

# 1849 SOME OLD RECORDS.

REPORT OF RECONNAISSANCE FROM FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, TO THE RIO GRANDE, TO FIND A ROUTE TO ESCORT EMIGRANTS, AND TO CONCILIATE THE INDIANS.

(Continued from Saturday.)  
May 12.—We remained in camp today, waiting Captain Dillard's arrival, but shall move forward tomorrow about five miles, for the purpose of bridging two small streams which intersect our route and run into Choteau's creek.

May 13.—Starting this morning, we marched to the first creek, bridged it, and encamped upon the second; they are spring brooks rising in the "Timbers," and have good water in them at all seasons of the year. Upon the banks of Choteau's creek there is cottonwood, elm, hackberry, and a species of oak bearing an acorn about the size of a black walnut, with a very thick bur, and a fringe at the top of it encircling the nut; this is called by the Indians "overcup." This evening there suddenly arose one of the most terrific storms I ever witnessed—it was a perfect tornado; the first blast laid nearly every tent in the camp flat upon the ground, and sent beds, trunks, and tables whirling and tumbling in every direction. Our camp presented for a few minutes a most perfect scene of confusion. As I looked out from under my tent (which had fallen upon me and held me fast), I saw, by the incessant flashes of lightning, officers and men running in all directions through the rain—some trying to find shelter, and others following up a hat, blanket, or tent, which the gale had seized upon and was carrying off upon the prairie. Nothing could resist the violence of the storm; it continued for about an hour, when the wind abated, and we went to work to put up our tents again. Everything is soaked and we shall remain tomorrow to dry, when we hope to be joined by the Fort Smith company.

May 14.—This has been a day of general drying throughout the camp, and we are now ready to move forward again, as soon as we learn that Captain Dillard is near us. Dr. Rogers was so unfortunate as to have all his botanical specimens ruined by the storm last night; this is to be much regretted, as he had a great variety of plants and flowers which he will not meet with again, bearing near the Grande Prairie where the character of vegetation is entirely different from what we have passed.

May 15.—Learning that the Fort Smith company are near us, upon the other side of the creek, I started this morning and moved a few miles up the valley.

The grass in the creek bottom is fine and the soil good.

May 17.—This morning we continued up the creek for about a mile, then turned to the left, and struck the Divide in the Cross Timbers; after marching six miles, we reached the large prairie between the two Cross Timbers and encamped upon the head of Choteau's creek, where we found grass in abundance, and a fine clear spring of water, and oak wood.

Through the Cross Timbers the wood is black-jack, post-oak, overcup, and hackberry. The soil is gravelly sand, and the rocks a dark, hard sandstone. I found iron ore upon Choteau's creek, and the soil continues to be ferruginous. We have seen some deer today; but game is not abundant.

May 18.—Continuing upon the high and dry dividing ridge, we made eleven miles; the soil is of good quality, but there is no timber and but little water; we, however, found wood, water, and grass sufficient for encamping purposes. We have seen occasionally detached pieces of gypsum today, and some limestone, but the rocks have generally been a soft, coarse sandstone. Our road approached within two miles of the Canadian at one point of our march today, and directly at this place we were opposite the mouth of Spring creek, a very beautiful stream of pure spring water; has good grass upon it, and wood sufficient for camping purposes. The Fort Smith company joined us yesterday, and we shall now move on more rapidly.

May 20.—This being Sunday, and a very rainy day, we remained in camp; the rain commenced with one of those thunder showers which are so frequent upon the prairies, and, as usual, it was accompanied by a perfect tempest of wind. We are now upon the Upper Cross Timbers, and I find upon examination that we cannot follow the divide through, as it becomes very rough and broken immediately upon entering the timber. I shall, therefore, leave the divide, cross Spring creek, and take the high prairie between that stream and the Canadian. In this way I shall be enabled to pass on the prairie entirely around the Upper Cross Timbers.

I met with the wild squash today; it has much the appearance of the cultivated varieties, except that the leaves are of a light blue color; they are now in blossom.

May 21.—Our road today continued on the divide for three miles, when, coming near the Timbers, we turned to the right and took the prairie valley up Spring creek, skirting the lower edge of the Cross Timbers; here we found a fine road, and moved along with great ease to our animals. We encamped upon one of the numerous spring branches which flow into Spring creek, and found an abundance of good wood, water, and grass.

May 22.—This morning we continued up the south side of the creek for three miles further, where we turned to the right and crossed to the dividing ridge lying between the creek and the

Canadian; at the point where the road strikes the crest of the ridge we found ourselves only one mile from the head of the river, and continued that distance until we reached the head of Spring creek, where we encamped. Making our day's march sixteen miles. The valley of Spring creek is beautiful; fertile for farms; slopes gently to the south, and is a mile in width, abundantly watered, arable soil, and timbered with black walnut, elm, hackberry, and cottonwood. It is in the immediate vicinity of the Upper Cross Timbers, where post-oak timber is in abundance, affording a good material for building and fencing purposes. It is also directly opposite the head of the Little Washita river, where there is said to be hickory and sugar maple timber, within a distance of ten miles from this place.

May 23.—We turned slightly to the left this morning, and, after traveling two miles, struck the main divide of Washita and Canadian. Continuing on this divide for thirteen miles, we passed several high round mounds of a very soft red sandstone, rising up almost perpendicularly out of the open flat land, and can be seen for a long distance before reaching them. At the base of the southern mound, following an old Indian trail, it led us down into a deep ravine, where there is a fine spring of cool water, with wood and grass.

Our road from here took a different course for a point of time, which can be seen from the top of the largest mound, but deviates somewhat from the general bearing. As we found little water today, we made the digression for the purpose of seeking a camping-place, and were much delighted, on arriving at the timber, to find a splendid spring of water, rising in a basin of white limestone, as perfectly hollowed out as if it had been done by art, and filled with fine cool water. About 500 yards below this the stream formed by the water of the spring becomes enlarged, and contains an abundance of sunfish.

The soil upon our route today has been gravelly sand, and no timber except upon the borders of ravines. There is wood sufficient for encamping upon this stream, and fine grass.

May 24.—Our road continued on the divide during the whole day, and was very fine and good. We are now passing through a country where gypsum is found in great quantities; in many places the surface of the earth is covered with a white incrustation of decomposed gypsum, and frequently large blocks were seen, in which there were all varieties, from blue transparent selenite to common plaster of Paris, gradually merging into opaque to pure transparent. The soil upon our road has been very poor, and but little water; at our encampment tonight we have water that is bitter and unpalatable, but will answer for cooking when none other can be obtained.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

land on the market, but as it was the last of some counties which he sought to put on the market, the house was of the opinion that it was ready for actual settlement.

This bill will probably be passed in the senate. The vital part of the bill has already passed the senate.

Mr. Hawkins of Winkler county is out in an interview. He says in part: "So far as the counties opened up to settlement by the respective bills as passed are concerned, it should be remembered that this is but indicative of the sentiments of the two houses, and the particular counties opened up must be arranged later on by a free conference committee and concessions must be made and on each side the putting of Midland county on the market was accomplished by the union of those who favor the total abolition of the lease line, and those who were opposed to any land legislation. The latter bucked me for my position as a real settler in behalf of what I conceive to be demanded by truth and justice."

"Mr. Decker who offered the amendment was, and is an enemy to the bill and voted against it. His ideas and mine are radically different."

Bills Pending.

There are two bills pending in the senate which should become laws. They are by Senator Wayland of Robertson county. One provides a law against kidnapping and makes it a crime punishable by death or life imprisonment and the other seeks to separate a white juror from a colored juror when on the same jury and have to be kept confined any length of time. As the law now stands the white and colored jurors are confined in the same room. Senator Wayland will not have a chance to secure consideration of his bills at the present session.

The Double-Header Bill.

The double-header bill is also doomed. It is now pending in the house but it will never see the light of day, at least at the present session of the legislature. This bill inspired one of the strongest lobbies that has ever been in a legislature, but it passed the senate notwithstanding, but it will never be resurrected from the place where it is now quietly sleeping. This was also one of the platform demands which had been adopted at the Waco convention; but this legislature has shown much contempt for the demands of that convention and its planks have been disregarded with impunity. The railroad employes made a strong fight for the bill but it availed little against the powerful lobby of the opposition.

Land Legislation.

This legislation has not been favorable to land legislation and unless something is done with the bill now pending in the house on the land question, and that quickly, there will be no legislation on that subject this session. A land bill has passed the senate extending the absolute lease line and placing several million acres on the market to actual settlers, but it has to go through the house yet, while a land bill has passed to engrossment in the house, but may not pass in time to secure favorable consideration in the senate at this session.

WOMAN AFIRE STIFLES CRIES.

Mrs. Julia Bender Unwilling to Disturb a Dying Neighbor. Tho' Flames Curl About Her.

New York.—Mrs. Julia Bender was a heroine last night without an audience. She was alone in her flat working hard to finish a birthday cake as a surprise for her little girl, who is 12 years old.

As a finishing touch she stuck 12 candles in the cake frosting. She lighted one of the candles to see how it would look. The candle fell against her dress and in an instant she was ablaze from head to foot.

But she did not scream. She tore off her clothing and threw it in the sink. Then she fainted.

A tenant heard Mrs. Bender's groans and went to her assistance. When asked why she had not shouted for help, Mrs. Bender said:

"I wanted to, but I thought of the sick woman across the hall. She is dying and we have all been told that we must be very still. I remembered all that when I was on fire. I was suffering so that I knew that if I opened my mouth at all I would shriek, so I gritted my teeth and tried to put the fire out myself."

Mrs. Bender's injuries are probably mortal. She would not go to a hospital because she wanted to be at home on her child's birthday.—Ex.

Mrs. Howell, Ladies Hair Dresser and Manicurist. Hair shampooed with soft water and dried in half an hour by the use of the warm air dryer, price 50 cents. Face massage.

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## Legislative News and Views

From The Herald's Special Correspondent at the State Capital.

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD.  
AUSTIN, March 31.—The last week of the regular session of the 27th legislature, will, from all indications, be a quiet one and unattended with any eventful features, as all the measures of any importance which one or two possible exceptions, have been disposed of. The two notable exceptions are the general appropriation bills and the McFall bill which seeks to revoke the permit heretofore issued to the new Waters-Pearce Oil company. According to the present progress, the two years' general appropriation bill will not be taken up at the present session but the six months' bill to cover appropriations from March 1 to August 31 made necessary by the change in the fiscal year will be taken up in the senate next week and disposed of, as it has already passed the house. The two years' bill will not be taken up until the first extra session of the legislature which will be called by the governor next August. The McFall bill, it is safe to assert, will not be reached during the present session, as the house during the past week declined to make a special order for the consideration of the measure.

Redistricting the State.

It will be observed that the extra session will be a busy one with the law makers as the primary object of the session will be to reappropriation and redistrict the state. This in itself is a Herculean task to say nothing of the passage of the general appropriation bill. The apportionment committees, can however, accomplish much during the time of the adjournment of the present session and the calling of the extra session. They can map out the new districts and will have time to consider the interests of the various districts and confer with the prominent men as to the changes contemplated. It is believed however, that the time allotted—thirty days—for the extra session will be sufficient to accomplish the work as much of the preliminary work will have been done before the session is called. As to the general appropriation bill, its passage can be very much simplified by multiplying the appropriations in the six months' bill by four and thus get the appropriations for the twenty-four months. This idea has been suggested by the house chairman of the finance committee.

The Galveston City Bill.

After a most bitter fight, in the

teeth of much opposition, the Galveston people have won out and secured the passage of the Galveston city charter and commission bill. To secure the passage of the measure, the Galveston representatives had to make some important concessions from the text of the original bill. The bill as introduced provided for the appointment of three commissioners by the governor to take charge of the affairs of the city and manage the municipality as any other corporation or business enterprise would be handled, but the bill as finally passed in the senate yesterday provides for five commissioners, three to be appointed by the governor and two to be elected by the people of Galveston. Then again the bill as passed does not carry the emergency clause and will not become operative until ninety days after it has been approved by the governor. This was brought about by one of the opponents of the bill who threatened to have the entire bill read should a roll be demanded to place the bill into immediate effect. This would mean delay and possibly defeat, and it was decided to let the bill pass by a viva voce which was done.

Galveston Relief.

It is expected that there will be another fight on the Galveston relief bill. This bill provides for the exemption of Galveston from taxation for the next fifteen years. This bill has passed the senate after a hard fight by Senator Davidson of Galveston. The measure is now pending in the house with a favorable committee report and an effort will be made by Mr. Nolan of Galveston to secure consideration during the first part of the week. This measure can be classed a companion bill to the commission measure and the latter act will be of no avail unless the relief bill is passed. It seems as if the constitutionality of the act has been settled, that if there are enough members in the house who believe the measure constitutional to secure its passage. With these two measures enacted into laws, it is predicted that the city of Galveston will once more be on its feet and soon be able to resume its place as one of the leading seaports in the country.

No Constitutional Convention.

It is safe to say that no action will be taken at this session of the legislature looking to the holding of a constitutional convention for the purpose

of framing a new constitution for the state of Texas. There has been a great deal of discussion for and against a convention—many believing that the present organic law is good enough and the people of the state are prosperous under the present constitution and no change is needed, while many are of the opinion that the constitution is disgraced with all kinds of amendments and a new one should be framed. It seems however that the people are satisfied with the present constitution. Senator Goss, the author of the resolution calling for a constitutional convention has made no effort to call it up. There is also a bill pending by Senator Staples which provides that the question as to whether a constitutional convention shall be held, be decided by the people at a special election. This seems the most feasible plan, but it will be impossible to take up the bill at this session on account of the limited time of the session.

A Good Working Body.

The present session of the legislature has sustained its reputation for a better working body than its predecessors. The house journal shows that it is three hundred pages larger than it was the same period during the last session. The governor's recommendation in his message to the legislature to the effect that there was no necessity for a multiplicity of laws on every conceivable subject, has been adhered to, as the records show that during the last session there were 890 bills introduced while thus far there have been only 560 bills presented. In the senate there were 290 bills introduced and nearly 500 during the last session. While the proposition of bills passed is about the same during the two sessions with the number introduced.

Special to The Herald.

AUSTIN, March 31.—The passage to engrossment of the land bills has concluded a hard fight and when the bill comes up for final passage it will probably be quickly passed across to the senate. Under this bill there is no "lean line," that imaginary division between the marketable school and asylum lands and those which are reserved by the state and leased. As the house bill is now formed certain counties are put on the market. The bill reserves the lands in the following counties from sale: Gaines, Dawson, Andrews, Martin, El Paso, Reeves, Loving, Winkler, Ector, Upton, Crane, Ward, Pecos, Jeff Davis; Presidio, Brewster, Crockett, Val Verde, Schleicher, Sutton, Edwards, Kinney, Maverick, Zavalla, Dimmitt, Webb, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Cameron, Uvalde, McMullen, La Salle, Nueces, and Duval. The bill does not interfere with existing leases in those counties, but in Midland and other counties which are opened to settlement by the bill, the leases are protected for this year if the lease money has been paid to the state treasurer.

Mr. Hawkins contested putting Mid-