

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Gift of Valuable Manuscripts

Edith G. Prosch has presented to the University of Washington Library for preservation in its fireproof vault a collection of rare documents collected by her father, the late Thomas W. Prosch of Seattle. The most valuable item consists of a satchel filled with official letters received by Colonel William H. Wallace. The satchel was carried by Colonel Wallace on his trips from the territories of Washington and Idaho to Washington city as delegate in Congress, and many of the letters relate to official business. It will be remembered that Colonel Wallace came to Washington Territory in 1853 and became an early delegate in Congress. In 1861 he was appointed governor of the territory by President Lincoln, but being elected as territorial delegate he failed to qualify as governor. While still in Washington, D. C., he was appointed on March 10th, 1863, first governor of the newly created Territory of Idaho. This office he accepted, but resigned in the fall of the same year on being elected as Idaho's first delegate in Congress. During these years he had official relations with the leading men in the Pacific Northwest. The letters in this collection bear upon important events of the period covered. In addition to these letters are many other documents covering the period of the fifties and sixties. Noteworthy among these are proposals and other manuscripts relating to the Northern Pacific Railway, papers concerning the Nez Perces Indian Agency, the W. A. Slaughter papers, and receipts and accounts illustrating the business life of old Steilacoom.

Gift of Missionary Record

William S. Lewis, Corresponding Secretary of the Spokane Historical Society, has copied and compared with the originals an extensive volume of records of the Spokane Mission. The mass is substantially bound in a large volume of 428 pages of typewritten matter. The volume is presented through the Washington Historical Quarterly to the Library of the University of Washington. The contents include the diaries of Rev. Elkanah Walker and Mrs. Mary R. Walker from 1838 to 1852 and a large number of letters. A few of the letters were written by Mr. Walker but most of them are letters from Marcus Whitman and one from Mrs. Whitman.

The Elkanah Walker family and the Cushing Eells family were of that part of the so-called Whitman Mission which settled and

worked near where the present city of Spokane is located. They arrived there in 1838. The place was known as Tshimakain, though often referred to in later days as Walker Prairie. These copiel manuscripts are, of course, fundamental as to the history of that part of the State of Washington.

Old Record of the University

Clarence B. Bagley has presented the University of Washington a transcript of its own early records. It is the cash book of the Board of University Commissioners of Washington Territory from 1861 to 1867, inclusive. Mr. Bagley has written a certificate to accompany the transcript and there gives a brief resume of the matters covered in the record. His father, Rev. Daniel Bagley, was president of the Board of Commissioners and the son was familiar with the records from the date of the first entry. The transcript with his brief essay are therefore dependable and valuable additions to the historical records of the University.

Plan to Honor Stevens

Senator W. S. Davis was author of Senate Bill Number 24 in the last session of the Washington Legislature. By this measure it was sought to allow the State of Washington to honor the first Territorial Governor—Isaac Ingalls Stevens—by the erection by a statue of him in Statuary Hall in the National Capitol.

The bill was passed by the Senate, but it was allowed to die in a committee in the House. However, enough interest in this matter has been aroused to ensure success at the next session of the Legislature. In the meantime plans are being formulated to keep the interest alive and to allow many people throughout the State to take part in bestowing such an honor upon the memory of this most important character in the history of the Commonwealth.