

# HONOLULU DAILY PRESS.

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NO. 91

## A BIG BLUFF.

THE GAME BY WHICH OREGON AND IDAHO WERE WON.

Some Interesting Facts Unearthed Concerning the "Louisiana Purchase"—Text of the Original Grant—Making a Successful Territorial Grab.

(Washington Cor. Globe-Democrat)

In the course of his researches Chief Geologist has unearthed some geological buried, least unearthing some interesting facts not generally known about the region once described as the territory of Louisiana. As early as the beginning of the eighteenth century an official attempt was made to change the names of several of the rivers. In 1712 France made a grant to Antoine de Roat of the exclusive right to trade in the territory. This grant made the first and only statement of the limits of the vast region, a name at that time unknown, and more than is usually understood by the territory of Louisiana. The grant reads:

"All the territories by us possessed and bounded by New Mexico and by those of the English in Carolina, all the establishments, ports, harbors, rivers and especially the port and harbor of Capuchin Island, formerly called Massacre Island, the river St. Louis, formerly called the Mississippi, from the sea to the mountains, together with the river St. Philip, from its confluence with the Mississippi river, and the St. Jerome, formerly called the Wabash, now the Ohio, with all the countries' territories, lakes inland, and the rivers emptying directly or indirectly into that part of the river St. Louis."

ALL OF THIS!

On tracing the transfers of the various portions of the western country until the present limits of the United States were determined, Mr. Garnett finds that this government came into possession of the region now divided into Washington, Oregon, and Idaho through a pure game of bluff. It is certain he says, that the territory of Louisiana, "as first and subsequently defined, never included that section."

France transferred the territory of Louisiana to Spain in 1762. A few months later, in 1763, the western boundary of Great Britain's possessions was made the center of the Mississippi, and thus the territory of Louisiana lost all the land east of the Mississippi.

By the treaty of San Ildefonso in 1800, Spain ceded the territory of Louisiana to France.

In 1803 Bonaparte sold the territory of Louisiana to the United States comprised that part of the drainage basin of the Mississippi which lies west of the course of the river with the exception of such parts as were then held by Spain. The want of precise definition of limits in the treaty was not objected to by the American commissioners, as they probably foresaw that the young nation might have occasion to turn to the United States for future negotiations with other powers. In fact, the claim of the United States to the area now comprised in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho in the negotiations with Great Britain regarding the northwestern boundary was ostensibly based not only upon prior occupation and upon purchase from Spain, but also upon the alleged fact that this area formed part of the Louisiana purchase.

A BASELESS CLAIM.

That this claim was baseless is shown not only by the documents already detailed regarding the limits of the purchase, but also by the direct testimony of the French plenipotentiary, M. Barbe Marbois. Some twenty years after the purchase he published a work upon Louisiana in which he detailed at some length the negotiation which preceded the purchase, and, referring to the question said: "The shores of the western ocean were certainly not comprised in the purchase, but already the United States is established there."

There is also contained in this work a map of the country between the Mississippi and the Pacific, on which the extent of Louisiana to the westward is indicated by a line drawn on the 110th meridian, which is not far from the western limit of the drainage basin of the Mississippi in Wyoming and Montana. That part of the country now comprised in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, which it has been claimed, formed part of the purchase, bears the following legend: "Territory and countries occupied by the United States, following the treaty of cession of Louisiana."

A Centenarian's Diet.

(Chicago Tribune.)

M. Chevreuil, the French scientist, who recently began his 100th year, takes breakfast in bed at 7 o'clock—two eggs, a slice of "pate de volaille," and a pint of "cette du lait." At 8 he rises and takes a good walk, which consists of a dish of lapicous soup, a medium cheese, a bunch of grapes, a bit of cheese, and three glasses of cold water. He never takes lunch but confines himself strictly to two meals a day, with twelve hours between them. He never drinks wine or other alcoholic stimulants.

An "everlasting" Wood Pavement.

Scientific Exchange

A new "everlasting" wood pavement has been brought out in France. The wood blocks are boiled in a solution of sulphate of copper, sulphate of zinc and chloride of sodium, mixed with a heavy oil. After being dried and planed the blocks are afterward compressed to about one tenth their original volume. In this state they are said to be practically unwearable.

Oil for Absorbents.

It is essential that the oil used by the Mormons to anoint their converts, and also those married in the endowment houses, should be obtained from an animal caught by some bishop or elder of the church.

The first copper furnace in Cuba will be put in operation in a few days, and the metal will hereafter be exported instead of the ore.

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