

THE WEST SHORE.

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SEATTLE, THE QUEEN CITY.



ONE of remarkable advantage is the location of the chief city, or metropolis, of Washington Territory. It fronts, on the west, a capacious, beautiful and serene harbor of the Middle sound; on the north, it partially encircles Lake Union; on the east, it faces Lake Washington; and on the south, looks out upon the broad and fertile valley of the Dawamish. The city lies upon a peninsula; in fact, since the cutting of the inter-lake canal, it may be said to be upon an island. It is possible, at least, to go completely round the city in a small boat, using Dawamish and Black rivers, Lakes Union and Washington, and the canal. Between Lake Washington and the sound, the land attains an elevation of four hundred feet. From this height, it slopes both ways to the edges of the waters. In places the descent is precipitous, and in others it is gentle. Union lake is twelve feet above the level of the sound; Washington, nineteen feet. As may be inferred, the townsite is irregular. It consists of hills, valleys and plains. About the three bodies of water named, the ground is generally low and level; between them, high and rolling. Magnificent views are to be obtained from various points. From some, both lakes, the sound in two or three places, the Cascade and Coast ranges of mountains, parts of the city and much of the surrounding country may be seen.

The principal business part of the city is located at the head of deep water on the bay. The wharves, mills, factories, warehouses, railroad depots and other establishments of bulky, heavy traffic, there find admirable sites. The original site for such enterprises was small, but by encroaching upon the tide lands, piling and filling, they have been extended to meet the demands. The available area of four acres, at first, has thus grown to one hundred, and can yet grow to two thousand, that being the extent of tide lands to be had for the taking. Back from the bay, the townsite rises in terraces. The choicest residence sites are to be obtained on these terraces, or hills, to the number of ten thousand, and beyond them, along the twenty miles east shore front of Lake Washington, at Green lake, on Salmon bay, and on the Dawamish river, to the number of one hundred thousand more. In truth, Seattle is topographically blessed beyond conception or comparison.

Entering the city, either by rail or water, the most favorable impression is created. The roads strike the bay at its northern and southern limits, and then, for three miles in each direction, approach the heart of the city. The roads are far enough from the shores to give travelers extended views on both sides—the sound, the shipping upon it, the points and islands opposite, and the mountains beyond, on the one side; and on the other, the city itself, in all its life and beauty. The view from the deck of the approaching steamer, however, is even finer. It is wider in its scope, and taken from more advantageous positions. The shipping, wharves, railroads, streets, residences, churches, schools, hospitals, parks and business blocks are seen from various angles, being gradually brought into fuller and fairer view during the five or six miles last steamed over. On a fine afternoon, with the sun shining on the town, the scene thus presented is one of great beauty, to be enjoyed on every possible occasion, and not to be forgotten. A picture of entrancing loveliness is to be obtained from approaching steamers on clear, still evenings. The competition of three electric light and gas compa-