

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

*Victor J. Farrar*

Victor J. Farrar has returned to his Alma Mater, the University of Wisconsin, to complete his work for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. After that he plans to devote himself to the instructional side of his academic career. During the ten years now closed he has held the positions of Research Assistant and Research Instructor in the University of Washington. For two years of that time he was absent on leave while he served with the United States forces in France as Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department, with Base Hospital No. 50.

Readers of this *Quarterly* are quite familiar with the quality of his historical work. The most elaborate and longest sustained publication has been the "Nisqually Journal" edited by him and appearing with few interruptions through a period of six years. Favorable comments on that work have come from many important sources.

Prior to the appearance of the "Nisqually Journal," he edited the "Diary of Colonel and Mrs. I. N. Ebey," which was published in Volumes VII. and VIII. He also compiled for a number of the earlier volumes complete lists of officers, objects and works of the "Pioneer and Historical Societies of the State of Washington." In 1917 he used part of his vacation for collaboration with Charles T. Conover in presenting before the United States Geographic Board a history of the name of Mount Rainier. That research was later embodied in a pamphlet.

He wrote a chapter on "Settlement" which appeared in *A Geographic Dictionary of Washington*, 1917, by Henry Landes. In 1923 he wrote "Historical Summary to Statehood," a preliminary chapter in the book *The Economic Resources of the Pacific Northwest*, edited by Dean Howard T. Lewis and former Dean Stephen I. Miller, of the College of Business Administration, University of Washington.

Mr. Farrar developed a deep and absorbing interest in the history of Alaska. He studied Russian in order to understand and use the Alaskan literature in that language. The reasons for the American purchase of Alaska have been and are debated by historians. Mr. Farrar is still delving into the question with com-

mendable minuteness. Some of his researches have appeared in this *Quarterly*, such as "Reopening of the Russian American Convention of 1824," "Joseph Lane McDonald and the Purchase of Alaska," "The Background of the Purchase of Alaska," "Senator Cole and the Purchase of Alaska," and a number of reviews of books in that field. For three years he offered an elective course on Alaskan History in the University of Washington. For those classes, large in number, he prepared and published his "An Elementary Syllabus of Alaskan History," which will prove useful to any who undertake a study of the subject. Some of his Alaskan writings have been issued in separates and may be found in the principal libraries of America.

He wrote the early history of the University of Washington which was published as a serial in the *Washington Alumnus*.

Only a fraction of his work has appeared in print over his own name. Reference cards, clippings and copied data about the pioneers of the Northwest compiled by him fill many trays. They have not been counted by they run well into the thousands. Similar compilations were made as to the newspapers of Washington Territory and the origin of geographic names. Acknowledgments of his industry have been made in publications completed from those researches. Similar results are anticipated from work on the State Constitution, native races of Washington and the Diary of Charles Wilkes, which he had advanced at the time of his departure.

In closing this brief review the editor of this *Quarterly* desires to publicly express his gratitude for the laborious years of work completed by Victor J. Farrar and to extend the hope that he may meet with abundant success in whatever new field of endeavor he may enter.

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*Monument at Nootka Unveiled*

Many Indians and a few white people assembled at Friendly Cove, Nootka Sound, midway between the capes on the western shore of Vancouver Island, on August 12, 1924, to witness the unveiling of an important memorial.

On the crest of a rocky islet at the entrance of Friendly Cove had been erected a large cairn of cemented stones. This was seven feet square at the base and eleven feet high. Fitted into the face of the cairn is a bronze tablet carrying this inscription:

"Nootka Sound. Discovered by Captain Cook in March, 1778.