

White Hand

A Tale of the Early Settlers of Louisiana.

BY AUSTIN C. BURDICK

CHAPTER I.

We who turn our eyes westward and behold the "Star of Empire" setting amid the golden waters of the Pacific, while the folds of our nation's banner almost envelop the continent, are prone to look upon the valley of the Mississippi as a region old in civilization. Yet, long after the Atlantic shores were girded with cities and thriving villages, the great valley of the mid-continent was a vast solitude unknown to our forefathers. Long after colleges and schools, governments and courts, societies and churches, had arisen and flourished in the Atlantic colonies, the red man hunted his game in the forest, and drove his canoe over the bosom of the great Father of Waters, unmolested by the pale-faced invader.

In the middle of the sixteenth century, a bold and hardy band of adventurous knights and warriors, led by Hernando de Soto, landed at the bay of Santa Spiritu, in Florida, and in all the pride and pomp of glorious array, started off through the deep forests in quest of those fabled cities where golden rivers were said to come. On they went, meeting and overcoming obstacles innumerable, and, at length, a worn and weary remnant of the once proud host sat down to rest upon the bank of the mighty river. A little farther on, they went through the wilds of Arkansas, but the same stern, dark forest, with its avenging hordes of red men, met them at every step, and they came back to the Mississippi, where De Soto laid down and died. His great, hard heart was broken. The remnant of his party hastily constructed a few rude rafts, and sailed down the river, followed by the curses of the Indians.

After this, the great valley remained untrodden by the white men for a century and a half, when, in July, 1673, a small band of Europeans and Canadians, under Joliet and Marquette, reached the banks of the great river. They had come from the St. Lawrence, and had wandered through the vast solitudes of the Maumee and the Wabash. They floated down as far as the mouth of the Arkansas, where, having made themselves sure that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico, they returned to their people in Canada. Great rejoicings were held over the reports these adventurers brought with them; yet Joliet and Marquette both died ere the white men again sought the Father of Waters.

Seven years later, when Captain La Salle, at the head of forty soldiers and a few monks, found the mighty river, and after recrossing the Atlantic, and returning with more aid, and after passing through adventures almost incredible, he fairly commenced a colony in Louisiana. In 1687, he was assassinated by his own companions, and the few white men left were little better than a mere handful of wanderers in the wilderness.

A few years later, came the men whose names are cherished as among those who suffered the most and worked the most faithfully for the noble homes of the South. Most prominent among them were the two brothers, Iberville and Bienville, the latter of whom was the founder of the city of New Orleans, and for many years governor of the colony. From this time really commenced the growth of Louisiana.

This territory was inhabited by numerous tribes of Indians, more numerous, perhaps, than in any other section of the country. Some of them were mere families, insignificant in their capacity as distinct tribes, but yet speaking an idiom peculiar to themselves, and possessing their own exclusive traditions, and exercising all the rights of independent powers. But the principal tribes in the southern country were three in number—the Natchez, the Choctaws, and the Chickasaws, and with these and the Yazoo, did the French of that period have mostly to deal.

It was in the summer of 1727 that we introduce our readers to a pleasant home on the banks of the Mississippi. Some forty miles above where the city of Baton Rouge now stands, the Marquis Brion St. Julien had located himself, and erected a house. He was now at the prime of life, having been some five years on the road through the second half century of his life, and had left France out of pure disgust for the society he was obliged to mingle with there. Unlike most of those who came to the new home in the vast wilderness, he was a man of letters. He had left his wife in the town of his ancestors, and her death was a severe blow upon his noble heart.

Money was potent, even in the wilderness, and the marquis had the most sumptuous residence in the country. Near his estate, the great river made a swift, and to the westward, and his house was built upon a small tributary stream, which ran nearly south from its source, and at a distance of nearly two miles from the Mississippi.

Here he and his family lived, with such of his domestics as were needed about him. The house stood to the west, behind two buildings, one upon the north and the other upon the south of the main house, and each about twenty feet distant. These were for the residence of the marquis and his family. In the rear of all these, and distant forty feet, there was a small building, one of them, twenty feet square, was for the stable, and the other, fifty feet square, was for the general storehouse of provisions for both man and beast. In front of the main dwelling extended a beautiful garden almost to the river. Outside of all, was a stout, barricade, completely enclosing the grounds on which stood the buildings and most of the garden. It was formed of posts driven firmly into the ground, at the distance of a foot apart and twelve feet high, and then these intervals were tightly filled with other upright timbers, firmly fastened in their places by transverse girds and stout wooden piles. There were numerous loop or port-holes through this barricade, which could be opened or closed at pleasure.

The whole household of the marquis consisted of fifty-two persons. There were himself and two children, and one

nephew; eight male white servants and five female whites; twenty-five black males, and ten females of the same dusky hue. And now, considering that St. Julien had arms and ammunition in plenty, we may suppose that he had little to fear from the red neighbors who prowled about his premises. And yet he had one protection that ought to have been more powerful than all else, and that was the perfect honor and gentlemanly kindness with which he treated all the Indians with whom he came in contact.

Late one afternoon, the marquis went out into one of his fields that lay upon the rich bottom of the Walnut River. The Marquis St. Julien was a tall man, with a slight tendency to stoop in his gait, though this was more the result of a habit of deep thought which he had contracted than of any physical cause. His hair was gray—a dark, granite-like gray, and he wore it long over his shoulders, whither it depended in loosely flowing curls. His features were very regular and handsome, but pale and thoughtful. His dress was mostly of black velvet, and its few ornaments of jet. He was, in truth, a noble-looking man, and just such an one as the common class would love to obey and instinctively respect. His white servants were fondly attached to him, and his slaves loved him.

He had nearly gained the southern edge of the copse, when he was startled from his reverie by hearing a crashing sound among the dry sticks near him. He stopped quickly, and on one instant his mind was on the object which he had taken to be a dark object gliding from the path in front of him towards the river, and he immediately resolved that this was something which wished to escape him. And other thing, also, occurred to his mind, and that was that no man could escape by the way the object had taken, for not over six feet from the path in that section was a deep, wide ditch, which he had caused to be dug for the purpose of draining a piece of wet land beyond the hickory wood.

The marquis stopped, and as he did so, a tall, powerful man stepped back in the path. It was an Indian, who stood nearly a head taller than St. Julien, and whose form was straight and muscular. "How?" uttered the marquis, stepping back and lowering the muzzle of his pistol; "what does the Stung Serpent here?" "He is only in the path which his white brother has made through the forest," returned the red man, standing proudly erect.

"But wherefore art thou in his path?" "The Stung Serpent is on his way to his people." "And where there none of thy people with thee? Does the Stung Serpent—who stands second among the Sons of Tanagra—wander alone so far from home?" "Yes, for he is not afraid. He knows the white chief is his friend, and wherefore should he fear?"

"But why did you come here?" asked the marquis, coming more directly to the point. "I came to guide some traders on their way to the town of the great white chief, and my boat is left above where the great river turns toward the setting sun," answered the Indian.

"Then let my red brother return with me to my home, and there rest for the night."

But the Indian would not accept the invitation. He protested to be in haste, and in a few moments more, he turned on his way, and was soon out of sight. As the marquis turned once more homeward, he pondered upon this thing. He knew the Stung Serpent well. He was the only brother of the Great Sun, or chief, of the Natchez, and was the most noted warrior of the whole tribe. Thus far, in all their intercourse, St. Julien had found him upright and honorable, but he well knew how treacherous the Natchez could be, and how the crime of one white man against them could be visited upon the heads of all with whom they might come in contact. That Stung Serpent should have come fifty miles from his village to guide a few traders did not seem probable, and yet the marquis was at a loss for any other cause of the visit. At all events, he resolved to be prepared for danger; so when he reached his dwelling, he called his people together, and having informed them of what he had seen, he bade them be on their guard.

After having done this, he was about to turn towards the house, when one of his black, a huge Guineaman of Ashantee named Tony, came up to him and spoke. "Look heed, ma'r, I seed dat ar injun when he went down, an' he did hab two white men with 'im. But he's been a lookin' all 'bout head dis long while. Dis afternoon I seed him on de hill ober head by de cattle, an' he was a lookin' sharp all round. S'pose he wants some of your fat oxen, eh, ma'r?"

"When did he go down, Tony?" "Arly dis mornin'."

"And when did you see him first on his return?" "Jus' 'bout an hour arter noon."

"Then see that the dogs are confined among the cattle. The red scamps may mean mischief."

And with this, the marquis turned and went into the house. He did not wish to lose any of his dogs, though he would to any have given him heartily of them in that absolute need.

CHAPTER II.

We have remarked that the Marquis St. Julien had two children. They were twins, and were a boy and a girl. Louis St. Julien had been seventeen years of life, and he had much of his father's look, save that his frame never promised such height. Those who knew Louis best, and who had seen his father, were a little smaller, but the difference was not readily noticed. She had the same regularity of feature, the same deep golden hair, the same brilliant blue eyes, the same fair, open brow, and the same nobleness of expression. She was a beautiful girl, and as she and her brother wandered about together, many and many were the untutored red men who had dwelt with a

sort of religious awe upon the fair picture.

We have also said that the marquis had a nephew living with him. This was Simon Lolohe, the son of St. Julien's sister. He was near five-and-thirty years of age, rather below the medium stature of man, and not very perfect in physical form. His shoulders were heavy, almost to humpness, and his head was thrown forward instead of standing erect. His arms were very long, and his legs rather short and crooked. His hair was black and crisp, and his eyes also black and small; his face was very regular in feature, and might have been called handsome but for the tendency of the brow to premature wrinkles, the sharpness of the nose, and the smallness of the mouth.

He had been left an orphan at the age of twenty, and had soon squandered what little patrimony was left him. After this, he had sought his uncle, who kindly gave him a home. His features were very regular and handsome, but pale and thoughtful. His dress was mostly of black velvet, and its few ornaments of jet. He was, in truth, a noble-looking man, and just such an one as the common class would love to obey and instinctively respect.

It was on the second evening after the marquis had seen the Stung Serpent in the wood that the family were sitting in one of the rooms which looked out upon the garden. It was towards 8 o'clock, but there were no lamps lighted, for the moon was up, bright and full, in the west, and her soft beams were poured into the dining room in a gentle flood, which sufficed for all purposes of conversation. Thus the family sat, when one of the servants entered and announced that a stranger had arrived and asked for shelter and food. St. Julien's answer was quickly spoken:

"Give him food, and then conduct him hither."

In the meantime, lights were brought, and when the newcomer entered, the windows had been closed and the room was now brilliantly lighted. He was a tall, nobly formed man, not over five-and-twenty, with a profusion of auburn ringlets clustering about his high, full brow, and a sweet smile of gratitude lighting up his handsome face.

"Hail a white man!" uttered the marquis, starting up. "Welcome, sir—thrice welcome! My mind has so run upon these red dogs, for the past four-and-twenty hours, that I expected to have seen one of them now. And a countryman?"

"Yes, sir," spoke the stranger, in a voice peculiarly soft and pleasant. "France is my native land."

"Then welcome," resumed the host, shaking the stranger once more by the hand, and then conducting him to a seat.

The conversation turned upon the natural topics of the times, but Simon Lolohe did not join in it. He had made one or two remarks at the commencement; but, suddenly, he seemed moved by the stranger's appearance, and now was engaged in scanning his countenance. At length, he seemed to have arrived at a solution of the mystery, and a dark cloud gathered over his features.

Meanwhile the conversation went on, and both Louis and Louise seemed trying to recall some memory of the past.

"How far up are you going?" asked the marquis, at length.

"At present," returned the stranger, "I had no thought of seeking the dwelling of the Marquis Brion St. Julien."

"Ah!" uttered the host, elevating his eyebrows. "Did you ever know me in France?"

"Very well."

"But—really?"

The marquis was here interrupted by Louis, who at that moment sprang from his chair.

"Ah!" the youth cried, "I know you now!"

"Do you?" said the visitor, arising and grasping Louis by the hand.

"Yes," George St. Denis!"

"St. Denis!" uttered the old man, starting quickly from his chair and hastening forward.

"Goupart!" cried Louise, also springing forward. "Goupart—Goupart!" she repeated. "O, it is he! Dear, good Goupart!"

And as these words fell from her lips, she bounded forward and caught the young man by the hand. His eye burned with a strange light as he met her glad, joyous look, and his voice was marked by a perceptible tremulousness as he said:

"Yes, Goupart is your old friend Goupart."

"Goupart St. Denis!" muttered the dark-browed nephew, to himself, as he cast a look of unmistakable hatred towards the newcomer.

(To be continued.)

Conveying a Mild Rebuke.

"That is ungrammatical," said Mr. Uperby, a smart young man much given to criticism. "What is?" asked his business partner, an elderly, blue-eyed man of a sly humor but unfailing good nature.

"That sentence you just now uttered."

"Perhaps it was. I did not notice how I spoke it. By the way, suppose you look in Webster's Dictionary and see if you pronounced that word 'ungrammatical' correctly."

"I am quite certain I did," returned Mr. Uperby, taking the volume down from the shelf and opening it.

"Why," he exclaimed, after a moment's search, "I can't find it in Webster!"

"I thought perhaps you couldn't," rejoined his partner, with a twinkle in his eye.

Making Money in Mexico.

A New Yorker who has just returned from a visit to Mexico says that "many Americans are making fortunes out of the mines throughout the Republic. Already there are five thousand silver mines and over one thousand gold mines being operated, and last year the value of these metals exported was nearly \$40,000,000. In no other country in the world are cotton mills paying such dividends as those in Mexico, and new manufacturing plants of every description are going up all over the Republic. It has a great future and in developing itself it is benefiting the business men of the United States. The importation of machinery from this country in the last year amounted to over \$8,000,000."

Candor looks with equal fairness at both sides of a subject.—Noah Webster.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week. Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Severe earthquakes shook South Carolina and Georgia.

Governor Chamberlain has signed the Portland charter bill.

Germans say Venezuela began the recent fight at Fort San Carlos.

A driving snow storm in Central Kansas has demolished business.

An explosion of dynamite in a tunnel at Pittsburgh resulted in four deaths.

A wealthy Jersey City produce merchant was doped and robbed of \$11,000.

Ex-Governor Charles R. Ingersoll, of Connecticut, is critically ill. He is 81 years old.

The bill providing for a fire boat at Portland has been passed by both houses of the legislature.

Action has been brought in New York to have the famous "Flatiron" building declared a nuisance.

At Olympia Friday the vote for senator stood: Ankeny 55, Preston 44, Wilson 9, Turner 22, scattering 6, total 136.

The vote for senator at Salem Friday stood: Fulton 29, Geer 15, Wood 13, scattering 16, absent and paired 17, total 90.

It is said that President Roosevelt has turned against the admission of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona because of a suspicion of jobbery.

Coal miners are demanding the government ownership of mines.

A blizzard in the western part of Colorado has blocked all railroad traffic.

Mild weather and free imports have caused the price of coal to drop slightly in New York.

An Illinois Central train ran into an open switch at Memphis, Tenn., fatally injuring three trainmen.

A Chicago & Great Western train was wrecked at Freeport, Ill., and three men killed and 15 others injured.

The second ballot for senator at Olympia resulted as follows: Ankeny 50, Preston 42, Wilson 12, Allen 5, Crow 4, Graves 1, Turner 22, total 136.

The third ballot for senator at Olympia resulted as follows: Ankeny 52, Preston 41, Wilson 11, Turner 22, Sharp 5, Allen 3, Crow 1, Sanders 1, total 136.

The third ballot for senator at Salem stood: Fulton 32, Geer 17, Wood 17, George 5, Pittcock 4, Williams 3, Mills 2, Wolverton, Carey, Hermann, Hall, Fenton, Barrett, Paxton, one each, absent 3, total 90.

The second ballot for senator at Salem stood: Fulton 31, Geer 18, Wood 17, Pittcock 5, George 4, Williams 2, Mills 2, Linthicum, Wolverton, Carey, Hermann, Calk, Fenton, Kundert—one each, absent 4, total 90.

President Roosevelt will speak at the bi-centenary of John Wesley in New York on February 25.

The agricultural appropriation bill carries \$5,238,860, an increase of \$29,000, but \$400,000 less than the estimates.

A movement has been started in Indianapolis to buy a residence to be presented to John Mitchell, president of the Mineworkers' union.

The number of striking garment workers in Vienna has increased to 19,000. It is expected that the employers will be obliged to capitulate.

Mayor Wells, of St. Louis, has suspended Patrick R. Fitgion, the city registrar, who is charged with corruptly contracting for city printing and binding.

A boiler explosion in Tupper's iron works at Bilston, Stafford, England, resulted in the killing of five persons and the injury of 20 or 30 by steam and pieces of flying metal.

The postoffice appropriation bill carries \$153,430,049, against \$138,416,598 last year. The principal increases are: About \$2,000,000 for railway mail service, \$3,000,000 for rural free delivery and \$800,000 for pneumatic tube service.

The American Federation of Labor will begin a campaign in favor of child labor laws and the bill making eight hours a day's work on government contracts. It will investigate the charges of inhumanity to Porto Rican laborers in Hawaii.

The Spanish minister of marine began action in Edinburgh, Scotland, to recover \$375,000 from the Clydebank engineering and shipbuilding company because of the company's failure to deliver in contract time four torpedo boat destroyers which had been intended for use during the Spanish-American war.

The senate is considering the Cuban reciprocity treaty.

Sir Thomas Lipton has offered a cup to Pacific coast yacht clubs.

Minister Bowen has arrived from Venezuela. He will find discord among the allies.

Senator Mitchell has introduced bills intended to carry into effect some of the recommendations of the senate committee which recently visited the Hawaiian islands.

Canal Treaty Signed.

Columbia at Last Agrees, Giving United States Full Police Control.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The treaty between the United States and Colombia for the construction of the Panama canal by the United States was signed yesterday in this city.

No details of the signing of the treaty were obtainable, but at the presidential reception at the White House last night the news that the treaty was an accomplished fact at last leaked out. Later the news was confirmed in official quarters. It had been intended not to make the signing of the canal treaty public until today, but the news apparently was too good for some of the friends of the canal to keep. Fears had been entertained until this week that Colombia would not be willing to accede to the wishes of the United States in the matter and that recourse to the Nicaragua canal project might be forced on the government of the United States.

But this week events took a more favorable turn, and Colombia transmitted instructions to Dr. Herran, its representative in the United States, that made possible a conclusion of the long negotiations. The principal obstacle for some time to the conclusion of the treaty, it is understood, has been the price that the United States was to pay in the shape of a cash payment and by way of annual rental for the strip of territory along each side of the canal right of way. It could not be learned last night what was the price finally agreed upon.

Some time ago there was a hitch over the question of the extent to which control by the United States over this strip of land should go, Colombia objecting on the ground that the provisions required in the treaty by the United States would mean a relinquishment of sovereignty by Colombia over part of her territory; but this matter was amicably settled, as was a difference as to the lifetime of the lease of the strip of land in question, the final result being a practical cession in perpetuity to the United States for canal purposes and incidental police control and protection of the canal right of way.

AMENDS PHILIPPINE TARIFF.

Senate Committee Gives Heed to Sugar and Tobacco Men.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The senate committee on the Philippines today authorized a favorable report on the Philippine tariff bill, which recently passed the house, but with important amendments. The house bill carried a more uniform reduction of the tariff on Philippine goods imported into the United States, making the rate only 25 per cent of the rates imposed by the Dingley law.

TERMS OF TREATY

UNITED STATES WILL PAY RENT OF \$250,000 A YEAR.

Has Practically a Perpetual Lease, with Full Control of Six-Mile Strip—Ports at Both Entrances Will Be Guarded by United States—Columbia at First Asked \$650,000 A Year.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Yesterday's meeting of the cabinet was one of the most important held in several weeks. Subjects of great moment were discussed fully, the session continuing for two hours. All the members of the cabinet were present. Secretary Hay presented a draft of the Panama canal treaty, and both the president and his associates in the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the results achieved through the long and difficult negotiations.

The treaty is identical with that drawn by this government several months ago and at that time submitted to the Colombian government, with the single exception of the amount of annuity to be paid Colombia for the right of way. This government proposed an annuity of \$100,000, while Colombia demanded \$650,000. The Colombian government's demand was based, it is said, upon the ascertained returns from the Panama railroad company in duties, etc., which Colombia did not desire to have reduced.

During the several months of negotiations, Colombia agreed to all points in the treaty proposed by the United States with the exception of the annuity. That has been the point of difference for many weeks, and at one time it threatened to break off negotiations entirely. Secretary Hay communicated directly with the Colombian government, intimating that some agreement must be reached soon, as the United States desired to enter on the construction of the canal, if it was to be constructed by the Panama route.

For several days active efforts have been making to secure an agreement, until finally they were successful. The Colombian government, through Mr. Herran, charge d'affaires here, agreed to accept an annuity of \$250,000. This was entirely satisfactory to the president and Secretary Hay, and, while it is a larger amount than was offered at first, it is believed by administration officials that the senate will undoubtedly accept the figure named in the treaty, particularly after it is made clear that a lower amount would deprive Colombia of income which she is now actually receiving.

All other points than this one of money compensation remain as they stood in the original draft of the treaty, and are completely satisfactory to the United States government. The United States will have control of the canal practically in perpetuity, as required by the Spooner act, this result having been attained by the adoption of a plan for a lease of 100 years, renewable at the pleasure of the United States, Colombia having nothing to say about extension. The matter of police and judicial control is settled by a scheme of joint action, although it especially is assured that no citizen of the United States will be tried by any other than his own courts. Control of the waters of the ports of Colon and Panama is vested in the United States just as far as may be necessary for the operation of the canal, and it is assured that our extrajurisdictional jurisdiction will be unquestioned as to waters and streams pertaining to the canal. All port dues on vessels passing through the canal are to go to the United States by way of offset to the annuity payments.

Soon Ready for Business.

New York, Jan. 26.—Marconi arrived here today. He says that his system will be ready for commercial use by the public in an exceedingly short time, within two or three months at least. This statement was made at the office of the Marconi Wireless Telegraphy company of America, at the close of a meeting of the board of directors, called in order that Marconi might personally acquaint the members of the board with the result of his recent experiments and work at Westfield.

Hurrying Coal Trial.

Chicago, Jan. 26.—The fight of the indicted coal men to clear themselves of guilt of "conspiracy to do an illegal act injurious to public trade" was begun before Judge Horton late today. Motion to judge in behalf of each of the 18 corporations composing the association were quickly overruled and pleas of "not guilty" entered. A stipulation of facts was then presented to the court, and it was announced that a date for the hearing of the argument and taking of briefs would be fixed early this week.

Change of Engineers.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Captain W. H. Hart, formerly local engineer in the Columbia river district, and who made the plan for the opening of the Columbia river by means of canals and locks, between The Dalles and Celilo, but who has been for the past year and a half on duty in the Philippines, has been ordered to Portland, to relieve Captain William C. Langitt. Captain Langitt is ordered to Washington when relieved.

Cattle Without Food in Montana.

Great Falls, Mont., Jan. 26.—Report comes from Poplar that the range in the northern part of the state is in very bad condition and that stock are dying for lack of grass. The snow has crushed the grass and cattle are unable to do any picking. Unless a thaw comes at once there will be great loss within the next few days.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY EARTHQUAKE.

Mysterious Underground Explosion Makes Cracks in the Earth.

Whitman, Miss., Jan. 24.—Two fissures in the earth about three feet deep and a few inches wide and running for a distance of a quarter of a mile are the only evidences of a mysterious explosion which shook this town just before daybreak today. Houses were shaken violently and crockery was broken in several residences. A number of persons, aroused by the explosion, began searching for the cause at daylight. In a meadow they found a crack in the earth's crust about three feet in depth and two or three inches wide. They followed it for three-quarters of a mile before they reached the end. Later they discovered another fissure of the same description about 75 feet away from the first and parallel with it. An explanation of the explosion is lacking.

Will Join Western Body.

Butte, Mont., Jan. 24.—President Dan McDonald, of the American Labor Union, announced today that that body will be swelled by the affiliation of 38,000 members of the United Brotherhood of Railway employees, with headquarters in Denver. The amalgamation will mark an epoch in the history of labor in the West. There is no doubt, says Mr. McDonald, that the American Labor Union will grant this charter at an early date.

Big Tunnel Plan.

Chicago, Jan. 24.—A broad, well-lighted underground driveway, passing beneath the bed of the Chicago river and stretching from the art institute to Illinois and St. Clair streets, is formally announced to be the plan finally agreed upon by the park boards of the North and South sides to make the long-talked-of connection between the boulevard systems of these two portions of the city. A bill authorizing a \$2,500,000 bond issue containing a referendum clause will be prepared by committees from the two park boards.

To Become a Coal Hulk.

Victoria, Jan. 24.—The steel bark Baroda, which stranded on August 23 off the Oregon coast and was floated after much work, and has since been lying at San Francisco, has been purchased by R. Danmeyer's sons, of this city, and will be towed north by the steam collier Tellus on her next voyage. The Baroda will be converted into a hulk for the coal carrying trade between the island mines and Vancouver.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.