

TRIBUTES TO PROFESSOR MEANY

For many years the *Washington Historical Quarterly* has occupied a field of its own. It has been privileged to represent and to speak for the pioneers of Washington, and with a full understanding and sound scholarship, it has done this. The product, preserved in its many volumes, is and will continue to be of great educational value. In its special province it has succeeded in developing interest, and it has performed a notable task in bringing to light and elucidating many obscure and elusive facts. It has cleared up questions of doubt, and has rescued from oblivion personal observations and the experiences of those who made history, for much of its early material came from living persons, who had actively participated in what was so described.

In great measure, this success was due to the enterprise and the enthusiasm of Professor Edmond S. Meany, its founder and its Managing Editor, who was himself an exponent of the pioneer era. Under his leadership the quarterly numbers came along in regular sequence, each number replete with interesting and useful material that evidenced scholarly search and research.

Professor Meany was an institution. His charming personality, his cheerful optimism, his never-failing gift of humor, and his genuine interest in people, all combined to characterize the man. For him, history was not built up of dry facts and dates. He appreciated its human aspects and believed that the teachings of the past help to solve current problems. He identified himself with the magazine by infusing it with his spirit.

He was interested in the exploration of Puget Sound, visited and examined many of the geographical features mentioned by the explorers. He liked also to ascertain the origin of place names, and he made a careful study of the facts relating to the creation of Washington as a territory and as a state.

The loss of Professor Meany is irreparable. He will be missed, and it will not be easy to fill his place. A new situation presents itself. Practically all of the venerable pioneers have passed from the stage. It is as though a curtain had dropped and a new drama is to be presented under new auspices. It may be assumed that in the future there will be less opportunity to print the original narratives of early settlers. Henceforth, stories of the settlement period are to come from secondary sources.

But, there is still a field for the *Quarterly*. With a new perspective and a wider range of vision, it will continue to occupy an im-

portant field, and will extend its usefulness. Indeed, it would be a great misfortune to have it fail to adjust itself to the new conditions, and take advantage of the obvious opportunity now presenting itself. Students of history throughout the country will be interested to see what plans will be developed.

CHARLES H. CAREY

The *Washington Historical Quarterly* has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of its organizer and first editor, Edmond Stephen Meany. Under his direction this *Quarterly*, which was founded in 1906 to collect and preserve historical records, to publish the results of historical research and to promote the study of the history of Washington, became one of the leading regional journals of American history. Professor Meany has indeed been vitally a part of every phase of the *Quarterly's* development since the initial conception of the plan to establish at the University of Washington a quarterly devoted to Pacific Northwest history. Today this historical publication bears witness to his vision and enterprise while his colleagues on the board of editors are the guarantors that this continuity of effort and policy, extending over more than a quarter of a century, will be faithfully maintained in the future. No more fitting tribute to the memory of a great scholar could be paid than by carrying forward the splendid enterprise which he organized.

During his long service in the University, in the city of Seattle and throughout the State, Professor Meany was known not only as a great teacher but also as a leader in public affairs. As a teacher he possessed the ability to awaken interest among undergraduates and graduates as well as to inspire younger members of the faculty and an ever-widening circle of research workers. These intimate contacts with former students and scholars he maintained throughout a long and active academic career.

As a student of Pacific Northwest history he achieved a distinct success and became a recognized authority throughout the nation. Under his editorship the *Washington Historical Quarterly* was maintained as an authoritative review of this field of American history. As executive head of the department of history it was his good fortune to be able to build up a strong and loyal departmental faculty. His own record of personal research was a noteworthy one. The preface to his *Vancouver's Discovery of Puget Sound* opens with a succinct but masterful statement of the problems of sound scholarship in his chosen field of history. Moreover, he was able, although

actively engaged in teaching, to continue to produce books and articles in this field. Throughout the nation he was highly esteemed by the leading members of his profession.

In April, 1907, Cornelius H. Hanford wrote of him: "He is a man of great physical and intellectual force. In stature and massiveness of his frame he resembles a fir tree; his clear and penetrating eyes are like an eagle's; and his voice needs not to be reinforced by a megaphone to be heard distinctly by every person in any large assembly of people. As a student and seeker of knowledge he is untiring; as a lecturer and orator he is fluent, interesting, persuasive and magnetic; he has a retentive memory and a logical mind, by which he is enabled when addressing an audience to use most effectively the great thoughts and important facts which by industry and patience he has gleaned from books and collected in travel. In the cause of education, in scientific research and all that pertains to the public welfare, he is an enthusiast and patriot. He is magnanimous and brave, an ardent lover of his friends, and faithful to his home and family."

RALPH HASWELL LUTZ

In the death of Professor Meany, I lost a sincere friend. For more than twenty years I knew him, and from my undergraduate days onward my affection for him deepened. Though I am not unmindful of his significant work in promoting the study of the history of the Pacific Northwest, it is as a teacher and as a friend that I prefer to remember him. As a teacher, he was kind and helpful, and his enthusiasm was contagious. It was he who first aroused my interest in the serious study of history. His sympathies were broad, and his devotion to his students was not limited by the walls of the lecture-room. During the World War, when I was in France, he did not forget to write to me. This thoughtful act I shall always remember.

After the war, I experienced further proof of his sympathetic nature. Our friendship increased. His sudden death, in the midst of his work, was heart-breaking; yet the manner of his passing, I am certain, was such as he would have wished. His years were long and his days well spent. Thousands rejoice that they were privileged to know him, and to the end of life they will cherish the memory of an inspiring teacher and a devoted friend.

J. ORIN OLIPHANT