

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Records of the British Fur Companies

Aaron Newell, while pursuing graduate work in the Department of History, University of Washington, wrote to the Public Record Office at London, and the Public Archives Office of Canada for information as to the present accessibility of the records of the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company of Montreal. The replies he received are so important to researchers in the field of Northwestern history that they are here published in full.

The Deputy Minister of the Public Archives of Canada wrote from Ottawa on April 29, 1924, as follows:

"In answer to your letter of the 21st instant, I beg to say that the Hudson Bay Company are now removing their papers to a building which they have taken for the purpose of their Archives. The staff is engaged in the arrangement of these papers for the purpose of publishing an official history of the Company.

"I believe that there are certain documents relating to the North West Company in Montreal but the papers are not open at the present time to the public and I understand that no copies will be made until an examination of the whole of the records is complete. This will probably take two or three years."

Mr. A. E. Stamp, Secretary of the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, W. C. 2, London, writes on May 7, 1924, as follows:

"With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the material formerly in the Hudson Bay Company's Building has been removed to 9, Elvaston Place, London, S. W. 7, and that enquiries regarding it should be addressed to Sir William Schooling, K. B. E., at that address. I am further informed by the representatives of the Canadian Archives here that many attempts have been made to trace the papers of the Northwest Company of Montreal, but without success."

Valuable Newspaper File

A file of the *Spokane Times*, the pioneer newspaper of Spokane County, has been given to the library of the State Normal

School at Cheney by Mrs. Cook, widow of Francis Cook, who founded this newspaper. Of this valuable historical source Vice President C. S. Kingston writes:

"The series runs from May, 1879, to the end of April, 1882, but there are thirty-four copies missing from the files. Nevertheless, the one hundred and twenty-two copies that we have of the old weekly form an invaluable source of information on the early history of Spokane. The first copy is the first paper published in Northeastern Washington. That in itself makes it a valuable relic. In addition to the weekly, Mrs. Cook sent about twenty copies of the daily edition of the *Spokane Times*."

Such items are always relished by those who have sincere regard for history. There are few sources more dependable than the early newspapers of any community. It is therefore always a joy to record the facts when such files are made the permanent possessions of well managed libraries.

Member of the Bulfinch Family in Oregon

In Weston, Oregon, there resides C. F. Bulfinch, of the famous family for whom Captain Robert Gray named "Bulfinch Harbor" now known as Grays Harbor. Congressman Nicholas John Sinnott, of the Second Oregon District, has been trying to get Congress to grant a belated recognition and compensation, on behalf of the heirs, for the Bulfinch sacrifices in establishing American claims to the Northwest Coast by the discovery of Grays Harbor and the Columbia River in May, 1792.

Visiting Historians

An interesting group of historians are visiting in the Northwest while serving as guest members of the University of Washington faculty for the summer of 1924.

Professor Frank Heywood Hodder is head of the department of history and political science at the University of Kansas. He has been associated with that institution since 1891, prior to which date he was for five years a member of the faculty of Cornell University. He is accompanied by Mrs. Hodder. During August they will make a trip to Alaska.

Professor Clarence Vosburgh Gilliland is head of the history department at the University of Southern California, which posi-