

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

### *Revival of Interest in Gabriel Franchere*

All readers of history of the Pacific Northwest are familiar with the work of Gabriel Franchere. His own book—*Narrative of a Voyage to the Northwest Coast of America in the years 1811, 1812, 1813 and 1814*, and Washington Irving's references in his *Astoria* are as well known as the Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It is therefore a matter of sheer fascination to learn that Judge Charles H. Chapman of the Probate Court of Chippewa County, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, has found original documents of Franchere and of Peter B. Barbeau with whom he made two trips to Astoria. In reply to an inquiry from Mr. J. Neilson Barry, of Portland, Judge Chapman, among other things says: "In reference to Gabriel Franchere, one of his letter books is in the Carnegie Library in this City, and in my possession is a copy of the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of this County in which Gabriel Franchere was the Clerk and his signature appears therein many times."

Judge Chapman has been invited to prepare an article on those documentary sources for this *Quarterly*.

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### *New Era in History for Kamchatka*

One of the most interesting of historic places in the North Pacific area is Petropavlosk on the coast of Kamchatka. It was from that port that Vitus Bering sailed in 1728 and discovered the Strait that has since borne his name. From the same port he led the great expedition in 1741 which resulted in the death of the leader and many of his crew after the discovery of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

On July 5, 1930, the Associated Press sent forth a Seattle message reporting great developments in Kamchatka in the lines of fishing, lumbering and oil-drilling. Mr. Henning Plaun, Danish Consul at Seattle, had received information that 30,000 Russians were to be moved from the White Sea region to populate Kamchatka. The Russian Government had purchased twenty vessels and chartered an equal number for the lumbering and other commerce and forty-eight vessels for the fishing industry.

The port used by Bering two hundred years ago is entering upon a new era of history.