

AN EARLIER DAYS.

Founding of Salem--First Settlement by Whites.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Slow and Retarded Growth--Oregon's Early Government--Salem's Pioneer Industries.

The city of Salem is situated on the right (eastern) bank of the Willamette river, in the midst of a beautiful agricultural region. The main portion of the city is nearly a level plain, formed upon a gravelly foundation that shows it to have been at one time, in the far-distant past, covered with water.

The first settlement at Salem was made some time in the year 1840, in what is now North Salem, and some where in the neighborhood of the brick store now occupied by W. L. Wade.

In the month of February, 1850, L. H. Judson and J. B. McClane, proprietors of the North Salem land claim, laid out and recorded a town called North Salem, which contained twenty-nine blocks, whole and fractional.

On the 13th of January, 1851, the territorial legislature, which held its sessions at Oregon City, passed an act removing the seat of government to Salem. This law was declared void by Judges Nelson and Strong and Gov. Gaines, but congress confirmed the act making the removal, and settled the question.

In the year 1856 a woolen mill was built in North Salem, by the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing company. The building at first was small, but was enlarged as necessity required.

The Pioneer Oil Mill company was formed in 1866, and the latest and most approved machinery was ordered from the East. Toward the latter part of 1867, the mill was started up, and the first oil was manufactured.

The question of establishing a permanent seat of government had been submitted to the people in accordance with a provision of the state constitution, at the general elections held since the admission of Oregon into the Union.

During the summer of 1847 an arrangement was made between the trustees of the Oregon Institute and Dr. W. H. Willson, by which Willson disposed of his land claim previously held in order to make and perform the conditions of said agreement.

of all lots or land so divided with the said trustees. This contract was signed by Dr. Willson, but not by his wife, and after congress had passed the donation act giving to the claimant's wife one-half of his claim in her own right.

The first dry-goods store in Salem was opened in the winter of 1847-8, by the late Thomas Cox, senior, who was an immigrant of the previous fall.

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the growth and improvements of the city in late years would swell this article to too great a length for these columns. Wherefore, a summary of the public enterprises, aside from those above given, is all that need be further made.

The bank of Ladd & Bush was put into operation April 1st, 1879, the building having been erected the year previous; Reed's opera house was built in 1869; the Chemekete hotel in 1870; the gas works were begun in 1870, and in September of that year the city was first lighted with gas; the water works were erected and put in operation in 1871; the O. & C. railroad was finished to Salem and beyond in September, 1870, and in full operation; the new court house was built in 1872, and finished in 1873; also in 1872, that beautiful building, the Academy of the Sacred Heart, was begun, and completed the following year; the foundation of the state house was laid in 1873, and the building was so far finished in 1878, that the legislature occupied it that year; in the summer of 1886 the streets were lighted by electricity; but the crowning event of this year was the beginning and completion of the bridge across the Willamette, a full account of which will be found elsewhere in this paper.

In the foregoing review of the public progress and improvements no mention has been made of the destruction of property by the elements of fire and water. The first of any note was the burning of the state house in the latter part of December, 1856. The building was unfinished, but about \$30,000 had been expended upon the same, which amount had been appropriated by congress for the purpose. A fine miscellaneous library, bought by money furnished by congress, was also destroyed at the same time.

On Sunday morning, May 10, 1863, a fire broke out and burned all the buildings on the east side of Commercial street from Ferry street to the lot now occupied by Cunningham's brick; the loss was \$20,000 or more.

On Saturday, July 23, 1864, a fire swept away all the buildings from where the Capital Engine Co.'s house stands up to Shields' law office, now Caterlin's photograph gallery. The mansion house owned by J. D. Smith, was destroyed, and he was the heaviest loser. The total loss was about \$8,000.

On the night of April 16th, 1865, all the buildings between Griswold's block and Holman's brick were destroyed by fire, and it was with difficulty that Griswold's brick was saved. Loss about \$20,000.

In the latter part of May, 1867, Durbin's livery stable, a large building on the northeast corner of Commercial and State streets was burned, at night, with eighteen valuable horses. Total loss, about \$10,000.

After midnight, November 1st, 1869, the Capital Hotel, owned by Hon. R. Mallory, and occupying the corner where the Mansion formerly stood, and where the Capital Engine Co.'s and other buildings now stand, took fire, and was burned to the ground. The house was three stories in height, and the total loss, house and contents, was about \$20,000.

The foregoing enumeration of the fires that have occurred embrace only the principal ones, and the approximate losses. We can not close, however, without reference to the great freshet of December 1861, which caused so much destruction of property throughout the valley, and from which Salem did not escape. The bridge over South Mill creek, on Commercial street, Dorell's sawmill, and a few other buildings, were carried away, but the loss otherwise was not great. It was a notable event, however. The water backed up through South Mill creek, and ran through the center of town, being about four feet deep where the court house stands, and backed up State street, barely reaching Commercial street near where the banking house of Ladd & Bush is now. The Willamette river, from its source to its mouth, was higher than ever before known, at least since the expedition of Lewis & Clarke in the early part of this century, as the sweeping away of trees more than a hundred years old fully attested, and which had withstood the storms and floods of so many winters.

P. J. ARMSTRONG & CO. Blacksmith and Carriage Manufacturers--Wood and Iron Jobbing.

Every body residing in the surrounding country knows where "Kelly's blacksmith shop" is located. P. J. Armstrong & Co. are now in possession of this establishment, and are prepared to do all kinds of general blacksmithing at a moment's notice. They are the leading blacksmiths and carriage makers in Salem. They are now engaged in building some very fine buggies, hacks and carriages for the spring trade. They do all kinds of jobbing in wood, iron and steel; and make horse shoeing a specialty. They are required to keep five men in the shop at all times, in order to accommodate their very heavy, and steadily increasing custom. They issue, herewith, an invitation to everybody, desiring any work done in their line, to call and see them, at Kelly's old stand, Commercial street, between State and Court.

ROBERT FORD. Livery, Feed and Sale Stable--Fine Livery Outfits--Good Teams.

One of the largest stables in the city is located on the northeast corner of Commercial and Trade streets. Robert Ford the proprietor, tries in every way to keep the fullest line of road vehicles, and the best stock of horse flesh, for hire, that is to be found in Salem. His stables are large, and are always kept clean. He has plenty of extra stalls for feeding, and for transient custom. In fact he keeps one of the most complete livery, feed and sale stables in Salem. Personally Mr. Ford is one of the most accommodating business men in Salem, and by due courtesy to his customers, coupled with reasonable charges, his business is steadily increasing.

Every requisite for a first class grocery department is understood and provided for by J. G. Wright.

IMMIGRATION.

A Review of the Work of the Immigration Board.

WORK THE BOARD MAPPED OUT.

Character and Extent of the results Accomplished. A Very Gratifying Showing.

The State Board of Immigration was organized April 1st, 1885, with Chas. H. Dodd, H. W. Corbett, Wm. N. Ladue, H. B. Miller and S. Rothchild, commissioners, and C. B. Carlisle, secretary. The rules adopted contemplated the preparation and distribution of information about the state; a display of productions; information of farm properties offered for sale; to meet and make welcome the immigrant, and to aid him in finding a suitable location.

In the preparation of the printed information, the commissioners have been careful that, in every respect, it should be reliable and trustworthy, commending itself by a conservative, practical tone. In this matter, it has been the policy of the commissioners to discriminate in favor of that class of immigrants who could come with some means in hand, and the inclination to enter upon the cultivation of the soil. The coming of laborers, mechanics or professional men, relying upon immediate employment for support, has been persistently discouraged, not only in the printed matter, but by letters, whenever occasion offered. So much trouble, hardship and expense, not to say injustice to the new-comer and the state, has been heretofore caused by ignorance of Oregon and her condition, by overwrought pen pictures, by irresponsible notice-writing tourists, and by curb-stone railway runners and agents in the east, that it has been the constant effort of the commissioners to counteract all this, and to educate the intending settler, that it would be impossible for any of their agencies to take advantage of him.

AMOUNT OF PRINTED MATTER.

During the past twenty months the Board has printed 90,000 pamphlets, "Oregon As It Is." The first edition had sixty pages. Making matter out of questions by intending settlers, swelled the book to 80 pages. Additional, the Board has printed 42,000, 16-page folders, half in German, and the balance in Scandinavian, and 185,000 8-page leaflets in English. Aside from this the Board has received and distributed 56,000 county descriptive pamphlets and papers, 4,600 annual Oregonians, 1000 copies of the G. A. R. edition of that paper, 600 copies of the News, 200 copies of the Standard, 800 copies of the Rural Spirit, 300 copies of a Willamette valley circular in German, 500 copies of the Willamette Farmer, 50,000 maps of the state, an aggregate of 492,700 pieces of immigration literature.

DISTRIBUTION.

From the start it has been the opinion of the commissioners that the best results in the way of a desirable class of immigration, would come from the overflow of the northwestern states, east of the Rockies, and it has been the constant effort to reach these localities with this literature. Through the most cordial help of all railroads having direct western connection, this object has been attained, and a wide dissemination of information regarding the state, been made.

In addition to this an open mailing book is kept at the rooms of the board, and each immigrant is made an advertiser of the state, by procuring from him the names of his friends in the east. In this way 20,000 new names have been added to the mailing list.

THE EXHIBIT CAR.

The board has sent an exhibit car on a tour of the eastern states for each year of its organization. The last one, for 1886, visited eight different states and thirty-two cities and towns, besides stopping and exhibiting at as many different places in the interior of states. It was visited by at least 200,000 different persons--indeed the journey was a perfect ovation. The car traveled 7000 miles and made a stay of seventy-four days. From this car 65,000 pieces of immigration literature were distributed. Since the car left the state, about twenty heads of families have visited the State Board rooms, and volunteered their statement that a visit to the car in the east, caused them to decide to come to Oregon. Scores of letters bearing the same testimony have been received by the Board. It is the opinion of the manager of the car, as well as the commissioners, that the work will result in large accessions to our population during the year '84.

MEETING IMMIGRANTS.

The plan of meeting immigrants before they reach the city, and again at the rooms, where there is a magnificent display of all the product of the soil, has been continued. The new-comer finds here, the proof of the claims made by the state as an agricultural region, and just the disinterested, practical information he needs. Besides this help, he gets an order on the railway company for a reduced rate ticket, good for thirty days stop over privilege. Here, also, the new-comer finds a farm list, from which he can make memoranda and go out into the state, well informed as to prices, etc. From these rooms the new-comer is generally sent to the care of a county immigration agent, who without charge, shows him properties in that locality, and assists him in other ways.

STATISTICAL.

The following statistics are taken from the records of the Board: Average age of immigrant... 35 years Average age of children under age 11 years... 76 per cent. Married men with families... 95 Able bodied... 98 Looking for climate to benefit health... 2 Able to read and write... 99 Those who state that they have come to stay... 65 Men in doubt until they examine... 35 With cash to purchase land or cheap claims... 90 From states west of New York and east of the Rocky mountains... 90 Middle and eastern states... 8

THE MONROE HOUSE.

One of the Most Popular Hostleries South of Portland.

Nearly every person who has visited Salem during the past two, three or four years, has either become personally acquainted with, or has heard of the genial host of this, now almost famous hostelry. It is safe to say that there is no hotel proprietor in the state of Oregon that more fully and completely consults the comforts of his guests than does C. H. Monroe.

For a long time, Mr. Monroe had charge of the Reed house in this city, but afterward opened the Monroe house, on the corner of Marion and Commercial streets. His rapidly increasing patronage soon demonstrated fully to Mr. Monroe that the building he was then occupying was entirely too small, and he began casting about for a more commodious building, and one nearer the business center of the city.

In September, fire destroyed a large portion of the building on the southeast corner of State and High streets, then occupied as the Thompson house. Mr. Monroe then secured a lease of this place of Dr. Jessup, and the carpenters and other mechanics were at once put to work remodeling, and repairing the ruins of the old building. The walls, which were largely of brick, remained standing, and after two months and a half of work, and at an expense of \$2500 the old "Thompson" house had given way to the new "Monroe House," a hotel to which Salem can well point with pride.

FINANCES OF THE NEW-COMER.

By a system adopted at the start by the Board, it has been found that a very close estimate of the money value of each immigrant may be had. This estimate shows \$3000 as the average of each head of family, for the first half year. During the last half this was increased fully \$200. There is data enough to show that \$2,500 is but a fair average of the amount brought by more than two-thirds of those who make settlement. This aggregates several million dollars. A postal card, with blanks for the new-comer to fill up, showing date of arrival, state, location, purchase price, and name was adopted in June 1886. Since then the Board has received enough to show a total of \$1,000,450. There are several hundred cards still in the hands of intending settlers. Replying to a circular from the Board, issued in October, a number of bankers and business men throughout the state have given figures from their exchange accounts, showing conclusively that the averages made by the board are rather below, than above, the figure set forth in bankable paper, and other money transactions. A banker at Albany who has handled nearly \$100,000 worth of this paper, during the past year, makes the average about \$3,500. A banker at Eugene city, having about \$125,000 of this kind of transaction, writes that the average is fully \$3,000. The first National Bank of Portland, having an exchange transaction during the past year of \$20,000,000 reports an increase, during that time, of 14,277 pieces of exchange. And after an examination of its character places a fair proportion of it, to the credit of those who have come into, and made settlement in the state during the period in question. On all sides we hear of a revival and expansion of general business. It has been a substantial, wholesome, permanent character. It is not confined to cities but is general throughout the state.

IN CONCLUSION.

This immigration work, carried on at the start, under somewhat untoward circumstances, has to-day the character of an unequivocal success, and permanency; and in view of what has been accomplished, it ought to be looked upon by every right-thinking interested citizen, as a success not only justifying the appropriation heretofore made, but warranting the expenditure of a much larger sum per annum. Plainly, the progress of the state, and the development of all her resources must be contingent upon the steady influx of a new population, trained and educated up to the highest standard of thrift, and industry, and enterprise in all agricultural matters, and a liberal investment of capital in commercial and manufacturing enterprises. This is the immigration sought, and as the records show, the bulk of that already received. This class can be had as a result of a steady, persistent, practical, judicious presentation of the inducements held out by Oregon; and it is only right and fair that we should share largely in the immigration of a sturdy, forehanded people; accessions to our population of that industrious, enterprising class which means the development of resources, unmatched anywhere in the common country.

In regard to foreign immigration, it is the experience of the commissioners, that every attempt to extend the work beyond the limits of the United States, or even to remote portions of our own country has been a failure, or wholly inadequate to the effort and the expenditure of money. The long and expensive journey, the countless of clamoring state and railway agents, which each new-comer to this country is forced to run, and the ignorance of Oregon--all these operate against and nullify immigration. So far as the experience of the state Board goes, the class coming direct from the old world, do not possess ready means, with which to make a settlement by purchase. As the records show, fully ninety per cent of those coming here during the years of '85 and '86, have been from the northwestern states, east of the Rockies, the overflow of these localities. It is the overflow of practical farmers, who will add a moral and social, as well as financial strength to the community in which settlement is made. Liberal expenditures of money will, unquestionably, bring good returns to the people of the state. What has been accomplished, is all in support of this opinion, and the work is certainly entitled to the cordial and hearty cooperation of every citizen.

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The Monroe house is three stories in height, and has broad verandahs entirely across the front of both the first and second floors, while a broad grass lawn leads out to the sidewalk. The hotel is situated just across the street from the county court house, five blocks from the state capitol building, nine blocks from the passenger depot, and only a block from the main business part of the city. The house is entirely new inside, and is handsomely furnished throughout. In no dining room any where, can one find a better, nor a cleaner meal of victuals than at the Monroe house. No Chinese are employed about the hotel, and Mrs. Monroe, whose reputation stands at the head of the list of caterers with whom the traveling public come in contact, is, with her sister, at the head of the culinary department, and oversees all the work in the kitchen and dining-room, in person. She also devotes her every energy to doing everything that will conduce to the comfort, and pleasure of the guests.

On the main floor, beside the kitchen and dining room, is the office, a neat quiet room, well fitted with writing materials and on the table of which are the leading newspapers, a sitting room, handsomely furnished with a parlor suite with an open fire place in the chamber, and each room of the suite handsomely furnished. On the second floor, the two front rooms, each have stoves, while another room just back of the east of these, has an open fireplace. There are ten rooms on this floor, all furnished in the latest style, and with elegance, and comfort. The third or upper story has also ten rooms, and all well furnished, the two front rooms, as are those below, fitted with fire. Everything will be found as neat as a pin around this house, and it will surely always retain its standing as the favorite hostelry south of Portland, so long as Mr. Monroe, and his estimable and amiable wife continues in its management.

THOMAS HOLMAN. Manufacturer of the Western Fanning Mills and Grain Cleaner.

During the past three or four years, Thomas Holman has been adding at least, his quota to the manufacturing interests of Salem, during which time several hundreds of the now famous "Western" wheat and grain cleaners have been made in, and shipped from Salem. Mr. Holman, at one time, had an opposition in Albany, which for a season, appeared to divide the honors of manufacturing machines for cleaning grain in this state; but Mr. Holman's mills, "The Western," proved too much for the opposition factory, which retired from the field, and leaves Mr. Holman standing alone, as the only manufacturer of grain cleaners in Oregon. During 1886, over 500 mills were made in his factory, and sold. He manufactures two sizes each of the Western Fanning mill, and of the Western warehouse grain cleaner. The mills are all made with patent sacking attachment, so that the grain is cleaned and sacked with only one handling. These mills have been sold all over Oregon and Washington Territory, where he constantly has wagons traveling, selling and delivering them. These sales have brought him, in return, the highest testimonials from persons using them. In fact, the "Western" factory is an institution for Salem, and Oregon, to point to with pride, and one that will grow as Oregon grows. Mr. Holman is also proprietor of the Salem electric light franchise. There are now 38 arc lamps on the circuit, together with several incandescent circuits, and Mr. Holman uses two dynamos to generate the electricity. This electric system gives perfect satisfaction.

SALEM BATHS. Prof. H. Diamond, the Pioneer Barber of Salem. A Neat Shop.

At 208 Commercial street, H. Diamond has one of the neatest barber shops, with baths to be found in Salem, and he and his able assistants can always be found ready to do the best work in their line. Prof. Diamond is one of the oldest tonorial artists in Salem, and has always held his trade by doing satisfactory work.

T. C. SMITH.

In room 3, Patton's block, on State street, T. C. Smith has his dental parlors, where he is prepared to do all kinds of dental work. Dr. Smith makes a specialty of fine gold fillings, but does not in the least neglect silver and platinum, alloy, nor other dental fillings. He is prepared to do all kinds of other dental work, Nitrus Oxide gas vitallized air, cocaine freezer, chloroform, or any of the other modern pain obtundents, in the patient's extraction of teeth. Dr. Smith has a large and steadily increasing practice, and his work is very satisfactory.