The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition

ADDRESS AND PAPERS

BY

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ENDORSED BY

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ADVANTAGES OF UNIVERSITY PARK FOR SITE OF 1905 FAIR.

WATER IS KING.

Many of us have visited the Centennial at Philadelphia, the Trans-Mississippi at Omaha, the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, the Pan-American at Buffalo, and contemplate visiting the St. Louis Fair.

We know that Portland can get up no rival. If you make magnificent and spacious grounds, if you make imposing and costly edifices, if you make splendor of exhibits, your leading features, then you are doomed to disappoint the very class you seek most and need most to please.

By your very liberal subscription you have demonstrated to the world one thing and one thing only, but that thing is not that you can rival the world fairs in any of a dozen features: You have simply demonstrated by your enthusiasm, harmony of action, and prompt and magnificent subscription, that you will make the Exposition a grand success in all it is designed for when once you have determined the key-note. But this is everything, for it to inspire universal confidence. There is no longer a doubt in all the land. It is well for the world to know at the outset that stockholders are generally believed to be little concerned about the direct return of their money. Every one feels that a new epoch in the history of the whole Northwest is already dated, and is little concerned about his novel financial venture; the success of the fair is his chief concern.

As to the site, it is hoped that it may be selected with the same disinterestedness other than the highest degree of success for the fair. Neither

personal interest, prejudice, nor friendship should bias anyone having a right to vote in a matter of such great moment and of such general interest to the public. A mistake on this point might result in some temporary local or personal advantage, but even here it would prove a great loss in the long run. Here let us say that we think we voice the sentiment of all fair minded people when we proclaim to the world that our sister state, Washington, which is expected to contribute much to the success of the fair, is entitled to great consideration on the question of site.

In 1891 the site of the Chicago fair, "ten miles by water from the City front", was "an unsightly strip" of 556 acres "without one redeeming feature except area and location",—"a sedgy waste by the borders of an inland sea". But so desirable was it to have the site near water that many millions were spent in transforming it rather than choose more favorable locations without this indispensable advantage. The world knows the result. To say nothing of the great advantages of water, it is the cool verdict of impartial history, as well as of enthusiastic multitudes, that "one of the most comfortable ways of getting about was by means of lagoons, canals, and other water ways".

Whenever you leave out your rivers and their incomparable advantages, you have left out possibly the greatest element of success in your exposition. Take away your rivers and you had quite as well hold your fair at some point more remote from the Pacific. In addition to the advantages of having your visitors daily see the stream of ocean traffic, in addition to the convenience of witnessing naval exhibitions from the fairgrounds, say nothing of electrical and pyrotechnic displays along and across the waters near the grounds, your rivers will serve other purposes, for which there is no substitute. Ninety per cent of your visitors, after long and dusty rides, often through desert country, will find it refreshing, delightful, to take a short trip on your rivers, especially

since those rivers not only furnish scenery unsurpassed in all our land, but because they furnish a whole chapter in the early history of "The Oregon Country".

A series of well arranged outings, a few well chosen picnic grounds easily reached by beautiful steamers and dainty small craft, would add a feature important in that tens of thousands will be attracted to the fair expecting to make some such trips, but not anticipating a tenth of the never-to-be-forgotten pleasure. What would be more delightful than a moon-light excursion down the Willamette, passing University point beneath a bower of electric lights resting on island and shore, up the Columbia past historic Vancouver, a hundred craft in line, never out of hearing of sweet music, and never out of sight of some electrical or pyrotechnic display at the fairgrounds or on some vessel! Water is king.

Again, if, as the able editor of the Oregonian tells us, the successful celebrations are always those centered about some national event, and that the Lewis and Clark Exposition is to celebrate "the conquest of the Pacific Coast", then the more points of real historic interest that can be associated with the Exposition the better. A trip to the mouth of the Columbia might be headed by suitable substitutes for Capt. Gray's *Washington* and *Columbia*. Another could be lead by *Astor's Tonquin* and *Beaver*. The trip of Jason Lee and Miss Pitman, his fiancee, from Vancouver to Champoeg, and pioneer Day on the Water, could be made delightful, memorable. A novel feature, but not without merit, would be a regularly employed Lewis and Clark party, dressed in skins, and on stated occasions, paddling down the Columbia in canoes well filled with barking "porkers" to be seen by curious thousands on passing boats, or in camp at night on Sauvie's Island surrounded by a hundred warriors in native garb.

How interesting to reproduce some of the scenes forever associated with the Willamette, the Columbia, and Dr. John McLoughlin! The annual

return of the trappers from the upper Columbia', some of the Doctor's trips up the Willamette to Oregon City, the cavalcade setting out for California with all the show of knights-errant, may be made interesting features of the Exposition by those skilled to contrive.

Boat racing will be no small attraction. The several states of "The Oregon Country" could be represented by a vessel named for each state. Naval displays by aid of the Government can be made wonderful: More than a Million people went out to witness the marine pageant on the Hudson at the beginning of the Columbian Exposition.

In this way your neighboring cities, Vancouver, Astoria, and Oregon City, may be turned to good account by way of entertainment, all of which are historic places.

Thus, then, "Where Rolls the Oregon," and in no other way, will have an appropriate significance in the title of the great exposition.

It seems to us some of the important things to be considered in this great and daring experiment for Portland and the Northwest are : That visitors from the East must not at any cost be allowed to return home disappointed. An attempt to rival their great fairs will necessarily disappoint, and provoke derision. That the fair, while suited to its purpose, must be made secondary as a means of entertainment. That your Rivers can not be ignored as one means of entertainment. That, if no more than a half Million of people visit your city during the fair, figures will show that this number would, by the constant use of the Bridges in the heart of your city, seriously interfere with the river traffic, and vice-versa. That not only street cars but railroads and rivers will be needed to transport the crowds if traffic is left in a normal condition. That our most successful fairs were located farther from the business centers of their respective cities than this exposition would be if on Peninsula. That the great financial failure was located nearer the city's business centre than any feasible point on the Peninsula.

Finally, that you must recognize the fact, that, great as has been man's transforming power, the thinking tourist will demand that what God and "the Dead past" have done, be made of paramount importance, for to him it is of transcendent worth, and will over-shadow all your art and magnificence.

Let it be remembered, that, with all due regard to many other creditable and interesting attractions and splendid exhibits, water will still be king and nature your greatest auxiliary, and that there is no more mere sentiment about locating the Exposition the nearest possible to the historic scenes commemorated than there is associated with the very event itself.

We deem it unnecessary to dwell on the superior scenic advantages of the site herein supported, or the ample grounds for those desirous of camping, suitable grounds for stock exhibition, parade grounds for both civic and military orders, drives for carriages, automobiles, and wheelmen, along the entire river front. These are all too obvious to be seriously questioned.

In conclusion, since the rivers are essential to the success of the great exposition, and since the state of Washington is as fully identified with the explorers whom we seek to honor and with "the conquest of the Pacific Coast" as Oregon itself, it is eminently proper that, in the matter of site, she should be gratified, most certainly since the compliment so deserved would be not only a fitting recognition of her inseparable relation to the events we commemorate, but because the site itself, it is safe to say, is absolutely essential to the highest degree of success of the Exposition.

WORK FOR THE 1905 FAIR.

LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT THERE ARE ANY LAGGARDS IN OREGON.

It is safe to say that it is not even yet generally known to the people of that portion of our country known in the days of Jefferson as the Louisiana Purchase that a great fair in honor of the explorers Lewis and Clark of said region is now in serious contemplation, so little have the newspapers of this vast territory had to say about it. This is not so much because they do not intend to take an active interest "later on" and labor for the highest and most gratifying success of the fair as it is due to a marked peculiarity of human nature. Enthusiasm is as much of an element of success in great public demonstrations as executive ability and business sense; and enthusiasm is about as hard to get on long time, even with absolute security, as the necessary cash itself, and possibly harder. Nineteen-hundred-five sounds like the day of judgment to most people. No one thinks of laying aside a dollar now with which to pay a debt in 1905. Why? Debtor and creditor both shall have "gone glimmering," perchance, long before that time. But this is not the way to look even the common affairs of life in the face, much less a great experiment. Enthusiasm will "come to the rescue" as the good work proceeds. In fact, the healthy enthusiasm that naturally comes of well-directed efforts in a great cause fraught with far-reaching results is best because most lasting, and freest from reaction in its discouragements.

What Newspapers Should Do.

Our newspapers then should take up the work in a systematic way. Let us not delay. At present Eastern papers are making more note of the coming event than the papers more directly interested. Let us begin before we discourage them. Already they have given us an earnest of the support in advertising we may expect at the hands of their generous and able writers.

Let everybody favor the fair, and favor no other in the meantime. Let every one become informed as to what is to be done, and inform his friends in the East through the natural channel of correspondence. Mail them copies of your home papers frequently, or, better still, arrange with your editor for an extra subscription for them at reduced rates. Every family in Oregon—the whole Northwest, for that matter—should secure for 7 cents the beautiful 62-page Oregonian Handbook and send it to some friend or prospective visitor to our Coast.

This is a work in which every one can do something. We need not wait for men with their millions. We need not wait for legislative enactments. Think of the vast aggregate of lasting results if each individual in this great West, including the very school children, does all he can, and in a systematic way, for the next four years. Think of its effect on our undeveloped resources, on our schools, our society, the many conveniences and comforts of life. This requires no large amount of capital, and exacts but a small portion of each one's time. It requires no great financiering. Leave that to the magnates. Do not worry about the financial success of the great fair. Let the stockholders do that unpleasant and unnecessary thing. Do not worry about the banks. Let us trust to their sense of fairness to do their part. Do not worry about the railroads. They will put more into the enterprise than all the other sources combined by reduced excursion rates, the circulation of many tons of carefully compiled statistics of resources, every species of handsomely illustrated literature—in fine, all that goes to make up four years of advertising on an exceptionally grand scale. Let us then do our duty as the great common people, the salt of the earth, says Holy Writ.

What People Should Do.

What you and I need to do is to wake up to the importance of the great enterprise and show our individual loyalty to a most deserving cause, and our devotion as never before to every interest of our native or adopted West. Let us be ashamed, rather, to say we are doing nothing in honor of the great explorers Lewis and Clark. The Northwest has comparatively few incompetents, and we want to see laggards as scarce for the next four years as hen's teeth. It will probably be decades before such another opportunity will present itself for the united effort of the whole West. We have long needed concerted action. We have long needed a slogan and a common rallying-point. First by legislative enactment, and now by common consent, we may say, Portland, Or., is the common rallying-point, and our slogan is the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, and in this the whole Western Empire will take part. We will simply co-operate and do collectively what we should have done long since individually—get our friends to come and see our country and its boundless resources, its actualities, its possibilities, come and see its people, its schools and churches, its business methods; come and see our fertile prairies and the storehouses of our rich hills and mountains; come and enjoy our unrivaled scenery, our beautiful skies and restful nights; come and taste as delicious fruit as e'er blessed Pomona's fairest garden and Ceres' golden fields; come and taste the ozone of our pure atmosphere, taste our great variety of mineral waters and taste the pure waters fresh from the cool crystal fountains of the everlasting hills. We want them to come and see our lovely mountain streams and our beautiful rivers that, as they go "softly calling to the sea," are likewise imploring capital and enterprise to harness their powers with the lightning and turn their wasting energies to the account of man.

In all this let us remember that one visitor to our 1905 fair is worth more to the Northwest than 10 or possibly 20 times the number visiting the great Eastern fairs could reasonably be to the overcapitalized, densely crowded East. Let us remember that our direct financial gains will far exceed theirs in proportion to amount invested; let us remember that our increased trade with the Orient in consequence of this great exposition will certainly compare favorably with the increased trade of the East with the South American states due to her great fairs; finally, let us remember that the indirect benefits accruing to any section of the East from her mammoth fairs is inconsequential when compared with the indirect benefits we shall receive from the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition throughout the entire West. The four years of systematic pre-centennial advertising, and, better still, the many years of post-centennial publishing, in store for us from the many thousands of delighted visitors, the increased population, capital, energy, new enterprises and social advantages are simply incomparable and incalculable. Then here's to you, boys, for the greatest possible enduring, substantial success of the "Where Rolls the Oregon, the Lewis and Clark Centennial American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair."

MONUMENT TO EXPLORERS.

UNIVERSITY PARK A SUITABLE SITE FOR SAME.

Interested as we are in the great event that entitles Captains Lewis and Clark to an enduring place in the history of a series of phenomenal developments our country has undergone in its brief existence among the nations of the earth, we must, nevertheless, quickly come to the realization of a fact important at the outset, that little can be done by the citizens of Portland to commemorate fitly the results of the great expedition until not only every citizen of our metropolis shall feel himself interested, even warming into a hearty enthusiasm, but the equally appreciative and patriotic citizens of our entire state and sister states must become thoroughly enlisted in behalf of this great move. But we need not fear, for the many patriotic and talented men and women of all classes of Portland's great population will co-operate in this laudable enterprise, and the interest will grow and spread and grow again until not only the whole Northwest will manifest an abiding interest as the year 1905 rapidly approaches, but the teeming millions throughout the entire Louisiana Purchase will feel the enthusiasm. Nor is it predicting too much to say that the whole population embraced in the original territory between the Mississippi and the Atlantic will feel a renewed pride in the wisdom of their fathers and the heroism of their adventurous sons as the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana purchase and its exploration are full upon them.

Let us hastily refresh our memories from the rich treasures of our country's history in order that we may more readily both recall the importance attaching to the purchase and exploration of the vast tract in question, as well as to discern

more fully our bounden duty in fitting recognitions of the invaluable services done our country and ourselves.

In 1786 Jefferson, then Minister to Paris, with whom, however, the idea of exploring the Northwest was not original, induced John Ledyard to attempt a return to America by way of the Russias, the Pacific, and then across this unexplored portion of our continent. History records that Ledyard was within 200 miles of the Pacific when arrested and turned back by Russian officers. In 1792 Jefferson laid the matter of exploring this vast region before the American Philosophical Society. French interference at the very outset brought the move to naught. But the interference on the part of other nations simply proves the wisdom on the part of ourselves in the purchase of this vast, though wild and unexplored, domain, constituting, as all history concedes, the greatest event in Jefferson's Administration. That delightful historian, John Ridpath, records Livingston as saying to the French Minister as they rose from signing the treaty, in commenting on the great purchase: "We have lived long, but this is the noblest work of our whole lives."

Meaning of the Expedition.

Can it be that, viewing this noble work from the vantage ground of a 100 years of added experience and development, we cannot see that our fathers "builded wiser than they knew"? Can it be that their prophetic vision enabled them to see beyond the strategic advantages in times of possible war with foreign powers, beyond its advantages to domestic commerce and its trade with the Indians, beyond even its foreign commerce on the Atlantic, and see many states carved from the new possessions and a great ultramountain people carrying on a vast trade with the strange nations beyond the Pacific? True it is, however, that within a few months after the signing of the treaty an expedition was organized with Captain Meriwether Lewis, Jefferson's private secretary, first,

and Captain William Clark, brother of the famous George Rogers Clark, second in command, for the purpose of exploring this extensive territory. Ridpath says:

"For two years, through forests of gigantic pines, along the banks of unknown rivers, and down to the shores of the Pacific, did they continue their explorations. After wandering among unheard-of tribes of barbarians, encountering grizzly bears more ferocious than Bengal tigers, escaping perils by forest and flood, and traversing a route of 6000 miles, the hardy adventurers, with the loss of but one man, returned to civilization, bringing new ideas of the vast domains of the West."

In 1813 Jefferson wrote:

"Never did a similar event excite more joy throughout the United States. The humblest of its citizens have taken a lively interest in the issue of this journey, and looked with impatience for the information it would furnish."

In the "History of the Pacific Northwest" we read:

"The successful return of Lewis and Clark created a sensation, not only in the United States, but in European nations."

James G. Blaine, in his "Twenty Years of Congress" says the success of the expedition "aided greatly in sustaining our title to the Oregon Country." In his book entitled "Men and Achievment," General Greely says: "The Lewis and Clark expedition was second to none ever undertaken in the United States." Other expeditions fraught with great results we have had, notably the one led by John C. Fremont in 1812, "in appreciation of which," says our historian, "he received from his admiring countrymen the highest tokens of honor, and, from kingly hands, acknowledgments on tablets of gold."

How then can we, the people of this great Northwest, best express the debt of gratitude we so justly owe the heroic explorers, Captains Lewis and Clark and their brave little company of

adventurers? The great centennial exhibition to be held at the City of Portland in 1905 is a most laudable way, and will doubtless receive the most cordial support of our state and of the nation, because of the many excellent features of such high testimonial of universal gratitude. But let the exposition be significant. Let it be epochmaking in history of Pacific Coast commerce. Let it say to the people of the Northwest that if the steamship and Atlantic cable of little more than a generation ago brought Europe practically three thousand miles nearer America, science and commerce, Pacific cables and swift-flying merchant marine, ere the present generation shall have passed away, will practically annihilate the vast distance between the shores of the Pacific, and give us China and Japan for our daily customers. Let it say that while the Atlantic States can forever undersell us in their much nearer European markets the West is looking well to the Orient. Let it say with Benton, "There is the East! There is India!" and they are offering to us more than the fabled treasures of Marco Polo. Let it say in tones of thunder to the capitalists of both East and West that it is inconsistent, if not impossible, for us to conceive that these great sources of wealth shall long be left almost uncontested to the enterprise of other nations.

Monument at University Park.

This all well enough, and "devoutly to be wished," but expositions however grand, however inspiring at the time, are only temporal in their outward forms. They have much more to do with the present and future than with the past, and thus lose much of their commemorative virtues in the great rush of absorbing events that ceaselessly sweep a great nation from destiny to destiny. It will probably pass without dispute that the commemoration of so great an event as the Louisiana purchase and its exploration should be made both permanent and personal. In fine, a magnificent monument should be erect-

ed within the limits of Portland to the memory of Captains Lewis and Clark. Of Lewis, Jefferson said:

"He endeared himself to his countrymen by his sufferings and successes in endeavoring to extend for them the bounds of science, and to present to their knowledge that vast and fertile country, which their sons are destined to fill with arts, with science, with freedom and happiness."

We had already come to the conclusion from having carefully read the history of the great expedition that Captain William Clark, while deserving no more credit than his superior in command for the success of the expedition, was the leading spirit of the party; hence, it was gratifying to our vanity to read from such authority as John Fisk that:

"Clark was really the principal military director of the expedition, materially assisting Captain Lewis in the scientific arrangements, keeping a journal, and whose intimate knowledge of Indian habits and character had much to do with the success of the exploration."

General Greely says of him:

"He proved so efficient a coadjutor that his name will ever be inseparably associated with that of Lewis."

I recently received a letter from the Hon. John H. Charles, president of the Scientific Association of Sioux City, Ia., informing us that the grateful and enterprising people of Sioux City had just erected a $20,000 monument to Sergeant Charles Floyd, who died and was buried at that place in the early weeks of the expedition. Too much praise cannot be meted out to the patriotic people of Sioux City for this noble act; but how much more is it incumbent, then, on the people of Oregon to erect a monument that shall be a credit to a great and prosperous people, an honor to the heroic deeds it would commemorate, and an endearing token of gratitude to Captains Lewis and Clark, who braved every danger of 3000 miles of a hitherto untrodden wilderness

and aided greatly, as Mr. Blaine has said, "In sustaining our title to the Oregon country." How can it be done? Easy enough. Let every citizen, however humble, feel it an honor to aid what he can in this worthy cause. Let the orator speak from pulpit and rostrum in its behalf. Let the poet sing, and the editor, the correspondent and the essayist write. Let the pioneer, whose silvery locks tell us he is acquainted with the danger, suffering and hardships of those whose memory we now seek to honor, aid in this noble work. The cause is one with his and will remain inseparable through all history. Finally, we trust that our historical association may properly organize this grand move, which, we feel, would insure its complete success, and have the monument ready for unveiling at the opening of the exposition.

The question of site is neither material at present, nor to be selected arbitrarily, had one the power. But no one acquainted with the many beautiful prospects at University Park will accuse us of yielding wholly to sentiment, local pride or selfishness when we say that in this section of Portland nature is tendering a most eligible site for a work of art that will adorn her native beauty while perpetuating the memory of the heroic dead. Here also is the highest point up the Willamette attained by the expedition. And, standing on this historic spot thus made memorable in the history of our state by the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1805, it requires but a slight effort of the imagination to enable the mind to leap back over almost a 100 years, and past the countless homes and busy marts seen today between the Pacific and the Father of Waters, and behold again the wild expanse of virgin wilderness about to receive these brave explorers. It is an easy matter now thus to follow this little band across the hitherto trackless portion of our country. We see them as they enter the darkest portion of our continent, a land unused to the presence of civilized life, and ac-

quainted only with wild animals and barbarians. We see them rowing their crude but laden boats up stream for many hundreds of miles, now shooting dangerous rapids or tugging their boats over by means of cords and thongs, now carrying boats and burdens around numerous falls and over dangerous heights. We see them again and again, wading cold mountain streams to their waists. We see members of the little band wet, cold, and hungry, distant from camp at night, essaying to sleep without cover or shelter. We see the whole party again and again, reduced for sustenance to the wretched food of the savages, or, as often happened, satisfying their hunger on the flesh of horses and dogs. We see the little band sick and footsore almost to a man, yet ever pressing forward with a zeal that knew no flagging, surmounting every obstacle and mastering every difficulty. Their ancestors turned not back when the Mayflower sought the deep, nor turned they from the trials of the interminable wilderness.

But it was not all unrequited hardships. The poet has said:

"To him, who in the love of Nature, holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language."

And it is impossible to conceive that these intelligent men were incapable of enjoying at times in the highest degree the strange, wild life that surrounded them, and the countless changes nature presented in her ever-varying forms, for often their journal tells of some Pisgah height from which they viewed the prospect o'er, some promised land which, as we now know and enjoy it, they too were never to enter.

The Journey to the Pacific.

Thus, for weeks and months, and even years the weary thread of this strange life outspun, now wintering among the friendly Mandans, now cautiously pursuing their long journey among the treacherous Sioux, now quieting the rising

suspicion of the Snakes, now purchasing peace and good will toward our Government with their rich store of trifles and gewgaws, and now going through the mockery of making chiefs, bestowing medals, and presenting flags among long-vanished tribes with their unpronounceable names. And yet all this was but "the Star of Empire," fresh from the scenes of Valley Forge, renewing its pilgrimage way, this time past the Father of Waters, along mighty streams, over vast plains and lofty snow-clad ranges, through strange, dark, benighted, slumbering lands which were to become ere a 100 years glittering stars in a constellation of imperishable states. And although the splendid civilization attested by the handiwork of the teeming millions now busy in a thousand worthy vocations along this historic route will forever remain the best monument of a grateful people to the memory of these toil-worn, daring adventurers, nevertheless, it is meet that we of the present day should show to all succeeding generations that we are not unmindful of the debt of gratitude we ne'er can pay.

The Trojan wanderers, although the story of their wanderings never fails to touch our sympathies, both because of their brave defense of their loved but fallen Troy, and their homeless wanderings without a country, nevertheless encountered fewer difficulties than those who first scaled the Rockies, fought with grizzlies, and dared to face many nations of the merciless savage thousands of miles from all possible aid. While, too, measured by beneficent results, the adventures of Aeneas and that little band of exiles seeking to found a new nation were of far less moment to our present civilization than the labors of explorer or pioneer who sought the distant West in the early history of "the Oregon Country," and yet for the bewildering space of nearly 30 centuries men have delighted to listen to the story of the Trojan wanderers.

But, let no gloomy prophet of evil speak, for our supreme confidence in the uttermost triumph

of justice and in the heartfelt gratitude of a magnanimous people inspires us to believe that ere the 100th anniversary of this greatest of all expeditions the generous people of this great Northwest, representing so much actual wealth and prospects unsurpassed in all the world, representing intelligence, respectability and enterprise second to none in all our broad land, will see to it that a magnificent monument to the adventurous dead whose achievements we celebrate shall have been erected near this historic spot in the distant West, and here in the midst of the most charming scenery lovely nature ere dressed in vernal pride, and in the presence of the assembled wealth, intelligence and beauty of every quarter of our glorious land, the imposing ceremonies of its dedication will take place, and with song and eloquence it will be given in perpetuity the exalted mission of conveying to future generations our expressions of lasting gratitude.