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by Crystal Calhoun



Oregon (Doctor Marcus Whitman)

By: Larry Wilson

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"The ridge of the Rocky mountains may be named as a convenient, natural and everlasting boundary. Along this ridge the western limits of the Republic should be drawn and the statue of the fabled god Terminus should be erected on its highest peak, never to be thrown down."

Thanks to Dr Whitman and other pioneer heroes whose names and memories are rightful!^ forever embahied in the affections of every true American, the western limits of the Republic were not drawn on the ridge of the Rocky mountains. The fabled god " Terminus " was never stationed there. Providence had willed it otherwise, and a brave and courageous people executed that will. Though those mountains are high and rocky and seemingly insurmountable, they were neither high enough nor rocky enough to impress discouragement on the minds or hearts of such dauntless men and women as Whitman and his wife and their followers, or to stem the irresistible tide of the pioneer emigration of these resolute and determined men and women who, by their incomparable courage and untold sufferings, settled the Oregon question forever.

The great historic fact is that prior to Whitman's visit to Washington (to wdlich I shall presently allude) the sentiment among public men was almost universal that Oregon was a worthless waste, not worth contending for. Some in fact never did learn or comprehend its great value. As late as 184G Sena-

tor Winthrop, of Massachusetts, quoted what Benton had said in 1825, and then remarked: "This country will not be straitened for elbow-room in the west for a thousand years, and neither the west nor the country at large has any real interest in retaining Oregon."

The Influence of the Hudson Bay Company.

The Hudson Bay company, through whose active influence this false sentiment was mainly created, was in every essential sense the direct, active and all powerful agent of the British government. It held its charter and its licenses from that government; its officers were superintended by a governor and deputy governor and a committee of directors resident in London, while a resident governor superintended and directed its vast operations in America.

The officers and members of the Hudson Bay company were, as a rule, under the domination of the home government. One grand exception, however, stands out in history : Dr John Mc-

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Laughlin was the true friend of the American pioneer. Brave, generous, noble, his house, his larder, his horses, his cattle were all at the service of the poor travel-worn, weary and discouraged emigrant. But for this disposition and these noble qualities he was ostracised by the company and the British government, driven into exile at Oregon City, there to end his days, yet respected, venerated, honored by the pioneers, of Oregon and all who knew him and his history.

Doctor Marcus Whitman.

It was at this critical period in our history that the great martyr to the cause of the vindication of American rights and the advancement of national development and Christian civilization came to the front, and in the grandeur of American manhood in its sublimest sense rose equal to the great emergency, and by his memorable trip across the continent, from Oregon to Washington, in the dead of winter in 1842- '43, prevented the

contemplated barter of that great empire for a cod fishery bank on the shores of Newfoundland. Dr Marcus Whitman, whose name must be forever associated with the early history of Oregon, had in 1835, under the auspices of the American board of foreign missions in Boston, accompanied by his faithful wife, gone to what was then a distant wilderness, and in 1836 established there a mission. Though 48 years have passed since he and his wife and nine of their household, on November 27, 1847, fell "victims to savage outlawry on the plains of Walla Walla, and gave up their lives* as a part of the cost of preserving as our rightful heritage that great territory, his name still lives and will continue to live in the history of his country, imperishable as the stars, honored, respected, admired.

Dr Whitman, being deeply impressed that the government at Washington, through false information received from British sources — among others, from the British minister at Washington and the reports of the governor of the Hudson Bay company — to the effect that the whole of Oregon territory was comparatively worthless, was about to barter the whole thing away for a cod fishery interest on the coast of Newfoundland, determined to proceed to Washington at once at all hazards, for the purpose

* Five of the Indians concerned in the "Whitman massacre were tried, convicted, sentenced and hung at Oregon City in May, 1850.

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of presenting the true state of the case to the President, the Secretary of State, and other members of the government. That he was justified in his fears is more than fully demonstrated by the historical occurrences of the times.

It is conceded by all historians who have written on the subject that Dr Whitman's mission to Washington, accompanied as he was across the continent by that other brave pioneer, General A. L. Lovejoy, in the winter of 1812-'43, saved Oregon to the union, and all that is implied in, and which attaches to, that salvation. His mission was of a quadruple nature. It was in the interest, first, of the preservation of the sovereign rights of the United States to a vast and immensely valuable territory about

to be bartered away through misinformation on the part of the government ; second, of the preservation of the lives and property of American citizens, men, women and children, pioneer emigrants, then settled in Oregon territory, and the protection of Christian missions in the Indian territory of the Far West ; third, of the material welfare of the United States; and fourth, of the great cause of American civilization.

Although the board of missions, under whose auspices Dr Whitman had gone to Oregon seven years before, for the reason, doubtless, that they did not understand the real situation, did not take kindly to his return without leave on his noble and perilous mission, and he was, according to the historian Gray, " Instead of being received and treated as his labors justly entitled him to be, met by the cold calculating rebuke for unreasonable expenses, and for dangers incurred without orders or instructions or permission, from the mission to come to the states." Although this may be, and doubtless was, true, as stated in this paragraph by Gray, the time has at last come when all shadows have been dispelled, all doubts removed, and when in the clear light of accurate, impartial history the motives, the courage, the patriotism, the Christian fidelity of Dr Whitman are seen and recognized in their true character, not only by the representatives of the Congregational church, its early and present missions, not only by the people of the Pacific northwest, nor yet alone by the whole American people, but likewise by those of the whole civilized world.

The interest attaching to this memorable trip of Dr Whitman across the continent in the winter of 1842-'43 was widespread. Its fame extended throughout the nation, and the subject of Oregon and the rights of the United States in respect to the same

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were matters of discussion in all political circles. Public sentiment was wrought up to the highest pitch, so much so that the democratic national convention which met at Baltimore in 1844 had, as one of its planks, " Fifty-four forty or fight," and on this platform the Polk administration came into power. The embarrassments with which it was surrounded, however, growing

out of the Oregon question and this particular plank in the platform, were great.

The President found that preceding negotiations during the administrations of his predecessors, Monroe, Adams, and Tyler[^] had not proceeded on the part of the United States on the theory of our right to fifty-four forty ; that the negotiations proceeded rather on the idea that they should treat the respective claims of the two countries in the Oregon territory with a view to establishing a permanent boundary between them west of the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean, and in this compromising spirit these administrations had proposed to fix the boundary on the forty-ninth parallel. To add to the embarrassment, many leading democratic senators, including Benton, of Missouri,, scouted at the idea that our rights extended to fifty-four forty, and insisted that we had no rights extending farther northward than the forty-ninth parallel. To add still further to the embarrassment of the situation, Great Britain, through her minister, on June 6, "1846, before the administration of Mr Polk was clearly launched, submitted a proposition, the same that was finally agreed on, of the forty-ninth parallel, and coupled with it the suggestion that it must be accepted at once, and Avith-out delay, if at all. In this great political dilemma President Polk resorted to a course which, though adopted a few times in the earlier years of our government, had not been resorted to for nearly half a century — that is, of seeking the advice of the Senate of the United States in advance of action on the part of the executive.

Consequently on June 10, 1846, the President transmitted to the Senate the proposal in the form of the convention presented to the Secretary of State on the sixth of that month by the British envoy, for its advice. Mr Polk's message transmitting this convention concluded as follows :

"Should the Senate by the constitutional majority required for tlie ratification of treaties advise tlie acceptance of tliis proposition or advise it with such modifications as tliey may upon full deliberation deem proper.

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I shall conform my action to their advice. Should the Senate, however, decline by such constitutional majority to give such advice or to express an opinion upon the subject, I will consider it my duty to reject the offer."

In other words, President Polk, encompassed on the one hand by the plank in the platform on which he was elected, of "Fifty-four forty or fight," and on the other hand by the action of preceding administrations in conflict with that proposition, his party leaders divided on the question, and the issue brought directly to the front by Great Britain, concluded to and did throw the whole responsibility on the Senate of the United States. Two days subsequently, June 12, 1846, the Senate adopted a resolution advising the President to accept the proposal of the British government, and as a result the convention was finally agreed to June 15, 1846.

So, although this memorable controversy had remained unsettled for nearly half a century, it is a remarkable historical fact that but nine days elapsed between the submission of the final proposition to compromise by Great Britain and the signing of the treaty.

Notwithstanding the fact that one hundred and three years have elapsed since the discovery of Columbia river by Captain Gray, ninety-two years since the cession of Louisiana, and seventy-six years since our cession from Spain, the settlement of our title to a certain portion of the territory of Oregon was held in abeyance until October 21, 1872, less than twenty-three years ago. That was the island of San Juan. The treaty of June 15, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, which was intended to settle all questions relating to our northern boundary, inadvertently left the question as to the title to this island an open one. The treaty in defining the northern boundary of the United States from a point in the Rocky mountains on the forty-ninth parallel, from which point eastward the boundary line had been fixed by the second article of the treaty of Washington, in 1842, reads as follows :

"Shall be continued westward along said forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's island, and then southerly through the middle of said channel

and of Fuca's straits to the Pacific ocean."

This island is located in the " channel " mentioned in this treaty, and the question at once arose, and for a period of twenty-

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five years was a source of aggravating controversy between this country and Great Britain, at one time very nearly involving the two nations in war, as to which was the " channel " referred to in the treaty. Great Britain, true to a national tendency, insisted while the United States insisted that Haro channel, on the northern side of the island, was the main channel within the meaning of the treaty.

This minor boundary controversy was finally adjusted by a provision in our treaty with Great Britain of May 6, 1871, submitting the question to the arbitration of the German Emperor, who, on October 21, 1872, made his award sustaining the contention of the United States ; and thus, after a period of nearly eighty years, dating from the discovery of the Columbia by Captain Gray, the whole question as to the ownership of the Oregon territory was finally determined, not, however, without a sacrifice of important rights as to our northern boundary in the interest of compromise.

That Dr Whitman was misunderstood at the time by many^ and by none more than by the board of American missions, and therefore suffered unjust criticism from that board, there can be no question. Barrows, in his " History of Oregon," in referring to this fact, says : " He, as Coleridge says of Milton, strode so far before his contemporaries as to dwarf himself by the distance.^ But the day of atonement has come, and although in this as in many other cases justice has been delayed, yet as a poet has said, " Ever the right comes uppermost, and ever justice is done."" No longer ago than Sunday, the tenth of the present month (March, 1895), in the city of Chicago, the day was widely observed in the Congregational churches of that city in honor of Marcus Whitman, and incidentally in aid of Whitman college at Walla Walla. The Chicago Inter-Ocean^ in its issue of March 11, says : " Dr Whitman is the hero of the Congregational church of

this century. In fact, in the largeness of the results he accomplished, no man of the century leads him."

At the city of Walla Walla, in the state of Washington, within six miles of Wailatpu, the spot where he and his missionary wife and nine other companions were, on November 27, 1847, mercilessly slaughtered by the very savages whose best interests had been subserved by them and whose heads had been blessed by their benedictions, there is to be erected a college bearing his name, with an endowment of \$200,000, \$50,000 of which has been pledged by Dr D. K. Pearson on condition that the balance is

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raised. That college, when erected, as it doubtless will be, will be a fitting and lasting monument to his name.

Whitman succeeded in disabusing the minds of Daniel Webster, President Tyler, Thomas H. Benton, and other public men as to the character and value of Oregon territory. They had come to believe, through the continuous misrepresentations to which I have referred, not only that Oregon territory was of little value but that it was a physical impossibility to go from Fort Hall to Oregon with wagons. Whitman had taken his wife in a wagon over these mountains eight years before (in 1835) and he assured them there was no insurmountable difficulty; and he proved his assertion by leading back to Oregon an emigration the same year, the summer of 1843, with 200 wagons and over 1,000 men, women and children, not losing, as I remember the history, a single wagon or a single life in the journey west of Fort Hall.

Dr Whitman was a born leader of men. He had the courage to face every danger, however perilous, in defense of the right. His efforts while in Washington, coupled with the magnificent successes of his expedition the same year, turned the scale in which that vast territory was being weighed and balanced between the two countries in favor of the United States.

Had Dr Whitman been possessed of the egotistic assurance of Horace of old, and could he have gazed down the long avenues of coming ages, he might, with him, have truly said :

I have achieved a tower of fame

More durable than gold,
And loftier than the royal frame

Of pyramids of old ;
Which none inclemencies of clime,

Nor fiercest winds that blow,
Nor endless change, nor lapse of time,

Shall ever overthrow.
I cannot perish utterly ;

The broader part of me must live, and live and never die,
But baffle Death's decree !

For I shall always grow, and spread
My new-blown honors still,

Long as the priest and vestal tread
The Capitolian hill.

I shall be sung when thy rough waves.
My native river, foam.

And when old Daunus scanty laves

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And rules his rustic home —

As chief and first I shall be sung,
Though lowly, great in might,

To tune my country's heart and tongue,
And tune them both aright.

The Contention of Great Britain.

In our contention with Great Britain respecting Oregon territory it was very earnestly and with some degree of facetiousness asserted by the British minister, Packenham, that the different titles under which we claimed were conflicting and therefore destroyed each other, namely, discovery by Spain, cession from France, and discovery and settlement by American citizens ; but Mr Calhoun, as Secretary of State, in his letter to Mr Packenham,

disposed of that assertion with this remark :

" It has been objected that we claim under various and conflicting titles which mutually destroy each other. Such might indeed be the fact while they were held by different parties, but since we have rightfully acquired both those of Spain and France and concentrated the whole in our own hands, they mutually blend with each other and form one strong and connecting chain of title against the opposing claims of all others, including Great Britain."

Mr Buchanan, in referring to this phase of the case, said :

"This is a most ingenious method of making two distinct and independent titles held by the same nation woi'sethan one — of arraying them against each other and thus destroying the validity of both. From the moment Spain transferred all her rights to the United States all possible conflict between the two titles ended, both being united in the same part. Two titles which might have conflicted, therefore, were thus blended together. The title now vested in the United States is just as strong as though every act of discovery, exploration and settlement on the part of both powers had been performed by Spain alone before she had transferred all her rights to the United States. The two powers are one in this respect ; the two titles are one, and they serve to confirm and strengthen each other."

Great Britain, again through her plenipotentiaries, sought to discredit the effect of the discovery of Columbia river by Captain Robert Gray, for the reason, as suggested, that his ship, the Columbia, ^vas a trading and not a national vessel. This contention was speedily disposed of by Mr Buchanan with this remark :

"The British plenipotentiary attempts to depreciate the value to the United States of Gray's discovery because his ship, the Cuhnnbia, was a

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trading and not a national vessel. As he furnishes no reason for this distinction, the undersigned will confine himself to the remark that a merchant vessel bears the flag of her country at the masthead, and continues under its jurisdiction and protection in the same manner as though she had been commissioned for the express purpose of making discoveries."

In this great and prolonged diplomatic contest, one of the

most interesting questions discussed was as to what extent continuity of boundary furnishes a just claim in connection with those of discovery and occupation. This question grew out of the claim on the part of the United States that the Louisiana territory extended to the Pacific ocean. This claim was denied on the part of Great Britain. It was insisted, however, with great ability by Secretary of State Calhoun, and subsequently by Secretary Buchanan : First, that the claim was valid under public law, and, secondly, that Great Britain, having asserted the validity of the doctrine in reference to her possessions in this country as against France, even to the extent of going to war with that power in 1763, was estopped from denying the validity of the doctrine as against the United States, especially inasmuch as our people had contributed so much to a result in that contest favorable to Great Britain ; and it was further contended by our diplomatists that Great Britain, whatever may have been her rights in Oregon territory, relinquished all to France by the seventh article of the treaty between Great Britain and France at the close of that war, in 1783.

The controversy in reference to the correct northern boundary of the Oregon territory, whether the forty-ninth parallel, as now agreed upon, except along the straits of Fuca, or 54° 40' north, is one familiar to all. Spain unquestionably always asserted claim as far north as the sixty-first parallel, but in her treaty with Russia 54° 40' was recognized. It was claimed, however, that by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, which provided for determining " the limits to be fixed between the bay of Hudson and the places appertaining to the French," the boundary between Louisiana and the British territories north of it was actually fixed by commissioners on latitude 49°. Whether this is true or not is a matter of very serious disputation. A careful examination of all history bearing upon the point leads me to the conclusion that such was not the fact.

In reply to the claim of the United States to go to 54° 40', it was asserted that whatever might have been the right of Spain, the latter in ceding to France in 1800 stipulated to convey only

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as far north as the forty-ninth parallel. To this contention the United States replied and with much force, and the contention should never have been abandoned : If this be so and if it be true the right of Spain is good to 54° 40', then the strip between the forty-ninth parallel and 54° 40', which it was alleged was not included in the cession of Spain to France in 1800, was included in the cession of Spain to the United States in the treaty of Florida of 1819, by which Spain conveyed every right she had on the continent north of the forty-second parallel. Mr Secretary Buchanan, in his reply to Packenham, said :

"It is an historical and striking fact, which must have an important bearing against the claim of Great Britain, that this Xootka convention, which was dictated by her to Spain, contains no provision impairing the ultimate sovereignty which that power had asserted for nearly three centuries over the whole western side of North America as far north as the sixty-first degree of latitude and which had never been seriously questioned by any European nation."

Subsequently to 1818 and down to the final settlement of the boundary question in 1846 the only material difference in the views of American statesmen and diplomatists was as to whether the rightful claim of the United States extended to 54° 40' or only to the forty-ninth parallel. All concurred in the opinion that our claim was beyond question good at least as far north as the latter, while many of our ablest statesmen and diplomatists, strengthened and supported by a powerful sentiment among the people, insisted that our claim extended to 54° 40'. No one thing, however, nor indeed all other influences combined, did as much to strengthen the sentiment and belief in favor of our claim to 54° 40' as the mission of Dr Whitman in 1842.

The Opening of the Oregon Route.

Fremont has been designated in history as " the Path-finder," and in some respects he is justly entitled to the pseudonym, but he was not the one who opened the great transcontinental trail to Oregon by way of Fort Hall. Fort Hall was the leading eastern outpost of the Hudson Bay company. It was located on Snake river about 100 miles north of Salt Lake City. " Here," says one historian, " many immigrant companies had been intimi-

dated and broken up by Hudson Bay men, and so Fort Hall served as a cover to Oregon, just as a battery at the mouth of a river protects the inland city on its banks." Here it was that the

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Hudson Bay people in 1836 made a determined but unsuccessful effort to prevent Whitman from attempting to go through with his wagon to Oregon, insisting it was a physical impossibility. The Tyler administration had promised to send Lieutenant Fremont and his company as an escort to protect Whitman and his 200 wagons and 1,000 men, women and children on his return to Oregon in the summer and fall of 1843, but failed to do so.

Whitman's expedition left Waldport, Missouri, in June, 1843, and although at Fort Hall, 1,323 miles from the starting point, a determined effort was again made by the Hudson Bay men to prevent further progress, insisting that it was impossible to go through with wagons. Whitman and his 200 wagons did go through and arrived at his home on Columbia river September 4, 1843. Fremont did not reach Fort Hall until October 23 of the same year, forty-nine days after Whitman and his expedition had passed that point; nor did Fremont arrive over a new trail but over the identical one, for a distance of some hundred miles, which Whitman, Spaulding and their wives had trodden seven years before. Dr Whitman left his home on the Columbia on this great mission October 3, 1842, and returned there September 4, 1843, after an absence of just eleven months.

The Organization of a Provisional Government in Oregon.

Following this successful expedition led by Dr Whitman in 1843 came the organization of a provisional government by the people then in the territory and the final settlement of the whole question by the treaty of 1846. At the time of the organization of the provisional government there was but one law book in all that region. This was a copy of the Iowa Statutes and in the fundamental law of the provisional government there was this provision: "The laws of Iowa territory shall be the law in this territory in civil, military and criminal cases when not otherwise provided." » Another provision which these brave, courage-

ous, liberty-loving pioneers inscribed in their fundamental law was this : " There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in said territory, otherwise than for the punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

Oregon, though added to the United States by the treaty of 1846, and created a territory, including what is now the states of Washington and Idaho, in August, 1848, had no territorial government until 1849. In March of this year its first territorial

governor arrived and organized a territory with 8,785 inhabitants.

This territory was not dismembered until 1853, when the territory (now state) of Washington was carved out of it. It became one of the states of the union July 14, 1859, and in 1863 the territory (now state) of Idaho was set apart from its area.

Of all the public men of the country during the period of the early settlement of Oregon, no one seemed to grasp the real situation or so fully comprehend the vastness of the prospective interests at stake as Lewis Field Linn, United States Senator from Missouri. To his memory more than to that of any other public man of the time do the pioneer immigrants and the people of Oregon generally owe a tribute of lasting veneration.

The measure for which Senator Linn so vigorously and constantly labored prior to his death, in 1843, for making donations of the public lands in Oregon territory to citizens of the United States to induce immigration and settlement finally materialized in an act of Congress passed September 27, 1850. This act very largely facilitated immigration to and settlement in that country. One unfortunate incident, however, attached to this otherwise beneficent and highly commendable piece of legislation. While it facilitated immigration it tended also to facilitate marriage, not only among the immigrants, but between male immigrants and Indian women. By the fourth section of the act a grant in prize was made to any man who would reside on and cultivate for four consecutive years a tract of 320 acres of land if a single man and 640 if married. While under this provision settlement of the country was rapidly developed, it is nevertheless

a fact, fully borne out by the records of the courts in that country within the next few years thereafter, that the premium paid on marriage resulted in an unusual and abnormal crop of divorces, as many marriages, especially those with Indian women, were based on no other or higher considerations than the mercenary ones offered by the act.

The Name Oregon.

There are various theories as to the origin and derivation of the name " Oregon." Some writers declare that it is derived from the Spanish, signifying " wild thyme," so called on account of the abundance of that herb found by early explorers. Others insist it is an Indian word, in use about the headwaters of the Columbia to designate the waters of that river and meaning the

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•' great river of the west," and obtained from them by Jonathan Carver, a native of Connecticut, in 1766-'68, who spent two years among the Indians on the waters of the upper Mississippi, now the state of Wisconsin. Carver's accounts, however, in reference to many matters, are contradictory and unreliable, though in reference to this he was quite likely right. It is more than probable that an article published fifty-three years ago, in 1842, in " Hunt's INlagazine " and reproduced by the historian Brown in his political history of Oregon, presents the correct solution of the question. Speaking of Oregon territory and the discovery of Columbia river by Captain Gray, this article says : " The territory watered by this river and its tributaries has since " — that is, since the discovery of the river — " been called the Oregon territory from a tradition said to have prevailed among the Indians near lake Superior of the existence of a mighty river rising in that vicinity and emptying its waters into the Pacific, and which was suppo-ed to be the Columbia." Bryant in his celebrated " Thanatopsis," written in 1815, refers to the Columbia river as the Oregon : " Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound save his own dashings."

Early News-carrying in and to Oregon.

It is a singular historical fact that the pioneers of Oregon

territory down as late as the settlement of our northern boundary, in 1846, received most of their news from Washington by way of the Sandwich islands. A semi-yearly vessel also brought letters and papers around Cape Horn, the news in which was necessarily somewhat stale. Lieutenant Howison in his report says :

" October 16, 1846, the American bark Toulon arrived from the Sandwich islands and brought news of the Oregon treaty, the Mexican war and the occupation of California. The right of ownership of the soil being vested by treaty, I no longer felt any reserve in hoisting our flag on shore, and it has been some time waving over our quarters on the very spot which was first settled by white men on the banks of the Columbia."

On the receipt of the news from the Sandwich islands, James Douglass, the chief factor of the Hudson Bay company and a pronounced Britisher, addressed the following letter to Governor

Abernethy, of Oregon :

" Fort Vancouver, November 3, 1846.

"George Abernethy, Esq.

"Dear Sir: Very important news for all parties in Oregon has just been received by the bark Toulon from the Sandwich islands. It appears

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that the boundary question is finally and fully settled. * * * The British government has rendered more than strict justice required ; but John Bull is generous, and was bound to be something more than just to his promising son Jonathan, who will no doubt make a good use of the gift. * * *

" Yours truly, James Douglass."

It was not until 1850 that the people of Oregon had a semi-monthly mail, through a service established between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

The first attempt at sending mail across the continent from Oregon territory was in 1838, fifty-seven years ago, when letters were carried from the Willamette valley, in Oregon, to Medport, Missouri, in sixty days, including two days' detention at Lapwai and two days at Fort Hall, carrying to Reverend Jason Lee, the

Oregon missionary then in the east, the sad intelligence of the death of his wife in Oregon.

The first Printing Press west of the Rocky Mountains.

The first printing press in Oregon was received as a donation from the mission of the American Board of Foreign Missions in the Sandwich islands to the mission of the board in Oregon. It reached its destination at Lapwai, now the state of Idaho, then a part of Oregon territory, and was put in operation by Mr E. O. Hall, of the Sandwich Islands mission, and commenced publishing books in the Nez Perce language. This was in 1838, fifty-seven years ago. It was the first printing press west of the Rocky mountains. The first newspaper published within the limits of the present state of Oregon was established at Oregon City seven years later, in 1845. It was called the " Oregon Spectator."

The first white Birth and Burial.

The first white American child born on the Pacific coast was the daughter of Dr Whitman and wife, born near Walla Walla in 1839. On June 26, 1838, Mrs Maria Pitman, wife of the missionary, Reverend Jason Lee, died near Salem, Oregon. She was the first white American woman to close her eyes in death west of the Rocky mountains. Today, on an humble headstone which marks her last resting place in Salem, Oregon, may be read the following inscription :

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" Beneath this sod, the first ever broken in Oregon for the reception of a white mother and child, we buried the remains of Anna Maria Pitman, wife of Reverend Jason Lee, and infant son. He sailed from New York in July, 1836; landed in Oregon June, 1837; was married in July, 1837, and died June 26, 1838, in full enjoyment of that love which constrained her to leave all for Christ and heathen souls. ' Lo we have left all and followed Thee ; what shall we have therefore ? ' "

Geographic Characteristics and Natural Resources of Oregon.

What, briefly, are the prominent geographic characteristics and natural resources and advantages of the state of Oregon? To enumerate, much less describe or discuss them would require

a long series of lectures, each of which, to be properly understood and appreciated, should be fully illustrated. I may mention a few only of the most notable.

First, an area — and I speak now of the present state of Oregon — of 96,030 square miles, containing 60,518,400 acres, 'comprising every conceivable character of surface configuration ; an area greater in extent by more than 6,000 square miles than all of England, Scotland and Wales combined, with their aggregate population of over 32,000,000 ; an area over eight times larger than Belgium, with its population of above 6,000,000, and but 6,000 square miles less than one-half that of France, with its 40,000,000 people.

This area consists of numerous and extended fertile valleys ; mountain ranges, rich in minerals, both precious and base, whose sides are clothed with eternal verdure and whose peaks are crowned with eternal snow ; forests unsurpassed in extent and in the number, variety and majesty of the trees composing them ; immense fertile plateaus of everlasting green, on whose nutritious grasses feed 2,600,000 sheep, of the value of \$6,000,000, and which produce annually over 17,000,000 pounds of wool, averaging, according to price, from \$2,000,000 to \$2,250,000; 250,000 horses, of the value of \$7,000,000 ; 6,500 mules, of the value of 6300,000 ; 125,000 milch cows, of the value of \$3,000,000, and 1,000,000 oxen and other cattle, of the value of \$12,000,000.

Then we have sandy deserts, gradually being converted into fruitful grain fields in virtue of the processes of irrigation ; magnificent rivers, including the Columbia, the great father of western waters, the Snake, the Willamette, the Yamhill, the Tualatin, the Santiam, the Siuslaw, the Rogue, the Umpqua. the

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Coquille, the Nestucca, the Nehalem, the Sandy, the John Day, the Link, the Lost, the Deschutes, the Umatilla, the Grande Ronde, the Powder, and others of less magnitude and significance, including innumerable streams, pure as the snow of the mountain sides whence they spring and filled with trout and other edible fishes ; grand lakes, which mirror back in sublime

beauty their mountain walls of granite, fringed with the Avaving branches of stately firs ; extensive caverns, brilliant in stalactites and cooled by running mountain streams of living waters ; and lastly, volcanic regions, bearing on their encrusted surface the very picture of' desolation, thus far successfully defying the ingenuity of man and every effort at reclamation. It is gratifying, however, to be able to say that this character of configuration is confined to a very small area in southeastern Oregon, probably in all less than 1,000 square miles, known as the " Lava Beds." Here it was that General Canby and the Reverend Dr Thomas, peace commissioners, lost their lives while treating with the Indians, in 1872, an Indian desperado known as Captain Jack leading the murderous attack. Peace commissioner Colonel A. B. Meacham, an Oregon pioneer, was seriously wounded at the same time.

Oregon is divided north and south by three mountain ranges, separating the state into four tiers of fertile valleys. First, the Coast range, running parallel with the Pacific ocean the length of the entire state, and on an average distant some 40 miles from the coast, separating the Nehalem, Tillamook, Alsea and other coast valleys from the valley of the Willamette ; second, the Cascade range, running also north and south parallel with the Coast range, distant from the latter on an average 75 to 100 miles, and separating the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue river valleys from the great Inland Empire in eastern Oregon, including the valleys of Umatilla, Oclioco and other grazing plains lying to the eastward ; and, third, the Blue mountains, running from southeast to northwest, separating these valleys again from the magnificent wheat fields of the Grand Ronde, Powder river, Willowa, Snake river and other valleys in the counties of Union, Baker, Grant and Harney, in the region in which are located La Grande, Union, Baker City, Ontario, Huntington, Canyon City, and numerous flourishing mining and commercial towns.

Again, the state is divided in the other direction by the Calapooia mountains, crossing the state from east to west, from the

The great Ranges and Peaks 271

Cascades to the Pacific ocean, about 150 miles from its southern

boundary. Other minor ranges also intersect the state east and west, including the great Siskiyou range on the dividing line between Oregon and California.

The state contains more than 25,000,000 acres of arable land. The Willamette valley alone contains 5,000,000 acres. The whole arable area is greater than the one-half of the entire area of the six New England states. Over 10,000,000 acres (or about one-sixth of the whole state) are covered with forests, the greater portion as magnificent and valuable as any in the world of like species, the balance of the state being mountain, grazing, and desert lands, the latter of which can be nearly all made highly productive by irrigation.

The Mountain Peaks of Oregon.

The great mountain ranges of Oregon and their grand scenery are the pride of all her people and the wonder and admiration of every traveler who beholds them. Rising from the Cascade range, in the state of Oregon, in stately beauty and majestic grandeur, with summits penetrating the clouds and wrapped in everlasting snows, stand, like great sentinels on towering battlements, mount Hood, 12,000 feet in height; Jefferson, 10,200 feet; Black butte, 7,000 feet; Snow butte, 6,000 feet; the Three Sisters, 9,000 feet ; Diamond peak, 8,807 feet; mount Theilsen, 7,000 feet ; mount Scott, 9,125 feet ; Onion peak, over 4,000 feet ; and last, but not least, mount Pitt, or mount McLaughlin, as it is sometimes called, near the southern boundary of the state, 9,760 feet in height. These are all in the Cascade range and within the state of Oregon, and, commencing with mount Hood, the giant of the line and seemingly the commander of the column, located about 25 miles due south of Columbia river in the center of the Cascade range, they stand in a line running almost due north and south in the order I have named them, mount Pitt being near the California line. Mount Hood was named after Lord Hood by Vancouver's navigator, Lieutenant Broughton, in 1792. The exact height of this mountain, I believe, has never been accurately ascertained, the reported measurements ranging all the way from 11,000 to 18,000 feet. It is known, however, from more recent measurements, to be about

12,000 feet in height, or some 3,400 feet lower than Shasta, in California— Nat. Geog. Mag., vol. VI, 1894.

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fornia, and mount Rainier or Tacoma, in Washington. Slightly east of mount Hood and but 70 miles distant, in what was once a part of Oregon territory, but now the state of Washington, stands mount Adams, 9,570 feet in height, named for John Quincy Adams. It is one of the five snow-capped peaks visible at the same time from nearly every point of northern Oregon. One hundred miles north of mount Hood and northwest of mount Adams, also in Washington, is mount Saint Helens, some 9,750 feet in height, a magnificent cone, which is said to be frequently in a state of eruption, and which is confidently said to have been (as also Rainier) during the past year. Mr J. Quinn Thornton, one of Oregon's earliest pioneers and chief justice of the territory in his "History of Oregon and California," asserts it was in a state of eruption in 1831. Fremont records the fact that it was "in a state of activity November 13, 1843." The statement is well authenticated that in 1832 mount Saint Helens scattered ashes over the country to a distance of 100 miles, so obscuring the sunlight as to make it necessary to employ artificial light at midday that distance from the mountain. There is a perpetual flow of hot water at a point in its southern slope, indicating that the volcanic forces are not entirely extinguished.

The ascent of mount Hood from the south has been frequently made, and in more recent years by men and women numbered by the hundred. On July 4, 1887, members of the Oregon Alpine club of Portland, Oregon, carried to its summit 100 pounds of illuminating red-fire. The illumination lasted 58 seconds and was seen from Portland on the west, a distance of 60 miles, and Prineville on the east, a distance of 80 miles. The illumination was repeated in 1888, when it is asserted heliographic communications were exchanged with the Signal Service officers at Portland. In July, 1894, a party numbering about 180 men and women ascended to its summit in two separate columns, one from the north, the other from the south. This mountain has emitted smoke at intervals since the earliest settlement of the

country.

Crater Lake.

No less interesting are the lakes of Oregon, which sleep in silent beauty in the icy embrace of the mountains, some of them hundreds and even many thousands of feet above the level of the sea. They are numerous and of interest as deep as their placid

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waters ; but the one which above all is romantically interesting and surprisingly wonderful is that known as Crater lake. It is located in the Cascade range, in southeastern Oregon, at an elevation of over 8,000 feet. Its rim or shore is 1,800 feet higher than mount Washington, in New Hampshire; 4,000 feet higher than Vesuvius, in Naples, and on the same elevation above the sea as mount Sinai, in Arabia. It was discovered in 1853 by gold prospectors from southern Oregon, who in their wonder occasioned by its strange location and startling beauty named it " Lake Mystery." Later another party from fort Klamath in visiting it were so awestricken with its peculiar character and its weird surroundings that they gave it a new name, " Lake Majesty." Subsequently, in 1886, scientific exploration developed the fact that the waters of this strange lake occupy the crater of an extinct volcano ; that it is a gigantic bowl carved out of the mountain, whose rock-ribbed rim rises more than 8,000 feet above the level of the sea ; that it is elliptical or oval in form, its surface covering an area of some 28 square miles, being about 61 miles in length by about 4? in breadth. These discoveries led to a second change of name, and it is now and has been for several years past known as Crater lake. A few years since, mainly through the efforts of Representative Herman, of Oregon, this lake, including some twenty surrounding townships, was withdrawn from the public surveys and reserved as a national park.

It is one of the most remarkable lakes on the face of the globe. It is the deepest fresh-water lake in the United States, if not in the world. By reason of its phenomenal location and awe-inspiring surroundings it is unsurpassed in scenic grandeur and marvelous beauty by any other known to man. The day is not far dis-

tant when travelers, sight-seers, seekers after knowledge, students of nature, and lovers of the beautiful and the sublime of every tongue will come from all countries and every clime for the purpose of standing in the presence of its bewildering wonders, gazing on its entrancing mysteries, and feasting on the inspiration of its majestic beauty.

What is the explanation of scientists of this seemingly abnormal creation, which inspires awe and evokes mingled admiration and wonder in the minds of all who behold it? It is this : that there, in the departed centuries, once stood a giant volcanic mountain whose summit towered into the heavens to a height probably far above any other in the United States, if not in North Amer-

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ica. This conclusion is based b_y scientists on well known geometric and geographic principles. It is determined in part by ascertaining the extent and angle of the rim of the crater and taking into consideration the general configuration and composition of all its surroundings. According to the Geological Survey the depth of this crater is 4,000 feet and of the water 2,000 feet over the greater portion — that is, from the rim of the lake it is from 1,500 to 2,000 feet down to the surface of the water, and the water is 2,000 feet deep. To add to the strange conformation and beauty of this phenomenal lake, located in a mountain cup whose rim is indeed in nnbihus, there is a second crater within the main one, which looms up in a hollow cone 650 feet above the surface of the water. This is called " Wizard island," while still two more similar craters exist which do not reach the surface of the water, the top of the one being 450 feet below the surface and that of the other 825 feet.

One writer, Mrs Frances Fuller Victor, in her interesting and instructive book entitled "Atlantis Arisen," in speaking of this lake says :

"One cannot, owing to the sunken position of the lake, discover it until close upon its rim, and I say without exaggeration that no pen can reproduce its image, no picture be painted to do it justice, nor can it for obvious reasons be satisfactorily photographed. At the first view a dead

silence fell upon our party. A choking sensation arose in our throats, the tears flowed over our cheeks. I do not pretend to analyze the emotion, but if I were to endeavor to compare it with anything I ever read I should say it must be such a feeling which causes the cherubim to veil their faces before God. To me it was a revelation."

Captain (now Major) C. E. Dutton, in his report of the survey of this lake to the Director of the Geological Survey, says :

"It was touching to see the worthy but untutored people who had ridden a hundred miles in freight wagons to behold it vainly striving to keep back tears as they poured forth exclamations of wonder and joy akin to pain, nor was it less so to see so cultivated and learned a man as my companion hardly able to command himself to speak with his customary calmness."

Did time permit, attention might be attracted to the many other interesting characteristics of this wonderland in Lake and Klamath counties, in southeastern Oregon. I might point to Upper and Lower Klamath lakes, to Link river uniting the two, with its valuable water power, having a fall of sixty-four feet in

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a mile and a quarter and an average breadth of 310 feet; to Williamson, Sprague and Lost rivers; to the hot and cold mineral and non-mineral springs ; to rivers which in great volume rise from and disappear into the earth ; to the lava beds, and to the magnificent fertile plains where wheat is grown in abundance at an elevation of over 4,000 feet ; but these and many other features must be passed over or barely mentioned.

The Oregon Caves.

Scarcely less wonderful than the mysterious Crater lake are the caverns of the Oregon mountains. The Josephine county caves, about thirty miles from the railroad southwest of Grant pass, will be found when thoroughly explored, it is believed by those who know most about them, to be as extensive and wonderful as is the Mammoth cave of Kentucky³^ These caves were discovered but a few years ago by a hunter named Elijah Davidson, who followed a bear to its lair in the lower cave. The entrance to each of the caves, one located higher in the moun-

tain than the other, is about eight feet wide and seven feet high. They contain a great number of wonderful avenues, said to be miles in length, besides large numbers of chambers, grottoes, lakes, abysses and cataracts, and also innumerable chambers, large and small. The first chamber is ten feet in height. One, called "The Devil's Banquet Hall," is 150 feet in length by 75 feet in width and 60 feet in height. Its roof and walls are brilliant with hundreds of scintillating stalactites. The only exploration of these wonderful caverns has been by private parties. A thorough, scientific exploration should be made at an early day, and it is my intention to ask an appropriation from the next Congress for such purpose.

The Great Wheat-producing Inland Empire.

The vast fertile grain-producing valleys of Oregon are the Willamette, the Rogue river, the Umpqua, and that portion of what is known as the "great Inland Empire" which lies in eastern Oregon. The Willamette extends from Portland to the Calipooia mountains, 30 miles south of Eugene, a distance of over 150 miles in length by an average of 75 miles in width. This valley is famed as one of the most fertile and productive in the world. There is scarcely an acre of waste land in this

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vast area of 12,000 square miles. It is a great Miocene basin; fossils of the Miocene age are found there in abundance. The greater portion of it is under improvement, but much of it is held in large tracts of 640 acres, being the donations made to settlers by the act of Congress of September 27, 1850. Nearly the whole of it is well watered by streams, a very small proportion requiring irrigation. It produces wheat, oats, barley, corn^ all kinds of vegetables, and fruits in abundance. The Willamette valley is alone capable of sustaining a population of 5,000,000 souls, and even then the population would be but a fraction in excess that of Belgium to the square mile, and less than that of England by 102 to the square mile. The productive capacity of the Inland Empire in eastern Oregon is something wonderful. Thirty years ago not a bushel of wheat was raised in that entire empire, although across the line near Walla Walla some

300 bushels of wheat were raised by Dr Whitman at his mission in 1841 ; Commodore Wilkes, a portion of whose party visited this mission in that year, so reports. Twenty years ago the coming fall I left the Central Pacific railroad near Salt Lake and journeyed westward through northern Utah and eastern Oregon. The first wheat of any importance was grown in eastern Oregon that year. There was a three-acre lot located near where the town of Weston, Umatilla county, now is and immediately outside the boundaries of the Umatilla Indian reservation. The crop had been taken off before my arrival. The wheat stubble being so abundant, I was amazed and expressed surprise to my host, with whom I remained over night, that there should be such a fertile spot in this vast desert, as the whole country seemed to me to be little less than a desert. He smiled and replied that the tract on which this wheat had grown was the same character as land of the whole surrounding country, including the greater portion of the Umatilla Indian reservation. I obtained a sack and immediately outside of the field, digging down some 6 or 8 inches, filled it with a peck of soil. I brought it with me to Washington ; took it to the late Professor Henry, then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and requested that he analyze it and tell me its properties and what good for. He inquired, " Where did you get this soil ? " I replied, " West of the Rocky mountains." Professor Henry remarked, " That is rather indefinite." "But Professor," said I, " I shall not tell you whether it came from California, Oregon, the Willamette

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valley or the top of mount Hood." He made me a very interesting report, in which it was stated that he regarded the soil as the best wheat-producing soil he had ever examined ; that it contained properties very similar to the soil of Sicily, where wheat had been raised for 2,000 years without exhausting the soil. The report further stated that the soil was of such character that it would fertilize itself as cultivated ; that it would not be necessary to let it rest after a crop or two, as in many portions of the country, or to fertilize it. The predictions made in that report have been amply verified. Two years ago I visited Umatilla county and what was formerly the Umatilla

Indian reservation, and was told that there had been raised and harvested that year in that county alone over 4,500,000 bushels of wheat. That this single county will produce 5,000,000 bushels of the best quality of wheat the present year, or an amount considerably more than was produced in 1893 in any one of twenty-one different states in the Union, I have not the slightest doubt. In addition, it is estimated that there will be shipped the present year from the city of Pendleton, the county seat of Umatilla county, located on the transcontinental railroad, 5,000,000 pounds of wool, Avhile from The Dalles, the county seat of Wasco county, an equal quantity will be shipped. A large portion of the state, notably Umatilla, Union, and Baker counties, with several others in the eastern section, and Coos and Curry counties in the southwestern portion, are admirably adapted to sugar-beet culture. The beets grown here are said to yield a larger percentage of saccharine matter than those produced elsewhere; while 20 tons per acre is a moderate estimate of the annual crop.

The Forests of Oregon.

Another source of immense wealth in the state of Oregon is her forests. No state in the Union has a greater variety of valuable trees or fine woods. These include sugar pine and silver pine, cedar, red, yellow and white fir, redwood, and spruce of different varieties ; ash, hemlock, maple, myrtle, white oak, laurel, alder, dogwood, wild cherry, hazel, chittamwood, and Oregon yew ; three species of poplar — the quaking asp, cottonwood and balsam tree; live-oak and chestnut oak, nutmeg, tamarack, mountain mahogany, juniper, birch, box elder, and many other varieties. In addition, there are the vine maple, growing from

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6 to 12 inches in diameter and from 12 to 30 feet in height; the Oregon crab-apple, which grows in groves, making the forest impenetrable for man or beast ; and many other varieties. The Oregon cedar grows to an immense size. It is no uncommon thing in the forests of Tillamook and Coos counties, on the coast, to find vast forests of these trees 10 to 12 and very often 15 feet in diameter and from 200 to 250 feet in height. The Oregon sugar-pine grows to 250 feet in height, bearing cones from 12 to

18 inches in length. The mills of Oregon manufacture over 250,000,000 feet of lumber annually.

Game.

The forests of the state are filled with all kinds of game, including bear, elk, deer, grouse, prairie-chicken, pheasants, Chinese or Denny pheasants (a most delicious game bird, introduced from China by Honorable O. N. Denny, of Oregon, while United States consul-general at Shanghai), quail, and other varieties of game birds. The rivers and lakes are, during the summer, filled with game fowl, including canvas-back, and teal of excellent quality.

The Precious and other Metals.

No state in the Union is more highly favored in natural endowments than Oregon. Her resources, developed and undeveloped, are almost as varied as are the gifts of nature, and their value cannot be estimated. Her mines, though only partially developed, are rich in the precious metals, as also in iron, coal, nickel, copper, cinnabar, asbestos, tin, marble, onyx, limestone, sandstone, granite, and dolomite. A recent writer on the geologic formations of Oregon remarks that "the igneous rocks of southern Oregon are said to contain all the zeolitic minerals and some geologists believe precious gems of no small worth."

Already more than \$25,000,000 in gold have been taken from the placer mines in two counties in the state — Jackson and Josephine, in southern Oregon. Eastern Oregon is rapidly developing into a great gold and silver, producing region. Capital only is required to make it one of the most valuable mineral fields on the Pacific coast.

Oregon has an abundance of the very best quality of iron ore. Clackamas county in particular abounds in this mineral. Ex-

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tensive iron works are in progress at Oswego, in that county, located on the Willamette river 18 miles from its mouth and 7 miles from Portland, and large amounts of pig-iron are produced annually.

Grains and Fruits; Rivers, Harbors, Railroads, etc.

The resources of Oregon are not confined to her mountains or her rivers. Her valleys are fertility itself. Wheat, oats, corn, barley, hops, flax, hay and other grains and grasses; apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, prunes, cherries, nectarines, grapes and other varieties of small fruits and berries, are all products of her soil. The natural advantages of the state are all that could be desired. A seacoast of more than 400 miles, indented with numerous capacious bays and storm-protected deep-water harbors ; the Columbia, the Tillamook, the Nehalem, the Yaquina, the Alsea, the Siuslaw, the Umpqua, the Coquille, Coos bay and port Orford, capacious enough to protect in safety all the navies of the world ; a mighty river on its north draining a basin of 395,000 square miles, including its tributaries, which combine twelve degrees of latitude and thirteen of longitude. The main Columbia is navigable 725 miles from its mouth, with two interruptions — the first at the Cascades, 150 miles from the mouth, where there is a fall of 300 feet in four miles and where a canal and locks, being constructed by the general government, will be completed in the present year ; and another at The Dalles of twelve miles, where the general government has taken steps looking to the construction of a boat railway. Willamette river is navigable for 140 miles ; the Snake for 150 miles. The falls of the Willamette at Oregon City are estimated at 1,000,000 horse power; the fall is forty feet. Here a great electric plant has been established within the past two years at an expenditure of several millions of dollars, and this vast water power is being utilized in Oregon City and in Portland, twelve miles distant, in manufactories of various kinds and in electric lighting.

The Salmon Fisheries of Columbia River.

The salmon fisheries of Columbia river are the most extensive and profitable in the world, and a source of immense wealth. It is but thirty-three years since the first fishery for catching and

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barreling salmon was established there, and not until 1867 was

the first fish cannery erected, the purpose of the latter being to preserve salmon in cans — fresh, spiced and pickled. There are today some thirty-eight canneries on Columbia river, in which are invested more than \$5,000,000 capital. More than 4,000 men are employed during the fishing season. Canned salmon are shipped by rail across the continent and by ships to all parts of the world. A cargo frequently is valued at a quarter of a million dollars, and single cargoes have gone out occasionally of the value of over \$300,000. The salmon season commences in May and ends in August. The fish are caught mainly by drift gill-nets ranging in length from 120 feet to 600 feet. Many salmon are also taken by traps and fish-wheels.

In the single year 1880, 538,587 cases of salmon were canned on Columbia river, having an export value of 82,650,000. The average salmon weighs about twenty pounds, and they are packed three to a case, making a catch that year of about 1,600,000 salmon.

Salmon is by no means the only food-fish produced in large numbers in Columbia river. Sturgeon, flounder, smelt, tomcod, and salmon trout exist in abundance, and within the last few years shad weighing from three to four pounds have been plentiful. Other waters in the state of Oregon are full of salmon, Salmon fisheries are carried on extensively in Tillamook bay, Nehalem bay, Nestucca bay, in northwestern Oregon, and in the Rogue, Siuslaw, Coquille and other rivers in central and southwestern Oregon.

Dairy Interests.

Several of the coast counties, especially Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Douglass, Coos and Curry, in addition to their extensive and valuable lumber interests, and in some cases, notably Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Coos, their valuable coal deposits, are especially well adapted to dairying, and immense quantities of butter and cheese are annually produced.

Railroad Facilities.

In addition to the great facilities resulting from grand navigable water-courses and capacious coast harbors, with which

Oregon is so bountifully blessed, the state is now no longer iso-

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lated by reason of lack of railroad transportation facilities. The city of Portland, the metropolis of the state, with a present population of more than 80,000 people and an annual trade of over \$140,000,000, is the western terminus of five transcontinental railroads — the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific in connection with the Oregon Short Line and the line of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, and the Canadian Pacific ; besides these, several state railroads center here. In addition to this, the city of Portland is the head of ship navigation on the waters of the Columbia, located on the Willamette river 12 miles from its mouth, and to which ships of all nations, of whatever draught, steam and sail, come and go without interruption. The great warships of the navy, the Baltimore, the Chicago and the Monterey, have all been in her harbor within the past two years. But not only so, there are regular lines of first-class ocean steamers running weekly between San Francisco, California, and Yaquina bay, Oregon, connecting with the Oregon Pacific railroad, a first-class full-gauge road, now constructed and running regularly from Yaquina bay eastward across the entire Willamette valley, and which, I am credibly advised, will within the present year be extended to a transcontinental connection. Another line of steamers plies weekly between San Francisco and Coos bay, Oregon, A railroad is now under construction connecting Astoria, Oregon, with Portland and the great transcontinental lines of railroad. Other lines of railroad are being projected and built in Oregon, one connecting the valleys of the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue rivers with the waters of Coos bay on the Pacific ocean. The interior cities and towns of eastern Oregon are rapidly being connected with branch lines. This has already been done as to Weston, Athena, Heppner and other important points.

Demand for the Nicaragua Canal.

The people of Oregon, although blessed with innumerable blessings and endowed with commercial advantages not com-

mon to states and people generally, nevertheless are in want of one thing. We want, our interests demand, and we must and Avill have at no distant day, a ship canal crossing the isthmus of Nicaragua. The interests not only of Oregon, but of the Pacific coast, of the whole nation, and of all the civilized nations of the

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globe demand it. With one voice and with no uncertain sound should the people of all the commercial and civilized nations of the earth demand the speed^l construction of this great work, so absolutely essential to the commercial necessities of the age and the proper advancement and promotion of the enlightened civilization of the century in which we live. We of the Pacific coast are no longer unimportant factors in the trade and commerce of the world. When Dr Marcus Whitman crossed the continent in 1842-'43 to save Oregon to the union, the trade of the Pacific coast with foreign or domestic ports amounted to notliing. Today our trade with Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Cuba and Brazil, to sa^l nothing of our trade with China, Japan and the Sandwich islands, amounts in value to more than \$45,000,000 annually. Give us the Nicaragua canal and we will then stand erect in every element which constitutes independent commercial supremacy. Capable of meeting every home want of whatever nature, we become at once and forever a formidable competitor for our surplus products, not only in the home market, but in all the markets of the world.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I cannot better personify the state of Oregon than by employing the language of that gifted writer, the author of "Atlantis Arisen." She said :

" I know how, if I were a painter, I should personify the young giant Oregon. Lithe, strong, beautiful should he be, with Empire written on his brow and power tempered by mildness beaming from his eyes. Of fair complexion he, with tawny, blonde hair and curly, golden beard. His robe should be of royal purple, embroidered with wheat ears, and his crown of tarnished gold. His throne should be among the rugged mountains, with a lake at his feet, rolling yellow plains on one hand and

smiling green valleys on the other. His sceptre, shaped like the tapering pine, should be of silver, set with opals, emeralds and diamonds. On his right should roll the magnificent Columbia, to which ships in the distance should seek entrance, and over his shoulder the white crest of mount Hood stand blushing in a rosy sunset."

The names and memories of the brave pioneer men and women who laid the foundations of empire in the wilds of Oregon deserve to be forever perpetuated, not only in their country's history, but in the reverential hearts and minds of the people of the present and all future generations. There is something

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strangely dramatic, as also sublimely pathetic, in the strange scene of hundreds of men, with their wives and little ones, bidding farewell to friends, to home, to civilization, and starting on a journey with ox-teams a distance of 3,000 miles across a trackless waste, and over rugged, unexplored mountains, the way obstructed by numberless bridgeless rivers, yawning, desolate canyons and parched repellent deserts, with a view of establishing new homes amid all the perils incident to a wilderness inhabited only by savage men and beasts. Many of these brave men and women never lived to reach their destination, but fell by the wayside, like Hervey's ships, " that sailed for sunny isles, but never came to shore." But, leaving the lonely grave of the loved one in the desert, the body soon to be devoured by the hungry wolf of the plain, the brave column of survivors, sustained by Wordsworth's " amaranthine flower of faith," and, in the language of Milton, " finding new hope springing out of despair," moved on and on, and although, in the words of Southey, " no station is in view nor palm grove islanded amid the waste," they still press on and on, over burning deserts and trackless mountain steeps, until at last they rest in the cooling shades of " the continuous woods where rolls the Oregon."

As a factor in the civilization of America and of the age in which we live, Oregon as a state challenges attention. Civilization over two hundred years ago marshalled its battalions and took up its line of march in the Orient. Gathering strength with the steady advance of its conquering column, the tread of

its victorious legions among the mountains and over the plains of the distant west signaled the rapid approach of the builders of empire; and though beautiful in its infancy, grand in the clear light of the Orient in the early morn of its existence, may we not expect that the state of Oregon will realize its grandest achievements amid the glories of accumulated splendor in the distant Occident?

It was truly a grand conception, a sublime thought, inspired by an almost supernatural prescience on the part of Coleridge when, more than half a century ago, he in his "Table Talk" gave utterance to this sentence :

"The possible destiny of the United States of America, as a nation of an hundred million of freemen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred and speaking the language of Shakespeare and Milton, is an august conception.

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The time is rapidly approaching when more than one hundred millions of freemen, breathing the same air of liberty, inspired by one common sentiment of patriotism, sharing the blessings of a free country, upholding one flag, respecting and abiding by the same code of laws, honoring and revering the memories of the men who laid the foundations of the Republic, loving the same country and worshiping the same God, shall fill this great land from sea to sea with the glad anthems of a free, courageous, independent and happy people.

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