

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

A Halt in Prices

Buyers of Western books will find encouragement in the statement recently made by Frederick M. Hopkins, Editor of the "Old and Rare Books" department of *Publishers Weekly*. "There are indications," writes Mr. Hopkins, "that the high prices which rare historical material relating to the Early and Far West has been bringing have about reached their height for the present. Collectors and librarians are disposed to stop buying, if need be, rather than pay prices that seem unreasonably high and still advancing." The suggestion of a halt in the advancing prices of Americana is cheering news, coming as it does from a well posted authority.

The Curtis Photo History

There have been no important sales of Western Americana since the Anderson Sale of December 3-5, 1923. Of the few single items that have appeared in the market during the winter the most notable has been the sale at the American Art Galleries, on January 22, of a set of Edward S. Curtis's *The North American Indian*. The twelve volumes of text and twelve portfolios brought the sum of \$925.00. Students of Western history are familiar with this ambitious work by Mr. Curtis, long a photographer of Seattle. The work was originally projected for twenty volumes to be sold for \$3,000.00 the set. The price was later raised to \$3,500.00. Volumes 13 and 14 are reported now complete with much material on hand for the later volumes.

The Library of Congress Buys Western Books

The question frequently is asked as to what becomes of all the rare Western books that pass through the auction rooms. There is a prevalent belief that most of them become the property of millionaire private collectors. It is cause for satisfaction to learn that a part of the items sold during the auction season of 1922-1923 were acquired by the Library of Congress.

The Report of the Library of Congress for 1923 devotes three pages (Pp. 30-32) to acquisitions on the Far West. Among the books so listed appear two items of extreme rarity noted in this *Quarterly* for April 1923, Pp. 156-157, namely: Wilkes, George, *Memorial for a National Railroad*, and Merrill, D. D., *The North-*

ern Route to Idaho and the Pacific Ocean. A third item of great local interest is Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart's *Washington Territory*, published in Olympia, Washington, in 1875, and to be found only in the Seattle Public Library among the libraries of the Pacific Northwest. Librarians and students may well be glad to watch the upbuilding of the collections in the Library of Congress since the bibliographical services of that institution added to generous and impartial privileges of duplication render its material accessible in a high degree.

Anacortes Newspapers

Two additional newspaper files have recently been placed in fireproof storage at the University of Washington Library. These papers were donated by Mr. Melville Curtis of Anacortes, brother of Mrs. Anna Curtis Bowman, in whose honor the town of Anacortes was named. The files include the *Northwest Enterprise*, complete from the beginning, March 25, 1882 to March 13, 1886, and the *Anacortes Progress* from the first number August 3, 1889, to its suspension January 22, 1892, with the exception of eleven missing numbers. Both files are bound and in excellent condition.

The placing of these valuable newspapers in the safety of public archives was due to the friendly interest of Mr. Frank Carleton Teck of Bellingham. Mr. Teck is the writer of "Rambles" a daily column on the first page of the *Bellingham Herald*. He will be recalled as the author of a book of verse entitled "Under Western Skies."

Donation of Manuscripts

Clarence B. Bagley has recently donated to the University of Washington Library a collection of manuscript letters and papers relating to the history of the University and State of Washington. Many of these papers relate to University lands. Others relate to the claims of Washington citizens for depredations made by the Indians during the Indian War of 1855-1856.