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THE OREGON COUNTRY

Extracts from Senator Mitchell's Great Speech in Support of the Lewis & Clark Exposition Appropriation

The history of the manner in which the territory formerly known as the "Oregon Country" became a part of the public domain of the United States, and the nature of the title under which we hold, its extent territorially, and its general characteristics are all matters of the highest interest. Although the present State of Oregon includes within its boundaries an area of more than 30,000 square miles more than that included in the whole of the six New England States, it is but a fraction less than one-fifth in size of the original "Oregon Country," as claimed first by Spain and subsequently by the United States. Something of its magnitude and territorial extent can be realized when it is remembered that, after losing about 200,000 square miles by unprofitable and unwise compromise, 285,123 square miles remained, and out of which three great states, and large portions of two others, namely, Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming, have been carved.

Gray's discovery and the purchase of Louisiana Territory were quickly followed by scientific exploration on the part of the Government of the United States, as also by settlement on the part of its citizens. The expedition of Lewis and Clark organized before and sent out immediately after the Louisiana Purchase was one of the most daring, difficult, dangerous and at the same time successful of all expeditions of which history of this or of any other country gives record. There seems to be some difference in the statements of historians as to the number composing that expedition. According to Barrows, it consisted of 28 persons in all—Lewis and Clark, nine young Kentuckians, 14 United States soldiers, two Canadian voyageurs and one negro, the body servant of Captain Clark. According, however, to the probably accurate notes of Dr. Coues to his new edition of the history of that expedition, it consisted of 45 men from Missouri to the Mandan country, and of 32, including Lewis and Clark, thereafter across the continent, the others returning from that point, as was the original programme.

The authority under which Captains Lewis and Clark acted, as stated in the commission issued to them by President Jefferson, was "to explore the river Missouri and its principal branches to their sources, and then to seek to trace to its termina-

tion in the Pacific some river, whether the Columbia, the Oregon, the Colorado or any other, which might offer the most direct, practicable water communication across the continent for the purposes of commerce."

The time occupied by these courageous men in consummating the important and hazardous duty assigned them by their Government was two years, four months and nine days, during which time they traveled more than 9000 miles through an unbroken and trackless wilderness.

The start was made May 14, 1804, from their camp on the Mississippi near the mouth of the Missouri, and returning they reached St. Louis September 23, 1806. They discovered the headwaters of the Missouri and the Columbia, and followed the waters of the latter until they landed at Cape Disappointment, at the mouth of the Columbia river, in Oregon, November 15, 1805. They remained there in camp until March 23, 1806, a period of more than four months, when they commenced their ascent of the Columbia river in their canoes on their return trip.

The hardships experienced by these brave men and by the courageous pioneers, men and women, who in the next half-century followed to their footsteps and braved the innumerable hardships and dangers of the far West, have never been, nor can they be, fully depicted by pen or tongue. To them are the people of America greatly indebted, for they have hewn out with willing hands, borne on stalwart shoulders, and set with stability in its everlasting resting place, the foundation stone of one of the grandest pillars upon which in part rests today the superb superstructure of American development and American civilization.

How strangely interesting and pathetic is the history, and how peculiar the vicissitudes surrounding the lives of some men! Both of these intrepid explorers subsequently became Governors, at different periods, of Missouri Territory. Captain William Clark, seven years after his return from the great exploring expedition that has rendered the names of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark immortal, became Governor of Missouri Territory, serving in that capacity from 1813 to 1821, and as Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis from 1822 until his death; while Captain Meriwether Lewis, after passing through all the untold hardships and perils of that memorable expedition, returned to serve a brief time as Governor of the Missouri Territory from 1807 to 1809 and then, at a comparatively early age, to find a lonely grave in the forests of Tennessee, either as a felon, or as a victim at the hand of an assassin, just which history has never yet definitely determined. But where, or when, or how they died, they can each exclaim with the blind poet of old, "Exegi monumentum aere perennius."

A contrast between the status of the "Oregon Country" 100 years ago and its present status, presents an historical lesson of marvelous importance and profound interest.

The displacement of the hut of the savage and the home of the barbarian by the schoolhouse, the academy, seminary and university, and the innumerable homes of civilized, educated, Christianized and happy people, illustrates the civilizing and Christianizing influences that naturally and necessarily followed in the way opened to them by the grand expeditionary enterprise of Lewis and Clark. We find in this century

a wilderness, covering nearly one-half of the continent, transformed into a land of beauty, of promise, of production, of elevation to a position of civilization second to none in all the history of nations—a country now productive in the highest degree in agriculture, in commerce, in manufactures, in fisheries, in mineral wealth, in fruits and berries of every description—apples, cherries,

mines of gold and silver and copper and cinnabar and coal and asbestos; its flocks and herds of millions of cattle, sheep, goats and other livestock; its schools and colleges and other institutions of learning, its churches, its asylums and other alms-houses and charitable institutions; its more than a million of happy, enterprising and progressive people, and its ever-increasing com-

TIME TO ORGANIZE ROOSEVELT CLUBS

Next November the people of Oregon, almost regardless of party, are hoping, praying, to see elected President of the United States one who stands foremost among the public men of our day by his intelligent, fearless, vigorous personal and political honesty, a manly man and able statesman, the especial pride of the West. In opposition to him are joined all open and hidden influences which can be brought to bear by those evil interests which he has thwarted and jeopardized. The money issue, the tariff question, even expansion, would not in a hundred years affect Oregon so much, however you may believe, one way or the other, as the completion of the isthmian canal which President Roosevelt has forced out of the future into the present, no longer a possibility or a probability but almost a reality. Self-interest should make every man on the Pacific Coast his ardent advocate when for us he has antagonized the powerful interests which for years have held up canal legislation, but even more does every believer in better government owe his support to a president who has backed up his speeches by halting into court the dishonest official however high his position. Oregon has been known as a Roosevelt state but it will be an ill endorsement of his efficient administration if the state next June allows its Republican vote to fall off, the first gun fired in 1904 should be aimed to strike terror among his enemies and good will must be backed up by votes. Then the real struggle comes in the nominating convention, and every man who would like to cast a ballot for Mr. Roosevelt for president is entitled to go into the Republican primary in his precinct to elect delegates who will vote in the county convention to send a delegation to the state convention which will instruct its representatives in the national convention at Chicago to place Theodore Roosevelt's name at the head of the Republican ticket. Roosevelt clubs are now being organized, let not Washington county be behind in this good work. Only by organization can effective campaigning be done, and it is none too early to begin now.



peaches, pears, prunes, grapes—and in cereals of every character. The salmon fisheries of the Columbia river producing annually hundreds of thousands of the finest fish that ever satiated the palate of man; the vast lumbering establishments scattered throughout this vast domain, turning out every hour millions of feet of fir, pine, cedar, hemlock, maple, myrtle and other kinds of the finest lumber ever manufactured; its innumerable highly productive

merchandise and expanding trade, all bear testimony of the highest and most interesting character to the marvelous development of the "Oregon Country" in the last 100 years.

The city of Portland, Or., has one decided and most important advantage over the city of St. Louis as a place for an exhibition. In no part of the United States can there be found a more superbly delightful summer climate than in Portland, Or. The atmosphere is clear, and

invigorating and such a thing as oppressive summer heat is unknown. The city is clean and healthful, and supplied with the very best cold water from a mountain stream. The scenery in and around Portland is unequalled by any other on the continent. Five stalwart mountain peaks, covered with perpetual snow, stand in imperial grandeur at its very gates; these are Tacoma or Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, Hood and Jefferson. These are the joy and adoration of its own people and the wonder and admiration of the thousands of tourists who annually visit the Pacific Coast. No summer watering place or seaside or mountain in any part of the United States furnishes any greater or better advantages for rest and enjoyment than does the climate and scenery of Portland, Ore.

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES

County Clerk Geo. A. Morgan has sent out a circular letter to school districts and municipalities notifying them that tax levies must be reported a month earlier, by Jan. 1, and already a number have responded.

The list thus far with nearest post-office and rate in mills is:

Dist. 49	Albion	5 mills
" 88	Sherwood	2 "
" 16	Dilley	1 "
" 1	Hillsboro	2 "
" 57	Beaverton	12 "
" 93	J. Newberg	7 "
" 51	Mountsindale	10 "
" 96	Sherwood	3 "
" 77	Blooming	\$30 "
" 36	J. Rex	24 "
City of Hillsboro		10 "

The assessed valuation of districts is as follows:

No. 67	J.	\$31193
" 57		51455
" 88		31181
" 23	J.	85322
" 36		11980
" 1		76240
" 93	J.	3730

NOTICE TO PATRONS.

On and after January 1, 1904, the printing offices and newspapers of Washington County will make the following charges for job work and legal advertising:

Per 500 (on 1000; order add one-half.)	
Bill Heads, 16 lb. 6s.	\$2 25
4s.	2 50
3s.	2 75
2s.	3 50
Statements	2 50
Note Heads	2 50
Letter Heads, low	2 50
medium	3 00
good	3 50
Cards, \$2.00 to \$3.00 per 500.	
Envelopes	2 50
Tags, \$1.75 to \$2.50 per 500.	
Tickets	2 00
Tickets, numbered, perforated—	
1000	3 25
3000	8 00
(Add \$2.50 per thousand.)	
Prescription blanks, 1000, padded	2 50
Additional 1000	1 50
Topic Books, etc., 100, per page	75
(Cover counts 2 pages.)	
Window Cards, quarter, 50	3 00
100	4 00
Sale Bills	4 00
Bankruptcy legal	2 50
Divorce Summons	10 00
Executors' and final notice	5 00
All other legal, per inch	3 00

Forest Grove Times,
Hillsboro Argus,
Hillsboro Independent,
Washington County News.

Gales Creek has three sawmills and if there is any truth in recent reports there will be two more in the near future, one on Iler Creek and one on Clearwater one mile from the Soda Spring.