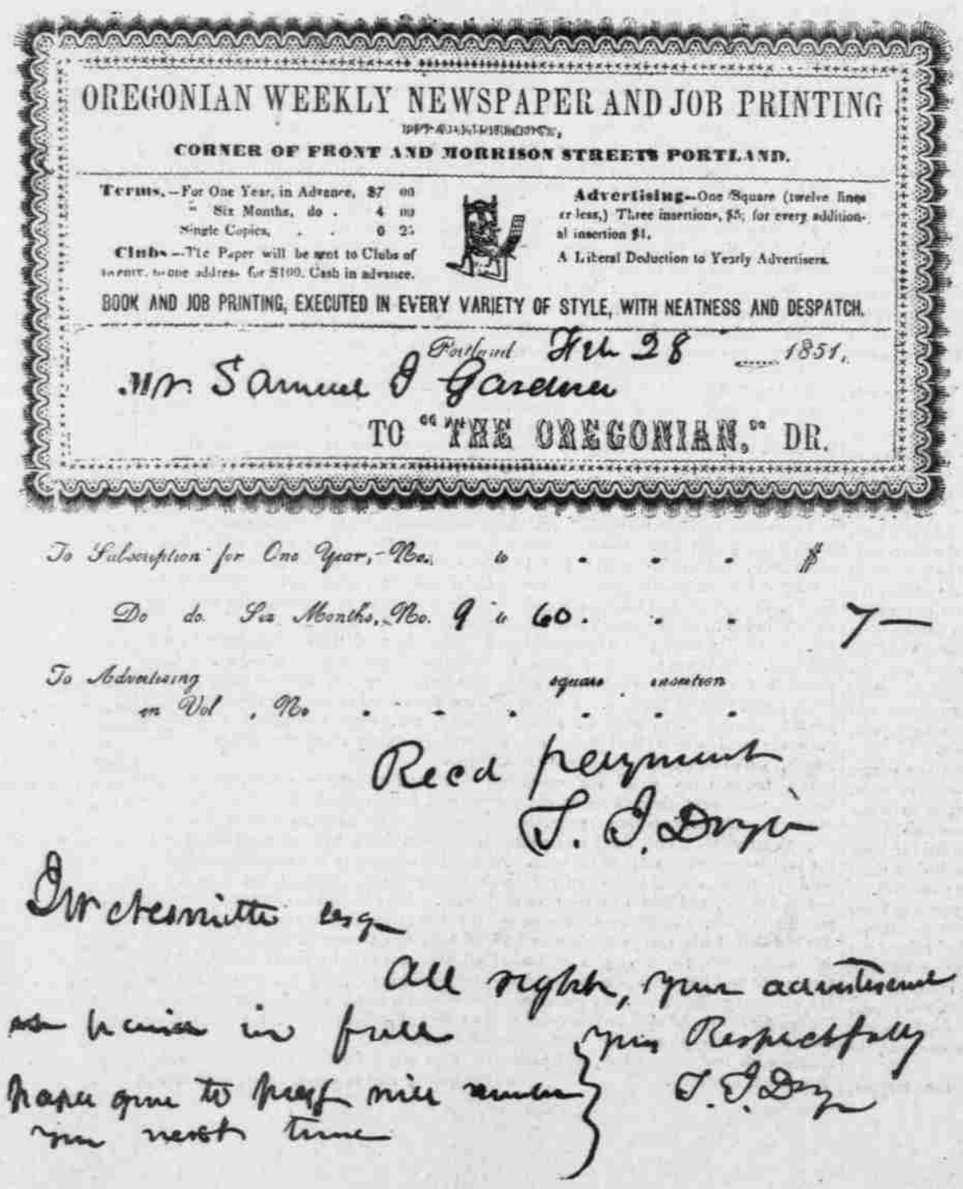
Leopold of Belgium goes to bed very late. He makes it a rule never to work in the day time, and consequently has to go through all letters and documents at night. He is a very cold sleeper, and even in Summer nights his bed is made up of a heap of feather-beds and feather counterpanes, in which he completely buries himself.

Humbert of Italy had a hard bed, coarse sheets and no pillows. He slept—and snored—for eight hours at a stretch.

The Czar of all the Russias dreads night and darkness. His bedroom is always lighted with electric lights, scarcely subdued by white silk shades. He frequently has to use some mild sleeping powder, and has the greatest difficulty in getting up, which he does as late as possible.

Abdul Hamid sleeps on a couch of silk and gold, and as peacefully as a child.

Felix Faure, President of the French Republic, had a splendid modern bed and elderdown quilts. He had frequent nightmares. When he did not sleep well he used to ring the bell in the middle of the night and order the sheets to be changed at once.



AN EARLY OREGONIAN RECEIPT.

Note.—The foregoing receipt and memorandum is on exhibition at the rooms of the Oregon Historical Society. It will be observed that, while the receipt is made out to Samuel J. Gardner, a postscript to J. W. Nesmith is added. The explanation probably is that Gardner's subscription had been forwarded by Mr. Nesmith, acting as agent for The Weekly Oregonian, and the receipt was returned to him for delivery to Gardner. The postscript is evidently an answer to some inquiry Nesmith had made.