

# The Washington Historical Quarterly

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## THE COLUMBIA RIVER HISTORICAL EXPEDITION

Mention has been made in former issues of this *Quarterly* of the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition in the summer of 1925 and of the Columbia River Historical Expedition in the summer of 1926. The Great Northern Railway Company was responsible for both and Ralph Budd, President of that corporation, was the presiding genius.

Beautiful monuments have been erected at historic sites. They are made of enduring bronze, concrete, granite and marble. As long as the Great Northern Railway lasts those monuments will tell their stories and will interest, one after another, future generations of travelers. They will thrill again and again over the deeds of the pathfinders and pioneers and will surely applaud the foresight that caused to be erected the attractive memorials.

In this *Quarterly* for July, 1926, Mr. Donald MacRae gave a clear outline of the Columbia River Historical Expedition as it was planned. The special trains carried groups of interesting people, including those who took part in the various programs dedicating the monuments. The addresses were all valuable historically. If published together they will make a bulky and worthwhile volume. Two of the addresses—"Lewis and Clark Expedition at Clatsop" by Frederick V. Holman and "In the Land of the Kootenai" by T. C. Elliott—have been published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for September, 1926.

It is counted a privilege that the *Washington Historical Quarterly* is permitted to publish in this issue four of the other addresses: "The Gateway of the Oregon Country" by Judge Charles H. Carey; "Early Followers of Captain Gray," by Judge F. W. Howay; "New York and Astoria," by Lawrence F. Abbott; and "Notes on the Astors," by Mrs. Richard Aldrich.

Judge Carey, of Portland, is one of Oregon's best known lawyers. He is the author of the most recent substantial history of Oregon and has published other works as well. Judge Howay,

of New Westminster, British Columbia, is well known to readers of this *Quarterly* as one of its contributing editors. He is acknowledged as one of the best equipped authorities on the subject of Northwestern History. His address at the Astoria monument gave interesting historical materials never before published or used by writers or speakers. Lyman F. Abbott is a director and contributing editor of *The Outlook*. His address rendered a real service by again calling attention to New York's part in the beginnings of American history in the Pacific Northwest. Boston's share is more frequently told in the achievements of Captain Robert Gray and others from that port. Mr. Abbott was very gracious but emphatic in claiming a share of credit for New York. Mrs. Richard Aldrich is a descendant of John Jacob Astor, founder of Astoria, first American settlement in the Pacific Northwest. It was certainly thrilling to stand near the wonderful memorial column on Coxcomb Hill and hear one of his own family tell about the home life and the children of John Jacob Astor. The rarity of such occasions make them the more memorable.

If it should so happen that the Great Northern Railway did not inspire the printing of another page of history, an indelible record has already been made by the rearing of those permanent monuments and by the publication of the programs of the dedicatory ceremonies.

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