

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Old Account Books

Hon. Richard W. Condon, a native of Washington, is deeply interested in all matters of local history. For many years he has been associated with the Puget Mill Company. While tearing down an old building at Port Gamble he recently came upon a set of account books, letter-books, invoices and documents belonging to an old firm, Wilson & Hurd, engaged in general merchandising at Deschutes (near Olympia) in 1854 and a few years following. Mr. Condon had the papers and books shipped to the University of Washington to be used in history researches.

On May 1, 1855, Governor Isaac I. Stevens was charged with a bill of goods showing that coffee cost twenty cents a pound; syrup, one dollar a gallon; best country cured pork, twenty cents a pound; and beans eight cents a pound. The bill for that purchase was \$26.83 in the journal but was erroneously transferred to the ledger at \$26.38. A careful study of the papers will undoubtedly reveal much of value as to prices and business methods in the early days on Puget Sound.

Seattle's First Railroad

The Legislative Journal of the Council for 1877, on pages 86-87, has the following record about the railroad completed from Seattle to Renton:

"The following communication was read by the clerk:
Seattle, October 18, 1877

"Hon. Geo. W. Tibbetts—

"Dear Sir: The Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad Company desire me to invite, through you, the Members and Officers of the Legislature to a free ride over said road, from Seattle to Renton, on Monday next, October 22d, at such hour as shall best suit their convenience.

"Very respectfully,

"J. M. Colman,

"President.

"Mr. Hoover moved the invitation be accepted.

"Mr. Hanford moved to amend by appointing a committee of one to notify Mr. Colman what hour would be most suitable.

"The amendment prevailed, and the President appointed Mr. Hanford."