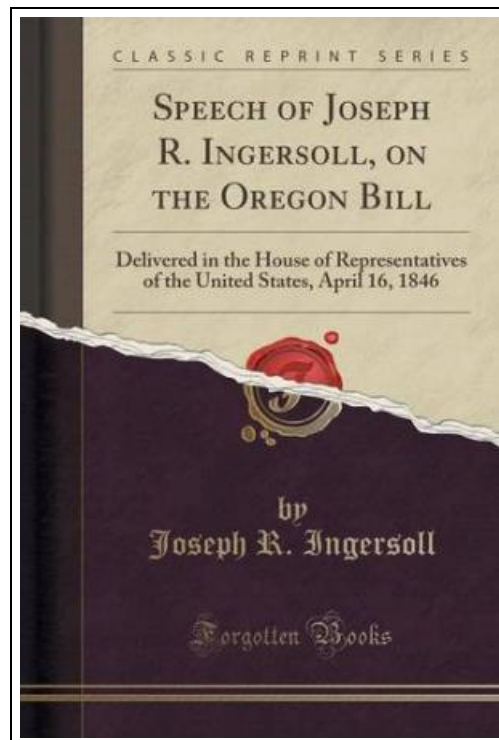


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Speech of Joseph R. Ingersoll, on the Oregon Bill: Delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, April 16, 1846 The Oregon Bill being under consideration, Mr. J. R. Ingersoll rose and addressed the House as follows: The measure now proposed has in view an exclusive exercise of power and possession of land in Oregon. It designates the place which is to be governed and occupied by no particular name, and it describes it by no precise limits. It extends jurisdiction, and the incidents of jurisdiction generally, over all that portion of the territory of the United States which lies west of the Rocky Mountains. I object (said Mr. Ingersoll) to this language as too indefinite. It begs the question of ownership, which has been in a state of fruitless controversy for nearly thirty years; and it exposes to endless dispute, and ever-varying construction, a law which ought to be, as the title is claimed to be, dear and unquestionable. The professed object is to protect the rights of American settlers. Settlement implies the existence of something to be occupied. It is essential to proper legislation, that the object of it should be fully ascertained and distinctly communicated. The language which I have quoted from the bill is not only indefinite, but equivocal. I impute of course no improper design to the committee, much less to the member of it who reported the bill; but the terms are deceptive. They are calculated to mislead, by creating a belief that the rights of settlers will be measured according to the notion which each individual entertains respecting them. There are many opinions as to the...

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