

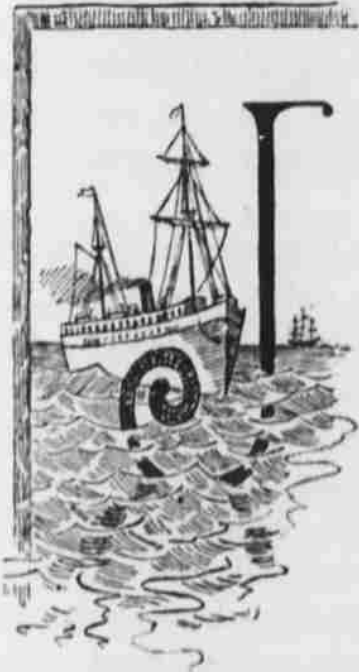
THE WEST SHORE.

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THE KEY CITY OF THE SOUND.



JOINING the strait of Juan de Fuca from the south, about ninety miles from the ocean, is Admiralty inlet, the principal arm of Puget sound. In the angle at the junction of the two bodies of water is a peninsula formed by Port Discovery bay, which indents the southern shore of the strait, and Port Townsend bay, which is a northwestern arm of the inlet and joins it some two

miles southward of the union of the sound and strait. This inlet is the passage through which all marine commerce of the vast Puget sound region must pass. The division of land thus enclosed is known as Quimper peninsula, and is from two to five miles wide, extending in a general northern direction, though the northern end bends around to the east so as to partially enclose Port Townsend bay, while the mouth of Port Discovery bay, on the opposite side, is left open. The extreme northeast of the peninsula is known as Point Wilson, and about two miles to the southward, with Port Townsend bay on the south and the sound on the east, is Point Hudson.

At Point Hudson, in 1850, Alfred A. Plummer located a claim, including the flat where the principal business portion of the city of Port Townsend is now situated, and extending back a short distance on the bluff. Mr. Plummer was followed the next year by Loren B. Hastings, and Francis W. Pettygrove, who were among the first settlers of Portland, and they took up claims next back of Mr. Plummer's, each, however, having a portion of the present water front of the town. They tilled small portions of their claims, fished a little, and traded with the Indians, the chief business being trading. Gradually settlers

were attracted to that locality, and in 1853 the town of Port Townsend was platted. As the settlement increased in size, the Indians, from some cause, became unfriendly, and on account of the Indian troubles in the northwest in 1855 the government established Fort Townsend, on the coast some four miles to the westward of the town, in 1858, which, except for a short interval during the civil war, has since been kept garrisoned.

From the beginning to the present time Port Townsend has enjoyed a steady and prosperous growth. The wisdom of its founders in choosing a site at the gateway to the rich empire bordering on Puget sound is readily apparent. It occupies a commanding position with reference to trade, and the steadiness of its growth may, in a great degree, be attributed to the favorable geographical position which it occupies. It is one of the finest harbors in the world. Port Townsend bay has an anchorage area of about fifty square miles, in which the water is from three to eleven fathoms in depth. Vessels from the ocean bound to any one of the sound ports sail in as far as Port Townsend, and a navigator unacquainted with the grounds may sail with perfect freedom in any part of the bay, so long as he keeps two vessels' length out from the shore. The harbor is a complete refuge from all storms. Vessels are towed from that point to all ports on the sound to which they may be bound.

The city of Port Townsend, principally built to the westward of Point Hudson, faces the southeast. At the point the low land extends back half a dozen blocks or more, but the flat grows rapidly narrower to westward, until the bluff comes out flush to the water's edge, and even the street nearest the bay cuts through the high clay bank. In the business part of the town the streets extending back from the bay are interrupted by the bluff about three blocks from the water, but those running parallel with the shore ascend to the heights by easy grades. On the hill the land is not a dead level by any means. It is rolling enough