

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

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### History of Alaska

Clarence L. Andrews, who has had years of experience in Government service in Alaska, has returned from a summer of research work in that Territory. He is preparing a work for publication. His last researches have been in the customs records to get accurate information about commerce and especially about the shipwrecks and other marine disasters along the shores. In addition to its historical value, his work will be useful to those who are seeking greater safeguards for shipping in those waters.

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### New Work on Jason Lee

Rev. John Martin Canse, formerly of Seattle and now of Bellingham, is carrying on researches for a book on the great Oregon missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church—Rev. Jason Lee. The scope of the book is to be greater than a biography of the one man. It will contain information about the early work of the Methodists in the Pacific Northwest. The author has prepared from his material an advance article which appears in this Quarterly.

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### Memorial Tablet at Point Defiance

The Mary Ball Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Tacoma, has erected in Point Defiance Park a beautiful bronze tablet recording how Point Defiance was named by the Wilkes Exploring Expedition. Impressive unveiling ceremonies were conducted on Saturday, September 25. The tablet was designed by the sculptor, Alonzo Victor Lewis, of Tacoma.

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### Volume of Historical Records

The Washington State Historical Society, with headquarters at Tacoma has published a volume of proceedings. It is called Volume II and bears a hyphenated date of 1907-1915. This is to tie it to a former volume published in 1906 giving particulars of the commemorative celebration at Sequelitchew Lake, Pierce County, Washington. The ceremonies were in commemoration of the Fourth of July celebration by the Wilkes Exploring Expedition at the same place in 1841. The new vol-

ume gives a record of the society's activities in the nine years since that event. It is to be hoped that the volumes will appear more frequently hereafter.

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**Instructors in History**

Instructor Ralph H. Lutz of the University of Washington is at Stanford University for the present academic year, taking the place of Professor Edward B. Krehbiel, who is absent on leave. In his place at the University of Washington is Instructor Charles W. David, recently from the Universities of Wisconsin and Harvard.

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**Governors of Washington**

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer is publishing as a feature of its daily editorial page a series of brief biographies of the "Governors of the Commonwealth of Washington." When completed there will be twenty-two such sketches, fourteen of Territorial and eight of State Governors.

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**The Columbia Highway**

The completion of the Columbia Highway has been celebrated by the publication of a most beautiful book by Samuel Christopher Lancaster, Highway Engineer. The book is appropriately and lovingly dedicated to Samuel Hill, the well known advocate of good roads, who is given credit of having conceived the great highway. The book is most sumptuously illustrated, many of the plates being reproduced by a new process directly from natural colored photographs. The sheer beauty of the book will cause it to be cherished even by those who have not been privileged to see in nature the wonderful beauties it reveals, through the modern printer's skill.

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**Story of the Mercer Expeditions**

The article in this Quarterly on the Mercer expeditions is of unusual value. Readers will discover that the author, Mrs. Engle, was a member of one of the expeditions. She writes from first hand information.