

Institute, the United States Naval Academy, and many others that could be mentioned.

In comparison with other American cities, Baltimore is one of the smallest in area. Its total area is less than 38 square miles. Boston has 43, San Francisco 46, St. Louis 62, Philadelphia 129, Chicago 192, New Orleans 196, and New York 308 square miles. At least twenty-two American cities have a larger area than Baltimore. Notwithstanding its small area, only five American cities have a larger population, and two of these—Boston and St. Louis—are larger by only a few thousands. Seven cities have a larger public debt. At least forty-three cities have a larger tax rate. Only three cities—New York, Philadelphia and Boston—have a larger property assessment.

From 1800 to 1900 the growth in population, by decades, has been, respectively, 96, 76, 35, 28, 27, 65, 26, 26, 24 and 31 per cent.

The water supply system cost nearly \$15,000,000. The daily average flow is nearly 200,000,000 gallons. The storage capacity of Lake Poland and Loch Raven is 2,235,000,000 gallons. The water is of the purest quality, coming from many springs and falls and large rivers, and will easily support the needs of a million inhabitants.

Baltimore has unusual advantages as a place of residence and of business. Among these advantages are its mild and bracing climate, its central location on the coast, its proximity to the mountains, to the Mississippi and to the great lakes; its cheap rents, the low cost of living, the abundance of labor, skilled and unskilled, the exemption of plants from taxation, abundant water supply, excellent drainage, the opportunity for electric plants along its neighboring falls and large rivers, the adjacent coal-fields, iron beds, stone quarries, copper mines, clay deposits; the immense resources of

the bay and its tributaries, its railroad and steamship facilities, its great warehouses, coal-piers and grain-elevators; its excellent city charter and economic administration; its fine public buildings, its efficient educational, fire and police departments; its great wealth and unusual natural endowments, and, not the least, the energy, patriotism, refinement and courtesy of its people.—Written for Sunshine by Dr. L. W. Wilhelm, Baltimore.



Baltimore's Great Fire.

February 7 and 8 will in future years be known as the days when Baltimore was visited by the greatest calamity of the kind in its history. Many years ago the city had a great fire that is known as the "Clay fire," the destruction being in the vicinity of Clay street and Park avenue, but the recent fire makes all other conflagrations appear small. The fire started in the basement of John E. Hurst & Company's building, and spread with great rapidity, practically defying the mighty efforts of the fire-fighters of Baltimore and a half a dozen other cities, and melting a path for itself as if the structures before it were made of wax. When all was over there were two thousand four hundred buildings, large and small, destroyed, covering seventy-four acres, in the heart of the business portion of the city, with a loss estimated from \$75,000,000 to \$125,000,000. The photographs which we reproduce in this issue of Sunshine give a fair idea of the clean sweep made. The offices of the Sun Life of Canada were in the Union Trust building, one of the many large buildings burned. This Company is temporarily located at 315 North Charles street.



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 "Prosperous and Progressive."