

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

Now is the Time to Buy Western Books!

Confirmed collectors of Americana need not be reminded that the present is a wonderful time to add to their holdings. Rare items are not to be had for a song. It is doubtful if the prices of scarce and fundamental pieces have greatly receded. The effect of the economic depression, however, has been to reduce the competition of buyers thus making it easier to secure in the open market, items that had gone into hiding or that were being held by brokers at speculative sums.

An examination of the catalogs of second hand dealers indicate that except for the rarer books and pamphlets the prices are the lowest in years. It is now possible to secure for a moderate outlay most of the books needed for good working collections of local history. The present is accordingly a strategic time for new collectors to lay the foundations of private collections of Northwest Americana.

Another most encouraging factor is to be found in the rapidity with which good, inexpensive reprints of the rarest books are being issued. During the past year, for example, Lowman and Hanford of Seattle have reprinted three rare titles relating to the missionary history of Oregon and Washington, while the Princeton University Press has issued eight volumes of reprints in their *Narratives of the Trans-Mississippi Frontier*. One of these volumes at \$3.50 contains five published works on Oregon by Hall J. Kelley worth not less than \$1,000 in the original editions.

Works on Western history, moreover, are now being published at a more rapid rate than ever before. These works are not confined to the offerings of any one publisher or locality but are coming from all parts of the United States. The Metropolitan Press of Portland and Lowman and Hanford of Seattle are leading in the Pacific Northwest.

Why Collect Local History?

The wish to buy and own good books is as natural and commendable as the desire to read. But why specialize in the literature of one's own region? Among other reasons, the machine age is developing a new one, namely an antidote to standardization. Mass production is bringing about a uniformity of life and action that is having some deplorable effects. Standardized food, clothing, housing and transportation, have led to standardized news, standardized plays, standardized books and standardized thinking.

Local history helps to preserve individuality and to develop