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CITIES OF NORTHERN PUGET SOUND

By M. Inez Termaat

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BELLINGHAM

BELLINGHAM (24,300 in 1910, present estimate 33,800), enjoys an unrivalled scenic location at the head of Bellingham Bay, a northern arm of Puget Sound. Four early trading and coal-mining towns situated around the bay finally coalesced to form the present city. The principal streets, one above another on the sea-facing slope of Sehome Hill, follow the curving outline of the shore. The homes on the heights command a view of the business section of the city, of the Cascades and snow-capped Mount Baker to the north and east, of the San Juan Islands and the Olympic Mountains to the west and south.

Due to the prevailing westerly winds off the Pacific Ocean, there are no seasonal extremes of heat and cold, the mean annual range of temperature being from 39° to 61.6°. The average annual rainfall is only 30.5 inches, the heavy precipitation usually attributed to this section being intercepted by the Olympic Mountains and Vancouver Island.

The Nooksack River, turbulently sourced in the mountains, has in its lower reaches built a broad, flat valley where dairy herds live in clover the year round. The soil is a rich silt loam very encouraging to truck gardening and flower culture, both of which have become important. Poultry raising is also an important industry in this valley. This large farming district is connected with the city by miles of well paved roads.

The largest salmon canning industry of the world is centered at Bellingham, the output amounting to millions of cases yearly. There are six lumber mills using the Douglas fir from the mountains, thirteen shingle mills utilizing the cedar, nine wood-working industries, two foundries, a mattress factory, a modern cement plant, several fruit canneries, brick and tile works, and boiler works. In 1911 the total value of manufactures exceeded \$7,000,000.

In 1907 a United States experiment bulb farm was established just outside the city where Holland tulips have bloomed ten days earlier than in their native land. Hyacinths and Narcissus thrive exceptionally well in this climate.

Transportation facilities are such as to make Bellingham an important commercial center. The harbor is deep and large. There are three miles of wharfage where ships from all parts of the world take on cargoes of lumber, shingles, cement, and canned goods. Two boats daily connect with Seattle, and others with various points on the Sound. Four railroads and an electric interurban give sixty-one trains daily. The Pacific Highway, a coastwise automobile road connects Bellingham with all the coast cities. The largest of three state normal schools is located in Bellingham.

EVERETT

Everett, the "City of Smokestacks," had in 1910 a population of 24,814, an increase of 216 per cent during the decade. The present local estimate is 30,000. It is advantageously situated on Puget Sound thirty-five miles from Seattle and about one hundred and fifty miles from the Pacific Ocean. It has twenty-two miles of deep water frontage with about three miles of wharfage including three deep-water docks. Everett is a port of call for some vessels plying between San Francisco and Alaska. Five steamers run daily to Seattle and one to Bellingham, while vessels from many parts of the world receive cargoes here. Four railroads give coastwise transportation service, and it is the first coast terminal of the Great Northern Railroad.

Along the water front are located many manufacturing concerns, the chief products of which (lumber, machines, and paper) are marketed throughout the world. The only arsenic plant in the United States is located here. There are two flour mills, a powder factory, a tannery, a brickyard, fish canneries and shipyards. The total annual payroll of its ninety manufacturing plants exceeds \$4,000,000.

In climate Everett shares with other Puget Sound cities the ameliorated conditions obtaining on western coasts of all continents where westerly winds prevail. The annual rainfall is 37 inches, the larger per cent of which occurs between October and April though occasional rains relieve the "dry" season.

SMALLER CITIES

Anacortes, population, 1910 census, 4168. Beautifully located on Fidalgo Island, a few hours by steamboat north of Seattle. It is an important seaport and is reached by the Great Northern railway. Its principal industries are lumbering and fishing, but it is surrounded by country adapted to diversified farming. There are nine shingle mills, two glue and fertilizer factories, six salmon canneries, two codfish plants. The total monthly payroll is \$100,000.

Mount Vernon, population, 1910 census, 2381, is located eight miles from Puget Sound on the navigable Skagit River from whose yearly floods it is protected by dikes. This town is important for its dairy industries including two large condensaries.

Blaine, population, 1910 census, 2289, is interesting as the most northwesterly municipality in continental United States. It is situated at the boundary line of British Columbia on Drayton Harbor. Its industries consist of salmon canneries, crab cannery, saw mills, box factory, lacquer factory, shingle mills and machine shops. Oysters are cultivated in the harbor.

CITIES OF SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON

Aberdeen (13,660) and *Hoquiam* (8,171) are located on Grays Harbor in the center of one of the best timber districts of the state. The industries of

both cities at present depend on the timber supply and the harbor facilities, but as the timber is removed the land will be used for agricultural purposes and other industries will take the place of the lumber industry. Ships from all sections of the world load lumber directly from the large saw mills located here.

Vancouver (9,300), one of the oldest towns in the state, is located on the Columbia River where the main lines of the north and south railroads cross the river by bridge into Oregon. It is the center of a fine fruit growing and agricultural district. One of the oldest army posts on the coast is located here.

Centralia (7,311) and *Chehalis* (5,000) are located on the main railroad lines between Tacoma and Portland in a broad open country well adapted for agricultural development. With an annual rainfall of 46 inches, and a range of temperature between 40° and 61°, pasturage is good the year round, and much of the logged-off lands may profitably be used for dairying.

Olympia (7,000), the capital of the state, is located at the head of Budd Inlet, a long southern arm of Puget Sound. On the tide flats around the bay large areas are used for oyster beds. It is in the center of an important agricultural country formerly better known as a lumbering district. Tumwater falls on the Deschutes River, about which one of the oldest settlements north of the Columbia River was started, furnishes electric power for the city and the surrounding district. It has a very good harbor, but is too far from the Pacific and off the main transportation lines to be considered with the northern ports on the Sound.

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