

Our Early History.

The Indian War Veterans of the North Pacific Coast, and Congress.

BY CIRUS H. WALKER.

(The oldest living white man born west of the Rocky Mountains.)

The first bill to pass the Oregon Legislature in January, 1861, was that appropriating \$3000 to defray the expenses of a commission, consisting of five Indian War veterans of the North Pacific Coast, and two Grand Army veterans, to visit Washington in the interest of a bill pending in Congress for the pensioning of Indian War veterans. A bill to this effect has thrice passed the Senate, having the earnest support of Hon. J. H. Mitchell at every opportunity he had to use his voice and vote; but the bill, after going to the House, has never come back for a decision, being held back either by the Speaker or the committee to whom it was referred.

In 1846 a regiment of mounted riflemen was authorized by Congress, but was not raised until the next Spring, and was then sent to Mexico. Returning to Fort Leavenworth, it was recruited in May 1848, and, under Colonel Loring, was sent to Oregon. Only a part reached Vanuoy, and the remainder wintered in that year. Indian titles to lands west of the Cascade Mountains were extinguished in 1850, but there was trouble in Southern Oregon for two years thereafter, the Indians committing depredations along the line of travel from Oregon to the California gold mines, previous to 1851. In May of that year two professional frontiersmen murdered David Dilley, and this overt act brought on the Rogue River War. After considerable fighting a treaty was made in Gray at which the Indians agreed to go upon a reservation selected for them near by, but they broke faith time and again, until finally volunteers were raised for the purpose of driving the Indians over 100 miles from the scene of disturbances.

Oregon Territory was created August 14, 1842, and yet, four years after, she was fighting her own battles with savages. In September, 1852, there arrived at Fort Vancouver, north of the Columbia River, the skeleton of the Fourth United States Infantry, of 288 men, under Lieutenant Colonel Bonneville. The total military force in the Department of the Pacific in 1854 was 1350 men, cavalry, infantry and artillery. Of these only 355 were in Oregon. The Oregon volunteers fought the battles and forced a lasting peace with the Rogue River tribes, but little help from the regular United States troops, most of whom were stationed at Fort Vancouver, more than 200 miles away.

So close of the Rogue River War the Yakima War commenced. The two were largely in concert, for there was undoubtedly a combination of nearly all the Indian tribes of Southern Oregon, having for its purpose the extermination of the white settlers. The Yakima War was brought about in this way: Three miners going to the Colville mines from Puget Sound were murdered in the Fall of 1855 by some of the Yakima tribe. Sub-Indian Agent A. J. Eolen, upon going out to investigate the matter, was himself treacherously murdered, and soon after Major Haller left Fort Dalles with about 100 men, not to punish the Indians, but to inquire into the cause of their hostility. Proceeding north of the Columbia and 80 miles from that fort, which place he had left October 2, he was attacked on the afternoon of the 15th by about 1000 Indians and forced to retreat to The Dalles, after some hard fighting and narrow escape from being massacred, with his whole force.

The Major called for reinforcements of 1000 men. All the available United States troops in Oregon were not sufficient to meet this demand; hence Major Burns called upon Governor Willamson of Washington Territory, for two companies, and Governor Curry, of Oregon, for four companies of volunteers to take the field as fast as they could be organized. At Vancouver there were only arms enough to equip two Oregon companies. Governor Curry saw fit to call for eight companies. Most of these were made up of men who had their own horses, saddles, guns, blankets, etc. They had no faith in regulars for fighting Indians, and Major Burns refused to furnish any supplies or transportation unless the volunteers were mustered into the United States service. November 17 the General commanding arrived at Vancouver, and this defeated every project which looked to a Winter campaign or to any co-operation between the regulars and the volunteers. He found fault with the Governor of Oregon for raising a regiment, but at the same time called upon the Governor for one. In reply to Colonel Nesmith, of the Oregon troops, he said: "I have no authority either to employ or to receive volunteers into the service of the United States." He returned to San Francisco without in any way communicating with the Governor of Oregon. He became a malignant, railing slanderer, without any just cause.

Were the volunteers wise in refusing to come under the officers of the regular Army? It seems that the regulars had been used as a pretext for not granting them pensions. I answer the above question by drawing some facts from the Modoc War of 1872-73. In January of that year 1000 men, and between 600 regulars and volunteers and 63 soldiers, before the lava beds, 35 of the soldiers were killed and not one Indian. One thousand men, however, were to renew the attack until the arrival of 72 Indian scouts from the Warm Springs reservation. In all the subsequent fighting these saved the soldiers time and again from greater disaster. On one occasion 14 scouts were sent in one direction and 86 soldiers in another. The latter fell into a mine trap, and only 28 were left out of the 1000. In another battle subsequently, the scouts saved the troops from utter annihilation, though with the loss of two of their own men. The volunteers were ended by the Indian scouts penetrating the lava beds and capturing Captain Jack and other leaders of the Modocs.

In the Yakima War had the volunteers come under the regulars there would have been disaster and defeat, with much loss of life, but perhaps not to the degree as in the Modoc War, for the volunteers were better marksmen than the regulars, and knew the Indian characteristics. There was also a difference in the nature of the country. In the Modoc War the Cascades much of the country is open, though very broken in many sections with hills, valleys, ravines and deep canyons, commingled with plains and prairies.

In spite of all opposition the volunteers helped carry the war into the Yakima country, and then into the Walla Walla country, and then into the Walla Walla country, and then into the Walla Walla country. The volunteers were disbanded October 2, 1856, and thus, as far as they were concerned, closed their service in the Indian Wars of Oregon. After waiting for years the returns of 1858 and 1859 received but a very small part of the pay they were promised. The

Oregon Territorial Legislature in January, 1856, voted to give them \$4 per day to the man, \$3 for himself and \$2 for his horse and equipments. This promise has never been fulfilled. The United States do less than give them a pension as a just recompense. The pay offered may seem high to us now, but it is remembered that covered the expenses of well-to-do, and had no need to enter the war just for the money there might be in it. Besides, wages were high, and \$2 to \$3 per day was not uncommon for hired help. They left their homes, many of them their farms untilled, and no crop raised during their absence; their families not suitable provided for, and so all to punish murderous savages for horrid crimes, and by striking terror into their hearts, to prevent such a complete union of all the disaffected tribes as would enable the redskins to wipe out all the white settlements on the North Pacific Coast. From over 3000 volunteers in service, only about 700 remain, the Indian War veterans of over 50 years ago, as some of them are. Many of these are in destitute circumstances. We see them daily with bent forms and tottering frames, and heads fast falling to the grave. It has been suggested that a land warrant for 160 acres might be given each of them instead of a pension. Had this been done years ago, the present conditions would not be so bad. The best lands have been taken up by settlers, or are held by corporations; hence, there are no lands that are within easy reach or that would make a home for aged and feeble men. To sell the land warrants would not be much help, as they would bring only about what Government land is worth. And also the question naturally comes up, Is not the general Government bound to assume the war debts of a territorial government? We hold that it should and each of that section, by the glorious country, grand in its proportions, glorious in its achievements, magnificent in its untold wealth and resources, and we are passing on to a better day.

It will be said that under these conditions we permitted the Indian War veterans, who fought as bravely as did the Blue and Gray at Gettysburg, to go to the gallant Blue of North and South at Santiago, to go down at last to virtually penniless graves, as many of them will if it help? Forbid it my countrymen, we will not permit the Indian War veterans of our grand Republic, and then nobly grant a pension to these deserving veterans. Albany, Or., May 24, 1901.

OREGON AT BUFFALO.

Our Exhibits the First to be Completed.

Today Buffalo Times, May 19. American Exposition is seen in completed state, and the Pacific Coast State receives the distinction of being the first to have its exhibit ready. Credit is due the capable superintendent, Mr. Henry E. Dosch, of Portland, and his nine assistants.

Mr. Dosch has a commendable habit of being punctual. Had some of the other state superintendents been as conscientious as he, there would not now be the great rush among the states to get ready by Dedication day. Mr. Dosch represented Oregon at Chicago, and his exhibit is in charge of the exhibit that is to be made at Charleston. These honors are sufficient to indicate that the valuable worth of his wide experience, keen judgment, trained knowledge and expert thoroughness are understood and appreciated.

A Times representative, in passing through the Agriculture building last evening, came upon Mr. Dosch. The superintendent is always to be found in the happy frame of mind, but he appeared delighted as a small boy with a new red wagon, as he championed Oregon's enterprise. Modest man that he is, he would have all the credit redound to the state and A. J. Johnson, the forestry expert, whereas in truth the genial superintendent himself deserves the laurels. Much of the state's exhibit is his personal property, and his acceptance of the position of superintendent entailed a considerable expenditure of money, for which he will not be commended.

"I took only two weeks to get the Oregon exhibit in place, and we are to be seen in the Agriculture, Mines, Forestry, Horticulture and Librarian Arts buildings," said Mr. Dosch. "Think of it, we came 3000 miles and are nevertheless the first state to present a complete exhibit."

Our mines exhibit is worth \$60,000, and there is one piece of quartz weighing 600 pounds that is very valuable. Professor Lane, United States Agrostologist, says our grains, grasses and cereals are the best in the West. The exhibit is in charge of the exhibit that is to be made at Charleston. These honors are sufficient to indicate that the valuable worth of his wide experience, keen judgment, trained knowledge and expert thoroughness are understood and appreciated.

Mr. Dosch was asked why it was that Oregon appropriated only \$20,000 for Buffalo fair, whereas \$60,000 was appropriated for the Chicago fair. The superintendent made evasive reply, but it was evident from the manner that the Oregon Legislature was afflicted with "mossbackism."



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still talk their native language and still practice their old religious rites, and grow fewer every year, while in Mexico there are more full-blooded Indians than when Cortes conquered the country. In the Philippines hundreds of thousands of the natives speak Spanish and practice the Christian religion who would have been still heathen if it had not been for the work done by the church there. What civilization there is in the archipelago was planted there and fostered by the church. The priests were not only religious teachers; they were scientists and engineers, building bridges and churches and classifying the animals and the plants as well as teaching the Christian precepts to the people. For the sake of an understanding of the situation in the islands we should not lose sight of this fact.

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NERVOUS DEBILITY ITS REMEDY

Men, many of you are now reaping the result of your former folly. Your manhood is failing, and will soon be lost unless you do something for yourself. There is no time to lose. Impotency, like all sexual diseases, is never on the standstill. Either you must master it or it will master you, and all your whole future with misery and indescribable woe. We have treated so many cases of this kind that we are as familiar with them as you are with the very daylight. Once cured by us, you will never again be bothered with emissions, prematureness, small or weak organs, nervousness, falling memory, loss of ambition or other symptoms which rob you of your manhood and absolutely unfit you for study, business, pleasure or marriage. Our treatment for weak men will correct all these evils, and restore you to what Nature intended—a hale, healthy, happy man, with physical, mental and sexual powers complete.

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On account of its frightful hideousness, Blood Poison is commonly called the king of all venereal diseases. It may be either hereditary or contracted. Once the system is tainted with it, the disease may manifest itself in the form of scrofula, eczema, rheumatic pains, stiff or swollen joints, eruptions or copper-colored spots on face or body, little ulcers in the mouth or on the tongue, sore throat, swollen tonsils, falling out of the hair or eyebrows, and finally a leprosy-like decay of the flesh and bones. If you have any of these or similar symptoms, you are cordially invited to consult us immediately. If we find your fears are unfounded, we will quickly unburden your mind. But if your constitution is infected with poisonous virus, we will tell you so frankly and show you how to get rid of it. Our special treatment for Blood Poison is practically the result of our life work, and is indorsed by the best physicians of America and Europe. It contains no dangerous drugs or injurious medicine of any kind. It goes to the very bottom of the disease and forces out every particle of impurity. Soon every sign and symptom of Blood Poison disappears completely, and forever. The blood, the tissue, the flesh, the bones and the whole system are cleansed, purified and restored to perfect health, and the patient prepared anew for the duties and pleasures of life.

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