

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*

of the Royal Society of Canada. Students will be glad to learn that the paper has already been preprinted by the Society in a pamphlet of thirty-one pages.

Judge Howay has given separate treatment to the Spanish, French, American and English voyages. Into a narrative of the various expeditions skilfully combining stories of national ambition and personal venture, the author has liberally sprinkled notes on the chief printed and available manuscript records.

At the Conference of the Pacific Northwest Library Association in Victoria, B.C. on August 27, Judge Howay gave an address on the literature of the American and English voyages to the Northwest Coast. This address has been printed and is now available in the Proceedings of the Pacific Northwest Library Association for the year 1924, pages 104-122. The information of the latter address is substantially that of the former, with the omission of the French and Spanish voyages. Librarians and students will find enduring value in these informing and convenient summaries.

The Journal Man

Mr. Fred Lockley of Portland continues in the *Oregon Journal* his column entitled "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man." For more than eleven years, he has maintained this useful department. During this time he has secured and printed interviews with several thousand pioneers of Oregon and Washington.

Approaching the Century Mark

Holiday greetings from Major Junius Thomas Turner, of Washington, D. C., recalls the fact that he has passed his 98th natal day and has practiced law for 72 years. He was on Puget Sound and took part in the Indian war of 1855. He also participated in an Indian war in Oregon, in the Mexican war and the Civil war. His friends call him a hero of four wars. Among other duties just now, he is teaching a boy of sixteen to become a journalist.