

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

Auction Sales

No important sales of Western Americana have yet taken place during the present auction season. At the sale held by Charles F. Heartman, at Metuchen, New Jersey, on November 29, a considerable number of rare items of miscellaneous Americana were sold. Among these was a copy of George Wilkes' *Proposal for a National Railroad to the Pacific Ocean* (N. Y. 1847). This pamphlet of 24 pages, in wrappers and with the folding map, brought the sum of \$612.50.

George Wilkes' "Proposal"

Such a pamphlet as the above occupies an important place in the bibliography of western railroad building. It is difficult nevertheless to understand how it could command a price of twenty-five dollars a page, even from a collector of unlimited means. George Wilkes' plan for a national railroad to the Pacific was first given to the public in his *History of Oregon* (New York, Colyer, 1845). The following year he embodied the same ideas in a memorial to Congress and in a memorial to the Oregon Provisional Government. The text of the plan as set forth in the *History of Oregon*, pages 47-62, was revised and republished in pamphlet form. A second edition of the pamphlet was issued by the author in 1845. It contains 23 pages. The fourth edition contains 24 pages and was published in New York by Daniel Adee in 1847. A copy of the latter edition is to be found in the University of Washington Library and it is this edition apparently that was sold at the Heartman sale. George Wilkes' *History of Oregon* was reprinted in this *Quarterly*, where the text of the railroad plan can be found in volume 2.

Early Literature of the Northwest Coast

In his presidential address before the Royal Society of Canada at the May meeting of 1924, Judge F. W. Howay of British Columbia gave an admirable resumé of the maritime voyages of exploration to the Northwest Coast of America prior to 1800. His paper will appear in Volume 18, Third Series, of the *Transactions*