



Orange Marcus Clark

1851-1929

Orange Marcus Clark, lumberman, was born in Oxford County, Ontario, Canada, September 22, 1851, son of Armon and Prudence (Sifton) Clark. His father was a contractor and farmer. Orange M. Clark attended the common school at Spearman's Corners, North Oxford; later studied at Lucas Academy, Ontario County; and was graduated at the Commercial College, London, Ontario, in 1868. For a while he taught school at Henderson's Corners near Ingersoll, Ontario.

During 1869-81 he built houses, helped his father in the latter's cheese factory, shipping the produce to Manitoba, Canada and other provinces, and purchased cattle and shipped them to Manitoba for sale to farmers who were opening the country. In 1882 he moved with his family to Manistee, Michigan, was a lumber inspector for part of a year, and then moved to Big Rapids, Michigan, to accept a position as manager of O.P. Pillsbury & Company, a logging company.

From 1885-1889, he was in the lumber and shingle business at Rodney, Michigan, for himself. Then in Ewan, Michigan, he

manufactured lumber and shingles under the name of Clark, Farnam & Company until 1896 when he moved to Sheboygan, Michigan, and went into partnership with H.W. Swift under the name of Swift & Clark, loggers and manufacturers of lumber. Later he purchased Swift's interests and operated under the name of O.M. Clark & Son, until 1904 when he moved with his family to Portland, Oregon. There he established the Clark & Wilson Lumber Company of Oregon, building a mill at Linnton (later part of Portland). He served as president of that company from its inception in 1905 until his death.

In 1908 the company opened the Columbia Timber Company, Portland, and the Goble, Nehalem & Pacific Railway Company running west from Goble, Oregon. In 1920 he purchased an interest in the Willamette Valley Lumber Company, Dallas, Oregon. In 1928 Clark & Wilson merged with the Nehalem Timber & Logging Company; Appledale Land Company; Western Timber Company; and the Fir Tree Lumber Company, all of Portland; the Portland & Southwestern Railway Company, running from Scappoose to Vernonia; and a

sawmill in Prescott, Oregon. With that merger the company added to its timber in the vicinity of Vernonia, Oregon. The new company built another mill in Linnton. At Clark's death, the three mills had a combined producing capacity of 1,200,000 feet of lumber in 16 hours and logging operations producing more than 1,000,000 feet a day. He was also president until his death of the merged companies as well as of the railway company; the Columbia Timber Company, Portland; and the Goble, Nehalem & Pacific Railway Company. He was vice-president of the Willamette Valley Lumber Company, Dallas; and the Ochoco Timber Company, Prineville, Oregon.

In 1907 he assisted in forming the Oregon and Washington Lumber Inspection Bureau, of which he was elected president. In 1913 the bureau was merged with the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, of which he served as vice president and director until 1929 when was elected an honorary trustee. He served two terms during 1916-17 as president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce and he was a member and director of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

One of his chief interests was the advancement of trade and friendly relations with the Far East and South America. In 1908 he visited Japan and two years later China as Oregon's representative with a group of chambers of commerce of the Pacific Coast. When a

representative body of Japanese, headed by Viscount Shibusawa, visited the United States, he was one of the Americans chosen to escort the visitors across the country. He was chairman of the Oregon commission to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, in 1915, and in 1916 was appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to represent the United States government to return a visit of prominent businessmen from South America. He made another such trip to South America in 1923. In the latter year, following an earthquake in Japan, he accompanied two others on a trip to Japan where he spent the winter assisting the Japanese government as a consultant on building construction.

He was a member of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association; the Masonic order (Shriner, Knight Templar); BPOE; Arlington Club; Waverley Country Club, and Press clubs of Portland. Politically he was a Republican.

Clark was married twice: (1) in Nilestown, Ontario, November 20, 1872, to Mary Sophia, daughter of George Wilson, and they had three children: Mary Mabel, who married Louis Shelk; Wilson Warner; and Lilla Louise, who married John Tees; (2) in Chicago, June 26, 1906, to Lojenna (Dutcher) Tuttle, daughter of Benjamin Dutcher, a Methodist clergyman and former wife of George Ransom Tuttle. He died in Portland, Oregon, November 24, 1929.