

study charts and ask questions of sailormen, are of little value, but they are what have been expressed to me by navigators, whose experience fitted them to speak with authority.

In some respects Nootka Sound is the finest harbor on the whole Northwest coast, principally because of its clear approach from the sea. In the early days of Northwest discovery the Spanish and the English navigators made this sound their headquarters. The 100-fathom line is here between 20 and 25 miles off the land, and several high elevations near the entrance of the Sound give the mariner an excellent landfall. This port is nearly midway between Quatsino and Barkley Sound, and the land approach to it is such that it may play an important part in connection with the commerce of the Pacific Ocean.

South Bound Traffic

Usually, when the development of the water-borne traffic of the Pacific Ocean is spoken of, people have in mind chiefly that which will be built up with the Orient, and while it is impossible to overestimate the possible expansion of this, it is by no means the only source from which this Coast may derive commercial greatness. South of the Strait of Juan de Fuca lies a vast region with which an enormous commerce may be created. Later I shall deal with Oriental traffic and the part the several Island harbors may play in it, but in this place I am only directing attention to certain geographical facts. I have spoken of the north end of the Island in connection with Oriental traffic. I shall speak of the south half in connection with southern traffic, not because the north may not share in this as the south may share in the other, but simply for convenience. I will leave inferences from the facts for treatment later.

The Australian Continent, New Zealand, Mexico, Central and South America and all the countries to be made more quickly accessible than they now are by the construction of the Panama Canal, must be taken into account when we consider the strategic value of the southern ports of Vancouver Island. The trade with these countries will be with people of the white race, and it will be in supplying wants already exist-