



Interesting Odds and Ends Concerning the Early Days in Old Oregon.

J. L. Parrish, the Methodist blacksmith-missionary, gives an instructive picture of the circuit rider in Oregon in the forties. His circuit extended from Portland to Corvallis on the west side and was called the Yamhill Circuit. He made the trip on horseback, once in six weeks, furnishing his own horse and its keep—"at the end of the lasso rope." There were no roads he says, and nothing but a horse trail to follow. His ministrations were both to natives and to the scattered settlers. He would ride up to an Indian encampment, stake out his horse, talk an hour or two to the natives who would gather around him and then ride on. He generally managed to sleep in the cabin of a settler. Sometimes he would preach to a family, sometimes to a dozen persons and even to as many as twenty-five. He speaks of the settlements of Tualatin Plains, Chehalem, the Hembree settlement and refers to his arrival at Corvallis as having reached the outskirts of civilization.

To close this series, if such it might be called, it will certainly be fitting to give at least a short account of the dramatic scenes at the Nation's capital accompanying the passage of the bill which organized Oregon as a bona fide Territory of the Union. The description is by an eye witness, Judge Thornton, who had been sent to Washington by Gov. Abernathy, head of the Provisional Government, to work for a territorial government.

You may wonder why there should be any "dramatic scenes" connected with the granting of territorial rights and privileges to a part of the country already recognized as belonging to the United States. But this was in 1848, when the ante-bellum political storm was at its height, and in his territorial bill, Judge Thornton had placed an anti-slavery clause. That was the nigger in the woodpile, or rather, the fact that there wasn't to be one allowed there, raised a fierce opposition on the part of the Southern members in Congress, the story of which Mr. Thornton tells so graphically, and in which Oregonians should be much interested.

In brief, the whole question of human rights was wrapped up in the Oregon Territorial bill. I will use the writer's words as far as possible. The debate was one of thrilling interest. There were giants in those days and the field on which they fought and measured strength with each other was one on which no man could be at a loss to find a foe man worthy of his steel, since here were such mighty men as Webster, Beaton, Douglas, Calhoun and Corwin. The latter having given notice of speaking on the bill in the Senate, the word was passed throughout the city, it being understood that the gifted orator would devote himself especially to the support of the anti-slavery provision. At an early hour the gallery was packed with the elite and beauty of the capital. On the floor of the Senate were diplomatic representatives from every court. Mr. Corwin arose, addressed the president, and for the two hours of his address, "no other sound was heard save occasionally that of one who seemed to catch at his breath, and no movement could be seen save in the varying muscles of the white faces of the listening hearers as the orator's matchless manner, melodious

voice and ready command of most apt language alternately nulled the heart into pity or kindled into resentment, while with inimitable skill and unsurpassed power" he attacked the system of human slavery. Southern faces were blanched and lips compressed with fear and passion. A venerable journalist present, a life-long advocate of slavery, nervously laid his hand upon a friend's shoulder when Mr. Corwin had closed, and with lips white and quivering with emotion said, "A few speeches such as that would sever the bonds of this Union." Such was the political tension with which Oregon's fate was linked.

The days drew on toward the close of Congress which had been set for Monday, August 14th. The opposition was resorting to debates, the offering of amendments and all kinds of filibustering to prevent a vote on the bill before the close of the session. The friends of the bill, led by Benton, Douglas and Hale, met on Friday night, the 11th, and decided upon maintaining "a golden silence" in the face of the above tactics, merely voting down all amendments, motions for adjournment, etc. On the other side, Davis, Calhoun, Butler and Foote entered the Senate Saturday girded for a last and desperate struggle. They spent the day in skirmishing in force as it feeling the strength of their opponents. When the usual motion for adjournment was made in the afternoon, the friends of the bill came hurrying out of the retiring room and voted "No" with a very marked emphasis. When many of the bill's supporters left the Senate chamber to lounge and smoke, they left a trusted sentinel on duty to watch the maneuvers of the enemy and to call them when it was necessary to re-inforce their friends and rush inside the bar to vote against all motions for adjournment. Some time after night-fall, Foote, the colleague of Jeff. Davis, arose, and with the remark that he hadn't anything to say, but that he thought he could talk until noon on Monday, started in on a time-killing speech. He began by repeating the bible story of the creation, and started out through Genesis as if intending to omit not "one jot or tittle." Seeing what was before them, the friends of the bill retreated to the retiring room to smoke, drink or sleep, leaving a page on sentinel duty.

Once in a while, Foote would be "spelled" briefly by his friends, after which he would resume his spiel. Occasionally through the long night a motion for adjournment would be made which quickly called in the absent senators. It happened, however, on more occasions than one, that a sleeping senator not quite awake, even after getting inside the bar, would vote "aye," then "nay," "aye" again and finally "nay" to the amusement of his more wide-awake colleagues.

In the course of the night a personal encounter occurred between Senators Butler and Benton, resulting in a virtual challenge to a duel by the former, Benton accepting the gauntlet with the admonition "But you and your friends will take notice that when I fight, I fight for a funeral."

Thus the long night dragged through. The light of Sunday morning dawned on the scene of struggle, finding the Southerners still in possession of the field, but visibly weakening. About eight o'clock the leaders of the opposition collected and conferred together in an undertone for a little while, after which Mr.

Foote who still held the floor which he had taken the evening before, announced that no further opposition would be made to taking a formal vote upon the bill. The roll was called, and on Sunday, August 13, 1848, the long contested bill was passed.

Such were the mighty throes accompanying the birth of Oregon into the large and prosperous family of Uncle Sam.

W. C. WOODWARD,
University of California.

The Other Side.

EDITOR GRAPHIC:—In your issue of the 26th Howard Walton writes concerning the tax amendment now before the voters of the State. He seems in honest opposition to it, and before condemning it should investigate the facts. Simmered down his objections are all based on the assumption that the farmer owns the land values of Oregon. The proposed amendment would exempt from taxation a greater sum than it would add to the actual working farmer of Yamhill or any other county. This can be easily proved by an examination of the assessor's returns. The farmers of Yamhill do not own all the tillable land assessed. Much of it is held out of use, rented to tenants and worked by men on shares who do not own it. Assuming, however, that it is owned by farmers shows that they own a little over four and a quarter millions out of upwards of seven and a half millions worth of land. Of the assessed values of Yamhill county there would be exempted only a part of the improvements upon city lots. Let us assume that all of them would be and add to it the improvements of other lands, farm implements, furniture, manufacturing plants, live stock, etc., as the amendment provides for, and we will still have left nearly nine and a half millions of property to derive taxes from as against the eleven million, seven hundred thousand now assessed.

To be on the safe side and not to be open to criticism, let us assume that it will raise the taxes on the farmers' lands it assessed as last year 25 per cent. In truth it could be shown on a close analysis that it would not raise them 16 per cent, for much of the value assessed to tillable lands are improved values, resulting from orchards, drains, leveling, etc., which should not be taxed. Any farmer can take his tax receipts and figure out what effect the tax reform will have on him. On the average it will be found that the farmer is ahead, and the more he owns of the exempted kind of property the better off he will be. If he allows a 25 per cent increase on his land and adds that to his total taxes paid, subtracts from this sum the taxes paid on his live stock, improvements, implements and furniture he will be better off unless he owns more than four times as much unimproved land values as the total value of the things he will be exempted from paying taxes on. Suppose, for argument, a tax rate of 16 mills now, and that the amendment made it 20. A farmer with land, exclusive of all improvements, valued at \$2,000 would now pay \$32 on it, and under amendment \$40. But on his live stock, buildings, orchard, implements and furniture he would, if not a land speculator but a real working farmer, have values fully to \$1,000, upon which he would pay \$16 now and under the amendment nothing, leaving him \$8 ahead. If his improvements, etc., amounted to several times the value of the land, as is the case with well stocked and thoroughly culti-

vated farms, he would be gainer at the rate of \$16 a thousand as over present methods.

This proposition is nothing new. Farmers in Manitoba, New Zealand and New South Wales have tested it out for many years. Investigate it, all who toil. It works well to the extent operated. Oregon needs the best.

This Association will send a speaker, if notified several days in advance, and show just how it would work. Respectfully,

A. D. CRIDGE,
Member of Central Com.

Real Estate Transfers.

Reported by the Yamhill County Abstract Company, McMinnville.

Fred R Lamson to Wm J Gordon; lot 3 and part 2, blk 24, Dundee; \$550.

A E Gardner to J H & C D Ottinger; 62.30 acres in sec 1, t 5 s, r 6 w; \$100.

Sam'l C Gockley & wf to Canfield Marsh; tract in Wm Jones D L C in t 3 s, r 2 w; \$1.

Geo W Martin & wf to Nelson Anderson; e 1/2 s 1/2 blk K, Cozines 3rd Add; \$1,000.

J D Dickey & wf to E P Isreal; 22.30 acres in Solomon Eads D L C in t 5 s, r 9 w; \$2,500.

United States to Rosie Wacheno; 30 acres in sec 18, t 5 s, r 7 w.

Andrew Kershaw to M F Miller; lot 8, blk 8, Kershaws Add Willamina; \$100.

Jno Wennerburg to Hannah L Marsten; lots 3 & 4, blk 19, Wennerberg 2nd Add Carlton; \$325.

C H Robinson & wf to J W Fletcher; lot 15, Jno Fletchers Add Dayton; \$400.

Geo W Massey & wf to S T Likens; lot 3, blk 4 Watts Add to Amity; \$65.

Simon T Likens to Sam'l T Likens; lot 5, blk 1, Watts Add to Amity; \$1.

J W Curl & wf to Louis Hermans & wf; 127.79 acres in Henry Warren D L C in t 5 s, r 5 w; \$7620.

Hulda Swanson to F C Elm-lund & w; 109 ares in Claim 79, s 3 s, r 4 w; \$3300.

Jonathan Arms W wf to Daniel Gibbon; 108 acres in John Wren D L C in t 4 s, r 3 w; \$5400.

W P Fraser & wf to E A Cahow; 141.24 acres in Claim 44, t 4 s, r 4 w; \$9,100.

F M Townsend & wf to J F Bashor; D J Townsend D L C in t 2 s, r 4 w; \$10.

J B Parker & wf to Geo C Yale; 9.05 acres in D D Deskins D L C in t 3 s, r 2 w; \$5,750.

M C Edwards & wf to Martha Sargent and J W Gant; 139.17 acres in sec 33, t 5 s, r 5 w; \$6,000.

Jesse Edwards & wf to Isom P Wooton; part of n 1/2 lot 1, blk 2, Edwards 2nd Add to Newberg; \$112.

A H Brown to Nettie K Saunders; n 1/2 lot 4, Amity; \$350.

Jas B Hayes to Drusilla A Hayes; 130.75 acres in O. P Turner D L C t 5 s, r 6 w; \$6,000.

Jesse Edwards & wf to Jas C Duncan; lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, blk 36, Edwards Add to Newberg; \$500.

W E Nelson & wf to Elizabeth White; lots 3, 4, 5 and 6, blk 20, Faulconer's 2nd Add Sheridan; \$650.

Geo H Burnett & wf to W P Vinton; small tract in College Add to McMinnville; \$200.

W T Vinton to Louise Klicks; small tract in College Add to McMinnville; \$250.

F C Elmlund & wf to Niels Nielsen; 109 acres in Claim 79, t 3 s, r 4 w; \$6,000.

W R Haynes to Jennie Boyce; 1/4 acre in Dayton; \$300.

L M Parker & wf to A M Davis; 32x100 ft near College and 2nd sts, Newberg; \$500.

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