

HISTORY OF OLD SCHOOL

Passing of Indian Property Recalls Founding of the Training Institution at Forest Grove Twenty-Eight Years Ago.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
 Pacific University, Forest Grove, Or., May 9.—The passing of the old Indian school property out of the hands of Pacific university recalls the story of the founding of the Indian training school at Forest Grove 28 years ago, under Captain M. C. Wilkinson, and the untimely fate which years afterward befell that gallant officer, who left a position of ease on the staff of General O. O. Howard to spend five years in the hardest kind of service and exposure, undertaken for the single purpose of establishing a school where Indian boys and girls could have the benefit of instruction and a training toward civilization.

The plan itself was devised by Carl Schurz, at that time secretary of the interior under President Hayes. He was anxious to characterize his administration by some practical measure which would serve to elevate the Indian to the manhood which he conceived to be his right as a ward of a Christian nation.

A Most Christian Warrior.
 General O. O. Howard was in command of the department of the Columbia, with headquarters at Portland. He had had a wide experience with the Indians of the northwest and his well known philanthropic nature led him to agree heartily with the desire of Secretary Schurz to help them by establishing an industrial school for their benefit at Forest Grove. Indeed, it would not be surprising if General Howard was actually the originator of the scheme.

Captain Melville C. Wilkinson was a member of General Howard's staff, a man of sentiments like those of his chief and an enthusiastic practical Christian worker. He is remembered by many people of Portland as a man interested in religious reform, impulsive and eccentric. While stationed at Portland he entered ardently into the work of the local Y. M. C. A. He frequently held open-air meetings on the street corners, much after the manner of the Salvation Army, and at a time before the public had become accustomed to Salvation Army methods and had learned to recognize their value.

Foundation of the School.
 Captain Wilkinson was selected to take charge of the new project in behalf of the Indians, and in order that he might do so and still retain his position in the army he was detailed as military instructor at Pacific university, with the understanding that a large part of his time should be given to establishing a new Indian industrial school at Forest Grove.

Four acres of land owned by Pacific university was placed at the disposal of the school for \$5,000 was appropriated by Secretary Schurz from an emergency fund of the interior department. With this money a practical building was erected and Captain Wilkinson secured his first lot of Indian boys and girls, about 25 in number, mostly from the country about Puget Sound. He found it difficult to persuade the Indian fathers and mothers to let their children go, and frequently was compelled to make several trips and take the children away almost by stealth.

Visited by a President.
 At the school the boys were taught various trades, such as blacksmithing, shoemaking and carpentering, and the girls learned the arts of house-keeping, sewing, etc. Under the direction of a practical carpenter, including the large school building and dormitory which now stands on the ground. The first main building was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1886 and 30 or 40 Indian girls rendered homeless.

In the fall of 1888 President Hayes visited the Pacific coast and, accompanied by Secretary Schurz, General Sherman and others, came out to Forest Grove for the express purpose of visiting the school.

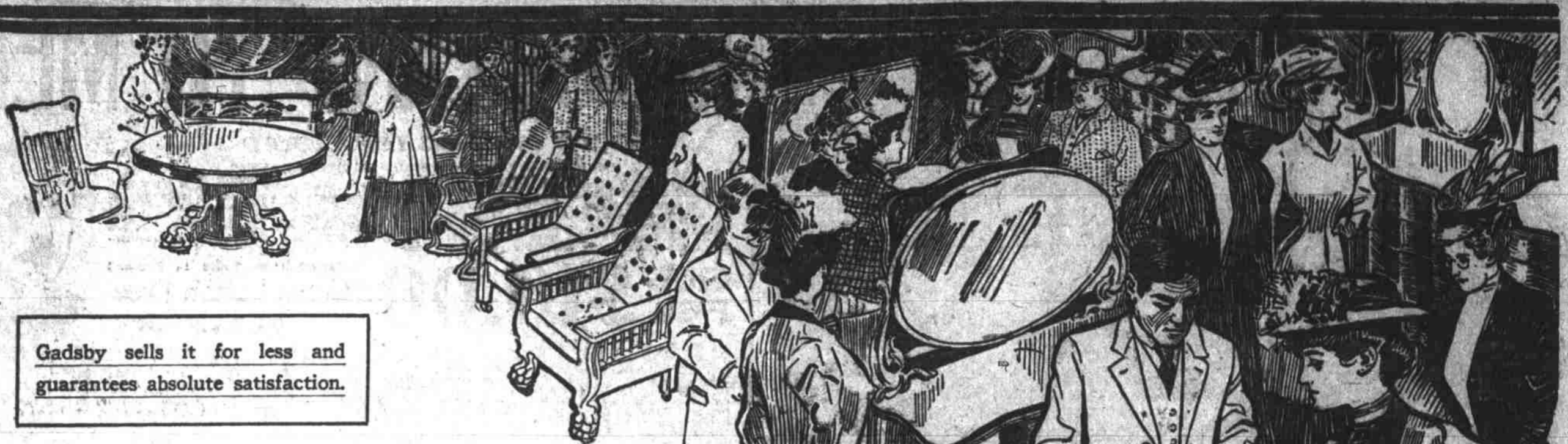
Sad Fate of a Benefactor.
 After the school was removed to Chinawasa, and with the buildings reverted to Pacific university, it has recently been purchased by A. T. Wigman, who will take down the old building that now stands on the property and erect a home on the ground.

Captain Wilkinson remained at the head of the school for about five years, when he was ordered back to his regiment at Vancouver. Subsequently he was transferred to a post on the frontier of Wisconsin and when an Indian outbreak occurred was sent out with a company to quell it. In the skirmish which ensued the gallant captain was shot down by the Indians, the very fate for which he had given a large part of his life in an endeavor to raise them from their ignorant condition.

NO DIPHTHERIA CASE IN NORTH POWDER
 (Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
 North Powder, Or., May 9.—There is not a case of sickness in this town, but the malady of the two patients, Homer Pearson and Mrs. Carrie Cavender, at the ranch of their father, Henry Pearson, six miles from here, is pronounced malignant diphtheria by Dr. Mann of North Powder and Dr. May of Radium Springs. In consultation, as these cases were promptly quarantined and the green flag displayed, according to the law governing such cases, and there is no case in town, the city council took no action at its regular meeting looking to special protection of the town. North Powder has three able physicians in Drs. Barnes, Mann and Saunders.

In the endeavor to trace the origin of the first case that occurred here, that of Opal Cavender, the physicians found that three cases had been sick with sore mouths. One had died, and the little girl had taken one home with her. The other has been killed on suspicion.

TO TEACH IN CITY SCHOOLS OF EUGENE
 (Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
 Eugene, Or., May 9.—The Eugene school board has selected teachers for the three grammar schools as follows:
 Patterson school—Ida Patterson, principal; Mary Meador, Mae Larimer, Edith Haggar, Lela E. Follis, Mrs. Anna Buck, Luella M. Norris, Zula Owens.
 Geary school—Ellie R. Parker, principal; Nettie Kress, Mae D. Kinsey, Fannie L. Ziegler, Mabel Simmons, Belle Kesney, Fannie Millican, Mrs. S. Thrall.
 Central school—Alta Schneider, Mary A. Wetherbee, Luella Brewster, Mrs. Lillian Foyers, Marjorie Evans, Carol Johnson, Martie Auten, Principal Lyman of the Central school was not an applicant for reappointment and his successor will be chosen later. Most of the old teachers were re-elected. The high school teachers will be chosen at a later meeting. Superintendent L. H. Aherman will doubtless be re-elected, as will Principal George Hug of the High school.



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