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OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

SKETCHES OF EARLY DAYS.—MEN AND TIMES IN THE FORTIES.

BY S. A. CLARKE.

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Lieutenant Slacom Visits Oregon.

The arrival of an officer of the United States was a very welcome event. He visited Fort Vancouver, and was very kindly received there. He went up the Willamette among the settlers, and seems to have identified himself heartily with their interests. He stopped awhile at the mission, and it was resolved to hold a citizens' meeting there. So Hubbard again went the rounds of the settlements and called them all in for a general talk. It is probable that all attended, and certain that this was the first independent gathering of Americans, held for political and national reasons, that was ever held in Oregon. It was indeed a notable occasion, for half a century ago the Americans were not many, and there was no union or organization among them. This was the first occasion when they met together to hold counsel, and it was seven years before any large and organized immigration came to this country. It antedated the so-called Wolf-meeting a number of years, and had a very beneficial influence over the Americans, so few in number, who then occupied western Oregon. It is a pity we cannot say who they were and how many were in attendance; who spoke and what was said. We only know that Lieutenant Slacom urged the fostering of American sentiment, and that they should organize as one man against the crushing power of the British monopoly.

The Cattle Monopoly Ended.

There was no further trouble in organizing the cattle expedition to California. Indeed, the H. B. Company, recognizing the inevitable, gracefully yielded all points and subscribed for half the band to be purchased. As Dr. McLoughlin says in his posthumous statement, it would be as easy to drive a thousand as five hundred cattle. Those who had not money gave their time at a dollar a day, and were to have cattle at prime cost of delivery in this valley, which was \$8 a head, so all could be supplied. Ewing Young went as manager and purchaser, and P. L. Edwards as treasurer. Lieutenant Slacom solved the most difficult problem of all. He had coin in hand, and exchanged this for the drafts of the mission on the home office. He did even more, for he made a voyage to San Francisco—Yerba Buena of that day—especially to convey Young, Edwards, Hubbard and five others, eight in all, to California, where they purchased seven hundred head of cattle and drove them successfully back to Oregon. This ended the cattle monopoly of the Hudson's Bay Company, and we submit to the reader if the poetic justice is not manifest, and that the monopoly was "hoist by its own petard." The treatment of Kelly and Young caused the publication of facts in Kelly's pamphlet that resulted in sending Lieutenant Slacom hither, and his coming was "in the very nick of time."

Early Distilling Project Abandoned.

Ewing Young was too restless and enterprising to be content to watch the increase of herds from the Chehalis hills, and had concluded to invest some surplus means in a distillery. For this purpose he bought, in 1836, of Captain Wyeth, who broke up in that year, a great cauldron to be used in distilling. This enterprise was looked on with alarm by both the mission and the H. B. Co. Dr. McLoughlin remonstrated and showed him that his company abstained from selling liquor commonly.

The mission party offered to reimburse him for any loss by expenses incurred. The independent character and indomitable will of Young was manifest in his reply. After agreeing to their request he adds: "But, gentlemen, the reason for beginning such an enterprise were the innumerable difficulties placed in our way by, and the tyrannizing oppression of, the Hudson's Bay Company, here under the absolute authority of Dr. McLoughlin, who has treated us with more disdain than any American's feelings could support; but, gentlemen, it is not consistent with our feelings to receive any recompense whatever for our expenditures, but we are thankful to the society for the offer."

Americans in Oregon in 1836.

Gray says that at the time of the cattle expedition in '36, there were but seventeen Americans in all this country, outside of the missions. We gather the following names: Ewing Young, T. J. Hubbard, Weby Hawksburst, Joseph Gale, George Gay, S. H. Smith, Sergeant Tibbets, Felix Hathaway, James O'Neill, C. M. Walker, John McCarty, Carmichael, John Howard, Kilborn Brandywine, Geo. Winslow (colored), Capt. J. H. Couch, G. W. Le Breton, John McCadden, Wm. Johnson and Dick McCarty. The seventeen do not include Capt. Couch and the others whose names follow his, who came by the brig Maryland in 1834. That was the small number of American settlers in Oregon in 1836.

Young's Character and Sudden Death.

Ewing Young was the most important man in Oregon among Americans, and was growing rapidly in wealth of stock of all kinds, when in February, 1841, after a short and severe illness, he died. He had erected a saw mill on the Chehalis creek near its confluence with the Willamette, which he kept in operation for about four years. It was swept off by a flood in the winter of 1840-'41. He died a few weeks afterward. The news of his death gave quite a shock to the infant settlement, as all looked up to him and relied on his independence and backbone. All the settlers seem to have been present on the occasion of his funeral, and he was sincerely mourned. Courtney M. Walker says of him further: "He was a native of Knox county, Tennessee, learned the cabinet trade at Knoxville, was very candid and a scrupulously honest man; was thorough going, brave and daring."

His sudden death caused a feeling of mystery and various rumors prevailed, some refusing to believe that he died from actual disease, but that he was the subject of some conspiracy and foully dealt with. There is no apparent reason to doubt that he died from natural causes. He was buried near his residence in Chehalis valley. At one time a railing surrounded his grave. As he died possessed of three hundred head of horses, besides cattle and other live stock and valuable property, some provision should have been made for the protection of his grave in a decent manner. The son who turned up by the grace of Judge O. C. Pratt, and received the proceeds of that estate, seemed more intent on pocketing the shakels than doing honor to the father who had forgotten him. Other rumors prevailed that his estate had been squandered, if not actually embezzled, but to state them would be to give unpleasant notoriety to other pioneers who are now dead and gone. Had he lived to old age Ewing Young would have very certainly been a man of wealth and of leading influence in Oregon.

First Move Toward Provisional Government.

It was when gathered at the obsequies of their friend and neighbor that the citizens of Oregon made the first movement towards a provisional government. Here was an estate of considerable value left without heirs in view, and

without any law for its administration and settlement. After the funeral they remained to talk over the situation and the possibilities, for it was not plain how those few settlers could manage to create a government. This will naturally come under the head of the formation of the provisional government, on which subject I have spent time and study, and expect to treat at some near day. It is certain that had Ewing Young lived he would have taken a prominent part in organizing that government, and would have been influential in connection with it. He was often mentioned in conversation by Dr. W. H. Wellson, of Salem, who knew him well and respected him, though he was free to confess that Young was not a pattern of social graces and strict morality. I may be excused for interpolating here an incident that occurred in the winter of 1852-'3 that called up before a distinguished company the fact of Ewing Young's previous existence.

A Spiritual View of Young.

Hon. Ben Stark was in the legislature of 1852 and mentioned in a social circle at Salem one evening that spiritual "manifestations" were rife in Portland. In a spirit of jest the company placed their hands on the table they sat around and went on talking. The table tipping commenced, much to our surprise, and we had "manifestations" ad libitum. The fame of that evening's performance went abroad and a few evenings later a distinguished company met at Hon. E. N. Cooke's to investigate further. Both the territorial legislature and supreme court were in session at Salem then and some twenty judges and legislators were present. One spirit—a sweetheart dead and gone—terrified the soul of Lot Whitecomb by revelations of the time when he was her lover, and finally a very lugubrious spirit appealed to me—for I, though most unbelieving, was the medium—to open conversation with Dr. Wilson. The name slowly and alphabetically rapped forth was "Ewing Young," one entirely new to me. The good doctor brightened up as he recognized a call from an old friend, and he asked him many questions. I remember only these: "Ewing, are you happy?" "No." "What's the matter?" "Wasn't good enough here." "How does that effect you now?" "It keeps me in the lowest sphere among all the bad spirits, and I cannot be happy until I get into a higher sphere." "How many spheres are there?" "Seven." "Then you are low down?" "Yes, at the bottom, and I am having a very hard time." That was my first acquaintance with Ewing Young, and my last acquaintance with spiritualism and its manifestations. I asked Dr. Wilson the next day concerning Ewing Young, and I remember that the good man gave him a reputation for good qualities as well as bad, and sighed over the possibility that he was possibly expiating the latter in very bad company in the other world. The spirits we seemed to become acquainted with in 1852 revealed to us that there were seven spheres, and that those spirits in the higher classes did missionary work among the poor wretches in the lower ones. I have often wondered what progress Ewing Young was making. It seems rather pleasant, as well as reasonable to accept such a doctrine of "the spheres."

Storms in the East and Forest Fires.

Papers of August 13 tell of another fearful rain storm at various points in Iowa and Illinois, destroying houses and crops. Then from Michigan and Wisconsin comes the tale of destructive fires. All the Superior region is burned. Great mills with all their extensive equipments are gone; but worst of all, those immense tracts of timber are gone. Forest trees are scarce enough without such a holocaust as this.

Drugs at Port's, 100 State street.

Spiritualist Meeting at New Era.

CLACKAMAS, Aug. 21, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

A grove meeting of Spiritualists will be held at New Era, Clackamas county, Oregon, beginning Friday, Sept. 17, and holding ten days. C. A. Reed and Geo. P. Colby are engaged as permanent speakers for the meeting. C. A. Reed will give the opening address at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 17th; Geo. P. Colby will speak at 2 o'clock on the afternoons of the 18th, 19th, 21st, 23d, 25th and 26th. Other speakers will be in attendance. The usual reduction in return fare will be given those who pay full fare on the railroads to attend the meeting.

Good order will be maintained on the grounds during the meeting. Hotel and other accommodations convenient. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

WM. PHILLIPS, Pres.

THO. BUCKMAN, Sec'y.

Value of Subsoiling.

The greatest advantage of subsoiling is to increase the amount of moisture and to make it available for the plants. This condition always tells most favorably in the time of drouth, but is proportionately a disadvantage in a wet season. It is then always an injury, and these two conditions are shown by the experiments of Professor Sanborn. Plants grow near the surface, or rather mainly feed near the surface. Their natural home is in the soil, and this extends but a few inches beneath the surface. It is the vegetable matter—humus, as chemists call it—which fits the soil for the plant growth. It is more important then that the farmer should increase as much as possible the amount of organic matter in the soil. This is the foundation of growth rather than in a deeply stirred or broken up amount of the ground. If it could be known beforehand that the season would be dry then subsoiling would be the thing to do, so that the surplus waters of the spring might remain in the more open ground and be available when the drouth should come. A deep soil is a good absorbent and it should be the farmer's aim to make the soil deeper and richer. There is more real improvement in this than in subsoiling the undercrust. A rich soil is always just the thing, but subsoiled land may bring more moisture than is required, and this is always a damage.

Look out for Moths.

It is time to look out for these pests so we print these excellent hints from an exchange: "The destruction of moths is one of the greatest vexations which careful housekeepers have to contend with, and their depredations are not to be remedied after they have once made inroads. Houses heated by furnaces are especially predisposed to have moths but every housekeeper must be on the watch for them, for from the time that the windows begin to be left open the trouble begins. Heavy carpets sometimes do not require taking up every year, unless in constant use. Take out the tacks from these, fold the carpets back, wash the floor in strong suds, with a tablespoonful of borax dissolved in them. Dash with insect powder or lay with tobacco leaves along the edge, and tack. All moths can be kept away and eggs destroyed by this means. In grain or other carpets, after shaking are brightened by sprinkling a pound of salt over the surface, and sweeping carefully and thoroughly. It is also an excellent plan to wipe off the carpet with borax water, using a thick flannel cloth wrung tightly, taking care not to wet it, but only to dampen. Open the window and dry the carpet before replacing the furniture.

WANTED.—To hire a horse and hack, or single hack without horse. Apply to T. P. Boyd, Salem, No. 26 1/2 12th street, between Court and State.

POULTRY NOTES.

Gravel serves the same purpose with birds that teeth do with quadrupeds. The grinding in the gizzard may be heard by placing the ear near the fowls when their stomachs are full and digestion is taking place. The sound of the grinding and rubbing against the grain is especially audible in the case of ducks that are about half grown, at which time they are increasing in size very fast, and digestion proceeds very rapidly.

An old time method of preserving eggs is to pack them in a cool place, large end down, in kegs or boxes filled with newly powdered dried earth, or common road dust, or sifted coal ashes. This settles between the eggs, keeping them from access to the air, and prevents evaporation of the white or spoiling of the yolk. Eggs will keep eight months by this method.

An exchange says: If you can give plenty of milk, and a little sunflower seed daily to hens no meat will be needed. This is no guess work. If milk and sunflower seed are out of the question get cheap meat from the butcher, if you can. If that is impracticable, you can buy the ground beef and pork scraps that are prepared expressly for poultry. This food is used by nearly all of the New England poultry raisers.

EGGS.

Eggs, especially in summer, should be not only sound but fresh laid. Stale eggs, though apparently sound, are sure to reach market in bad order, or will change so rapidly that dealers lose money on them. Always ship at once while fresh. Use strong, stiff barrels. And for packing use fine, kiln-dried cut straw or wheat chaff. Some Canadian packers use dry oat hulls, which answer a good purpose. Never use oat or buckwheat chaff, and never use new oat, straw or chaff, as they sweat and rot the eggs in a short time.

Place first a little long, soft straw or hay, two or three inches in thickness, evenly over the bottom of the barrel, then about the same depth of packing, then a layer of eggs, laid upon the sides, evenly embedded in the packing, with the ends toward the barrel, about one inch from the staves. Cover the layer with three-fourths or one inch of packing, rubbing it well in between the eggs with the hand. Cover the last layer with about three inches of packing, and then the same quantity of long straw or hay as at the bottom, filling so high that the head must be pressed in by a lever or other mechanical power, thus holding the contents so firmly that they cannot shift or loosen around in the barrel.

The celebrated Silbon family, who rejoice in the sobriquet of "the \$10,000 challenge acrobats of the world," are one of the big cards with W. W. Cole's New Colossal Shows, which appears here on Thursday, Sept. 2. The Silbons are probably the best known and admired of any gymnasts in the business, and their approaching appearances in the city will attract no little interest. Their act is of such a novel and artistic character, and their movements so full of grace, that the most timid of ladies can look upon it without any feeling of fear for the daring performers. There are four members of the Silbon family, three brothers, Charles, Walter and Master Eddie, and a sister, Miss Kate. They come from a famous family of English acrobats. The present is their last American season.

A Fine Farm for Sale.

We have had placed in our hands for sale a choice farm highly improved, about four miles south of Salem. The place contains 120 acres, all of which is cleared. There is a growing crop of 52 acres, consisting of barley and wheat. There are good buildings and an orchard. This place yielded thirty bushels of wheat per acre last year. Apply soon and obtain a bargain. Price \$35 per acre.