

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Echo of the Boit Journal

In January, 1921, the *Washington Historical Quarterly*, through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, was enabled to print the Boit Journal, calling it "A New Log of the Columbia." All of the journal pertaining to the northwest coast of America was reproduced with elaborate introduction and notes. The publication resulted in the receipt of many commendations and compliments, one writer saying it was the most important historical "find" in the Pacific Northwest for a quarter of a century.

However, the most sincere and flattering compliment comes from a sister publication, *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, which more than a year later reprints the same materials. The December, 1921, number appears in March, 1922, devoting practically the entire issue to this subject. The reason for reprinting in this same Northwestern field is given as follows: "The considerations that compel the reprinting complete of the Boit log of the *Columbia* in the *Quarterly* of the Oregon Historical Society are connected primarily with the specially planned annotations with which it here appears."

The plan consists of an introduction by Professor F. G. Young and footnotes by Judge F. W. Howay, except on entries made when the *Columbia* was south of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, when the footnotes were made by Mr. T. C. Elliott.

Three men and a year's time have added much of value to the footnotes. One example will suffice to show this. In the original publication the editor puzzled a long time over the confusion of latitude, longitude, and leagues in the sources referring to Port Tempest and Massacre Cove. He cited authorities and concluded his footnote with this statement: "If these descriptions could be studied by someone familiar with those shores a more complete identification of the cove might be arrived at."

At the end of the Boit Journal in the Oregon publication, Judge Howay adds a "Supplementary Note on the Identification of Port Tempest and Massacre Cove." It is a long citation of sources, in which he acknowledges his "indebtedness to Dr. C. F. Newcombe, of Victoria, B. C., for his assistance in working out this identification. His local knowledge of the region is invaluable." The result

of the joint efforts is given by Judge Howay as follows: "These reasons lead to the position that Port Tempest is identical with the western end of Revillagiedo Channel. It is not urged that they conclusively settle the question. They are merely put forward as a contribution to the effort to solve a problem that, though small and unimportant, is attractive because of its very difficulties."

First Election at Olympia

Whether or not an election was held in the Puget Sound country before the creation of Washington Territory, was a question of debate among writers and antiquarians until the Washington State Historical Society secured original documentary evidence. In the library of the organization, at Tacoma, the document is numbered 2683. It is entitled: "Poll Book for an Election to be held at the 'storehouse of M. T. Simmons in Olympia, Thurston County on Monday the 7th day of June, 1852. A. M. Poe, Clerk Lewis Co."

Mr. W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, has presented to this *Quarterly* a photograph of the rare item.

On the left margin are the names of eighty-six of those pioneer voters. The names are all written in the same hand and several are misspelled. However, the list is important and is given here in full: M. T. Simmons, W. W. Miller, R. S. Bailey, Sidney S. Forde, Benges Gerden, I. Colvin, Quincy A. Brooks, Assher Sargent, A. D. Fisher, A. B. Moses, John L. Butler, T. W. Glasco, Joseph S. Beshers, James Mortan, Henry M. Hills, H. A. Goldsburrow, I. B. Power, Samuel J. Rieber, O. Cushman, E. N. Sargent, A. R. Skidmore, John L. Parkins, Ruel W. Ross, Gabriel Jones, James T. Philips, Isac M. Brown, A. M. Poe, David Shelton, S. S. Sidener, Jacob Smith, James McAlister, Grun McCafferty, Benjamin F. Moore, John D. Tonis, Joseph Tebow, William O. Thomson, John Remley, Charles Eaton, Charles E. Weede, David Kindred, Washington Tyril, John R. Kindred, W. P. Wells, David Chambers, Gideon Thomson, Wilson H. Fisher, Wesley Gosnell, William F. Oleaver, Jessy Ferguson, James Taler, James Head, Nathan Eaton, R. M. Walker, John Elexsander, Isaac D. Shay, E. Richey, W. Carthy, Albert Bras, H. W. Kins, Edman Sylvester, George A. Barns, Henry Buckingham, Steven D. Rudle, James R. Wood, C. Ethridge, John C. Wood, Samuel H. Williams, Nelson Barnes,