

astonish people whose impressions of the depth of the anchorage and of the harbors have been derived from their experience of either coast of the Atlantic. The shallowest portion of this wonderful Archipelago is Bellingham Bay; yet the soundings at its entrance are from thirty to twenty fathoms, and the regular decrease to the shore, east, south and north, is from sixteen fathoms to three.

I note for Atlantic slope people a strange fact connected with these wonderful waters, and not without present and prospective value. The average rise and fall of the tide is about twelve feet in summer and fourteen feet in winter. But the tides here differ from those of every other part of the world. During summer, it is low water nearly all day and high water all night. In the winter, this is reversed, it being high water all day and low water all night. But the relation of the tides to the full and change of the moon maintains here as elsewhere. It is always high water at six o'clock at those periods, the highest tides being at six P. M. in summer and at six A. M. in winter.

Governor Stevens, who lived on Puget Sound, likened it to a tree with a very recognizable body called Admiralty Inlet, and innumerable side branches. The trunk of this tree of harbors ebbs and flows in a directly north and south line over more than an entire degree of latitude. The trunk and its branches together fill a region seventy nautical miles in length from north to south, and thirty miles in breadth from east to west. The country in which this body of profound water nestles in nooks and coves, and flows in vast canals, is a wide valley, bounded on the west by the Olympian chain of mountains and on the east by the Cascades. From every part of the sound the snow-covered peaks of both ranges can be seen at once. The distance between these crests of frosted silver, shining eternal above the evergreen of the cedars and firs which crowd the mountain-sides and valleys, and above the blue of the waters of the sound, is one hundred miles. The space between the range is of moderate elevation and presents a quite level depression. The higher spurs of the two mountain chains nowhere come to the water's edge, except at some points along Hood's Canal, which is the western branch of Puget Sound. The shore-lands in the immediate neighborhood of all the channels are, therefore, only hills, in part splendidly wooded, in part covered with luxuriant grass.

The gateway to this Puget Sound is called the Straits of Juan de Fuca. It is eighty miles long from east to west. For half the way of its length it is eleven miles wide. For the residue of the distance its width is twenty miles.