

ESTABLISHMENT O. A. C. RECALLED

Legislator Who Wrote Bill
is Still Living at
Corvallis

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Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—The author of the law providing for an agricultural college in Oregon is a resident of Corvallis. He is the only surviving member of the lower house of the memorable legislature of 1868. He is an octogenarian and though he was bagged ten years ago, he has the elastic step of a man of 40. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He is a veteran of the Civil War and since the death of the late P. A. Moses of Corvallis, bears the distinction of being the oldest member in the Oregon Agricultural College short course for farmers. A remarkable personage is the venerable John G. Flook, residing at North Twelfth street.

Mr. Flook recently placed in the department of history of the Oregon Agricultural College, for safe keeping, the original resolution passed by the legislature providing for an agricultural college in this state and upon request for further information from sources, regarding the origin of the resolution, he gave the following: These were pioneer times and under conditions in our homes, in schools, in transportation, and, in almost every activity of the people. For instance, we had no state penitentiary. The penitentiary had recently been moved to Salem from Portland and the state hospital still remained at the latter place. All of mail came via Sacramento, on the Concord coach drawn by six mules, making the trip in six days in summer and about double that time in winter. Roads—well, I might say had none, for it would be a misnomer to call them roads—bad at all times and in winter almost impassable. Not a mile of railroad, if we except the portage road at the Cascades.

This was the time of the pony express, but that only reached California. Fare on the stage was 15¢ per mile in winter. In some places it was understood that passengers were expected to walk and to mail to pry the stage out of the holes.

Remember, this was in the reconstruction period just after the war, when political feeling and animosity was running high and the country was drifting along no one knew where it would bring up or where the future held in store for us. Early in September, 1868, I arrived in Salem and had barely time to get my carpet sack and scoop the sweat out of my eyes and ears and my seat among the wise solons of the house was called to order. The legislature convened in the story of a rented building in town. It was not very large, but was withal quite convenient for the purpose. The house effected a reorganization by the election of Governor Whiteaker of Lane county as speaker. When the members began to function Governor White delivered his message to the houses and it was announced that they were ready for business.

About this time I came to myself and tried to think how I had gotten there or what I was expected to do. Among the more prominent members were J. F. Gazlet, Colonel Chapman of Multnomah, John Minto and Davenport, both of Marion, and William Polk, the watchdog of the treasury. While there were a number of new and inexperienced men among them, there were many who were fully at home in legislative matters. Quite a number were good parliamentarians, fully up to the game. Senate elected B. F. Burch president, a very capable officer as he proved to be. Later he was trustee of Corvallis college. Among the members of his session I mention an attorney who afterward attained national prominence. I allude to Homer Herman, who ably represented this state in congress for several terms and afterward served as commissioner of the general land office. I have been told that he is the survivor of the senate, as I am to be the only one left of the lower house.

Among the many recommendations Governor White made in his message was the one that appealed most to me, that action should be taken at once to secure the ninety-odd acres of land granted to the state of Oregon for the purpose of establishing an agricultural college, as provided for in its acceptance would be before another legislature would convene.

I kept this thought in mind for several days hoping that someone more able than I would move in the matter, until I began to fear that we were likely to lose this large body of land by our neglect.

"It was then that I decided to make a move. Accordingly I secured the passage of the following resolution, namely: 'Resolved, That a select committee of three be appointed to whom shall be referred so much of the school land commissioner's reports as refers to the agricultural lands, with instructions to report what action is necessary to secure the grant of land donated to the state by the act of congress of July 2, 1862, for the use of an agricultural college. To report by bill or otherwise.'

"This was passed September 30, 1868. It was the first act of our legislature looking forward to an agricultural college in Oregon.

Within a few days as chairman, I reported by bill substantially as it finally was passed. Before the bill was framed the committee had several conferences with the head of the Willamette university. These conferences terminated in satisfactory arrangements whereby that institution agreed to teach such branches as required by the act of congress until such time as the state was able to provide an institution.

"The house promptly passed the measure without change. It was held up for some time in the senate. This delay was owing somewhat to the great fight of the session, namely, the land grant fight between the two railroads under construction through the state from Portland to the California line—the east side road being built by Ben Holladay and the west side by Joseph Gaston.

"As the Agricultural College bill had been submitted to quite a number of senators and representatives and had received endorsement, we anticipated clear sailing. While it was not opposed in principle, various institutions over the state sought it until the state might be ready to take it over. The president of Pacific university was a determined seeker for his school, and, of course, these institutions had their followers in the members of those counties in which these schools were located.

"Senator Bellinger of Benton county, who later became United States judge in Portland, had a laudable desire to confer a favor on his own county. Being of the majority party he experienced little trouble in striking out the words Willamette university and inserting Corvallis college.

"While I was not partial to any locality, I realized that the Salem school was at that time the best equipped for the work. But when the bill passed the senate and Governor Wood signed it, I was pleased, and am more pleased now than ever. The bill, containing an emergency clause, took effect on its passage, October 27, 1868.

"In passing, I will say that this session was rather turbulent. We had taken oath to support the constitution, yet the legislature turned around and voted to repeal the 14th constitutional amendment, which had been previously adopted by the required number of states, and was a part of the constitution. This left a blot on the state of Oregon.

"You can see the agricultural college bill as enacted in the laws for the year 1868, page 40. The first section provided for a board of commissioners, consisting of J. C. Avery, J. F. Miller and J. H. Douthitt, a very able and efficient board, as their work will attest. These gentlemen and all succeeding officers and faculties of the college are justly entitled to the highest honor and praise for the splendid success of the institution. We now have one of the foremost institutions in the land.

"As remuneration for the small part I had in promoting the college in the long past, I was permitted to enjoy its short course last winter, and am now anticipating the coming of another event of the same kind. If I cast any bread upon the water 52 years ago, it is now returning to me. I may be permitted to say further that among the throngs who gather at Oregon Agricultural college conventions I am a frequent attendant."

SUPERIOR WIT NECESSARY TO CONQUER SHARK

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 30.—Matching brains with a shark is the only way to catch one of these wily man-eaters, according to Chief Pharmacist Mate Hugh Thompson of the local recruiting station of the navy. Thompson says that the sharks are so shrewd that ordinary means often fail, and it is then that strategy comes in. He backs it up with a yarn.

"The U. S. S. Wilmington was in the harbor of Saigon, which, Thompson says, is the worst shark-infested place in the world. Hundreds of sharks surrounded the boat, and Chief Master at Arms George Strollum was in his glory hunting sharks. A huge steel hook, baited with meat, was thrown out at the end of a line composed of steel chain and Manila rope.

Strollum made some great catches but there was one shark, the biggest in the school, which Strollum could not snare. Tempting morsels of meat were offered, but the monster, 20 feet long, seemed to sense the presence of the hook, and winked at the shark hunter as it passed by the alluring bait.

Every shark, Thompson says, is preceded by two small fish which swim just ahead of the shark's nose. If one of these fish is killed its place is taken by another from somewhere. The two fish are always present, acting as feelers and a scouting expedition for the monster.

When a piece of pork was thrown into the water, the fish would investigate. If there was no hook inside, they would so report, and the shark would enjoy a meal, but as soon as a baited hook had been cast into the water, the small fish would advise the shark and the meal would be left to toss about on the waves.

For several days Strollum tried to induce the shark to grab the hook without result. As a last resort,

Thompson went below and came on deck with several bottles of chlorinated fresh lime. A huge piece of pork was brought up. An incision was made and several pounds of the lime inserted and then covered so that water could not reach it.

When this was thrown overboard the scout fish investigated, made a favorable report, and the shark rolled over on its back and swallowed the big meal.

For several minutes nothing happened. Then the shark began to show discomfort. It splashed wildly. Soon it rolled over on its back and gas began to bubble from its mouth. Its stomach swelled up like a gas balloon. A few minutes more and the slackening lime did its work. There was a loud explosion and natives picked up shark meat 300 yards away in the mangrove thickets.

out. The result is often an attack of panic, in which the swimmer exhausts himself and sinks.

The remains of what is described as the largest and most mysterious land animal that ever walked the earth have been found in Baluchistan. The creature was probably more like a rhinoceros than like any other animal of to-day, but it had a neck that suggests that of the giraffe. Two of the neck bones, compared with similar bones of the largest previously known land animals, make them look small, and nothing but dynamite or a stump puller could have drawn one of its teeth.

More and more students are applying for admission to the colleges, until it has become a serious problem to know what to do with them. In spite of stricter entrance requirements the tide is unchecked. A New England college, which a few years ago did not have more than seven or eight hundred students, this year rejected two thousand applicants after accepting six hundred of the freshman class. Other increases in enrollment are almost as great—as healthy a sign in our after-war growth as anyone could hope for.

In company with other foreigners, Americans who are living in England are subject both to the British income taxes and to those of their own country, an expensive predicament from which there seems to be no immediate escape. The report of the British commission on income taxes which has just appeared, says that the commission cannot recommend any change in the taxation of an income both by the government of the United Kingdom and by the government of a foreign state, and that foreigners who are living abroad continue to be taxed on their British income at the full standard rate without allowances or reliefs.—Youth's Companion.

FARM AND HOME POINTERS OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The child's life, health, reserve vigor, are often damaged by improper feeding, especially the cold lunch, should be selected with care, and properly prepared and packed and then "served with a hot dish at noon." A bowl of good, hot soup or a steaming cup of cocoa are among the appetizers and energizers suggested. Many districts in Oregon are now beginning to serve one hot dish with the school lunch.—O. A. C., Child Nutrition.

Spring rye has proved more profitable than winter rye for the plateau region of Central Oregon represented by the Harney county branch experiment station farm. Winter rye failed on dry land last year, and produced 12.6 bushels on dry land, and 18.2 under irrigation.—O. A. C. Station.

For spring wheat hard federation was easily first of all varieties tried out by D. E. Stephens, of the Moro branch station. It yielded 25.8 bushels per acre, outdistancing the more common varieties for the district—early Bart, marquis and bluestone. It is likely to prove a desirable spring wheat in the northwest, reports Mr. Stephens.—O. A. C. Station.

Pocket gophers in Oregon are doing much more damage to field and orchards than usually thought. Almost every tree over acres of orchard has been killed by this pest. The agricultural college has a bulletin on control, which should be prepared by now.—O. A. C., Zoology.

Endive as a late winter salad plant has an encouraging future in western Oregon. The first crop was marketed in 23 days from the time roots were buried in some college greenhouse trials. The average weight of the best roots was about a half pound for the season.—O. A. C., Vegetable gardening.

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M. J. B. coffee 3 lbs.45c per lb
M. J. B. coffee 1 lb47c per lb
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