

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Geographic Board Decisions

The United States Geographic Board, at its meeting on March 6, 1929, rendered 348 decisions as to names in Glacier National Park, Montana. The pamphlet containing the decisions would prove of great interest to anyone visiting the Park. It is quite likely to be republished for distribution to tourists. Reasons for the names are given as in this sample:

"Tinkham; mountain, 8,400 feet high, Glacier National Park, Flathead County, Mont., near lat. 48° 32' N., long. 113° 31' W. (Not Camels Hump.) Named for Lieut. A. W. Tinkham, Army engineer, the first white man to cross the Continental Divide within the present national park."

That sample was selected because it duplicates an honor for the same man in the Cascade Range, near Snoqualmie Pass. That earlier honor, Tinkham Peak, (5356 feet high), was recommended by The Mountaineers on June 15, 1916. With two Indians, Lieutenant Tinkham had made a reconnaissance through Snoqualmie Pass in January, 1854. The two well deserved honors are far enough apart to avoid confusion.

The Board's meeting of April 3, 1929, dealt with fewer subjects but these were scattered throughout many portions of the earth. There were eight decisions devoted to Oregon. One of these, Gatch Falls, in Linn County, is an honor for Thomas Milton Gatch, the well known pioneer educator of Oregon, who was also President of the University of Washington from 1887 to 1895. Another was Flag Island to commemorate the ceremony in which Lieutenant W. R. Broughter, of the Vancouver Expedition, raised the flag of Great Britain and took possession on October 30, 1792. Another was Minto Pass in the Cascade Range in honor of John Minto, author and well known Oregon pioneer. The others were names in the vicinity of Mount Jefferson.

One decision for Idaho honored a man of historic significance. Mount Roothaan, in Boundary County, was named for Father Roothaan, a Jesuit priest, who in 1845 became a missionary associate with Father DeSmet. Father Roothaan died in 1853 and was buried by the Indians in Priest Lake.

For Montana, Mount Inabnit, in Park County, was named in

honor of Mr. Fred Inabnit, a prominent citizen of Billings, Montana, "who for more than 30 years explored and mapped the mountains in this region."

Ten decisions were for names in Alaska most of which were descriptive names in and around Prince William Sound.

Correction

In Mr. Lewis A. McArthur's article on "Early Washington Post Offices," in the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for April, 1929, two errors appeared on page 130. The "Mounth" of Willamette should of course, be The Mouth of Willamette. Readers would undoubtedly detect the apparent error but Mr. McArthur had exercised such care in assembling the material, this first opportunity is used to correct the slight error of the copyist.

The Currency Question on the Pacific Coast During the Civil War

There appeared in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for June, 1929, an article on the above title by Professor Joseph Ellison of Oregon State College. He calls attention to the fact that the subject has been almost entirely overlooked in the "many bulky histories of the Pacific Coast States." After discussing the question thoroughly, Professor Ellison concludes: "We have thus seen what strong opposition the people on the Pacific Coast offered to government notes, and that in spite of the legal-tender act they successfully clung to their gold currency. Thus, when in the eastern states paper was the medium of exchange and gold was quoted at a premium, on the Pacific Coast coin was the medium of exchange and notes were merchandise taken at a discount. Whether the gold currency advanced or retarded the economic development of the Pacific Coast, and whether such a policy injured the national currency are questions for discussion. Undoubtedly, many merchants made handsome profits by buying their merchandise in the east with depreciated notes and selling their goods on the Pacific Coast for gold coin. But the consumers, too, frequently benefited from this transaction. The greatest sufferers were wage-workers and government employees who were paid with depreciated greenbacks."

Visiting Historians

The staff of the History Department of the University of Washington has three visiting Professors during the Summer Session of 1929 as follows: Frank J. Klingberg, Professor of History in the