

who discovered the Columbia before Captain Robert Gray did so in 1792. The Royal Geographical Society of England in a recent issue of its journal published an account of Mr. Barry's researches signed "B. R. M.," the initials of General Mitford. It is a brief article and Mr. Barry writes: "I am disappointed, since I had hoped that the data I spent so much effort to ferret out might be made available and that some expert might be able to solve the problem, as I lack the technical knowledge."

Oregon's Century of Education

The December, 1933, issue of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* rounds out Volume XXXIV. It has a rich table of contents. The most interesting article for this neighboring State of Washington is that entitled "Oregon's Century of Education," by Robert H. Down. We can all appreciate that interesting address delivered at the annual meeting of the Oregon Historical Society in Portland on October 28, 1933. At the beginning of that century the Oregon Country embraced the entire Pacific Northwest. We will therefore not quarrel over the opening sentence: "The year 1833 marked the beginning of formal education within the present State of Oregon." He correctly places that beginning at November, 1832, in Fort Vancouver. That, of course, is "within the present State of"—Washington. The educators of Washington did not see fit to celebrate the centennial. Those of Oregon did. We should, therefore, thank Oregon and accept the share of glory bequeathed to us by an interstate boundary line.

The Canadian Back Fence

Prof. Reginald G. Trotter of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, has published as an offprint from *Queen's Quarterly* of August, 1933, his article entitled, "The Canadian Back Fence in Anglo-American Relations." He recognizes the cordial relations between the United States and independent Canada. His closing paragraph preaches to his fellow Canadians a gospel that should be accorded reciprocal approval in the United States. It is as follows:

"If there is any permanent meaning or universal value in Canadianism, if, in short, it deserves to live and to grow, it is because, at its best, it stands for something essentially different from the brandishing of national big sticks and the shouting of egotistical slogans, something that is neither vindictive quarrelsomeness, nor sus-

picious isolation, nor smug superiority, but is marked by friendly cooperation for common ends with frank recognition and cordial acceptance of national differences of tradition and life. Only a Canadianism that serves these high ends can justify itself whether we think in terms of the welfare of our Dominion, of our Empire-Commonwealth, of the English-speaking world, or of that larger community which we call mankind."

Newspaper Birthday

On December 10, 1933, the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* celebrated its seventieth birthday. There were no ceremonies but the paper's issue of that date carried a fine historical story by J. Willis Sayre. The article stresses the fact that some of the first readers are still with us. One of the illustrations shows Mrs. Susannah Mercer Graham reading a faded copy of the *Post-Intelligencer* with plans for rebuilding the city after the great fire of 1889, and another shows Mr. Rolland H. Denny, last survivor of the city's first colony of settlers, reading a present day issue. The article is worth saving for its history values.

The Widow of Allen Weir Passes

Hon. R. W. Condon sends a clipping from the Port Townsend *Leader* of December 14, 1933, conveying the information that Mrs. Allen Weir had died in Oakland, California, on December 6. She was born Ellen Davis at Ontario, Canada, in July, 1856. Her father, Hall Davis, settled at Dungeness in 1873 and became one of the leading dairymen in the Territory of Washington. On November 12, 1877, she was married to Allen Weir, publisher of the Port Townsend *Argus*. Mr. Weir was a Delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1889, and was elected first Secretary of State when that Constitution became effective. Olympia became the family home. Mr. Weir died there on October 31, 1916.

National Archive Building

When the American Historical Association meets for its semi-centennial celebration at Washington, D. C., in December, 1934, the National Archive Building will be ready for at least an inspection. The cornerstone was laid by President Hoover in February, 1933, and construction work is proceeding. Professor J. Franklin Jameson, Chief of the Division of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress,