

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF THE STATE OF OREGON GIVEN BELOW

Tracing Back the Beginnings Over a Hundred Years Ago—The Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Oregon Question, Settlement of Conflicting Claims, Hudson's Bay Company, American Pioneers, Saving at Old Champeo of Oregon to the Union, Provisional and Territorial Governments, Political Summary, Etc.

(The following matter is reprinted from the Oregon Blue Book of 1919-1920, prepared under the direction of Governor Ben W. Olcott, then secretary of state. Credit to the authors is given in the body of the matter.)

Oregon, central state of Pacific group, lies between 42 and 46 degrees, 15 minutes, north latitude, and 116 degrees, 45 minutes, and 124 degrees, 30 minutes, west longitude.

Oregon is bounded on the south by California and Nevada, on the east by Idaho, on the north by Washington, and on the west by the Pacific ocean.

The present area of Oregon is 96,999 square miles, considerably more than 1000 square miles being water surface. The state has 300 miles of coast line, exclusive of indentations. The width east and west is about 250 miles, the length north and south averaging approximately 275 miles.

Oregon originally included Washington and Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming, having an area of 292,000 square miles. Oregon was admitted into the Union February 14, 1859, and had at that time a population of about 53,000. For act of congress admitting Oregon to the Union, see Lord's Oregon Laws, volume 1, pages 25, 26, 27 (this volume, page 30). For act of the legislative assembly of Oregon accepting proposals of congress in regard to admission to the Union, see Lord's Oregon Laws, volume 1, pages 28, 29, (this volume, page 31).

For laws of the United States relating to Oregon, see Lord's Oregon Laws, volume 1, pages 46 to 72.

HISTORY OF THE STATE OF OREGON

By Joseph Schafer, Department of History, University of Oregon.

Oregon Not a Part of the Original United States

The treaty of space with Great Britain, in 1783, at the close of the Revolutionary war, secured to the United States as their western boundary the Mississippi river, which was supposed to rise at least as far north as the Lake of the Woods, to which the northern boundary was drawn from Lake Superior. At that time all west of the Alleghenies was a wilderness, roamed over by wild beasts, and occupied in part by native Indians. Only two small districts between the mountains and the Great River were in possession of white people. These were in what is now Kentucky, where Daniel Boone and his fellow frontiersmen settled just before the outbreak of the war, and in eastern Tennessee, where a Virginia had made their homes about the same time. As yet, there were few settlers in the Ohio country, but there were some among New England people to occupy lands north of the Ohio river. The vast regions west of the Mississippi to the Rocky mountains and beyond to the Pacific, were practically unknown except to the trapper or trader whose wanderings led him far beyond the borders of civilization among the remoter Indian tribes.

The country from the Mississippi westward to the Rocky mountains had once belonged to France, because as early as 1682 the great French explorer, La Salle, had drifted down the Mississippi from the Illinois in small boats and had taken formal possession of the country drained by the Mississippi and its branches in the name of Louis the Fourteenth. The French claim, of course, extended also east of the Mississippi to the crest of the Allegheny mountain range. The Seven Years' war, which broke out between England and France in 1754, and was concluded by the treaty of Paris in 1763, made vast changes in the ownership of the North American continent. England was completely successful, practically driving the French from North America. She secured possession of Canada and also of the region once claimed by France east of the Mississippi river. The treaty of 1763 made the same time ceded their territory west of the Mississippi to Spain. This remained the condition of things until the Revolutionary war closed. Then the territory east of the Mississippi became the United States, as we have seen.

The Louisiana Purchase

After the treaty of 1763, the same Louisiana, once applied to the territory between the Alleghenies and the Rockies, came to be applied exclusively to the territory west of the Mississippi to the crest of the Rocky mountains. This territory was nominally in the hands of Spain, but it was little used by the people of that nation. During the time that Napoleon controlled the government of France he induced Spain to restore Louisiana to France, for he at that time had some thought of colonizing the country. The transfer was made in October, 1800. By the opening of the year 1803 Napoleon, having abandoned his notion of planting colonies in Louisiana, and becoming hard pressed for funds with which to carry on his wars, was prepared to sell the territory and in April, 1803, the whole vast region passed to the American government for the in-

significant sum of about \$15,000,000.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Thomas Jefferson was president of the United States when this purchase was made, and to him more than to any other man, except Napoleon, is due the fact that Louisiana was added to the United States. Jefferson had long been interested in the country west of the Allegheny mountains, and as early as 1783, before the treaty with Great Britain was ratified, he suggested to George Rogers Clark an exploring expedition from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean. Jefferson had also entered upon other plans which promised to afford information concerning the western half of North America. All of these proved fruitless. Shortly before the purchase of Louisiana, however, he proposed to the United States congress the fitting out of an expedition headed by army officers who should traverse the line of the Missouri river, find their way to the heads of other rivers flowing westward or southward, and by exploring these discover the most practicable route for commerce to the Pacific ocean.

Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark were to be at the head of this party when it was organized in accordance with Jefferson's suggestion. They set out in the spring of 1804, passed up the Missouri river, its source and crossing over to the head of the Columbia river, explored it to its mouth, which they reached on the 7th of November, 1805. Louisiana had come into the American union before the expedition set out, and the Lewis and Clark party were able to bring back much valuable information about our new possession.

The Oregon Question

Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Columbia aroused a deep interest among the commercial people of the United States. It also strengthened the claim of our territory to the territory drained by the Columbia. But the beginning of that claim lies farther back, for on the eleventh day of May, 1792, Captain Robert Gray of Boston, who was trading with the Indians along the Pacific coast for furs, sailed across the bar into a great river in about latitude 46 degrees, and passed 30 miles up the stream. Gray's vessel was named "The Columbia." This name he bestowed upon the beautiful river which he was the first among white men to enter, so far as is known. Gray's discovery was published in the works by Captain George Vancouver, an English navigator who had been sent out to explore the coast, but who had failed in his researches to find the great river. A good many years later it was made the basis of a claim to the Oregon by the United States.

Several European nations also asserted rights in this territory. The claim of Spain was the oldest of all, for when Balboa, in September, 1513, beheld from "Darren's Peak" the waters of the Pacific, he dramatically claimed in behalf of the Spanish sovereign. In the shadowy claim was later strengthened by the Spanish occupation of Central America, Mexico, Lower California, Upper California, and by exploring expeditions sent northward from California as far as the fifty-eighth degree of latitude, prior to the exploration of the north Pacific coast by the British. Then came Great Britain, whose famous navigator, Captain James Cook, in 1778, made careful explorations of many portions of the northwest coast, and published the results of his discoveries. Cook was followed by British trading explorers, who did much to clear up the geography of the region north of the Columbia river, and south of Alaska. Lastly, Russia, whose intrepid navigators had already passed from Kamchatka to Alaska, was inclined to claim the territory far to the southward.

Settling the Conflicting Claims.

In the year 1819, the United States and Spain entered into a treaty known as the Florida treaty by which all her claims to the Pacific coast north of the parallel of 42 degrees. By this time the United States was actively claiming the Oregon region, sought to strengthen the claim. Russia, in 1824, abandoned her claim to the territory south of 54 degrees and left a stretch of coast more than 12 degrees in extent which was now clear of all claims except those of Great Britain and the United States; but to get rid of claim was not so easy as it seemed. As were those of Russia and Spain, as were those of Great Britain.

Active Claims of Great Britain

The United States began as early as 1815, after the close of the war of 1812, during which the post at Astoria, established by the Astor company in 1811, was in possession of by a British naval force. Under the treaty of peace of 1814, the United States claimed the right to the restoration of Astoria. It was in this manner that the so-called Oregon question, destined to trouble the two countries for an entire generation, had its rise. In 1818 a treaty was which placed the northern boundary of Louisiana was declared to run from the Lake of the Woods westward to the crest of the Rocky mountains, and the second parallel of latitude; and second, the country west of the Rocky mountains to the Pacific was declared to be free and open to the trade and settlement of both

Americans and Englishmen. This was known as the joint occupation agreement, and it was to run for a period of 10 years. At that time no one thought seriously of occupying the Oregon country except for the fur trade. But this trade was so profitable that the great fur companies, both English and American, tried to get control of it. Mr. Astor was first on the ground with a plan for connecting the trade of the Columbia valley with the Mississippi by means of a chain of posts. All furs secured west of the Rockies were to be carried to Astoria, also the furs secured by traders along the coast to the north and to the south of the Columbia were to be assembled there. Thence his ships would carry them to China and the far east to be exchanged for silks and tea and other valuable goods for the markets of the Atlantic coast. Astor made a good beginning, but his losses incident to the trade were very great, and when in 1818 Astoria was formally restored to the United States, he did not see fit to revive his trade there.

The Northwest and Hudson Bay Companies

The Northwest company of Canada was on the ground when Astor's party retreated from the Columbia, and in fact that company had bought the furs and other property of the Astor company prior to the coming of the English warship which formally took possession of the post in the name of the British king. The trade which Astor had begun was therefore carried on and extended by the Northwest company. After a few years, this company was absorbed by or united with the older Hudson's Bay company, and in 1824 Doctor John McLoughlin, the company's agent for the entire trans-Rocky mountain country, built Fort Vancouver on the Columbia nearly opposite the mouth of the Willamette river as the headquarters for the western trade.

Vancouver was thus the metropolis of a vast woodland empire. From its wharves went forth each spring the companies of traders and trappers, whose duty it was to ascend the great river and its branches in search of beaver skins and Indian trade. The fleets of bateaux returned to Vancouver laden deep with furs destined for the oriental market. Doctor McLoughlin was a type of benevolent despot who ruled kindly but firmly over traders, trappers, rivermen, Indians, and settlers alike. His influence over the red men was surprising. The River traders found themselves wholly unable to dispute his sway. In trade matters he was inflexible. But as a man, in his dealings with strangers of every description, whether trader, missionary, or colonist, he was always kind, thoughtful and generous. In fact, the early American settlers in the Oregon country long ago agreed to call him the "Father of Oregon."

American Pioneers

The fur company ruled over Oregon for about the space of one generation. Their business is at best temporary; for when a country is wanted for the making of farms and homes, the fur trade ceases to be profitable. In Oregon, as everywhere else in America, the real development of the country began when the fur trader was forced to give way to the farmer. And though the Indian trade "pioneered the way for civilization," it was the frontier farmer who was to carry the cross the mountains year after year with their trains of wagons and cattle, who were to be the real builders of our state. We must not forget, however, that these pioneer farmers were in turn preceded or guided by missionaries, who were sent to carry the Christian faith to the benighted Indians of Oregon. Both Protestants and Catholics planted their missions in the Oregon country, and about some of these missions, like the one established in the Willamette valley in 1811, the Methodist and Presbyterian missionaries gathered gradually, and the settlements of American farmers.

How Oregon Was Saved to the United States

The immigration of the pioneers became important in 1842 when one hundred and twenty persons came to Oregon with Elijah White, who was appointed by the United States government sub-agent for Indian affairs west of the Rocky mountains. The first light of civilization came to the great immigration—perhaps nine hundred persons—came in 1843 when leaders like Jesse Applegate, Peter H. Burnett, J. W. Nesmith and others. This company followed in 1844 by a company of nearly twice as large, and this one by a still larger company in 1845, so that the Willamette valley, "the pioneers' land promise," was by the fall of 1845 largely occupied by American settlers. Some American settlers had even penetrated the forests west of the Columbia as far as Puget Sound. This was the situation when, after a long period of discussion between Great Britain and the United States, the British government in the spring of 1845 decided to investigate the Oregon country. Their agents found the Willamette valley already well settled and also found beginnings of settlements near the present site of Olympia, in Washington. The government became convinced that the boundary question, whose settlement had been deferred from time to time since the year 1818, must now be settled. The United States was prepared as far back as 1818 to accept as

a boundary between the British and American territory west of the Rocky mountains the forty-ninth parallel of latitude. The British were not satisfied with that boundary and later, on several occasions, demanded that the Columbia river itself be made the boundary from the ocean to the point where the forty-ninth parallel extended westward from the crest of the Rocky mountains, would touch the river. So firmly rooted were the British government and people in this demand for the Columbia river boundary, that it required the evidence of an unmistakable tendency among Americans to take adverse possession of the country to convince the British parliament and the public of the necessity of abandoning it. The British cabinet, under Sir Robert Peel, finally decided to offer the forty-ninth parallel of latitude drawn to the sea, but the tribes who were induced to concentrate their people upon limited areas called reservations.

The change of habitat, of mode of life, the restriction of hunting and grazing privileges—in short, the new conditions generally—caused the Indians much real suffering and called out a vast deal of bitterness and revengeful hatred. Occasions of misunderstanding and misunderstanding government agents were abundant, and real grievances were not rare. The result was the formation of new Indian confederacies, the pillaging and murder of white men, and finally war. From Rogue river to Puget Sound, and eastward to the Rocky mountains, these struggles continued in one form or another from year to year. The government troops who in the end performed valuable service, but from beginning to end of this sanguinary conflict the pioneer settlers and their stalwart sons bore the brunt in both attack and defense. And there were many deeds of heroism, also, on the part of wives and mothers at home in the Indian wars of the Pacific northwest have all the characteristics of the Indian wars of New England, the middle western states, or the south. They constitute, with the pioneering episodes, the heroic age of Oregon.

Opening of the Inland Empire

Sooner settled than the Indian troubles, the opening of the inland empire began in the shape of gold discoveries east of the Cascade range in the region over which companies and battalions had recently marched in quest of blood and victory. Miners returning from the Fraser river mines found "color" in the sands of various streams, and these discoveries followed up it soon developed that most of the streams flowing down from the Rockies had during the ages left their golden deposits in bar and sand bank at many points in their lower courses. Soon hundreds, then thousands, of men, armed with shovel, pan and pick, began to make their way to the valleys of eastern Oregon, eastern Washington and Idaho. Rich mines were opened along the western borders of Montana, 4th Wyoming, and high up in British Columbia. Pack trails from the Willamette valley, accustomed to go south to California, now turned east to supply the new trade. Steamboats were placed on successive natural sections of the Columbia river, wagon roads were opened and wagon trains employed to cheapen the cost of transportation. Fine valleys near the mines were used for farming and stock-raising, and soon—with mining villages, trading towns, wheat and cattle-raising districts—the so-called inland empire was wrested from savagery and brought within the pale of civilized life. Of course, great areas were still unsettled, as they are today, but a firm beginning had been made.

The Age of Railways

One of the most pressing needs, both east and west of the Cascades, was railways to transport agricultural products to seaboard, to connect the scattered settlements to one another and give the whole region a sense of oneness. In fact, the United States, we can not go into the beginnings of Pacific railway history here. But after a quarter century of discussion, the first transcontinental railway, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, was completed in May, 1869. It gave a great impetus to the development of California, but was of far less service to the northwest. Railroad building began in Oregon in 1868, but under many handicaps. The Oregon Steam Navigation company had portage roads at the Cascades and The Dalles, and a short line was soon to be built from Walla Walla to the coast landing at Waukegan. Ultimately a company organized at Portland, but joined by Mr. Henry Villard, completed the road on the south side of the Columbia river, and Mr. Villard also gained control of the Northern Pacific railway, began to build the line to the coast. The two roads were extended toward each other and joined together in September, 1883.

This gave the northwest not only a through line from Portland to the east, but furnished also the needed bond to tie together the scattered settlements of the wide-spreading Columbia basin and with the Willamette valley and Oregon and California roads, completed four years later, made the general outline of our railway system for many years.

The New Age

The year 1883 may be taken as the beginning of the new age in the Pacific northwest. In 1880 the old Oregon country—occupied already at that time by the state of Oregon, the territories of Washington and Idaho, and a portion of Montana—had a total population of only 282,500. In the next decade it gained an addition of 465,000. From 1890 to 1900, in spite of the hard times, the gain was 330,000, while between 1900 and 1910 it amounted to 1,146,000. The three states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, leaving out of account western Montana, which also belongs to the region, the total population of the three states named was, in 1910, in round numbers, two million, one hundred thousand,

The Indian Wars

The only serious check of the general prosperity of the north-west, after the gold discovery, arose from a series of bitter and terrible Indian wars which occurred between 1853 and 1859. The government, looking to the prospective settlement of large portions of the country, began about 1853, to extinguish the Indian title by purchase from the tribes, who were induced to concentrate their people upon limited areas called reservations.

The change of habitat, of mode of life, the restriction of hunting and grazing privileges—in short, the new conditions generally—caused the Indians much real suffering and called out a vast deal of bitterness and revengeful hatred. Occasions of misunderstanding and misunderstanding government agents were abundant, and real grievances were not rare. The result was the formation of new Indian confederacies, the pillaging and murder of white men, and finally war. From Rogue river to Puget Sound, and eastward to the Rocky mountains, these struggles continued in one form or another from year to year. The government troops who in the end performed valuable service, but from beginning to end of this sanguinary conflict the pioneer settlers and their stalwart sons bore the brunt in both attack and defense. And there were many deeds of heroism, also, on the part of wives and mothers at home in the Indian wars of the Pacific northwest have all the characteristics of the Indian wars of New England, the middle western states, or the south. They constitute, with the pioneering episodes, the heroic age of Oregon.

Opening of the Inland Empire

Sooner settled than the Indian troubles, the opening of the inland empire began in the shape of gold discoveries east of the Cascade range in the region over which companies and battalions had recently marched in quest of blood and victory. Miners returning from the Fraser river mines found "color" in the sands of various streams, and these discoveries followed up it soon developed that most of the streams flowing down from the Rockies had during the ages left their golden deposits in bar and sand bank at many points in their lower courses. Soon hundreds, then thousands, of men, armed with shovel, pan and pick, began to make their way to the valleys of eastern Oregon, eastern Washington and Idaho. Rich mines were opened along the western borders of Montana, 4th Wyoming, and high up in British Columbia. Pack trails from the Willamette valley, accustomed to go south to California, now turned east to supply the new trade. Steamboats were placed on successive natural sections of the Columbia river, wagon roads were opened and wagon trains employed to cheapen the cost of transportation. Fine valleys near the mines were used for farming and stock-raising, and soon—with mining villages, trading towns, wheat and cattle-raising districts—the so-called inland empire was wrested from savagery and brought within the pale of civilized life. Of course, great areas were still unsettled, as they are today, but a firm beginning had been made.

The Age of Railways

One of the most pressing needs, both east and west of the Cascades, was railways to transport agricultural products to seaboard, to connect the scattered settlements to one another and give the whole region a sense of oneness. In fact, the United States, we can not go into the beginnings of Pacific railway history here. But after a quarter century of discussion, the first transcontinental railway, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, was completed in May, 1869. It gave a great impetus to the development of California, but was of far less service to the northwest. Railroad building began in Oregon in 1868, but under many handicaps. The Oregon Steam Navigation company had portage roads at the Cascades and The Dalles, and a short line was soon to be built from Walla Walla to the coast landing at Waukegan. Ultimately a company organized at Portland, but joined by Mr. Henry Villard, completed the road on the south side of the Columbia river, and Mr. Villard also gained control of the Northern Pacific railway, began to build the line to the coast. The two roads were extended toward each other and joined together in September, 1883.

The New Age

The year 1883 may be taken as the beginning of the new age in the Pacific northwest. In 1880 the old Oregon country—occupied already at that time by the state of Oregon, the territories of Washington and Idaho, and a portion of Montana—had a total population of only 282,500. In the next decade it gained an addition of 465,000. From 1890 to 1900, in spite of the hard times, the gain was 330,000, while between 1900 and 1910 it amounted to 1,146,000. The three states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, leaving out of account western Montana, which also belongs to the region, the total population of the three states named was, in 1910, in round numbers, two million, one hundred thousand,

THE MARION COUNTY COURT HOUSE A FINE AND MONUMENTAL STRUCTURE

It Reflects Great Credit Upon the Men Who Made up the County Court of that Day, Who Believed in Building for the Future and in Joining Beauty to Utility, and in Not Wasting the People's Money on a Flimsy Structure—The First Court House Paid for Partly by Private Subscription.

The beautiful and magnificent structure that is now the Marion county court house and has been since the early seventies is not the first Marion county court house. There was a wooden court house on the same site that was moved away, just as there was a wooden capitol that was burned on the site of the present capitol—and the two present buildings are nearly the same age.

The Old Court House

A search of the county records, assisted by County Clerk U. G. Boyer, discloses that Marion county, on January 10, 1852, borrowed \$1100 from David Presley, at the rate of 20 per cent per annum interest, and that it borrowed \$700 from Paul Darr, at 15 per cent interest on Jan. 6, 1853, the money being used in the construction of the first court house, and that, in 1852, A. W. Ferguson was authorized to collect certain sums of money that had been subscribed by individuals to help pay for the building of the first court house. Also, that Ferguson & Montgomery were the contractors for the building of that court house, and they gave a bond to the county in the sum of \$18,000; though the amount of the contract price does not seem to be stated.

Benjamin Walder was the county commissioner at that time, and there was no county judge, the commissioners attending to probate and all other matters. E. J. Harding was county clerk.

The building of the old court house had been carried on nearly to completion on the 10th of January, 1854, so that a contract was awarded to Willie Chapman to lath and plaster its rooms, at \$1.49 a square yard; other bidders having failed to qualify. There was then a new county court, consisting of Robert McCullough, John W. Harrison and William Harpole, commissioners.

This old court house, according to George P. Litchfield, who lived in Salem during its days of usefulness and is still a young, hale and hearty resident here, was used for all sorts of public meetings, political, social, religious and otherwise. Nearly every function was held at the old court house by the people who then lived in Salem and the country surrounding.

The New Court House

In 1871, a contract was let to John S. Hawkins and G. W. Lawson for the removal of the old court house to lot 4 in block 22, Salem, the next block north and west, just west of the Webb & Clough undertaking parlors of the present day, and on the north side of Court street near High.

of which Oregon had 672,765, Washington 1,141,990, and Idaho 325,594.

Summary of Political History

The territory of Washington was set off from the original Oregon in 1853, while Idaho territory was created from territory formerly embraced in Oregon and Washington in 1863. Oregon became a state in the union in February, 1859, under a constitution adopted by a convention held at Salem in August and September, 1857. This constitution remained unchanged in any way until the adoption in 1901 of the initiative and referendum amendment. Since then many changes have been adopted by popular vote.

Great interest attaches to the development, within little more than a decade, of the so-called "Oregon system" of government, one of the most completely democratic systems in vogue anywhere in the world. Some features, aside from the initiative and referendum, are a system of direct nominations of candidates for office, a strict corrupt practices law, the recall, and the virtual autonomy of cities.

—Joseph Schafer.

University of Oregon, Eugene, May, 1917.

Organization of Oregon Provisional Government

By George H. Himes, Assistant Secretary of the Oregon Historical Society.

The genesis of American political government in the "Oregon country" dates from March 16, 1838, when a memorial, prepared by J. L. Whitcomb and 35 others, was forwarded to Washington, presented to congress by Senator Linn on January 28, 1839, read and pigeonholed.

A second memorial, signed by 70 Oregon settlers, was presented by Senator Linn in June, 1840, and suffered the same fate.

On February 15, 1841, Ewing Young died. He settled in Yamhill district in November, 1834, and was the first independent settler in Oregon. The death of this American, leaving an estate, raised a new question—a serious one—no law existing under the provisions of which it could be administered.

In this emergency, immediate action was imperative. Hence a meeting was held on February 17, 1841, and a committee appointed to suggest the necessary officers who were chosen the following day. Among these was a supreme judge with probate powers. His first official act was the appointment of an administrator of Young's estate on April 2.

For subsequent meetings were held by the settlers during the next two years for the purpose of perfecting the organization. The last of these meetings was held

The contractors were to have the building moved by January 1, 1872, and the offices of the sheriff and clerk were to be undisturbed, and they were to have the use of their offices for two years thereafter, if necessary. There appears no consideration, excepting the use of the building. C. N. Terry was then county judge, and A. B. Cosper and J. N. Matheny were witnesses to the contract.

The old court house building became a livery and feed stable, occupied by A. J. Basy, still a hale and active resident, for that purpose, part of the time; and it was used for other business purposes, and stood there throughout the seventies and the eighties, and the writer believes, into the late nineties, when it was torn down to make room for better buildings.

On February 6, 1872, bids were received for the construction of the present court house, and what was called the bid of D. A. Miller, W. F. Boothby and H. Myers, for \$92,000, was accepted.

When the contract came up to be signed, however, it was made with Boothby & Stapleton, David A. Miller and H. Myers, and the following men signed the \$40,000 bond that was required: David McCullough, J. H. Moore, R. M. Wade, A. A. McCullough, T. McF. Patton, E. N. Cooke and F. W. Waller.

At that time, and during the construction of the present court house, C. N. Terry was county judge, and A. Cosper and John Gleay were the commissioners, and A. B. Cosper was clerk and J. H. Matheny was sheriff.

In those days, bonds were not sold in Oregon, and a direct tax was levied running through two or three years, and there was a great deal of fault found on account of the high rate of taxes for such a fine building.

A Monumental Work

Al Coolidge was one of the founders of the bank of Coolidge & McQuinn at Silverton. John Gleay was one of the trustees of the Aurora colony, and Judge C. N. Terry was an able and far-seeing man. They believed in building for the future, and in saving the money of the people on a temporary structure; and they were wise enough, too, to join beauty with utility.

The architects were Piper & Burton, of Portland. Mr. Piper had been the architect of the Chemeketa hotel, now Hotel Marion, in the building of which John G. Wright, then a leading Salem grocer and now commissary at the state hospital for the insane, was a moving spirit. Mr. Piper was soon thereafter killed

THE CONSTITUTION OF OREGON STANDS UNIQUE

The 14th of February Marked the Anniversary of the Adoption of this Compact Giving the People of this Commonwealth Their Code of Fundamental Laws.

By Judge Peter H. D'Arcy

The 14th of February, 1859, marks an important epoch in the annals of the history of Oregon. It was on that date the act of congress admitting Oregon to the Union was approved and ratified. From that time the constitution of our state went into effect.

On the third Monday in June, 1857, 60 delegates were selected by the voters of the state of Oregon who constituted the constitutional convention of that state. The body of the convention met at Salem on the third Monday in August, 1857. It was not until the 18th of September, 1857, that the constitution was adopted by those delegates after careful consideration and debate.

On the second Monday in November, 1857, the action of the constitutional convention was ratified by a majority vote of the voters of Oregon.

The constitutional convention was composed of the brains and intellectual persons of pioneer days. They were actuated by a high and exalted idea of doing what was for the best interests of the people of the Oregon territory. They were of every standing in the community. Looked upon as the best selection which could be made to place before the voters for their approval a document which would mean much for the future of our state.

The task accomplished by them speaks for itself. It was a splendid constitution and bore the imprint of honest and sincere persons who were filled with an inspiration to place before the people of Oregon for their approval a constitution that would tend to make our state second to none in the constellation of states which composed our Union.

When the galaxy of states opened wide their quickly circle to admit Oregon into their midst it was not realized what wonderful resources were to become a part of the United States.

At the time of our admission into the Union the slavery question was one of the discordant elements in our body politic. The question as to whether Oregon should be a free or slave state was one of the vital features which was considered by our eminent men prior to our civil war. The taking slogan of Senator Douglas, that of squatter-sovereignty or the right of each territory or state to determine for itself whether it should be a free

in a railroad accident in the east.

The leader among the contractors and builders of the court house was W. F. Boothby, ably assisted by Harry Stapleton, father of Mrs. Jos. Baumgartner of Salem. The first large undertaking of Mr. Boothby had been the construction of what is now Waller hall at Willamette University. Afterwards he was one of the builders of the capitol, then of the main building of the asylum for the insane. Mr. Boothby was long a leading resident of Salem, until his death a few years ago. He owned the old Statesman building, occupied by this paper for 40 years up to a few years ago; up to the time of removal to its own buildings, opposite Hotel Marion.

When the court house was dedicated, B. F. Bonham was circuit judge. He had been a candidate against R. P. Boise, and the result of the votes was a tie; so Mr. Boise stepped aside, as he was making more in private practice than the salary then paid circuit judges in Oregon. At the next election, Mr. Boise was elected, and he served on the bench thereafter nearly all the rest of his long life.

A. Bush, of the Ladd & Bush bank, largely financed the operations of the court house construction. It is related that at one time Mr. Bush became alarmed over the financial condition that he told Mr. Boothby that he was scared, whereupon Mr. Bush replied that if any one ought to be scared it was himself, and for Mr. Boothby to go along about his work, and he would see him through, and everything would come out all right. In after years, Mr. Boothby did a great deal of construction work for Mr. Bush.

The court house has been crowded from time to time, and there have been various propositions for extending the walls. But the conclusion has always been that this would mar the beauty of the structure, and so improvements have been made from time to time, to afford more room, without changing the outside. There are now mezzanine floors in the second story—and the building is again crowded. No doubt the time will come soon when there will have to be an elevator system provided, in order to use the upper floor to better advantage, and also the better heating system will come. And, in due time, too, no doubt the full will be taken from the basement floor—and in these ways the present building will likely serve for a great many years for the official home of Marion county.

THE CONSTITUTION OF OREGON STANDS UNIQUE

The 14th of February Marked the Anniversary of the Adoption of this Compact Giving the People of this Commonwealth Their Code of Fundamental Laws.

By Judge Peter H. D'Arcy

The 14th of February, 1859, marks an important epoch in the annals of the history of Oregon. It was on that date the act of congress admitting Oregon to the Union was approved and ratified. From that time the constitution of our state went into effect.

On the third Monday in June, 1857, 60 delegates were selected by the voters of the state of Oregon who constituted the constitutional convention of that state. The body of the convention met at Salem on the third Monday in August, 1857. It was not until the 18th of September, 1857, that the constitution was adopted by those delegates after careful consideration and debate.

On the second Monday in November, 1857, the action of the constitutional convention was ratified by a majority vote of the voters of Oregon.

The constitutional convention was composed of the brains and intellectual persons of pioneer days. They were actuated by a high and exalted idea of doing what was for the best interests of the people of the Oregon territory. They were of every standing in the community. Looked upon as the best selection which could be made to place before the voters for their approval a document which would mean much for the future of our state.

The task accomplished by them speaks for itself. It was a splendid constitution and bore the imprint of honest and sincere persons who were filled with an inspiration to place before the people of Oregon for their approval a constitution that would tend to make our state second to none in the constellation of states which composed our Union.

When the galaxy of