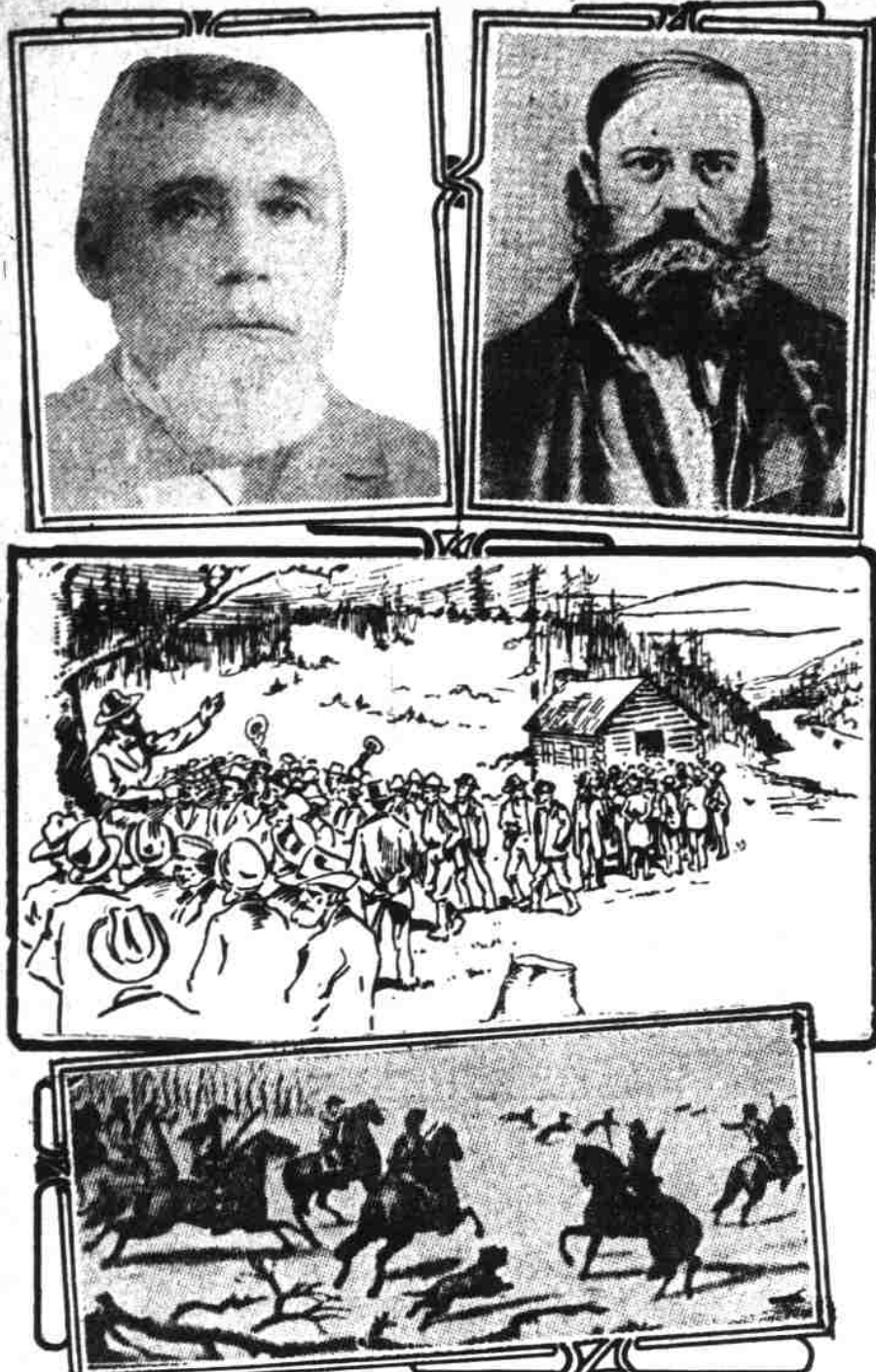


HISTORIC CHAMPOEG MEETING



Top, left to right—Francois Xavier Matthieu, believed by many to have cast the determining vote at the first Champoege meeting. (From Oregon Historical society.) Joseph Meek, hero of the first Champoege meeting. (From Oregon Historical society.) Middle—The first Champoege meeting. Below—Wolf hunt on French prairie in 1843. "Centennial History of Oregon."

Bloodless Victory for Oregon Settlers in '45

[This is the seventeenth of a series of articles on Oregon and its history written for The Sunday Journal by J. B. Horner, professor of history, Oregon Agricultural college, and author of "Oregon."]

By J. B. Horner
The Oregon question was pending. The United States had thus far failed to extend jurisdiction to the Pacific ocean. Colonists were clamoring for a government. Such was the state of affairs, February 15, 1841. On that day occurred the death of Ewing Young, which fact contributed to the birth of the provisional government of Oregon.

The death of this Oregonian, the first to leave an estate, created a new and serious condition for which there was no legal provision. In this emergency immediate action was imperative. Following the funeral services of Ewing Young, February 17, 1841, a mass meeting was announced to take place at the mission on the following day to provide for settlement of the estate. At the mass meeting, Dr. Ira L. Babcock of the mission was appointed supreme judge with probate powers.

NO HEIR TO YOUNG ESTATE
It is of interest in this connection to know that Ewing Young's estate was later settled, but for the want of a known heir it temporarily escheated to the commonwealth. A sheriff, then constable and at many justices of the peace were chosen and a committee of nine, with the Rev. F. N. Blanchet as chairman was appointed to form a constitution and draft a code of laws to be reported at a meeting to be held June 1, 1841.

MORE EMIGRANTS ARRIVE
When Dr. Elijah White returned with 120 emigrants in 1842, the American party was so strengthened that civil government was again discussed. Accordingly, a preliminary meeting was held February 2, 1843, at the Oregon institute, to provide for a general meeting to be held on the second Monday of the following March, ostensibly for the purpose of providing bounties for killing wolves, lynx, bear and panthers. The meeting in March was known as the "wolf meeting" because funds were voted for suitable bounties for killing wolves and other destructive animals, and an officer placed in charge of that service. It was adjourned, however, that, though provision had been made for the protection of their flocks, yet it was far more important that provision should be made for the protection of the settlers' families. Thereupon a committee of 12 was appointed to consider "the propriety of taking measures for the civil and military protection of this colony."

The first American government on the Pacific coast was authorized by the people of the Willamette valley, at Champoege, May 2, 1843, and it is somewhat remarkable that the same number of colonists should meet to provide for the constitution and self-government on

the Pacific coast as there were in the "Mayflower" when the first constitution for civil government in the world was written and the first self-government was authorized on the Atlantic coast.

MAJORITY FOR GOVERNMENT
At the Champoege meeting 102 men had gathered in an open field for the purpose of considering the report of the committee of 12 on organization, which had been appointed February 2. The committee reported favorably on the establishment of a government. After much heated discussion, friends of the movement for a government decided that prompt action was necessary. Following the motion to adopt the report of the committee, Joe Meek shouted: "Who's for a divide? All in favor of the report and of an organization follow me!"

There were 52 who voted for the motion, while their opponents were but 50. Since this meant a provisional government in Oregon, the opposing faction withdrew. The business of the meeting was resumed, and a committee of nine was chosen to report a plan of civil government at a meeting to be held at Champoege on the 5th of the following July.

At Willamette falls there was a small building used as a school, storage room and lodging apartment. Here the committee of nine assembled on May 18, 1843, and adjourned June 28, as the first popular authoritative and deliberative body of Oregon, for the purpose of considering the form of government to be recommended to their fellow citizens at Champoege the following July 5. The most perplexing question to solve was concerning the executive, with the result that the legislative committee decided upon vesting the executive authority in a committee of three.

CANADIANS PRESENT
The convention assembled at Champoege July 5, to hear the report of the committee. Canadian settlers who had signed an address to the convention were present with the Americans. Their address was placed on file as a record of the interests of those opposed to the organization of a government. Some of the Canadians, however, expressed sympathy with the object of the American movement, while others declared that they would not submit to any government which might be organized. The report of the committee of the provisional government was discussed and Alanson Beers, David Hill and Joseph Gale were selected as the executive committee. Also, the officers chosen at the meeting held May 2 were continued until the election on the second Tuesday in May, 1844, at which time proceedings of the convention were to be submitted to the people for their approval. Thus the first regular government in Oregon went into effect, although it was incomplete until July, 1845, when an organic law framed by the legislative committee was approved, by vote of the settlers.

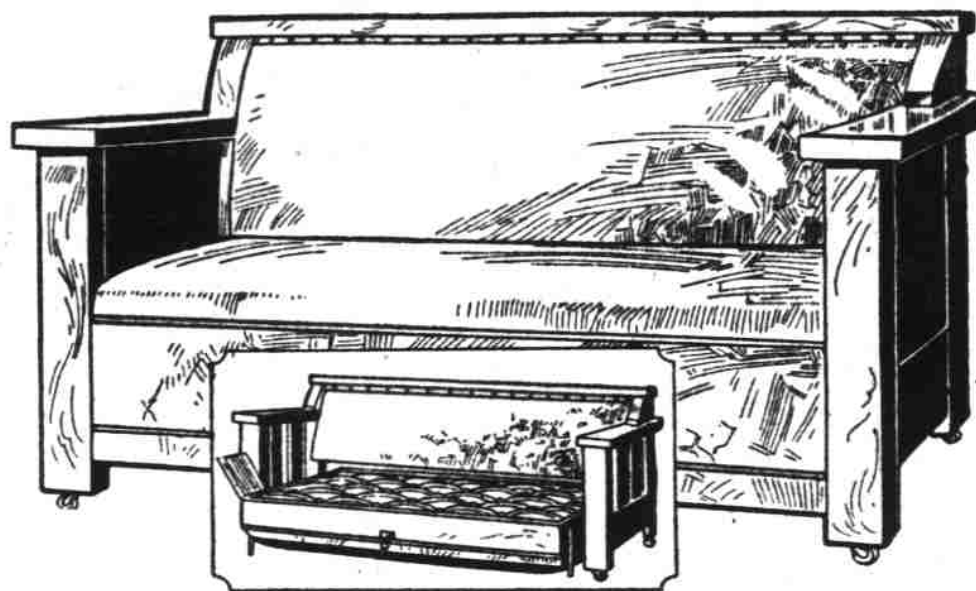
It will, therefore, be observed that although Massachusetts gained distinction because of her sacrifice to free New England from British rule, there were also bitter contentions between the Oregon colonists and those who were under the flag of Great Britain and Oregon, too, could and would have sacrificed much toward the same end. But despite the claims, influence and power of British subjects, Oregon justly and discreetly obtained without bloodshed a provisional government of her own choice for the people of the Pacific Northwest. This victory of peaceful acquisition achieved by patriotic and determined American settlers, was no less glorious than the victory of war won by the mother state of New England.

Sink Is Significant Anniversary Gift

Hermiston, March 27.—Neighbors of Charles Belcher presented him and Mrs. Belcher with a new porcelain sink on St. Patrick's day, the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day. The gift was significant, for on St. Patrick's day of 1870 Miss Gertrude Sink became Mrs. Belcher. Mr. and Mrs. Belcher plighted their vows once more before Rev. M. T. Gallaher. Their home is in the Columbia district.

MEN OF SMALL INCOME
AND WOMEN WHO WANT TO HELP THEIR HUSBANDS SAVE

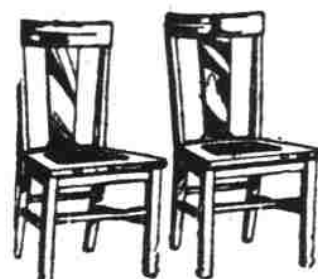
We realize that for every man of wealth there's a thousand sons of toil—for every millionaire's "brown stone front" there are thousands of humble abodes of salaried men. That's why we lend every energy to the service of salaried people—to those who delight in saving money. We want your trade—if you are a man of ordinary means and want to get the most for your hard-earned dollars. We want to save you money—save you every dollar we can. We're dead in earnest in this—thoroughly sincere. We claim to undersell, and we're making good. Ask your neighbor, Who sells for less—Cash or Credit?

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Like This for Less—?

This Bed Davenport Needs No Mattress \$49.85

This improved Davenport offers you attractive appearance, durability and comfort, all for little money. Is radically DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER automatic davenport at anywhere near the price. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU DO NOT SLEEP ON THE UPHOLSTERING. To convert into a bed you simply unfold the seat, exposing a comfortable upholstered spring which is very similar to a box spring. A folding head rest keeps pillow in place. The construction of this davenport does away with the need for an extra mattress and the expense of purchasing one.

The frame of this desirable Davenport is built of seasoned GENUINE OAK and finished in either the rich Golden or popular Fumed Brown shade. It is solidly put together and will give full value and service for every dollar it costs. Fitted with easy rolling casters. Upholstering in an exceptionally durable grade of artificial Spanish leather which will not fade.



Dining Chairs

Solid Oak Dining Chair. Regular \$4.50 value. Special..... **\$3.95**

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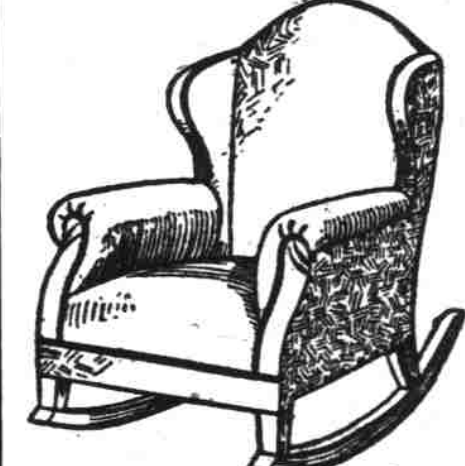
9x12-ft. Heavy Brussels Rugs.....	\$32.95
4-6x7-6 Seamless Brussels Rugs.....	\$16.95
9x12-ft. Axminster Rugs go at.....	\$39.95
8-3x10-6 Velvet Rugs.....	\$12.95
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27-34-inch Axminster Rugs—100 of them go at.....	\$ 2.25
27-inch Rag Rugs—assorted colors, very special.....	\$ 2.25

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WILLIAM & MARY DINING-ROOM SUITE



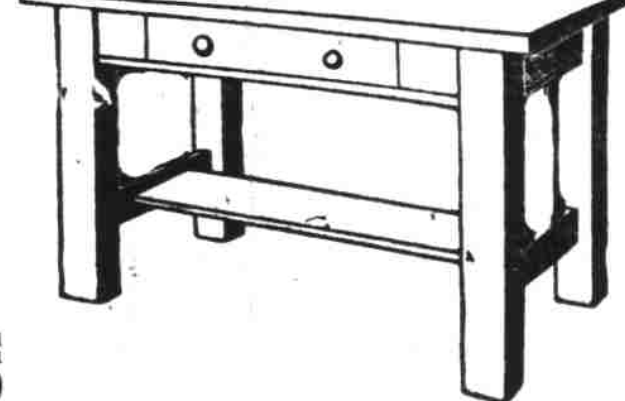
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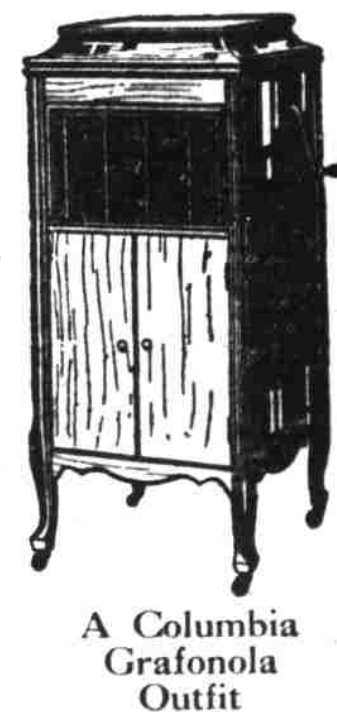
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