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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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A Chapter of Notes from the Reminiscences of Dr. William C. McKay.

FROM OREGON TO THE STATES IN 1838.

Dr. Wm. C. McKay says: In 1838 my father took my brothers, Aleck and John, and myself, to Fort Hall to send us East to be educated. Rev. Jason Lee was going back that year. Father went with us to Green river, the usual rendezvous. When arrived there we found the place locked, but there was a broken window and inside of it we read this inscription, written on an ox skull, "Come on to Yellowstone! Lots of women, so come on!" This screeed was signed "Jo Meek." The women in this case meant missionaries wives. It was a long journey to make and considerably out of the way, but our party changed the route to the Yellowstone, hundreds of miles north, a long journey and far out of the way. They got to the Yellowstone and found there the great rendezvous of the American Fur Company and two thousand persons gathered, very much as people are usually gathered at Green river, which was this year abandoned. Of the great crowd we joined, 1500 were connected with the American Fur Company. Some were Indians who came there to exchange furs for goods. They found there Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spalding, who were having a rather exciting time among such a strange gathering.

When they arrived at the frontier they found that the Ohio was too low to enable steamboats to pass, so they went on by land through Illinois. When Peoria was reached they found one of the boys very unwell and were detained there eighteen days in consequence. During that time Mr. Lee lectured on Oregon, and they talked our country up as they associated among citizens of the place. This laid the foundation for the immigration of 1839-40 that we have already published. It included Joseph Holman, J. J. Griffin, Green B. Davidson, P. B. Littlejohn and others.

PESTILENCE AMONG THE NATIVES.

Dr. McKay says: The disease that proved so fatal among the Indians of Western Oregon came about 1834, and a little after that the employees at Vancouver were attacked, as well as the Indians, with intermittent fever. It was probably caused by breaking up the bottom land, near the fort. The Indians followed the sweating process in this disease and many of them died. The whites usually recovered, as they do from ordinary bilious fever. The disease that swept off the upper Columbia Indians came ten years or more afterwards.

SWEARING INTO CITIZENSHIP.

John Minto is one of the most earnest friends of American liberty that ever emigrated from old England. He determined before he left Pennsylvania to place the "Egis of Liberty" over him for protection, so he could claim citizenship in spite of British "joint-occupancy" when arrived in Oregon. When he went into the court room to make his declaration of intentions, the clerk asked him in a perfunctory way: "How will you swear?" "Any way you like," said Minto, with earnestness. That made all present smile rather loudly. He gave him the ordinary oath.

TOM M'KAY AND THE WASCOPIUM CHIEF.

We have alluded, in reciting the adventures of the Hudson bay men at an early day, to the belligerent character of the Wasco-pums, or Dalles Indians. Dr. McKay gives an instance at the time he went East to be educated, as early as 1838. The Indians attempted to prevent their passage at that time, on the rather singular plea that it was Sunday, and the white man's Sabbath, and they refused not only to assist, but to prevent the passage over The Dalles portage to be made. Tom McKay was not gifted with saintlike patience, and he protested that they were going on a long journey,

and could not afford to lose the time. The old chief was very piously inclined that day. He said he had been taught by the missionaries to keep the Sabbath, and intended to do so. McKay replied that this was a case of necessity; that he had to overtake parties in advance of him, and could not do so if he lost a day's time there. He said it was right to pray and observe the Sabbath, but it would only take a little time to help them over the portage, and after that they would have the whole day to use in religious observances. But the pious old savage became insolent, and Tom McKay got very angry. Finding all argument and reason useless, and knowing well that the Indian was acting the hypocrite, and was not half so religious as he pretended, but trumped up this excuse to annoy him, Tom seized a heavy riding whip, with a loaded handle, and struck the chief with it. When he resisted he knocked him down, and as he tried to get up, knocked him over continually. In the end his chiefship was glad to apologize for his impudence, and let his men assist in making the portage.

A SKETCH OF TOM M'KAY.

Tom McKay was a mere boy in 1810, when his father left New York with the Astor expedition, and was only a boy when the Northwest company bought out the Astor company. He was a long time a clerk in charge of different posts and proved very efficient as well as bold and fearless. Had many others did what McKay did they would have been victims of savage vengeance, but all the tribes respected his bravery and conceded to his boldness and courage what they would allow few others. In a difficulty at Walla Walla he killed an Indian, and the effect was to teach them to fear and not to trifle with him. They feared him more than they hated him. It was during the time of the Northwest company, and McMullen, an officer of that company, got into difficulty with an Indian, who was about to kill him, when McKay, to protect McMullen's life, killed the Indian who threatened him. The savage had drawn his weapon, but McKay got the first shot in.

DR. WHITMAN'S PRESENTMENTS.

Dr. Whitman had a strong presentment of danger, and was preparing to remove his mission, probably to The Dalles, where he had purchased the Methodist claim, which purchase fell through in consequence of his death. He announced to a company of emigrants he met near the Umatilla, of whom Judge J. W. Grim of Marion county was one, near whom he camped when returning from this valley with farming tools, that he felt he was in danger from the ill disposition of the Indians. Only a month or so later the massacre occurred. When at Oregon City, on that same occasion, he was dining with Mr. McKinlay, and told the latter a story that bore on this same matter. He said that Tom Luckey, the Indian who helped to kill him, had laughingly said to him that they were intending to kill off all the medicine men because they had so poor success in curing the "old sick," and as he was the greatest medicine man of all, they thought of beginning with him. This story struck the mind of McKinlay with alarm. He was well acquainted with Indian character, and said: "Well, Doctor, that sounds dangerous!" Whitman said Tom Luckey was only joking. McKinlay replied that it was his experience that an Indian never jested, and always had a serious meaning to apparent jokes. He warned Whitman that he was in danger. It was when returning from Oregon City on that trip that he told the emigrants who camped near him that he thought he was in danger.

Dr. McKay thinks that overland immigration brought the disease that spread among the Indians East of the Cascades in 1846-7, and resulted in the massacre at Whitman Station. The disease that spread through the tribes of Western Oregon ten years previous did not extend West of the Cascade mountains.

## Correspondence.

Taxation and Japanese Pheasants.

ATMUSVILLE, Or., Nov. 29, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In your issue of the 26th inst. I notice two communications brought out apparently by my comments on "assessment and taxation," and the "game" and "trespass" laws. This is good. Discussion of these questions is just now pertinent. Please allow me a brief word. First as to Mr. Armstrong of Corvallis. I agree with him in all except a point or two. Perhaps I am hard on the Japanese pheasant, but I think not. Mr. A. says the Jap is "precisely similar in habits to the English," but I doubt it, and I think that future acquaintance with the Jap will justify the doubt. In New York the jay is protected by law among other useful birds. Let them introduce the Oregon jay and see how long they would protect him. And yet, to a superficial observer, he is "precisely similar in habits." But be that as it may, the experience of the shootist, and pliability of a Legislature which demands under severe penalties that the farmers shall raise these birds for them without compensation is the main point. As well might these gentry demand that the farmer should feed them, and their horses and dogs whenever they go out to his farm to shoot. And how is a bird "easily killed off" if one is liable to be fined from \$50 to \$100, with a \$25 inducement for some sneak to become informer. (Perhaps these sportsmen think by this means to make a little raise occasionally.) Again, Mr. A. says, "the majority of farmers don't mind him" (the city shootist) "going over their land, as there is little game to get." That the farmer cares little for the game, is very true. It is the pilfering, and mischievous and often malicious devilment that these shootists do, that the farmer objects to. The shootist knows that he is an obnoxious trespasser, to begin with, and appears to regard the farmer as having no rights which he is in any way bound to respect; hence the need of "strong enough laws to punish trespassers and preserve the game" to the farmer, who is the rightful owner. All game—say geese, ducks, snipe, grouse, pheasants, quail, pigeons, deer, elk, hares, rabbits, fur-bearing animals and fish—should be regarded in law as the property of the party on whose land they may be found. Then small birds—as robins, meadow larks, orioles, bluebirds, tanagers, grosbeaks, towhee, all the thrushes, finches, swallows, and insect-eaters generally—should be protected by law, at all times, the County Court being empowered to issue permits to proper parties to take such birds, their nests and eggs, for scientific purposes only.

But the farmer cannot reasonably expect the Legislature to make laws in his interest unless he takes some interest in the matter himself, and not only knows what he wants, but makes his wants known and insists upon having his fair share of attention from the representatives of the people.

As to Mr. A. C. Jennings, of Irving, he says he is "astonished!" at the proposition to not tax money and credits. Perhaps he will be more "astonished" at the assertion that money and credits now pay no tax, practically, the debtor paying the tax in the shape of brokerage, or increased interest, or enhanced price on goods. And this is one cause why the banker is enabled to be "clothed in royal apparel and fare sumptuously every day."

If Mr. J. were to be told that we lose more than ten dollars to collect one by our present system of taxing money and credits, it would perhaps "astonish" him again; but if he will examine into the matter carefully, I think he will find that such is the case; and I think that he will also find that the land-owners'

taxes will be lessened instead of being increased; that interest will be lowered and money be more plentiful when money and credits go free and taxes are laid on property in sight only.

I hope Mr. J. is not among those who think that the interest on money can be fixed by law, for the idea is the veriest nonsense. As well try to fix the price of wheat, potatoes, cattle, hogs, or anything else. The money-lender will take all he can get, either as interest or brokerage, and no law can prevent it.

There appears to be in Oregon a feeling of antagonism against the capitalist that is much to be regretted. We need the capitalist. We have not half enough of him. We want more. Antagonism and hostile legislation is folly in the extreme.

As to the proposed bill, I can see very little good in it—but perhaps I am a poor judge. An "exemption of from \$500 to \$1000 to every householder" is good policy. Then exempt money and credits, and tax everything in sight at its reasonable value, deducting no indebtedness, and we will have, as nearly as possible, equitable taxation.

F. S. MATTESON.

Why Are Water Bonds Exempt from Taxation?

Scio, Nov. 30, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Judging from the name of your paper, you expect to look after the interests of the rural districts. I see by the advertisement for bids for the sale of Portland water-bonds, they are exempt from State and county taxation. I read Judge Waldo's opinion on the mortgage-tax law, which was, "that notes and credits were taxable," and that being the case, what difference is there between a bond and any other note that it should be exempt? The basis is five per cent. interest, and the inducement, at such a low rate of interest, is the exemption from taxation.

Why should not the farmers in the several counties have the privilege of giving their notes, and said notes be exempt from taxation; so the borrower could well afford to pay his own taxes on all tangible property, and it would cause less confusion in making our assessments. Any tax on money is a tax on the borrower, shape it as we will.

INQUIRER.

Huntsville Items.

HUNTSVILLE, W. T., Nov. 30, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

We are having beautiful weather, almost like spring. How will that compare with the weather reports of Oregon. Farmers are plowing and putting in their fall grain.

The Seminary, under the efficient management of Prof. W. S. Walker, is progressing better than ever before known, and many have come a great distance to attend school here.

Thanksgiving was well observed in Huntsville. At 11 o'clock Rev. Gallaher delivered a sermon which was very appropriate for the occasion. At 2 o'clock P. M. the patrons and friends of the schools, public and seminary, assembled at the chapel to listen to the exercises, which was pronounced by all a success. After the exercises were all over Prof. Walker and his well trained military boys paraded the yard. From the way and manner in which the boys conducted themselves it was evident that Prof. Walker had taken much pains in drilling them.

NANCY GEE.

Monmouth Correspondence.

MONMOUTH, Or., Dec. 6, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Thanksgiving passed very pleasantly with us. The exercises of the day were held in the Normal chapel which was beautifully decorated with evergreens and autumn leaves. The exercises were opened with music by the choir, prayer by Rev. Burnett, music and an address by Rev. M. Waller, after which Prof. T. F. Campbell, former president of the Christian College, addressed the audience, recalling his schooldays and com-

paring the present advantages with the past. The first schools he attended were taught in rude log huts without a floor, and a log taken out to admit the light. The seats were hewn logs with two holes bored in them and sticks stuck through for legs. When he first saw a frame school building he thought if he could go to school in such a house as that it would be no trouble to be educated. The schoolboys and girls of today scorn the idea of the pioneer school-house.

Prof. Campbell delivered a series of lectures on "Man" in the chapel last week. The proceeds will be used for the building of a gymnasium, which will be furnished with all necessary equipments.

There has been quite a number of visitors in the chapel of late, among them Prof. Hawes, principal of the Hillsboro public school.

Calisthenics have been introduced in the school as a class work, and is practised three times a week.

The Hesperians will give an open session on the 17th. All are cordially invited.

The method class has about seventy-five members, and is increasing daily in interest. It is conducted by President Stanley. During the past term the lessons have been lectures on "School Management." The lectures will continue until after holidays, when a textbook will be used. The hints of the President on how to ventilate school-rooms, study, etc., were very instructive. Great care should always be taken to keep the school-room well ventilated and at a proper temperature. Every school-room should be provided with a thermometer. In dry weather the temperature should be about 65 to 68 degrees, and in cold, damp weather 70 degrees. If the window cannot be lowered from the top, the deficiency may be remedied by taking a strip one-half inch thick, fitting it snugly under the lower sash, and thus raising it; the air may pass in and out between the upper and lower sashes. More children take cold by breathing hot, impure air than by exposure to the cold.

Miss Kate Bristo, primary teacher, was called to the bedside of her sister, who is very sick in the blind school at Salem. During her absence Miss Allie Hicks taught the little urchins.

Miss Millie Doughty's lecture on "Language as a Source of Patriotism" was listened to with great interest. There is quite an excitement in this small burg on the mysterious disappearance of our druggist, Mr. M. Davis, who went to Portland about five weeks ago, and has not been heard of for three weeks. His store has been attached; the Sheriff carries the key. C. A. H.

Weather Report for November, 1886.

EOLA, Dec. 2, 1886.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

During November, 1886, there were 8 days during which rain fell, and an aggregate of 1.45 inches of water; there were 6 clear, 5 fair and 16 cloudy days, other than which rain fell.

The mean temperature for the month was 41.06 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 49 deg. on the 12th.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month, 54 deg. on the 15th.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 45.66 deg.

Highest temperature for the month, 54 at 2 P. M. on the 7th.

Lowest temperature for the month, 26 deg. at 7 A. M. on the 15th.

Frosts occurred on the 1st, 2d, 7th, 8th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st and 23d.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the north during 17 days, south 3 days, southwest 9 days, northwest 1 day.

During November, 1885, there were 21 rainy days and 4.36 in. water; there were 2 fair, and 7 cloudy days.

Mean temperature for the month 45.83 deg.

Highest daily mean temperature for the month, 52 deg., on the 1st.

Lowest daily mean temperature for the month 38 deg. on 30th.

T. PEARCE.