



#### THE CITY OF FAIRHAVEN.

The two towns on Bellingham bay known by the names of Bellingham and Fairhaven, the former being the older but now the smaller of the two, are joining in measures for a single incorporation under the name of Fairhaven. The two towns lie on the east side of the bay adjoining each other and Bellingham is the farther north. The population of the combined cities is about 3,000. Their interests are identical and will be best served under one incorporation. Of the towns on Bellingham bay that have attracted attention since that country was first occupied by white settlers the new town of Fairhaven starts out in the most vigorous manner and promises the best results. It is the southernmost town on the bay and occupies a position that insures it permanent prosperity and a rapid growth. Though its progress thus far has been quite remarkable it has been handicapped by reason of lacking the power and privileges of a municipal government and the new arrangement will enable it to achieve greater results by making possible public improvements of all sorts and giving it political as well as commercial importance. Its growth of a few months renders a city government essential to the proper conduct of community affairs.

The rapidity with which the tributary country is developing points strongly to the building of a large city at Fairhaven. Back over the ridge a mile or so from the bay is the settlement of Happy Valley which the fast expanding city is already encroaching upon. The fertile farms of the valley are being cut up into garden patches and planted in fruit trees, that being a more economical disposition of the land than to let it remain in large fields of hay and grain. The farmers farther from the borders of the town find the broader tillage profitable, but the demands of a city market in the way of garden produce, fruit, etc., render necessary closer cultivation than the ordinary husbandman bestows on the field crops. This disposition to provide for the home market which has developed in much less than a year shows how sharp is the demand for such adjuncts as usually gather around a city after many years of growth. While Fairhaven has a live market for produce, the adjacent country is amply able to supply it and the development of the one will keep pace with the growth of the other.

Complementing Fairhaven's matchless situation for marine commerce is a vast range of country where fertile valleys, timbered hills and mineral ledges stand ready to pour their products into the channels of trade. Iron and coal mines are already opened. There are marble and the finest of sand stone in exhaustless quantity. The timber is among the best in that region famous for its timber product—the Puget sound basin. A large part of Whatcom county bears a dense growth of the choicest fir, spruce, etc., easily accessible from Fairhaven, where mills are already in operation, and more being constructed. The agricultural lands are not surpassed in fertility, though not all are cultivated. The Fairhaven & Southern railway, already carrying a considerable volume of traffic to its seaport terminus, is rapidly extending its lines and tapping one of the richest sections on the Pacific coast.

#### ORCAS ISLAND, WASHINGTON.

Orcas island is one of the most important in the great Archipelago de Haro. It is probably the most varied in its scenery

of all the islands, because it is nearly cut into three parts by two long, beautiful bays, named respectively East sound and West sound. In these bays are many little islands, and along the shores are building beautiful homes. The island has a total area of about 38,400 acres, and of this about 30,000 are cultivable. One-tenth of the area of the island is already under cultivation, and the principal crop is fruit. No place in the state of Washington is better adapted to fruit raising than is Orcas island. Here are produced abundant crops of apples, pears, plums, prunes, cherries, peaches, apricots and all the small fruits. The apricots and peaches are spoken of as being especially large and delicious. All the fruit trees shine in their clean, healthy coating of bark and give promise of heavy yields this year. The Orcas Island Fruit Growers' Association is doing a world of good for that community. The members are associated for the sole purpose of encouraging and improving the culture of fruit on the island. The officers are as follows: president, James Tulloch; vice president, E. Van Gohren; corresponding secretary, Rev. S. R. S. Gray. Anyone landing on the island for the purpose of settling and entering into the fruit growing business is met by some officer or member of the association and shown around. He can easily find a convenient tract of five or ten acres of good fruit land, which will be sold to actual settlers at low rates, and in this way is Orcas island becoming a vast village of prosperous and contented fruit growers. The shipping committee examines all fruit packed by members of the association and stamps it, after which they hold themselves responsible for its quality and being first class in every particular. These men are determined that Orcas island fruit shall stand peerless in the markets of the northwest, and they are confident their orchards are capable of reaching that high place. Another valuable resource of this island is lime. There are numerous lime ledges on the island. The Seattle Lime Co., now owned by the Oregon Improvement Co., is operating two kilns at Estelle, on the east shore of the island. The Wheeler Lime Co. has a kiln at work at Harrison's landing, and Capt. Gregg at Desperate harbor, both of which properties are owned in Seattle. Bowen Bros. & Jameson have a kiln at East sound. The San Juan County Lime Co. has a capital of \$250,000, and will soon be under full headway. The Port Langdon ledge is in disuse at present and the property is to be sold. There are many other valuable ledges held by private individuals. Nearly all the government land on the island is taken up.—Seattle Press.

#### NEW ENTERPRISES FOR SPOKANE.

Two business enterprises of notable magnitude developed in Spokane Falls last week. The first one was the project of holding a large and representative industrial exposition in the city. The second was the matter of erecting a smelting plant of large capacity. Both projects are assured and active preparations for carrying out the plans of each are now under way.

While this is not the first time the idea of an industrial exposition has been in the minds of the business men of the city it is the first time steps have actually been taken looking to the inauguration of the enterprise. The presence of Mr. C. W. Robinson, who was chairman of the New York world's fair commission, suggested the propriety of moving at this time. His experience in conducting affairs of this kind together with the