

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Oregon Historical Society

Judge F. W. Howay, of New Westminster, B. C., gave the principal address at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Oregon Historical Society, held at Portland on October 28, 1922. His subject was "Captain John Kendrick and His Sons." Kendrick and Gray were the American captains who were first to bring the Stars and Stripes to the Northwest Coast. Judge Howay's researches will undoubtedly be published in full.

At the same meeting the following officers were re-elected: President, Frederick V. Holman; Vice President, Charles B. Moores; Secretary, F. G. Young; Curator, George H. Hines; Trustees, John Gill and Leslie M. Scott.

British Columbia Historical Association

At a meeting in the Provincial Archives Department, Parliament Building, Victoria, B. C., on November 24, 1922, a constitution was adopted and the first officers were elected for the British Columbia Historical Association.

Following a suggestion by John Forsyth, Provincial Archivist, a preliminary meeting had been held on October 31. Such a spirit of enthusiasm prevailed that committees were appointed to prepare for the next meeting, where the Association was launched as stated above.

The officers chosen are as follows: Patron, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor; Honorary President, Hon. J. D. Maclean, Minister of Education; President, His Honor Judge F. W. Howay; First Vice President, Beaumont Boggs; Secretary, Treasurer, J. Forsyth; Editor, Professor Sage. These officers with the following seven shall constitute the Council: Dr. C. F. Newcombe, Mrs. McMicking, Mrs. McCree, of Victoria; Rev. R. G. McBeth, Prof. Mack Eastman, of Vancouver; Dr. M. S. Wade, of Kamloops; Basil G. Hamilton, of Kootenay.

The Provincial Archives Department has one of the richest collections of historical materials to be found in the West. Those who took part in the this new organization pointed out the desirability of publishing at least a quarterly periodical to make fuller use of those accumulations.

The *Washington Historical Quarterly* extends welcome to the new association and cherishes the hope that the "British Columbia Historical Quarterly" may soon make its appearance.

The Oxen at Naches Pass

In "Van Ogle's Memory of Pioneer Days," which appeared in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for October, 1922, the old pioneer was shown (pages 269-270) to differ with George H. Himes, the eminent historical authority of Oregon, about the famous story of killing oxen at Naches Pass in order to make raw-hide ropes, with which to let the immigrant wagons down what was called "the jumping-off place." Mr. Himes promptly took exception to such criticism of his historical work and painstaking efforts at accuracy as follows:

"I just saw your October *Quarterly* and read Van Ogle's account. A lot of what he gave Miss Judson is an after thought. There was not a single wagon driven down from the summit with a team attached, even one yoke. I began the preparation of my article, as printed in the *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association, 1907*, fully twenty-five years before that, at the request of James Biles, one day when I was his guest at Tumwater.

"'Why, Mr. Biles,' I said, 'I am not the person to write an account of that trip through the Naches Pass. Some one or more of the adults ought to do it. I was nothing but a boy and am not positive about the facts. I remember many of the details of the trip—that is, I think I remember them.' Finally, upon Mr. Biles' insistence, I said 'I will jot down my recollections, make several typed copies of the same, and send one to every adult that can be found that belonged to that party and ask for criticisms.'

"That was the course I pursued and among others that I read my account to in person was Van Ogle in his home in Tacoma. Before that, however, the substance of it was recounted in Van Ogle's cabin one night when I stayed with him when he lived close to the spot on Puyallup River where we crossed in 1853. 'Then again I went over it with him when I stayed all night with him in the Soldiers' Home at Orting. Nelson Sargent, the oldest son of the Sargent family, an adult when he came west to California with his father in 1850, saw my account. All in all, the portions of my paper relating to the trip through the mountains passed the scrutiny of at least twenty adults of our company.

"James Longmire did not see it, as he was away more or less