

# HISTORIC GAVEL WILL BE USED AT BRIDGE BANQUET

Mallet Fashioned of Noted  
Pieces of Wood Offered  
By Curator of Historical  
Society for Fete Today.

## FIR FROM OLD BRIDGE TIMBERS IS INCLUDED

History of Clackamas County  
Is Recalled by Relics of  
Early Pioneer Events Here.

A special gavel, fashioned from historic materials gathered from isthmus of Panama to the site of the salt cairns of Lewis and Clark near the mouth of the Columbia, will be used at the formal banquet to be staged this afternoon as a part of the ceremony attendant upon the dedication of the new Willamette river bridge.

The gavel will contain ten different kinds of wood. It has been made under the direction of George H. Himes, curator of the Oregon Historical Society, especially for use in the bridge ceremony, and after the arch has been dedicated, it will be given to the city for preservation as a relic about which are linked some of the most interesting chapters of state and coast history.

The description of each individual piece of wood, as written by Himes, follows:

### State Plant Included

1—Oregon Grape. An evergreen shrub in general use for decorative purposes. It was adopted as the State Flower of Oregon by the State Horticultural Society, Hood River, July 18, 1892, at its annual meeting at that place, and confirmed by the State Legislature in 1899, through the efforts of the Federation of the Woman's Clubs of Oregon. The botanical name is *Berberis aquifolium*, or holly-leaved Barberry. It was so classified in St. Louis in 1806, by Frederick Pursh, an English botanist, who happened to be in that city when Captains Lewis and Clark arrived there in September of that year from their Pacific Coast Exploring Expedition.

2—Guaiacum, a species of *Lignum Vitae*. Taken from a tie used in the construction of the Panama R. R. across the Isthmus in 1854. The tie was sent to the Oregon Historical Society at the request of Geo. H. Himes in 1910 by Co. George W. Goethals, Superintendent and Chief En-

(Continued on page four.)

gineer of the Panama Canal

### Cherry Wood Used

3—Royal Ann Cherry. Taken from a tree that was brought across the plains in 1847 from Salem, Henry county, Iowa, by Henderson Luelling, assisted by his son, Alfred, and planted just north of Milwaukie. This was one of the 800 trees known as the "Traveling Nursery", which was the starting point of the fruit industry of the Pacific coast. The site of this first orchard of grafted fruit is believed to be within the limits of Clackamas county.

4—Douglas Fir. Taken from one of the timbers of the old bridge as it was being dismantled to make way for the present excellent as well as impressive structure.

5—Dogwood. Taken from a tree which grew near the site of the first saw mill in American territory west of the Rocky mountains, and was constructed by order of Dr. John McLoughlin at a point six miles east of the Hudson Bay Company's Post known as Fort Vancouver, in 1827-8.

### Famed Incident Recalled

6—Crab Apple, Wild. Taken from a tree which grew on the Ewing Young ranch, about six miles west of the present town of Newberg, Yamhill county. Young was the first independent American settler in the "Oregon Country", beginning in the latter part of 1834. His death on February 14, 1841, caused the few American settlers to realize, as never before, that one of their number had an estate, and there was no law in existence providing for its administration, hence a meeting of settlers was called—virtually a New England "town meeting"—a probate court organized on April 14, 1841, and an administrator appointed. This was the first act relating to American civil government on the Pacific Coast, and the initial step leading to the organization of the provisional government of Oregon on May 2, 1843.

7—Locust. Taken from a tree which was planted in 1849 by William L. Holmes, a pioneer of 1843, one of the best known citizens of Clackamas county, on his donation claim just south of Oregon City and for many years was known as "Rose Farm."

### Pine Wood Taken

8—Pine. Taken from a tree which grew near the spot on the coast within the limits of the present town of Seaside, Clatsop county, where a detachment of five men from the Lewis and Clark Exploring Expedition's winter camp at Fort Clatsop, five miles south of Astoria, distilled fifteen gallons of salt from ocean water in January and February, 1806.

9—Black Walnut. Taken from one of the largest trees of that kind known in Oregon. It stands in Eugene. This forms the center of the gavel.

10—Yew. This was taken from a tree which grew near Champoeg, a village conspicuous in Oregon annals because of its importance in very early days on account of its being the most convenient meeting place for a public meeting. It was there that the provisional government was organized, to which allusion has already been made in No. 6. This kind of wood was used by the Indians for making bows before the introduction of firearms.