

branch extending to Point Wilson. Another motor line will be constructed to Hadlock, at the head of Port Townsend bay. These lines will greatly enhance the value of suburban property.

The restricted legal limits of Port Townsend make a large portion of the area thickly built up and property belonging to the city outside its boundaries. An act of congress expressly prohibits the amending of city charters, but now that Washington is to be a state, preparations are being made to extend the city limits so as to include the area that is properly and practically a part of the corporation in all its interests. This will enable the city to extend its improvements and to increase the efficiency of service in various lines. The present water works plant, which supplies the business portion of the town from a reservoir on the hill, which, in turn, is filled by a pump in the valley, is to be replaced with an improved plant, to take its supply from springs in the interior of the peninsula, and to furnish water service to the residence portion as well as the business houses of the city. A complete system of sewerage will be adopted and constructed. More streets will be graded and sidewalks built. The filling and grading of one of the principal streets at a cost of \$11,000.00 has lately been done, and another street contract of \$19,000.00 is scarcely yet completed. Between \$10,000.00 and \$20,000.00 are now being expended in building sidewalks. These municipal improvements show that the city government possesses a spirit of enterprise that is bringing the town rapidly into prominence and establishing for it a place among the live cities of the northwest. The corporation is not handicapped by any burdensome debt. Its only indebtedness is \$4,500.00, incurred by the purchase of a lot for a city hall, which has increased in value since the purchase more than the amount now owed on it. The most expensive improvements are now being made, as the cost of grading the streets in the residence portion will be nominal. Streets are lighted by electricity, which is also furnished for private consumption.

Among the public functionaries of foreign powers resident at Port Townsend, are consuls and agents of Great Britain, France, Norway, Sweden and Chili. Besides the U. S. custom house and marine hospital officials, there is a deputy U. S. marshal, and the military post is but a short distance from the town. A lighthouse is maintained on Point Wilson, and others where they may be of assistance to navigation.

In the matter of climate Port Townsend presents features worthy of special consideration. Though located above the forty-eighth parallel of latitude, it is not, of course, expected that its temperature is anything akin to that of localities of similar latitude in-

land, owing to the modifying influence of the warm current of the ocean. Very little snow falls in the winter, and it remains but a short time. The temperature is remarkably equable. The average temperature for the month of July is about fifty-six degrees, and for December about forty degrees above zero, Fahrenheit. The freedom from excessive moisture at Port Townsend is a matter of surprise to many, it being generally supposed that a point so nearly surrounded by large bodies of water, and in a mild temperature, is subject to very heavy rainfall. Port Townsend is the driest city on the sound, and there are many inland towns which annually receive more moisture than this. The average annual rainfall, as ascertained by measurements of the precipitation during the past ten years, is a fraction over seventeen inches. The greatest fall during one year of this period was nearly twenty-two inches, in 1882, and the least nearly thirteen inches, in 1887. The topography of the country about the city shows why the amount of moisture deposited there is so comparatively small. It is situated on the northeast extremity of the large body of land between the waters of the sound and the ocean. All southwestern winds which leave the ocean laden with moisture pass over the Olympic mountains and there precipitate their load before reaching Port Townsend. The other winds which reach this point are comparatively dry. The southwest winds gather a good deal of moisture merely in crossing the waters of the sound, and precipitate it on coming in contact with the cool timber and mountains on the east side, so it may readily be seen why there is such a difference in the amounts of rainfall between the west and the east sides of Puget sound. The surrounding waters, with the free circulation of warm currents, equalizes the temperature, and the mountains extract from the saturated winds the excess of moisture that otherwise would be likely to be deposited over the entire area between ocean and sound. The atmosphere is clear and tonic, and the whole character of Port Townsend's climate is remarkably healthful and delightful. This feature alone induces many persons to settle there.

Port Townsend is ninety miles from the ocean and about one hundred miles from the head of Puget sound. It is forty miles northwest of Seattle, and sixty-six miles from Tacoma, thirty miles southeast of Victoria, B. C., and eighty miles from Vancouver, which is the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway. In addition to the trade which the city now enjoys, and which is developing at a rapid rate, there is a project on foot to cut a canal through Whidby island, directly to the eastward of the city, at a point where the island is nearly divided naturally, so as to reach the growing settlements on the east side