

A BIG BLUFF. THE GAME BY WHICH OREGON AND IDAHO WERE WON.

In the course of his researches, Chief Geographer Elliott, of the geological bureau, has unearthed some interesting facts not generally known about the region once described as the territory of Louisiana.

In 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.

France transferred the territory of Louisiana to Spain in 1763. A few months later, in a treaty, 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.

Spain transferred the territory of Louisiana to France in 1802. In 1802, Bonaparte sold the territory of Louisiana to the United States in consideration of \$10,000,000 francs and the assumption by this government of the "French spoliation claims" supposed to amount to about \$3,750,000.

Mr. Garnett reaches this conclusion: "From this it appears that the territory sold 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.

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.

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