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OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

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

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Successful Formation of the Provisional Government of Oregon.

Regulating the currency was attempted and really worked well at that moneyless period. Gold and silver of course were recognized, also acceptances of solvent merchants, wheat that was merchantable, at market price if stored in mills or warehouses; all of these were made of lawful tender for all debts, but any special contract made to the contrary was to hold good. W. G. T'Vault was appointed postmaster-general, for this people attempted to organize some sort of a postal service, a subject we will inquire into more fully hereafter to learn how he succeeded. It will be interesting to look up the persons who were prominent in pioneer annals and trace their histories. Some, of course, were men whose names are household words, but it is their due to be honored as they deserve, and have their modest lives given as examples to those who come after them.

Pronouncing against slavery caused no dissatisfaction, for even the few pro-slavery people here acquiesced freely to the popular voice. It was known that the free-soil sentiment was largely in excess, so slavery had no champions. But the vote against whisky was quite another matter. While it is true that the majority—a great majority, too—favored prohibition, it is equally true that then, as now, ardent spirits had ardent friends—men who did not fear Indian massacres so long as they themselves could drink and sell it to others to do the same. The influence of this interest was exercised in 1846 to repeal the existing law prohibiting the sale of spirits, and exercised with success. A bill passed to license, instead of to prohibit. Gov. Abernethy returned it with his veto, but it was carried over the veto by a vote of eleven to five, and then, for the first time, a man could legally become intoxicated in Oregon.

By this time all classes had become reconciled to the existence of the provisional government. Even the Hudson's Bay company gave its assent and its leading men filled seats in the legislature. Also, by changes and amendments made, the organic law was materially strengthened and improved in many respects. The government of Oregon, as finally instituted, was dignified and sufficiently powerful and honored to command respect from foreigners who visited the country. The legislative assembly finally consisted of sixty members, and was a dignified and really capable body of men. Its system of laws showed this, for, though in some few points the legislation was weak, in the most important features it was correct and served admirably to govern a prosperous people. In disregard of the prejudice existing against British interests, the laws were framed with careful regard to the rights of all, and every message urged loyalty to the home government of the citizen as well as to that of Oregon. Without money, without credit to command means, and with no money market to rely on for assistance, this far-off community succeeded in all respects, and when in time it surrendered control to the government instituted by the United States, Oregon had no debt to burden its future and no blot to shadow its present or future.

This infant state was not without its trials, withal. In the evening of the Cayuse war, that resulted from the Whitman massacre, we see a crisis of no small magnitude and importance. Action was necessary, and that speedy. To understand the power of this government we need only relate that in thirteen days from the time the news reached the governor and the state leg-

islature a volunteer force was raised, equipped and transported to The Dalles, East of the Cascades, upon the field of danger. That, too, when there was no transportation facilities other than canoes and batteaux. While this shows the character of the times, it speaks plainly of pioneers, whose ready response to the call to arms made the action of their provisional government comparatively an easy task.

Judge Thornton says that Dr. Whitman told him in 1847, the year previous to the massacre of the dangers that surrounded him at Wanlatpi, and said he looked to the establishment of a territorial government by congress as his only means of safety from massacre, and the destruction of the mission by the savages. If congress had acted sooner and had showed the power of the government here in time, by establishing a territorial government, with military posts to properly awe the Indians, the terrible tragedy that stained the banks of the Walla Walla river with so much innocent blood, and cost so many valuable lives, would never have occurred. Oh, how many such murders has the government of the United States caused by its delays, and its failures to fulfill its promises! This one, alone, sacrificing as it did Whitman's and other lives, cannot be atoned for. This shows us what the pioneers who made Oregon, sacrificed, and what they dared to do to hold this region for the United State. All they suffered and endured, if summed up in words, would make a volume of thrilling interest. It does sometimes seem that the American congress has a world of criminality to answer for. It was criminal that people situated as our Oregon pioneers were for ten years, while they watched and waited for the coming of our flag, and the protection it guaranteed, should have had for one moment to endure the indifference of a congress that listened unmoved to memorials that came three thousand miles by land, or seventeen thousand miles by sea, and heard, without appreciating, the ardent speeches made by such men as Benton, Linn and Douglas, in our behalf.

The provisional government of Oregon, that commenced in 1841 and that went through many changes and amendments, lasted for a memorable epoch. It found Oregon, in 1841, with a mere handful of American citizens, claiming recognition from the mother country. Through eight years of changes and vicissitudes Oregon became slowly stronger in numbers and its provisional organization became better perfect by the wisdom of its pioneer legislative power. During that eight years the scarce more than one hundred citizens were increased to thousands. Gold being discovered, the golden gates were opened to all the nations. Oregon was no longer isolated, remote, solitary and unknown, but was become known and appreciated by all the world. Congress passed an act of organization August, 1848, and in March, 1849, Governor Jo Lane arrived and assumed the reins of government. The provisional government then dissolved and was known no more as a ruling power, but through all her history, be it through days of territorial dependence or the pride of later statehood, there is not any period of which her citizens can be more justly proud, nor if he live a decade of centuries from now, than of the "pioneer days" in "the forties," when the stalwart yeomen of that period framed their own government, made and executed their own laws and conquered peace when the worst of savages made war.

Advices from the West coast of Africa say that natives attacked and plundered English and French settlements, burning villages and torturing and murdering native inhabitants. They attempted to capture the English and French stations where were stored goods of value. After four days of siege an English gun boat came and drove them off. The French station repulsed them unaided.

Correspondence.

Letter From Monmouth.

MONMOUTH, June 6, 1887.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Our small town is all astir over the prospects of Commencement week. The programme is as follows: Entertainment 8 p. m. Sunday, June 12th, Baccalaureate sermon by Prof. S. G. Irvine, of Albany, 11 a. m. Monday, June 13th students reunion, 8 p. m. Tuesday, June 14th, annual meeting of Board of Trustees, 10 a. m. Tuesday, June 14th, entertainment by Athletic Association, 8 p. m. Wednesday June 15th, Graduation Day. Exercises beginning at 10 a. m. Usual address by Prof. R. K. Warren, Principal of Portland High School. The Normal senior class, which consists of fifteen members, the Collegiate 3rd, and the Commercial 2d, planted their class tree on the college grounds, Saturday June 4th. The programme was very interesting. It was opened by music by the band. Miss Minnie Wade's recitation was well rendered. Rev. Murgatroid, of Independence, delivered the address, which was highly appreciated by all. Miss Sarah Cabit recited in a very able manner, a poem on "Our Class Tree." The class song, the words of which were composed by Mr. Roy Lewis, was very good. After these exercises the band followed by the class and faculty, led the way to the grounds, where a few appropriate remarks were made by Mr. B. F. Mulkey, and the class tree poem was read by its author, Miss Minnie Wade. The class tree song was composed by J. A. Buchanan. After each member of the class had taken his turn in putting the dirt round their tree. The audience retired to the fir grove on the college campus, where a bountiful supper was served by the women of town. After supper the young people amused themselves with croquet and other games. The Athletic Association's new building is almost completed, and presents a very neat appearance. Mrs. M. J. Morris and her daughter Ada, of Turner, were the guests of Miss Clara Hilleary, last week. Sunday, June 5th, the S. S. had some very interesting exercises. The services in the evening were devoted to children. Mrs. Dr. Byrd, of Salem, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wolverton.

C. A. HILLEARY.

A Hog Case.

PLEASANT HOME, May 21, 1887.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The minds of our people are not as tranquil as in by-gone days, for one man has enforced the hog law, and where he sees it is violated, he has the offenders brought to trial. The other day there was a lawsuit in consequence of the violation of law by letting the hog run at large. The citizens met at an informal meeting, and all agreed to be neighborly and not enforce the law against each other. All were present, but the contending party, who makes it a business to make the people abide by the law. The law should not apply to a timbered region like this, where all can keep good fences, and where there is so much waste land as here, where nothing but hogs can ever reach. No one ever thought they were a damage but rather a benefit to kill thistles and ferns which abound all over the soil. Nothing more than a bit of contrary work prompted by ill will towards their neighbor, would ever cause anyone person to make a community such unpleasantness as this has done. The result thus far has been one lawsuit, and one trial and one person bound over to the grand jury for \$1,000. Much trouble and anxiety will be the future result to the contending parties, by the time they get clear from the law.

Farmers are jubilant over the fine weather that has of late dawned upon us. Most the planting is done. Some

potatoes yet to plant. Orient saw mill is moving down on the river, a short distance from Portland; it is owned by Robt. Smith, a former partner. We regret its going, as it has been a great benefit to our vicinity, furnishing lumber at home. Cause of removal, being too far from the R. R., make expenses very heavy hauling with teams. Success attend their future aims.

J. S.

Weather Report for May, 1887.

EOLA, Or., June 1, 1887.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

During May, 1887, there were 10 days during which rain fell, and an aggregate of 3.37 inches of water. There were 8 clear and 13 fair days.

The mean temperature for the month was 55.80 deg. Highest daily mean temperature for the month 85 deg. on the 29. Lowest daily mean temperature 36 deg. on the 11.

Mean temperature for the month at 2 o'clock P. M., 65.20 deg. The highest temperature for the month was 96 deg. at 4 o'clock P. M., on the 29. Lowest temperature 32 deg. at 7 o'clock A. M. on the 11. Frost occurred on the 11.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the SW during 12 days, S 2 days, N 17 days.

During May, 1886, there were 11 rainy days and 1.56 inches of water, 9 clear, 9 fair, and 2 cloudy days. Mean temperature for the month, 56.08 degrees. Highest daily mean temperature 71 deg. on the 2. Lowest daily mean temperature for the month 54 deg. on the 11.

T. PEARCE.

The Time Fixed for the Annual Grange Picnic at Jefferson.

Time for holding the annual grange picnic under the auspices of the Linn county business council has been fixed for the 23d, 24th, and 25th of June, at the usual place on the south fork of the Santiam river at Jefferson. Hon. W. Cyrus, of Seio, has been appointed president, and Hon. Chas. Miller, of Jefferson, marshal for the occasion. Eminent speakers from different portions of the state will be present. A large attendance promised.

Inspecting Sheep.

J. W. Blake, Gilliam county's efficient stock inspector, has about completed his semi-annual tour of inspection. Out of about eighty bands examined up to Monday last, he had found fourteen bands infected with scab. This is much less than in Crook or Wasco counties. It is reported that the inspector of Crook county, when he had examined about sixty bands, had only found about ten bands free of disease. The total number of sheep inspected by Mr. Blake was 124,000, not counting lambs, and the total number in Gilliam county, not counting lambs estimated at 135,000.—Fossil Journal.

Under the caption of "Benefits of Fall Seeding," the La Grande Gazette says: There are many reasons why it pays to sow wheat in the fall instead of waiting till the busy spring season demands a rush of the work. This is an important matter. It makes just the difference of a farmer being in a position to crowd his work, instead of having his work crowd him. With his seed in the ground, he has ample time to turn his attention in many needed directions in the spring season. There is this much in fall seeding from an economical view—for there is just as much economy in time as in material. All fall-sown grain is up high, and has a deep green and thrifty appearance, the ground underneath being sufficiently shaded to retain the largest possible amount of moisture. A great deal of the wheat on the Sandridge is fall sown, and no fields of grain ever looked more promising.

The fruit crop about Macleay will be very light this season. Grain and other farm products look well yet, but a few more such hot days as last Sunday will cut them short; so says a correspondent.

A small force is at the Cascades and not much work can be done at the canal there until the river falls.

The Oregon Commission.

Our Oregon Railroad Commissioners have done a good thing, and we hope it will bear good fruit, in making direct suggestions to the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company for reduction of their charges.

We give the document in full, as follows:

SALEM, June 3.—The railroad commission, through its clerk, has sent to the officials of the O. R. & N. Company at Portland the following recommendation for construction of proper depot facilities at The Dalles, and a schedule of rates on wheat, wool, etc.:

"Recommendations for depot facilities at Dalles City, Oregon.—The Board having examined the condition of The Dalles as respects depot accommodation, and finding that said city is without a depot building or other facilities for the accommodation of the traveling public arriving and departing therefrom, would respectfully represent to the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company and its lessees, that: the commission deem the early construction of depot buildings at said point a matter of great importance, and would recommend that suitable depot buildings be at once constructed, with such accommodations as will meet the requirements and necessities of said city. This recommendation is urged for the reason that the present arrangement for stopping passenger trains, partly in the street and partly over Mill creek, is inconvenient, unsatisfactory and even dangerous."

REDUCTION OF RATES.

Following is its recommendation for a reduction of rates: "The Board would recommend to the O. R. & N. Company that its tariff of rates on wheat, flour, oats, barley, rye, farina, flaxseed and potatoes be reduced to the following schedule of rates: When in carload lots of 20,000 pounds, from all points east within the State of Oregon to Portland, Oregon: Rates per 100 pounds: The Dalles, Summit and intermediate points, 13 cents; Celilo, Deschutes and intermediate points, 16 cents; Grant's, John Day, Quinn and intermediate points, 17 cents; Blalock's, Arlington, Willows, Shipsburg, Castle Rock, Coyote, Stokes and intermediate points, 18 cents; Umatilla Junction, Foster, Echo and intermediate points, 19 cents; Barnhart, Pendleton, Eastland, Adams, Centerville, Cayuse, La Grande, Union North Powder, Baker City, Huntington, Cold Springs, Juniper, Milton, Blue Mountain and intermediate points, 20 cents. And the Board would also recommend that the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company reduce their tariff of rates on wool, when in sacks or compressed bales, to the following schedule of rates, to-wit: From all points east within the State of Oregon to Portland, rates per 100 pounds: Rowena, The Dalles and intermediate points, 37½ cents; Celilo, Deschutes and intermediate points, 45 cents; Grant's, John Day, Quinn, Blalock's, and intermediate points, 50 cents; Alkali, Willows, Coyote, Umatilla Junction and intermediate points, 60 cents; Foster's, Echo and intermediate points, 65 cents; Barnhart, Pendleton and intermediate points, 75 cents; Cayuse, Huntington and intermediate points, 75 cents; Centerville, Blue Mountain, Milton and intermediate points, 75 cents; Cold Springs, Juniper and intermediate points, 75 cents.

The present rate per ton of shipments on flour, wheat, etc., from The Dalles is \$4 per ton, and the rate recommended is \$3, a reduction of 25 per cent. Other reductions have been recommended on about the same basis.

Commissioner Slater and Waggoner returned this morning from Canby, where they went to examine into a complaint against the O. & C. The matter has been considered, but no action taken.

THE RAILROAD BRIDGE.

The Oregon Railway & Navigation Company to-day filed with the Secretary of State its acceptance of the terms of the act passed by the last Legislature, by which they were authorized to construct a bridge across the Willamette at Portland. This company has also filed an agreement, as required in said act, to employ none but white labor in construction of the bridge. Under the terms of the act construction of the bridge must begin within six months after the passage of the act, and the structure must be completed within two years from that date.

Drugs, toilet articles, including soap, combs and hand-glasses, can be found in endless variety at the Port Drug Company No. 100 State street, Salem.