

**WHITMAN'S GREAT RIDE.**

**Yale Professor Says It Is a Myth—Denied.**

At a recent meeting of the American Historical association, at Ann Arbor, a Yale professor declared the story of Whitman's ride a falsehood. President S. B. Penrose, of Whitman college, who was in the city yesterday, refutes the statement and gives evidence as to the truth of the journey.

The Chicago Times-Herald recently printed the following special from Ann Arbor, Michigan:

It looks as though many of the pages that have been printed in American history concerning the exploits of Marcus Whitman, who is idolized by the people of Oregon, will have to be torn out. The American Historical association practically agreed to this today.

The beautiful story of how Marcus Whitman made a dangerous ride across the continent in 1842 and enlisted the influence of Daniel Webster in saving the big tract of land from passing into the possession of the British, was characterized by Professor Edward G. Bourne, of Yale, as a falsehood. Professor Bourne asserted that Whitman's ride was simply to save the missions after he had been called back by the American board, and that the "story" sprang up twenty-three years afterwards.

W. M. Marshall, of Chicago, stamped the tale as a myth and delusion, and cited dates and letters in support of his views.

Ripley Hitchcock, of New York, acknowledged that he had been misled and that what he had written on the subject was wrong, saying that he had been the victim of misstatements.

The discussion of this matter was one of the most interesting incidents of the joint convention of the American Economical association and the American Historical association, which began here today.

Professor Penrose said: "I knew before Professor Bourne's paper was read what it would contain. I received a letter from him a week ago in which he ended a series of letters concerning Whitman and his work. I learned that the ground of his contention on the missions would be that the histories of Oregon, written by Gray, Barrows and Spaulding, contain many misstatements and inaccuracies, and therefore Professor Bourne infers they are to be distrusted on all matters.

"In regard to the 'Whitman legend,' as Professor Bourne calls it, the professor seems to imagine it had never been heard of until 23 years after the Whitman massacre in 1847, and that there was no political significance to Whitman's ride across country during the winter of '42 and '43.

"All old Oregon pioneers will be amused at the assumption that the story of this political significance is a fabrication of recent years. I have a mass of testimony taken from survivors of the massacre and from Dr. Whitman's nearest relatives, which completely proves the falsity of the stand taken by Professor Bourne.

"I have also talked with not less than eight persons who met Dr. Whitman on his ride across the country. All agreed that he was bound for Washington, and not for Boston, the headquarters of the missionary society.

"After going to Washington he went to Boston. I have read the original minutes of his meeting with the prudential committee of the missionary association. I talked with Dr. Whitman's nephew, the late Perrin B. Whitman, of Lewiston, Idaho, known to the Indians as the "man who never told a lie." Dr. Whitman told the nephew that he was coldly received by the committee and censured for leaving

his post. Perrin Whitman was one of the most intimate relatives of the famous old missionary and enjoyed his confidence. He was one of the wagon train which came to Oregon in 1843.

"This is really the old dispute about Marcus Whitman and his work cropping out again. The only surprising thing about it is that a man with the standing of Professor Bourne should, without personal knowledge of the field or facts, give circulation to the old attack of Whitman's enemies. I am glad he has done so, however, for it will result only in bringing the truth of the old story once more strongly before the American people."—Spokesman-Review.

**RELOCATION OF CLAIMS.**

**Race to File Certificates on the First of January.**

Many amusing stories are being told incident to the relocation of mining claims on the first day of the new century. Probably the most exciting race to reach the recorder's office was from Sumpter district.

It seems that what is considered a very valuable piece of mining property had been neglected the past year so far as doing the annual assessment work was concerned.

There is scarcely a mining property or promising prospect in the eastern Oregon gold fields but what has one or more parties watching for a delinquency on the part of the owners, so that it might be relocated. In this case there were half a dozen or more waiting for a chance to locate this particular property. Three different outfits stayed with the property until after midnight on the last day of the year and posted their notices of location. Then a race for the recorder's office began, each one wishing to be the first to file his notice for record.

After reaching Sumpter they discovered that there would be nothing gained by starting by private conveyance, as the train would reach the city before any team could possibly do so. Unknown to each other two out of the three made arrangements to send representatives to the county seat with the much coveted location notices. One, thinking to be a little sharper than his opponent, ordered a cab by telephone to be at the train to meet his representative. Another, being in a like mood, telephoned a friend in the city to be at the train with a fleet footed saddle horse for the accommodation of his representative. The third was not inclined to trust the valuable documents to an outsider and concluded to come to the city in person. On entering the car and looking about and not seeing either of the other locators, he complacently sat himself back in the cushioned seat with the air of a man who had full confidence in the Sumpter Valley railroad company's ability to land him in the county seat ahead of any span of horses in eastern Oregon, even if they did have an hour's start.

When the city was reached there was a wild scramble. One man ran a la bank robber, to where the horse was being held, jumped in the saddle and "lit out" for the court house. Another rushed to a cab, gave hurried orders and away the team sped on a gallop, but when he reached the recorder's desk he found the horseman had filed his document nearly five minutes ahead of him. The third man, on reaching the court house, met the other two, and then for the first time realized how he had been duped. He consoled himself by contending that there was no hurry anyway; that he had thirty days in which to record; that he would at least stake the claim off before he recorded it. But he looked mad.

Another race was run from Rock Creek district, but after a wild chase of many miles over different routes, the parties met where the two roads come together below the city, and as they rode into town came to an understanding whereby they would become equal owners in the property. And the claim hasn't yet been recorded, nor won't be until it is staked off according to law and renamed.—Democrat.

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