

BLAINE, THE BOUNDARY CITY.

ONE hundred and twenty-five miles north of Seattle, on the eastern shore of Puget sound, is the city of Blaine, lying on a table land overlooking the beautiful, land-locked Semiahmoo bay, the farthest north of any harbor on the west coast of the United States proper. Blaine is in the extreme northwest corner of the union, the international boundary being its incorporate limit on the north, and the harbor opening out upon that portion of Puget sound known as the Gulf of Georgia on the west, many miles north of the Straits of Fuca, the northern limit on the ocean coast.

Blaine has a harbor covering an area of three square miles, with water from thirty to sixty-six feet deep, and perfectly protected from storms by projecting points of land. It is the first port accessible to commerce from the other side of the line, and as soon as its railroad connection is completed, will be a desirable port for the Canadian steamers to use in reaching American lines. A bill to make Blaine a port of entry is receiving favorable action in congress. There is now under construction the Fairhaven & Southern from Bellingham bay north to the boundary at Blaine, and south to Seattle, by which this port will be placed in connection with the great railroad systems at Seattle. Also the New Westminster & Southern is nearly completed to Blaine from the Canadian Pacific at New Westminster, and will be finished in a few weeks. Blaine will then become the first Pacific terminus on the soil of the United States of that great Canadian transcontinental road.

For fifty miles around Blaine is a comparatively level tract of land which is destined to become one of the most important agricultural regions on the Pacific coast. Already a population of 2,000 exists in the country immediately tributary to this point, and settlements are being made with great rapidity. The construction of the railroads is aiding wonderfully in drawing settlers. Other railroads through Boundary pass, as the route through the mountains along the international line is called, will be built, three being already projected, all of which will add to the importance of Blaine. The same is true of other lines projected from Seattle northward to a connection with the Canadian Pacific.

The townsite of Blaine is a level tract, the margin of which is thirty feet above high tide, admitting of a perfect drainage system and insuring good health, to which the mild and equable climate of this region is also conducive. Building is progressing with great rapidity, especially the erection of structures for business purposes, though many residences are also being constructed. Three large wharves are being built. Great quantities of lumber are being used in this work, but there is manufactured there even a greater quantity. In the city and on the opposite side of the bay are four saw mills, two shingle mills and a sash and door factory. Other important industries will seek this location because of its advantages. An excellent pa-

per, the *Journal*, is published there and is doing good work for the city. A national bank has just been organized.

The Nooksack valley stretches out to the eastward and is one of the most fertile of the famous river valleys of the Puget sound country. Its prolific yield of hops has led to the planting of many acres of vines, and the time is not far distant when the Nooksack will rival the Payallup in its yield of hops. Prunes, also, and all varieties of fruits and berries of the temperate zone, produce there in wonderful quantity and superb quality. Fruit culture will soon become a most important in-



MONUMENT MARKING INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES AT BLAINE, WASH.

dustry in the region immediately tributary to the city. The townsite as platted crosses the boundary line, a portion of it lying within British Columbia. This international line is not an indefinite, intangible line as is generally supposed, but is accurately and carefully located. It is possible to lay a penny—if you have one—so that it will be half in the United States and half in Canada. A number of years ago a joint commission surveyed a line westward from the Lake of the Woods and erected an iron monument every mile. Through the forest they cleared a strip twenty feet wide, as straight as a string,