

DOCUMENTS

Early Protest Against Incorporation of Seattle

The late Harry B. McElroy of Olympia had a fine instinct toward saving materials of value to history. His father had served as editor of the first newspaper published north of the Columbia River and also as an early Territorial Printer. With the inspiration of such background, the son saved the records of the father and of other pioneers. On May 8, 1922, he forwarded a fragment of a petition to the Territorial Legislature requesting the repeal of the act to incorporate the Town of Seattle. He was sorry that the old paper had been damaged so that a number of the signatures had disappeared. The document bore no date but Mr. McElroy believed it to be of the year 1863 or 1864. Subsequent checking has failed to fix a more definite date. The brief paper reveals the fact that the citizens were dissatisfied with the law of incorporation and it has the further interest of preserving the signatures of a group of early pioneers. It is here reproduced with as many of the signatures as can now be deciphered.—*Editor.*

The Petition

To the Hon. Legislature of Washington, Territory:

We the undersigned citizens of the town of Seattle would respectfully petition your honorable body to repeal the act incorporating the said Town of Seattle.

H. A. Atkins	W. H. Shoudy
D. Horton	John Alexander
S. B. Hinds	J. Williamson
A. S. Pinkham	John J. Heerly
Hugh McAleer	Robert J. May
J. T. Jordan	L. V. Wyckoff
John Wilson	R. R. Stone
J. M. Lyon	E. C. McLain
W. S. Mercer	John J. Moss
T. F. Marks	O. C. Shorey
L. B. Andrews	Patrick Byrnes
R. King	George F. Whitworth
L. C. Harrison	E. Walsh
J. W. Pinnell	Al. Pettygrove
C. L. Bartlett	George F. Frye
J. G. Lichley	John Welch

H. B. Manchester	Wm. Greenfield
S. D. Libby	John Buckley
L. A. Treen	Martin Schmieg
Albert A. Manning	Jno. Shoudy
R. R. Haines	J. T. Hill
W. H. Robertson	W. D. Woodin
M. R. Maddocks	Elias Hoskin
A. P. Miller	John Denny
R. L. Longfellow	H. E. Hitchcock

One brief statement at the bottom of the petition is: "Refrd to Delegation from King [County] & Report by Bill."

BOOK REVIEWS

Jason Lee, Prophet of the New Oregon. By CORNELIUS J. BROSNAN, Professor of American History, University of Idaho. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1932. Pp. 348. \$3.00.)

The beginning of definite missionary activities among the Indians of the Pacific Northwest will come to its centennial in 1934. The advance guard of these churchmen came under the leadership of Jason Lee, sent out by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The trail into old Oregon went through southern Idaho. The author of this timely biography makes a sincere approach to his fascinating task.

Professor Brosnan is favorably known for his text "The History of Idaho." He here gives us the first text on the missionary work of Jason Lee from the standpoint of a schoolman not connected with the church that sponsored the original Flathead Mission. This slant of an outsider shows a freshness to be welcomed and adds a distinct contribution to Oregoniana.

Much documentary material hitherto accessible only in the original form or through the kind offices of historical journals is here brought forward in 348 pages of condensed study. Many federal records were traced, church and newspaper accounts were dug into, and many private letters give their secrets of the personal lives of the missionary colonizers. This text avoids the controversial tinge that marked the earlier books on Lee, Marcus Whitman and the Catholic fathers who joined in bettering the condition of the red tribes of the far-away Pacific Northwest.

In his Preface the author places himself under greatest obligation to the library material found in the University of California and Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, placing first the Bancroft Library, whose Director, Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, advised the thesis as most suitable to his seminar student. Doctor Brosnan confines himself to sorting out suitable passages for his readers to form their own conclusions, while he seems quite content to arrange the facts in a close-fitting volume on this too little known character.

The publishers are to be commended for producing an attractive volume, suitable for public libraries. There is a wealth of footnote information of value to students seeking the unfamiliar threads of this fascinating story of the beginnings in the Americanization of a distant and valuable section. Westward moving federal govern-