

progress. That is one reason for reproducing the older military map at a small price (\$1.00) in the hope that it will be helpful in the work of historians.

Alaska Railway Legislation

John E. Ballaine is the author of an extended article in the *Alaska Weekly* for November 21, 1930. It is headed "Authorship of the Alaska Railroad Measure and the Circumstances of Passage," and seeks from personal and intimate knowledge to tell about conferences with President Wilson, Secretary of the Interior Lane and others. The article should be saved as a part of the history of industrial development of Alaska.

Designs for a Pacific Republic

Our nearest neighbor, *The Oregon Historical Quarterly*, in the issue for December, 1930, publishes a very interesting and scholarly article from the pen of Professor Joseph Ellison of the Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon. Bearing the title, "Designs for a Pacific Republic," it is divided into five parts: "Inception: Preconquest Period, 1843-1846," "Interregnum Period, 1846-1850," "Complaints, Threats of Independence, 1850-1860," "Eve of Civil War, 1860-1862," and "Summary and Conclusion."

There are abundant evidences of exhaustive researches in the apt quotations from many contemporaneous newspapers and citations from letters and other original documents. The theme is frequently mentioned in the literature of the Far West, but never treated with such fullness and such convincing accuracy as in this essay. The concluding paragraph is a fair summary:

"Each period has distinct causes. But the most underlying one that runs throughout the movement was the remoteness and isolation of the Pacific coast. Remoteness and isolation have always fostered the spirit of self-reliance and independence. The Pacific coast, before the coming of the telegraph and transcontinental railroad, was the most remote and isolated of all American frontiers. Is it little wonder then that we could find here the spirit of separatism most pronounced?"
