HISTORICCHAMPOEC

(Continued from First Page.)

gon City; Mrs. Susan D. Meldrum, Ore-

1545-Mrs. Lydia Wood, Woodburn; Mrs. W. F. Glikey, Dayton; R. S. MacEwan, Astoria; W. R. Dunbar, Vancouver, Wash.; Marianne Hansaker D'Arcy, Portland; Mrs. Prudence Holston, Portland. 186 W. M. Merchant, North Yambill; W. T. Legg, Portland; J. T. Apperson, Dregon City: Anson Cone, Butteville; W. I. Jones, Newberg; Mrs. R. H. Hopkins, Butteville, G. W. Dimmick, R. V. Short, Pertiand; David Caufield; Judge Charles Bellinger, Portland. 1845—John W. Minto, Portland; J. D.

186-Judge R. P. Bolse, Salem; H. A. Johnson, Salem.

Invocation by Rev. P S. Knight. The ceremonies opened with an invoca-tion by Rev. P. S. Knight, of Salem, who

Alreighty Father: We believe in thee as the creator of all things as the provider for all wants, and as the controlling and directing power in all the affairs of them. We are sure that our fathers were guided to these shores and in the creation of the institutions under which we live. We are sure that their children were by the jove and wisdom guided from the easiers at the western shores of this continue. As we commence some of their tinent. As we commemorate some of their labors today, we would not forget to render

And to thy name shall all praise be given now and forever. Amen.

George H. Himes, assistant secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, sprung a little surprise that struck everyone as the right thing. He paid a tribute to Mr. Matther's honored connection with the history of Cregon, concluding by present-ing him, in the name of the Historical Seciety with a handsome badge, Gov-ernor Gear hands the badge on Mr. Materror Geer hance the badge on Mr. Matthieu's breast and three cheers were given for Mr. Matthieu and three more for the State of Oregon. The badge is of silk, in red, white and blue colors. At the top, in a resulte, is the seal of the Provisional Government, and in the center, under the words, "Pioneer of 182", if the present state seal of Oregon, in cause to be let out to the lowest bidden the organic. the top in a rosatte, is the seal of the Provisional Government, and in the center, under the words, "Pioneer of 1842." Is the present state scal of Oregon. In gold letters is the inscription: "Only switche organization of the 22 persons who voted for the organization of the first civil government at Champoeg, May 2: 1842, known in history as the Provisional Government." Sec. 3—That the executive power shall cause to be let out to the lowest bidder the building of a substantial log jail at Oregon City, to be finished in such time and manner as they may think proper, and shall take such bond and security as may be sufficient to secure its completion. "Sec. 3—That the executive power shall cause to be let out to the lowest bidder the building of a substantial log jail at Oregon City, to be finished in such time and manner as they may think proper, and shall take such bond and security as may be sufficient to secure its completion. "Sec. 3—That the executive power shall cause to be let out to the lowest bidder the building of a substantial log jail at Oregon City, to be finished in such time and manner as they may think proper, and shall take such bond and security as may be sufficient to secure the province of the completion of the completion of the present state seal of Oregon. In gold letters is the inscription: "Only switched and the present state seal of Oregon City, to be finished in such time and manner as they may think proper, and shall take such bond and security as may be sufficient to secure the province of the completion of

GOVERNOR GEER'S SPEECH,

Incidents of the Times When the Government Was Formed.

Governor Geer then delivered the following introductory address, which was also a history of the acts of the Provisional Government: historic event whose 58th

anniversary we meet on this occasion to commemorate was of greater importance and has been more far-reaching in its conthan could have been supposed sequences than could have been supposed by any of those who took part in its pro-ceedings. When, upon this exact spot 18 years ago today, Joe Meek, in his impulsively patriotic manner, called for a "division" and, taking his stand apart from the others, asked all those who were in favor of an organization to follow him. ne could not have foreseen, neither could his compatriots, the future great com-monwealth to be reared upon an enduring oundation, the corner-stone of which was that day so dramatically provided. But all governments have their begin-nings, and where they are not the result of a revolutionary overthrow of some former one, but spring from the necessities f pioneer settlers, they are usually the fispring of an unselfish endeavor and a surpose to protect life, liberty and property impartially and effectually.

Romantic Early History. A truthful recital of the circumstances surrounding the early occupation and set-tiement of Oregon reads like a well-pre-pared romance. The situation was wholy unlike that pertaining to the early oc-cupancy of any other portion of our en-tire country. When the early American migrants began to come here in considerable numbers, the "Oregon country" was not a part of any nation, but was resting under a not well defined claim of both the United States and of Great Brit. It was, indeed, an independent community, really owing allegiance to no higher power, and was, in fact, for some years after its inception, a pure Democ-racy. The early settlers referred to the United States as a foreign country, early archives are full of such refere The early archives are full of such references, and as late as the 17th of December, 1847, the Legislature passed an act appropriating \$500 "to defray the expenses of J. L. Meek as special messenger to the United

It is both interesting and profitable to note that the early efforts toward es-tablishing a civil government were marked by that simplicity and sturdy economy that characterized the pioneers in their dally lives. It was the ground work for that predominating feature in our present State Constitution, inserted by the successors of these men in a later decade, which limits the number of state officers performing the principal duties of the state government below that prevailing in any other state in the Union

The meeting held on this spot 38 years ago has passed into history as the "Wolf meeting." But was really an adjourned meeting from a prior one held on the 24 of February of the same year, at the Oregon Institute, and another held on the first Monday of March at the house oseph Gervais, both of which were held for the purpose of "taking into con-sideration the propriety of adopting some measures for protecting our herds," etc.

An Early Scalp Bounty Law. view of recent legislation in our state it is interesting to note that the neeting held at the residence of Jo-Gervais on March 1, 1845, passed a full-fiedged scalp bounty law. I will quote the report of the committee, which had been appointed at the February meeting for the jurpose of taking the initiative in the matter of subduing the predatory

"Your committee begs leave to report as

being admitted by all that bears, wolves, panthers, etc., are destructive to the useful animals, owned by the settlers of this colony, your committee, would respectfully submit the following resolutions, as the sense of this meeting, by which the community may be governed in carrying on a defensive and destructive war against all such animals:

"I. That we deem it expedient for this community to take immediate measures for the destruction of all wolves, hears and panthers, and such other animals as are known to be destructive to cattle. ses, sheep and hogs.

"I That a treasurer be appointed who shall receive all funds and dispense the same, in accordance with drafts drawn on him, by the committee appointed to receive the evidences of the destruction of the above-named animals; and that he report the state of the treasury by posting up public notices once in three aonths, in the vicinity of each of the

be appointed, whose duty it shall be, to

a large wolf, \$1.50 for a lynx, \$2 for a bear, and \$5 for the panther.

"3. That no bounty be paid unless the individual claiming said bounty gives satisfactory evidence, or by presenting the skin of the head, with the ears, of all animals for which he cialways a bounty.

mals for which he claims a bounty. "S. That the committee and treasurer form a board of advice to call public meetings, whenever they may deem expedient, to promote and encourage all persons to use their vigilance in destroying all the animals named in the 4th resolution.

"T—That the bountles named in the 4th resolution be limited to whitee such their

'7-That the bountles named in the 4th scendants. 'On motion it was

"Resolved, That no one receive a bounty (except Indians) unless he pay a sub-cription of %. 'It was moved and seconded that the dmins receive one-half as much as the whites. "It was moved and seconded that all

cinims for bounties be presented within 10 days from the time of becoming entitled to said bountles, and if there should be any doubts the individual claiming the bounty shall give his oath to the various circumstances, which was carried."

In the meantime, however, it was becoming apparent to the settlers of the Willamette Valley that the protection of their own lives and rights, as well as their herds, could not be longer safely postponed. There can be no doubt that the Champoeg meeting had this end chiefly in view, although the intention had evidently been largely confined to the knowledge of those who sympathized with an American government. oming apparent to the settlers of the

theors today, we would not forget to render thanks to thee for the goodly lives they lived, for the self-ancriffine and devotion to high duty that moved them, and for the successity was the death of Ewing Young on they met in laying sere the foundations of free institutions.

As their successors, we ask for divine guidance and blessing, that following in their ance and blessing, that following in their successity was the death of Ewing Young on February 15, 18th. Mr. Young was the wealthlest American citizen in the country, and, leaving no will or heirs, as far as was known, and there being no prostice, we may proble with faithful in carsileps, we may proble with a faithful in carsileps. on the work they so nobly began. Not in the monument we sirely began. Not in the monument we sirely today, but in any we serve our country, the world, and may we help them to speak to coming may we help them to speak to coming years to effect this result. On December 11, 1845, Mr. Garrison presented a petition to the provisional Legislature, "from Daniel Waldo and Thomas Jeffries, in relation to the estate of Ewing Young" Reference is made to the same matter in the Oregon Archives on December 17, 1945, on December 4, 1846, and again on the 5th The matter to the Park of the Pa Sth. The matter was finally disposed of by an act passed December 24, 1846, and which reads as follows: "Section 1—Be it enacted by the Legis-

pay all moneys collected by him belonging to the estate of said Young, deceased, to the Treasurer of Oregon, whose duty it shall be to give the said administrator a receipt for the same,

"Sec. 4-That the sum of fifteen hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appro-priated for the building of said jail, to be paid out of the first moneys received from said administrator of said estate, and in the event there is not so much re-ceived, then the balance to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

"Sec. 5-That the faith of this govern ment is hereby pledged for the payment of all moneys hereafter received from the administrator of the estate of said Young, whenever the same shall be lawfully claimed, and said claim established by the heirs or creditors of said Young.
"Sec. 6-That the executive power shall

be authorized to receive a lot donated by John McLoughlin for the purpose of erecting said jail, which lot shall be conveyed to Oregon agreeably to a communication of said John McLoughlin, addressed to a committee of this House appointed to wait upon him.

"Sec. 7—That said jall shall be used alike for the imprisonment of all criminals in Oregon.

"Passed December 24, 1844.
"(Signed) M. M. McCarver, Speaker.

"(Signed) M. M. McCarver, Speaker."
The intention of our sturdy fathers to do absolutely the right thing at all times is well illustrated in the 7th section of this act, in its comprehensive provision for "the imprisonment of all criminals in Oregon," in this proposed jail. Whether the jail was ever built in accordance with the requirements of this act is somewhat doubtful, since it is recorded that on December 13, 1847, three years later, "Mr. Nesmith, from the committee on judiciary. to whom was referred that portion of the Governor's message relating to the erection of a jail, reported they deemed it inexpedient in the present embarrassed condition of finance, to incur the expens

Although the estate of Mr. Young wa collected into the treasury, it was never regarded as the absolute property of the territory. In the territorial liabilities, the amount of \$3615 is given as "collected from the estate of Ewing Young." In after years, when Oregon had become a state the value of his property was refunded to his son Joaquin Young, in New Mexico.

Composition of the Government. The government organized here 58 years ago "by the inhabitants of the Willam settlements," consisting of a legislative committee, composed of the following honored pioneers, to wit: Messrs, Hill, Shortess, Hewell, Beers, Hubbard, Gray, O'Neil, Moore and Dougherty. Other civil fficers were chosen, a Major and Cap tains were weldered and instructed to en-list men for companies of mounted riffe-men; the per diem of the members of the legislative committee was fixed at \$1 25 the money to be raised by subscriptle and the meeting adjourned to convene again on the 5th of the following July. For the purpose of protecting the public treasury, however, it was provided that the legislative committee should not sit over

six days. First Meeting of the Body,

In pursuance of the duties imposed upon it, the committee met upon the 16th of the same month, and was in session on the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and the 27th and 28th of June. The meeting was held at "Willamette," presumably Oregon City, and, having occupied the entire six days at their disposal (a precedent, by the way, which has been followed re-ligiously by their descendents) adjourned to meet at "Champooick," on the following 5th of July, in order to report their proceedings to "the people." The official title of this gathering is "Public meet-ing, held on the 5th of July, 1843," and the opening statement is to the effect that "the inhabitants of Oregon Terri-tory met, pursuant to adjournment, to hear the report of the Legislative committee, and to do such other business as might come before them." No credenlegal participation in the proceedings of this meeting. It was composed of the "inhabitants of Oregon Territory," and as such they were laying the foundations of one of the best systems of state govment to be found today in the entire

This was a period when the people met and enacted their own laws, and may be said to have been the halcyon days of the initiative and referendum, in its ful est simplicity, but it could not last long with that comprehensive exercise of pub-lic privileges. Its universality is well il-

masse, and by them enacted on the 5th day of July, 1843, therefore, "Resolved, That this house has no right to levy a tax of any kind, without the consent of the free voters of this territory, previously obtained.

"Resolved, That all acts and parts of acts on that subject, passed by the Leg-islative committee, were contrary to the express resolution and action of the peo-

Incidental Difficulties. The preserved record of that meeting held at this place 58 years ago makes no mention of the passage of the resolution here referred to, but such action must have been taken, which seems to indicate that the vision of our fathers did not reach far into the future, if they expected to maintain a government without levy-ing taxes upon the people. By following the official records, it will be seen that the official records, it will be seen that 18 months later than this, to wit, on the 19th of December, 1845, this law was ap-proved by Governor Abernethy:

"Sec. 2. The Governor of Oregon is hereby authorized to give public notice throughout Oregon, either by publishing the same in the newspaper, or otherwise, that he will receive sealed proposals from all who may desire to give donations to the government for the purpose of erecting public buildings and locating the seat of government—said proposal to state the amount to be given and the kind of prop-erty in which it is to be paid. It might be said in connection with this proposi tion that the manner in which our as-sessments are disregarded at present in many cases amounts to little more than a voluntary contribution on the part of some of our counties toward the support

of the state government.

In this connection, it is interesting to recall that when the Territorial Legislature met in Oregon City on the 7th of December, 1847, during the afternoon ses-sion, the record says that Mr. Hembree, from the committee appointed to procure a room, reported that the room now occupied by Stephen Meek could be obtained for \$1.25 per day, "which report was adopted." But the next day the record says the report, on motion of Mr. Nesmith, was rejected. No reason what-Nesmith, was rejected. No reason what ever is assigned for this very disrespectful treatment of Mr. Meek, but the house adjourned "to meet at the Methodis Church in 30 minutes!

At the beginning of the session of 1846, Mr. Meek reported as follows: Mr. Meek reported as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, the committee appointed to procure a room for the use of the Legislature beg leave to report that they have discharged their duty by examining a room proposed by Mr. Knighton, at \$2 a day, and one proposed by Mr. Card at — a day. Taking everything into consideration, we recommend the former."

And at the opening of the session as late as 1848 Mr. Crawford, of Marion County. as 1845, Mr. Crawford, of Marion County reported: "Your committee, to whom was referred the procuring of a house in which to hold the present session of the Legislature, beg leave to report that they have examined several houses, and have decided in favor of the one ownd by G. W. Rice, which, together with wood for the session, can be had for \$5 per day, in

scrip,"
In connection with other features of the early troubles of our fathers, in the mat ter of proceeding with their legislative sessions, they at least seemed to be exempt from the speculative tendency to corner the wood supply for state institu-tions, although there are more trees grow-ing in Oregon today than there were 60 years ago.

On the 20th of July, 1849, although the Territorial Government was fully inaug-urated, the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

"Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed on the part of the House to act conjunction with a like number to be appointed by the Council to inquire into the expediency of the two Houses adjourning until after harvest." In accordance with the terms of this joint resolution, both Houses adjourned on the 28th of July, and recommenced on the 20th of Au-gust, which was "after harvest."

The journal for the session of the legis-lative committee held on May 19, 1842, re-cites that "the House adjourned by unit, ing in prayer." On June 30, 1845, Mr. ing in prayer." On June 30, 1845, Mr. Gray presented a communication from Rev. H. Clark, "resigning his appoint ment as chaplain of the House," and Messrs, Garrison, Straight and Grav were appointed a committee to procure another chaplain. On the following day at is recorded that Mr. Garrison, from the committee to procure a chaplain, reported that "no person could be found to perform

the duties of that office." It will be profitable for the younger generation of Oregonians, who are accustomed to behold costly and modern public priation bills amounting to near \$1,000,000 per annum, to be reminded that the appriation bill for the year 1845 was \$1035, that \$500 of it went to pay the members. \$40 to the clerk of the House and \$20 to the engrossing clerk. My recollec-tion is that the amount paid for clerk hire during the last session was somewhat

in excess of this sum. The Second Committee

The legislative committee which was the direct successor of the one elected here on the 2d day of May, 1843, met in regular session at Oregon City on the 18th of December, 1844, at the house of J. E. Long. Two days later the report of the treas-"Received of collector of taxes, \$3313 31; for license, two ferries, \$40; one fine, \$5; total receipts, \$23 21. Expended for stationery, \$20 38; Mr. Hathaway's house, 15; Judge Babcock's salary, \$60; services of secretary in house, \$20; total, \$115 33. Balance remaining in treasury, \$242 93." Marion County was known as Champoeg

County until the name was changed by the Legislature on the 3d of September, 1849. On the 28th of August, 1849, it was "resolved that the county seat of Cham-poore County be, and the same is hereby located at the town of Salem, in said county." In the early printed records the name is spelled "Champoeg," "Cham-poore," and "Champoolck." It is a matter to be regretted that the name of this county was ever changed. It is an Indian name, signifying "the place of the camp," is fully as euphonious as those other Indian names. Clackamas, Multnomah, Clatsop and Tillamook, and should have been preserved along with them as a memento of the earliest patriotic efforts of our ploneer fathers.

But I must not trespass upon the material to be used by the distinguished speakers who are to follow me. The field for retrospective research is as unlimited as it is remarkably fascinating. It is not only fitting that those commemorative ceremonies should be held through the great respect we have for the fathers who builded here nearly 60 years ago, even better than they knew, but for the ad-ditional reason that it will have a ten-dency to awaken a renewed interest in early Oregon history among those whose lives have begun since the events of those stirring times which have passed forever into the annals of our state. I have recently spent a few hours looking through the archives of our early history, now the office of the Secretary of State, a found it a very interesting and profitable

Prominent Early-Day Figures. Of those who figured prominently in the

history of our early affairs few are left. Our distinguished and honored fellow-citizen, Hon. F. X. Matthieu, is the only survivor of that immortal band, who, by their patriotic action here 58 years ago, made this spot sacred for all time to every loyal Oregonian. He should be comlies privileges
lustrated, however, by this quotation from
the official record of June 25, 1844, when
Mr. Garrison introduced the following
resolution, which was referred to the
committee of the whole, but which was
committee of the whole, but which was
committee of the whole, but which was
live based upon, so far as the records

seemed to demand a special sacrific, that
he may live many years yet to enjoy the
hability months, in the vicinity of each of the committee.

*2. That a standing committee of eight be appointed, whose duty it shall be, together with the treasurer, to receive the proofs of evidences of the animals for which a bounty is claimed, having been willed in the Willamette Vailey.

*3. That a bounty of 50 cents be paid for the destruction of a small wolf; \$\$ for committee and referred to the people, en

fairs of Oregon than any other man who has even been one of its citisens. On the 12th of December, 1853, Hon J. D. Boon, who was the Territorial Treasurer, mentions in his report to the Legislature that on the 17th of December, 1852, he "paid R. P. Boise, per order, No. II, filed in this office, \$300." I think Mr. Boise was elected Prosecuting Attorney about 1853, and has been almost continuously in the Judicial service of the state since, and now, at the age of 30 years, he is physically hale, strong mentally, has yet four years to his credit in his present term as Circuit Judge in the Third District, and is rounding out an active and oreditable career fairs of Oregon than any other man who ing out an active and creditable career in the state he helped to found, and is enjoying the esteem and confidence of all his fellow-citizens.

To these names should be added, however, those of Hon. H. W. Corbett, the planeter merchant hapker and pullianthro-

pioneer merchant, banker and philanthro pist, and Hon. A. Bush, who for many years was the territorial printer and editor of the Oregor Statesman. Both of these distinguished gentlemen are still at the head of large business interests and are as strong mentally as 50 years ago.

After a life of great honor and usefulness to his adopted state, Nesmith sleeps on the banks of the Rickreal, near the old homestead he loved so well and where

old homestead he loved so well, and where all his active life was spent, when not it



The Champoeg Monument.

the service of the commonwealth. The older members of the Applegate family have long since gone to rest among the lovely hills of Southern Oregon, where they selected their homes more than a half century ago, and which they so bravely helped to wrest from the murder-ous Indians of that section. Waldo and Newell and the elder McBride and Deady and Smith and Lane, and scores of others of equal eminence and usefulness have long since gone to that undiscovered country. But, although men may come and men may go, human responsibilities and duties never cease. It is a part of the history of the human race that younger generations have always proven themselves able to assume and to successfully discharge the duties falling upon them, and it is believed that the Native Sons and Daughters of Oregon, assisted by those who have come among them, will prove no exception to this historical fact. Their devotion to the welfare and honor of their beloved state is unbounded and immeasurable, and their every effort should be given to its continued development along such lines as will contribute to the advancement and betterment of all its peo-

ple.
So we come today to dedicate this monument and the beautiful spot upon which it stands, to the people of Oregon, for all time, in memory of the patriotic men whose names are thus recorded as being our oldest pioneer state builders. Sixty years ago there were less than 36 white male settlers within the entire boundary of what now constitutes the great state of Oregon. From this small beginning and within a time that is comparatively short, has grown the magnificent state of which we are all so proud and of whose possibilities, who can portend?

The panarama which met the sight of the first ploneers who came to the Wil-lamette Valley must have been inspiring beyond description, and in contemplating the beauties of a great country like this, before it had been scarred by the hand of ambitious man-while it was still in that condition as when first made by

"Our Father's God, from out whose ha The centuries fall, like grains of sand, It is doubtful whether, after all, real eauty is added to it by all the results of all the output of human energy. The encroaching forests and these adjacent hills, which today so gracefully lend their charm to the rapid march of maturing civilization, had never heard any sound, save the occasional war-whoop of the "untutored Indian." The then mystic country, "Where rolled the Oregon" was not far away, but the continuous woods adorned the banks of the near-by river even to the very spot where we are now assembled. Since a time when all calculation is lost in hopeless obscurity, the onderful falls, only a few miles had been engaged in a ceaseless round of majectic activity, and then the river moved on, as now, to join the great Co-lumbia, which, we are told, "is sired by the eternal hills, and wedded to the sea." And, for ages to come, may the faithful history of Oregon be so unruffled by the jar of discordant civic or industrial elements that its counterpart will be found in the characteristic placidity of the "Beautiful Willamette" as, reflecting the placidity of the luxuriant foliage which adorns its banks with inspiring pictures familiar to us since earliest childhood, it moves majes-tically onward to its home in the great Paoffic At the conclusion of Governor Geer's

address, Mr. Matthieu unveiled the monument.

Poem by Mrs. Duniway. Judge George H. Burnett, of Salem, read the following poem, which had been written for the occasion by Mrs. Abigall Scott No braver crew e'er manned a ship of

Than these whose peaceful deeds we celebrate, On this historic day. A patriot band Were they who waved this goodly land From the encroaching grasp of monarchy. And raised in noble pride the banner of the free.

No clash of arms, no silitering array Of crested helmets, no vibrant display Of martial music, stirred the listening air; But rose o'er all, instead, the earnest prayer Of border statesmen, met in days agone. To frame the laws, provisional, for Oregon.

As here we gather on this hallowed ground, As here we gather on this hallowed ground, Where silence, sympathetic and projound, For eight and fifty years has reigned supreme. The deeds of these heroic men our theme. Be mine the pleasing task to chant a lay in humble memory of the heroines of that day.

No chiseled lines their strenuous lives

No marble shaft records their names; no fame Accrues to them; in solitude they strove, In primitive pursuits, their worth to prove; And tolling on in their allotted way, Off held wild beasts and wilder savages as

Thus bravely did they bear their part, and we, Who ripe fruition of their work may see, Will not forget to keep their memory green, Whene'er we meet on this historio scene, In honor of the sturdy seal that won, For thea, Columbia, for thee, the State of Ore-

MR. SCOTT'S ADDRESS.

Formation and Administration of

Provisional Government. Mr. H. W. Scott having been called East on business, his address was read by Willis S. Duntway. It was well received and the passages referring to the victory of the American settlers at Champoeg, May 2, 1843, to Jo Meek's call for division, and to Mr. Matthieu, were cheered.

We are here today to commemorate an we are that took place on this spot eight-and-fifty years ago. That event was the birth of the first American common-wealth, the organization of the first American Government, on the Pacific Coast of the United States of America.

Oregon in those days was much more distant from our Atlantic states in time, and far more difficult to be reached, than America was from Europe when the set-tlement of the American continent began. The migration across the continent of America was, indeed, the most extraor-America was, indeed, the most extraordinary of migratory movements since the date of authentic history. From the Atlantic seaboard to the Mississippi River it was a movement by comparatively short and easy stages; from the Mississippi westward it was a single leap. The siender column pushed its way over plains and mountains, through hostile native tribes and arm wilderness—the first parties reculring more than a year native tribes and arm wilderness—the first parties requiring more than a year for the journey; the later ones, as the routes became better known, not less than six months. Quite as long, though with less danger, fatigue and privation, was the voyage by sea around the continent to these western shores of America. Nearer to us than Jamestown and Plymouth is the heads are:

Nearer to us than Jamestown and Plymouth is the heroic age.

But I am not to speak today of the discovery, exploration, migration and settlement. It is the Provisional Government, created upon this spot May 2, 1843, that is our thems today. At the outset I shall quote a remark made by an eminent citizen of honored memory, Judge William Strong, who, in an address before the Pioneer Society of Oregon in 1879, sald: "Oregon owes by far the most of its prosperity and rapid progress to the early formation of the Provisional Government, the wise laws which were will be seen from these names that there

Mountains. Joint occupation of the country by British subjects ami by people from the United States, each party hoping to hold the great Pacific Northwest for its own country, hastened action while the inhabitants were yet very few. Such, however, was the vigor and activity of the Americans that, though they were at first inferior in numbers, they soon gained the ascendant, and, rapidly re-inforced during the years that followed, they had fully established civil government in Oregon long before the question of national jurisdiction was finally tied between the United States and Great

Britain. This first effort to establish a government here was rooted largely in this international competition. From the first the people of Oregon had been separated into two great divisions—those owing allegiance to Great Britain and those owing allegiance to the United States. How this came about is the one long story of our early history. There is no time to deal with it here. I merely speak of it as the fundamental fact in the early history of Oregon. So closely divided were the parties that it was difficult at any time after 1840 to say which had the numerical superiority. From the trans-fer of Astoria in 1813 down to the arrival of the American missionaries and first permanent American settlers—down, in-deed, to the year 1840—the English influ-ence was decidedly in the ascendant. Preponderance of the Americans was

The First Movement ..

The very first movement of the American settlers was a pection to Congress, in the year 1840. That petition asked for the protection of the United States, and prayed that "Congress would establish, as soon as may be, a territorial govern-ment in the Oregon Territory." It con-tained an allusion to the conflict with British interests here, as a reason why the United States should take speedy

As American influence increased, pioneers became constantly more active and urgent for formation of a government. Most of the subjects of Great Britain naturally held aloof from a move-ment in which American influence was likely to be paramount. We had three s of Americans in the Oregon country. First, American trappers, or moun-tain men, who were hostile to the Hudson's Bay Company and strongly at-tached to the United States. Second, the own country, which are bound up with religious freedom. Third, American settlers, who had come to make homes and to cultivate the soil. But the whole American population in 1842 was no more than one hundred and thirty-seven, or whom thirty-four were white women and thirty-two were white children. A considerable number of the American settlers and mountain men had native

ecute them." The call was cautiously worded, so as to avoid the troublesome question of national sovereignty; for the Americans, who were making this initiatory movement, thought it prudent not to go too fast, realizing that the population of the country, though divided in their allegiance, yet had to live together. Rev. Jason Lee, of the Methodist mission, presided over this meeting. The Methodists were the leaders in missionary enterprise in Oregon. They had established the Willamette mission, under direction of Rev. Jason Lee, in 1834. In 1835 Samuel Parker, a Presbyterian missionary, came for the purpose of making examination of the field and selecting stations for missionary labor. Next year he returned by sea to New York. Whitman, with a small party, followed in 1836. Roman Catholic missionaries began their work in Oregon in 1838-35. From year to year there were additions to the various missions, and small parties of independent settlers were coming in. There was also in the country a considerable body of the servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, some still in active service under the campony's direction, others who had left its service voluntarily or had been discharged. These were mostly French. the campony's direction, others who had left its service voluntarily or had been discharged. These were mostly French-Canadians, who had taken Indian wives and settled down in the country. Thus there were two sentiments; one American, the other British; and as the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company was well established before the Americans came, the latter were looked upon very much as intruders—though in fact Great British had never made a scrious or definite claim to that part of Oregon lying south of the Columbia River.

At this first meeting nothing was done

beyond advising the selection of a committee for the purpose of drafting a code of laws for the government of the country. But an event scon occurred that hastened action.

This was the death of Ewing Young. He was a native of Tennessee; he had visited California as early as 12% and in 1834 he came to Oregon, in company with Hall J. Kelley, who had long-been known as an enthusiant in all that related to Oregon Kelley was a citizen of Mansachusetts. For years he had been indefatigable in his effort to a waken indeed eat in Oregon and to induce Courge's take action for encouragement and promotion of settlement here. Finally see with his own eyes the lamb bout which the came by a circultous route through Mexico and California, and in California he fell in with Eving Young, whom be induced to come with him to Oregon. With a party of shout 15 persons picked up about Montsrey and San Jose, they set to Boston, but Young remained, and from that time until his death, in February, 1841, his name has a consplictous place in the name of the pont. In the name has a consplictous place in the name has a consplictous place in the name has a consplictous place in the name has a consplictous pl a committee of seven was likewise recommended, whose business it should be to
draft a constitution and a code of laws
for the settlements south of the Columbla River, and the meeting proceeded to
instruct the committee to recommend the
following officers, viz.: A Governor; a
Supreme Judge, with probate powers;
three Justices of the Peace; three Contables; three Road Commissioners; an Attorney-General; a Clerk of the Courts;
a Recorder; a Treasurer, and two Over-

the early formation of the Provisional Government, the wise laws which were enacted and the inflexible justice with which they were administered."

In pioneer days in Oregon, as eisewhere in America, the beginning of settlement and oregon. Roman Catholic and Protestant was followed almost immediately by organization of government. The instinct of the race to which we belong to establish civil institutions and to organize government under regular forms of law was manifest here before there were so many as 100-persons of American nativity in the whole country west of the Rocky Mountains. Joint occupation of the country by British subjects and by people from the United States, each party hoping to hold the great Pacific Northwest for its and Pierre Bilique were chosen Consta-bles. It was resolved that, 'until a code of laws be adopted by this community, Dr. Babcock be instructed to act according to the laws of the State of New York.' On the 18th day of February, the meeting On the Isth day of February, the meeting was adjourned, "to meet on the first Tuesday of June at the new building, near the Catholic Church." At this second meeting it was reported that no proceedings had been taken meantime by the committee appointed to draft a constitution and code of laws, and adjournment was taken "to the American Mission House, on the

"to the American Mission House, on the first Tuesday in October, 1841."

This was the end of the first effort. Neither committee nor assembly met aguin. As might have been expected, political and applicational including again. As hight have been capector, po-litical and ecclesiastical jealousies began to arise. Was the American or British element to have assemdancy? Was the Protestant missionary or the Catholic missionary to have the larger influence in the government? And, finally, there was the non-church element strongly individ-ualized, which wanted to limit the ec-clesiastics of all names to their own proper functions. So there could be no organization, till more Americans should

During the next two years the project of local government remained quiet. But the number of Americans was increasing. To the 187 Americans in the country at ish-Canadlan colony from the Red River of the North.

Project Again Taken Up.

Early in the year 1843 the project of provisional government was started again. This second attempt also was tak-en partly under cover of a utilitarian scheme. Beasts of prey, bears, panthers, wolves, were very numerous, and the set-tlers suffered great loss through depre-dations upon their flocks and herds. A preliminary meeting was held at the Ore-gon Institute (Methodist mission) Februgon Institute (Methodist mission) Febru-ary 2, 1843, at which it was moved that

But the question whether the new or-ganization was to be based on acknow-ledged allegiance to the United States or not, instantly came uppermost. An ad-dress of "the Canadian citisens of Ore-On the 7th of February, 1841, a meeting of some of the inhabitants was held at Champoes, then the center or seat of the principal settlement, "for the purpose of consulting upon the steps necessary to be taken for the formation of laws, and the election of officers to execute them." The call was cautiously worded, so as to avoid the troublesome question of national sovereignty; for the Americans, who were making this initia-

h as intruders—though in fact Great on national lines; and so close was it that ain had never made a serious or national lines; and so close was it that the time of the control of the chairman was unable to decide which the time of its organization." was declared nate that part of Oregon lysis of the Columbia River.

Meek, one of our sturdy pioneers, a native of Virginia, who had come West in the time of the calcultive power was the dantually. The executive power was the dantually. The executive power was the dantually.

most active, earnest and forceful of the men who helped to carry the day. May 2, 1542, was William H. Gray, who camo with Whitman in 1838, He is one distinct. ly to be named among the fathers of Ore-gon. It is through the venerable Mr. Matthieu that the spot is identified where the meeting was held, and where the monument is placed which we dedicate this day.

Progress of Organization

The Americans now proceeded rapidly with their work of organization. A mat-ter of the first importance was the for-mation of a legislative committee, whose duty it was to report a form of organic law for the new commonwealth. committee was constituted of the names, to-wit: A. E. Wilson, G. W. Breton, J. L. Meek, W. H. Wilson,

to meet for its work, but records show that it bad its sittings at Williamette Falls, in a building tendered by the Meth-odist mission for the purpose. The building was devoted to a variety of uses. It has long since disappeared. It is de-scribed as a building one and a haif, stories high, if feet wide, and 20 feet long. the upper portion being used as a storage and sleeping apartment, while the lower part was so divided as to make one square room for a school house and pince of worship, and the other was used for storing wheat. The committee continued its sittings until the 13th day of May, and then adjourned, to meet the last Thursday in June. At this last meeting the

day in June. At this last meeting the final touches were given to its work.

Upon the appointed day, July 5, 1861, the convention reassembled on this spot. Some description of this fest state house of Oregon may be interesting. From the accounts I have been able to gather it was built with posts sunk into the ground, two and two together, with apaces between them, which were filled in with split timber. Such were the wells, which were held together by horizontal poles laid across the top; and the whole structure was surmounted by rafters. structure was surmounted by rafters made of fir poles, covered by a root of cedar bark. That edifice, needless to say, has not remained to this day.

The civil officers elected in May were

aworn in upon an oath of office drafted

by a special committee consisting of Chairman Babcock and Rev. Jason Lee. Harvey Clark and David Leslie. Then the beginning of 1842, there were added by immigration that year 112 persons, in-cluding 42 families. There were also considerable reinforcements to the Brit-was submitted. It was somewhat elabwas submitted. It was somewhat clab-orate. We can not follow its details here, but will quote its preamble, as a passage of special interest, to-wit: "We, the peo-pie of Oregon Territory, for the purposes of mutual protection and to secure peace and prosperity among curselven, agree to adopt the following laws and regulations, adopt the following laws and regulations, until such time as the United States of America extend their jurisdiction over us. The dispute as to sovereignty with Great Britain was not yet settled; but here was avowal of a purpose to hold the country for the United States. The report of the committee proceeded to divide the territory into four districts. The first called Traility Market. ary 2, 1843, at which it was moved that a general meeting be called on the first Monday of March at the house of Joseph Monday of March at the house of Joseph Gervais, a Hudson's Bay ploneer, whose name is perpetuated in the town of Gervais, Marion County. At this meeting, held at the appointed time, measures were taken for concert in destruction of noxious animals; and following this a committee of 12 was appointed to "contribute of the Willamette, or Multomah river, and east of the Pacific ocean." The second was the Yambill circumstrated ocean. The second was the Yambill circumstrate occan, and a suppressible function of the Willamette, or Multomah river, and a suppressible function of the will ament the way of the will and military and a suppressible function of the suppressible function of the will ament the way of the will district. The ament the way of the will district the way of the way of the will district the way of th west of the Willamette, collabustneman river, and a supposed line funning north and south from said river south of the Yambili river, to the boundary line of the United States and California." The fourth district was called the Champoeg district, bounded on the morth by a supposed line drawn from the mouth of the Anchlyoke (Pudding) river, running due east to the Rocky Mountaine, west by the Multinomen river and south. Multnomah river, and south by the boun-dary line of the United States and Cali-fornia. The third district, "to be called the Clacksmas district," comprehended

> in this quaint manner was a region of almost continental proportions, yet con-taining only a few hundred inhabitants, —they wholly in the Willameste Valley— divided into representative districts. The southern line was the 42d degree of latitude, known as the line of boun-dary between California, then be-longing to Mexico, and Oregon. Our claim extended to "fifty-four forty"; the British claim to the country north of the Columbia River was strongly forty"; the British ciaim to the country north of the Columbia River was strongly asserted, and Englishmen made a kind of ciaim, Indefinite and nebulous, to the territory south of the river. No citizen of the United States had yet settled in the country north of the Columbia. Within the present limits of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho there were some American missionaries, but they were not so situated as to be able to participate in this political movement. It was not till this political movement. It was not till two years later that the first American settlers entered the territory north of the Columbia and west of the Cascade Mountains. Persons who came over the plains in 1844 were the first Americans who settled in the Puget Sound country. They were led by Michael T. Simmons, who settled at the head of Budd's Inlet in October, 1845. It was his party that opened the first trall from the Co River to Puget Sound

all the territory not included in the other

districts

Constitutional Provisions. Under the constitution reported by the committee the legislative power was to be vested in nine persons to be chosen by be vested in nine persons to be chosen by the qualified electors; each district to have representation in proportion to its popu-lation, excluding Indians. No discrimination as to suffrage was made against per-sons not citizens of the United States but "every free male descendent of a white man of the age of H years and up-