

taking profits as a trade center for adjacent tributary country—and as to this function Tacoma is in prospect fully at par with not only the twin cities, but also with Chicago, owing to the surpassing wealth of natural resources backing her—in addition to this, we say, Tacoma is located directly in the international and trade route and highway, chosen by nature's inflexible topography of upraise, rock and scarp—we may well challenge the world on this score; has the very best of all harbors, not a single exception admitted or worth listening to, though we respectfully listen; less than any other of port charges for ships calling here, and more suitable ground for a vast railway center and operations than any other Coast city of the Pacific ocean, or any other ocean, on either side. (See Donald Fletcher's lucid, authoritative and able showing.)

Therefore, give us leave to say, and giving it not, we take it, willy-nilly, for we are absolute in this, our conviction, founded on the rock of Truth, that though the limits of Chicago's growth are beyond reach of the true prophet's vision, we are clear in the opinion that Tacoma will beat her in the next 25 years, maybe less. For smaller towns, we do not see them.

REAL ESTATE DEALS FOR 1906.

The business in Tacoma realty deals during 1906 almost trebled that of the previous year and more than doubled that of any previous year.

The transfers aggregate in number 12,217, of a total expressed consideration of \$20,274,135.

The nearest approach to that is found in the boom year of 1891, when the transfers aggregated in value \$9,537,757.

For 1905 the transfers numbered 6,156, of a value of \$7,770,075.

For 1904 the transfers numbered 6,806, of a value of \$7,019,530.

For 1903 the transfers numbered 6,806, of a value of \$4,646,537.

For 1902 the transfers numbered 6,862, of a value of \$4,436,025.

Of course, it is well understood that few of the deeds give the real consideration. If the actual conditions were carried in the deeds of last year, the value would probably approximate \$60,000,000.

MUNICIPAL WORK IN 1906.

Municipal improvements amounting in cost to more than \$1,000,000 were made in the year closing December 31, 1906, in continuation of the general system started in 1905. The principal expenditures for 1906 were:

Ten miles street paving, \$600,000.

Nine miles grading, \$90,000.

Twenty miles cement walks, \$105,000.

Thirteen miles wooden walks, \$30,000.

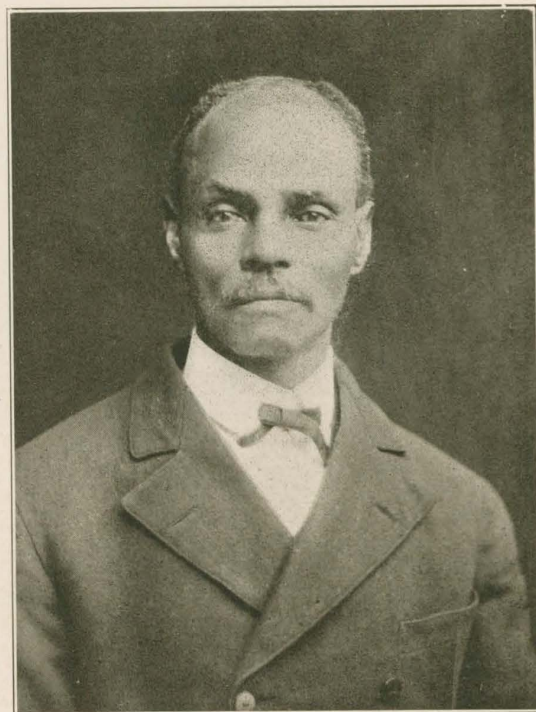
Fifteen miles sewer, \$70,000.

South Tacoma trunk sewer, four miles, \$60,000.

Twenty-two miles water mains, \$120,000.

Total, \$1,075,000.

Plans for this year are for improvements that will amount to as much as, if not more than, the work done last year.



Joseph P. Bennett, the custodian of the Haller Building, has been in charge of the building since it was erected. There is no man in this city for whom his employer has more respect or in whom he reposes more confidence than Theodor N. Haller has and does for "Joe." And well he might, for Mr. Bennett has no other thought than the building that he has cared for these seventeen years. Mr. Bennett has led an adventurous life. He left home (West Indies) on a French ship, was kidnaped from it and put in prison by the Confederates at New Orleans, was released by the intervention of the British consul, and immediately enlisted in the Union Army. After the war he came to the Coast and was for years a steward on the Oriental liners. He came to Seattle seventeen years ago and accepted the position he now holds. He is a member of the G. A. R., G. U. O. O. F. and A. F. and A. M. Lodge, and is one of the best known men of color in this city.

SPOKANE BY THE FALLS.

No city in the Northwest is more progressive than Spokane. She has a population of 100,000, made up from Uncle Sam's best. There are more real moneyed men in Spokane than any other city of its size in the Northwest, she boasting of a long string of multimillionaires. These millionaires, for the most part, made their money by operating gold and silver mines, located in a mineral section of which Spokane is both the geographical as well as commercial center. The city has doubled in population within the past five years, and the members of the Booster Club are hoping to see it double its present population within the next decade. If Spokane gets no other trade except the trade from her surrounding country, then she is even destined to be a great commercial center. So long as her mines continue to give up large quantities of gold and her fertile lands produce millions of bushels of wheat, and all converging to