

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

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### American Historical Association.

The Quarterly presents two important articles in this issue which were read at the twenty-third annual meeting of the American Historical Association, these two papers being read in one of the five special conferences. For that reason they will not appear in the regular publication of the proceedings. Historians and other students on the Pacific Coast are deeply interested in Oriental problems, and it is therefore a pleasure to lay before them the papers by President Charles D. Tenney of Pei Yang College and Professor K. Asakawa of Yale University.

The meeting was a brilliant success and Madison, "the city of laws and education," certainly showed herself a cordial and appreciative host of more than a thousand scholarly men and women. The proceedings will be published in full in the annual report published by the United States Government, and the papers will appear in the American Historical Review.

Professor George B. Adams of Yale was elected President and Professor Frederick J. Turner of Wisconsin, Vice-President, for the ensuing year. These honors are among the greatest to be achieved by historians in America. Next year the First Vice-President, Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard, will be promoted to the presidency.

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### Tribute to the Pioneers.

Henry E. Reed, Director of Exploitation of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, has written from Washington City to Director General Nadeau that on February 3 Senator Samuel H. Piles received such an ovation as has been seldom, if ever, given to a young Senator. The galleries were packed to hear the Senator's great speech on the Exposition and the West. The address was a masterly effort and deserved the showers of compliments from his fellow senators and the prominent men assembled in the audience. Every pioneer and every one of the newcomers who are interested in the history of the Old Oregon country should secure from the Senator a copy of the complete address. Space is taken here for the concluding sentences, giving, in part, the Senator's glowing tribute to the pioneer:

"And, sir, who peopled that region and founded those cities? It was the pioneer and his children, who fought, with a desperation surpassing the heroic, the most effective battle of all—the battle of the supremacy of the white man over the aborigines and the elements, coupled with isolation and want, that that immense stretch of country might not fall into alien hands. That they prevailed, sir, history records.

"But, Mr. President, had the pioneer been as timorous or as indifferent as were some of the statesmen of their age, their efforts would have been but 'a twice-told tale,' remembered only as are 'the footprints of the traveler over the sand;' and that land, formerly known as the 'Oregon Country,' instead of being, as it now is, the common heritage of all our people, would be to-day one of the possessions of the British Empire.

"It is therefore fitting, in view of their achievements, that Congress should aid the people of the Pacific Northwest in their desire to exhibit to an astonished world the progress that in so brief a space of time, and under such trying and difficult conditions, has been made in the arts, in science, in commerce, in agriculture, in mining, and in manufacturing, and in all, sir, that goes to make a great and glorious land."

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#### **The Oregon Trail.**

Ezra Meeker, the venerable pioneer, has returned to his Puget Sound home after his remarkable and arduous undertaking of retracing the famous Oregon Trail with an ox-team. A number of his friends and of historians gathered at the home of his son-in-law, Eben S. Osborne, in Seattle, to receive Mr. Meeker's report and suggestions about permanently marking the trail. He said Congressman Will E. Humphrey had introduced a bill to accomplish that desired end, and before the meeting adjourned it resolved to recommend to President Roosevelt that, in case the Humphrey bill is enacted, Mr. Meeker, George H. Himes, of Portland, Oregon, and Clarence B. Bagley, of Seattle, be chosen as a commission to carry out its provisions. Mr. Meeker's hardihood in carrying on the work up to this point is meeting with deserved praise and approval on every side.

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#### **Honoring Whitman's Memory.**

Walla Walla was the scene of interesting exercises on November 29, 1907. It was the sixtieth anniversary of the martyr-