

Consolidation or Consumption?

Subject	Grade Level	Time
Social Studies	7th (Adjustable 6-8)	75 minutes

Overview

Utilizing Old City Hall for its original purpose, council meetings, this lesson plan asks students to consider and weigh in on an important moment in the colonial history of Whatcom County, namely the consolidation of the towns of Whatcom and Fairhaven. Students get a tour of Old City Hall, and then are led through some primary documents related to the 1903 consolidation that created Bellingham. After Educator facilitated speeches, the students grill the mayors of the towns before casting their votes yay or nay.

Objectives/Standards

Social Studies (grade 7)

H3.7 Understands that there are multiple perspectives and interpretations of historical events.

SSS3.7 Deliberates public issues.

C4.7 Understands civic involvement

Vocabulary

Materials and Resources

Primary document pack

Ballots and ballot box for voting

Historical costume flourishes for educators

Lesson Body

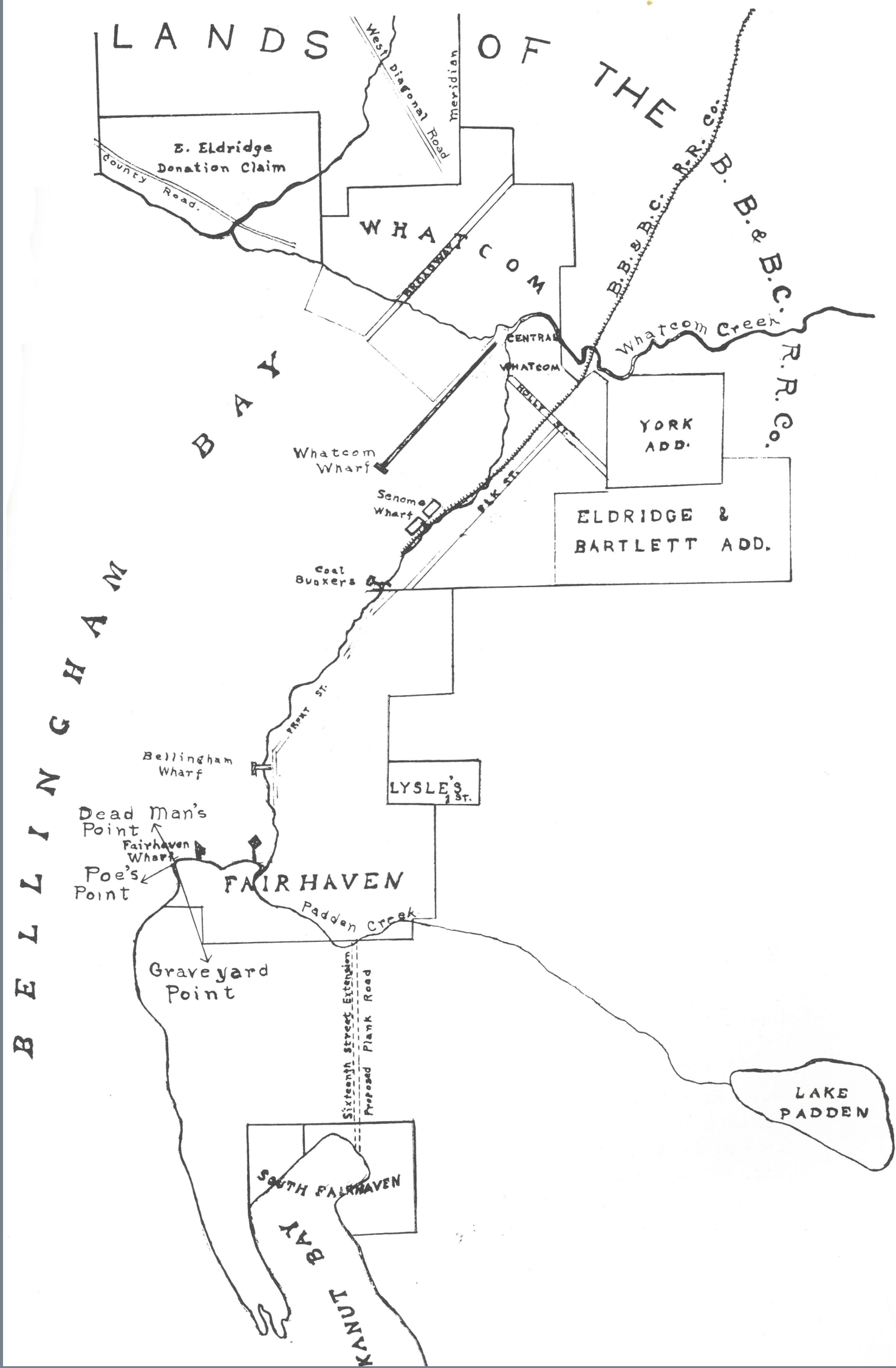
1. Students begin at Old City Hall with a brief introduction by educators, along with usual Museum Manners synopsis. (5 min)
2. Students tour the Old City Hall galleries (lumber and maritime) (20 min)
3. Students gather in Rotunda Room, and working in small groups examine primary documents and asking questions document. (15 min)
4. Town Hall begins with Educators delivering speeches as LN Griffin (Mayor of Fairhaven) and JB Bennet (Mayor of Whatcom). (10 min)
5. Students ask questions of the Mayors (10 min)
6. Students vote on consolidation and result is determined. (5 min)
7. Debrief of actual history. (5 min)



WHATCOM MUSEUM

PRIMARY DOCUMENTS
PACKAGE

Consolidation or Consumption?



MAP BY LELAH JACKSON EDSON FROM THE FOURTH CORNER,
MODIFIED FOR CLARITY BY WM STAFF

A FEW CONSOLIDATED FACTS ON CONSOLIDATION

PLAIN QUESTIONS TO PLAIN PEOPLE!

Consolidation Will Consolidate Business Centers.

Do the property owners of Fairhaven who purchased lots from the Fairhaven Land Company on the assurance that the center of business would be about the corner of Twelfth and Harris, desire that business center removed two and one-half miles to the north?

Would this removal of the business center enhance the value of Fairhaven property?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Post Offices.

Do the people of Fairhaven who get their mail at the general delivery of the postoffice; those who purchase stamps and money orders; send and receive registered letters and parcels, wish to go to Whatcom to transact this business?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Insurance Offices.

Is it the desire of our people to drive out every Insurance Agency in the city, and by that means lose a number of our best business citizens?

Consolidation Will Consolidate the Railroad Depots on the Bay.

Do the people of Fairhaven desire to release Mr. James J. Hill from the written contract by which he is now bound to maintain and support *in the City of Fairhaven*, as good a depot as anywhere on the line?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Telephone Offices.

Do people who send and receive long distance telephone messages, desire to have our Telephone Office removed to Whatcom?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Express Offices.

Do the citizens of Fairhaven who send and receive express matter want to be compelled to go to Whatcom to do so?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Telegraph Offices.

Do the citizens of Fairhaven who send telegraph messages want to go to Whatcom to transact that business?

Consolidation Will Consolidate School Districts.

Such School District will be entitled to but one High School. It will necessitate the construction of an expensive building. Such building will be located in Whatcom, where there is a majority of High School Scholars. Do the citizens of Fairhaven desire to compel their children to go to Whatcom to attend High School?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Fire Departments.

Do our Fire Boys desire that their Chief and our Fire Engine, shall be transferred to Whatcom?

Consolidation Will Consolidate Population.

Do business men and property owners desire that the population of Fairhaven be decreased twenty-five per cent. within 60 days after consolidation?

Do the people of Fairhaven desire to release the Street Car Company from all obligations by which they are now bound, so that in future, they can make all improvements at the Whatcom end of the Bay?

Do the people of Fairhaven want to be placed under the rule and dominion of the "Cornwall Company;" a corporation that never pays a tax; never fulfills a promise, and never does anything to advance and develop the industrial interests of the Bay?

Consolidation will place the City Government in the hands of the Whatcom Council. Can Fairhaven laborers and contractors expect recognition and employment at their hands?

All Electors, should give these and other questions, deliberate consideration before casting their vote.

CONSOLIDATION IS GOOD FOR ALL

Brief and Pertinent Extracts From the Expressions of Men of Affairs on the Subject of Merging the Cities of Fairhaven and Whatcom.—Opinions of Friends and Strangers That Will Appeal to All Residents of Bellingham Bay.

The Eldridge Opinion.

Hugh Eldridge (postmaster of Whatcom)—My mother, who owns some property from the top of the hill this side of Chuckanut bay all the way to John Bennett's place, is very much in favor of consolidation. She believes that every foot of her property will be benefited, particularly that portion lying within the limits of Fairhaven.

Increase Our Prestige.

H. L. Dickinson, (after spending some time in cities up-sound.)—The universal expression was: "We are glad you are going to get together up there; you ought to have done it long ago." All concede that such a movement will increase our prestige and make us the fourth city in size in the state. I was told that this point was growing faster than any other place in Washington, with the exception of Seattle.

Consolidation and Prosperity.

John Matson (painter and paper hanger.)—I favor consolidation, for I honestly believe if we unite our forces we will prosper more than ever before. We will be a city, whereas now we are only a town. We never will be anything more or less so long as we are ruled by our present political bosses. Now that the head of our schools has united with the political wire-pullers and tax dodgers, I think it's time for us workingmen to wake up and think for ourselves, and vote for consolidation and prosperity.

Advantages of a City.

J. Tiedje, (painter)—I voted for consolidation before and will vote so again. As a workingman I believe that it will benefit the whole community, giving us the advantages of a city.

Interests Are Identical.

Prof. R. W. Doane (state fisheries expert).—The interests of the two towns are certainly the same. Together you can accomplish more. The prestige of a large place will go far toward promoting the growth of the city.

For the Good of All.

C. W. Stoddard (ex-councilman of Whatcom).—The consolidation of Whatcom and Fairhaven is the proper thing. Every foot of property from the mouth of Squilicum creek to Chuckanut bay would be increased in value.

Will Help Fairhaven.

F. B. Graves (merchant, formerly of Fairhaven, now of Whatcom).—One good town has more prestige than two small ones. Consolidation will help everybody on Bellingham Bay, and particularly in Fairhaven.

Separated Figures Hurt.

Jacob Beck (proprietor of Beck's theater)—In endeavoring to negotiate a loan on my property I was confronted with Whatcom's rating given by the last official census. Financiers were not anxious to place money on a \$150,000 theater in a town of only 6,800 people. I found that many loan companies would not consider taking real estate security in towns of less than 25,000 people. A new census after consolidation would give us more than that number. Any reasonable man should see that consolidation would be of great benefit. I know it will help me and I am in favor of it.

One Reason is Enough.

Geo. W. Quimby.—After consolidation our mail will be delivered at our doors daily, rain or shine. This alone is, in my opinion, sufficient to induce any working man living in Fairhaven to vote for consolidation.

All Property Will Increase.

J. M. Miller (Pioneer Fairhaven real estate dealer).—I am in favor of consolidation first, last and all the time. I own property in both Whatcom and Fairhaven, and I know that its value would increase under consolidation. Every foot of property on the Bay would be more valuable.

One Harmonious Whole.

J. M. Witter.—We are ready to make the towns one harmonious whole, and so enter upon an era of prosperity hitherto hindered by sectional rivalry.

Assume Dignity of City.

H. E. Hadley (former superior judge of Whatcom county, now associate justice of state supreme court.)—There is no demand for two real cities on Bellingham Bay, and they will never be built. It must be one city or none. We must therefore continue in the struggle as two rival towns where it is well known to the world that we can stand in the door yards of one and look into those of the other, or we must cast aside our townish appearance and assume the dignity, magnitude and common purpose of a city. * * * Other efforts along the line of union have been made, notably the movement to establish a union high school, proposed by the veteran educator, our old friend Professor Hughes of Fairhaven.

FAIRHAVEN TIMES.

VOL. V.

FAIRHAVEN, WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 24, 1903.

No. 13

CONSOLIDATION ARGUMENTS.

Various arguments are hotly pressed for and against consolidation under the pending proposition and the main contentions of both sides are here summarized for the edification of anybody:

FOR CONSOLIDATION.

Consolidation would add power and prestige to both towns.

It would make us a city of the first class with more than 20,000 population.

It would give us first class fire protection and reduce insurance rates.

Fairhaven would get free delivery mail service and would have a sub-station.

It is better to be the dull part of a live city than to be the whole corpse of a dead town.

Rates of interest on borrowed money would be reduced and more money would seek investment here.

Many capitalists decline to loan money upon property in towns of less than 20,000 population.

Consolidation would crush the prejudices of rivalry and bring all our forces together in one harness.

It would enhance the value of all property in proportion as it would increase the population of the city.

Bellingham is a good name, but as nearly everybody prefers to keep the established name of Whatcom, the old name can easily be restored after election.

The consolidated city, with more than 20,000 population, would attract investors, capitalists and manufacturers who would not regard with favor two separate communities of 16,000 and 6,000 population.

We would consolidate as a city of the second class, but would at once take a census and if the result showed a population of more than 20,000 we would prepare and adopt a charter and enter the first class.

One united city of 25,000 population is a far greater attraction for capital, commerce and industry than the same population divided into two rival towns working at cross-purposes.

It would result in reducing our tax levies because consolidation would bring the immense waterfront properties of Fairhaven, now exempt from municipal taxation, into the list of property taxable for city purposes.

AGAINST CONSOLIDATION.

Consolidation would bring sectional strife and bitterness.

It would place Fairhaven at the mercy of Whatcom.

Fairhaven would be incapable of independent action for her own interests.

She would be out-voted in every meeting of the city council.

It would remove a strong inducement for Fairhavenites to patronize Fairhaven stores.

It would impair the value of Harris street as a retail business district.

It would add nothing to the natural advantages of Fairhaven nor hasten their use.

It is better to be a whole little dog than to be the wagged part of a big dog.

Everett declines to qualify as a city of the first class, because it is too expensive for cities of her size.

To become a city of the second class would be suicidal. There has never been a city of the second class in this state.

Our large corporations would carry every clause of the second class city laws to the supreme court before paying their taxes.

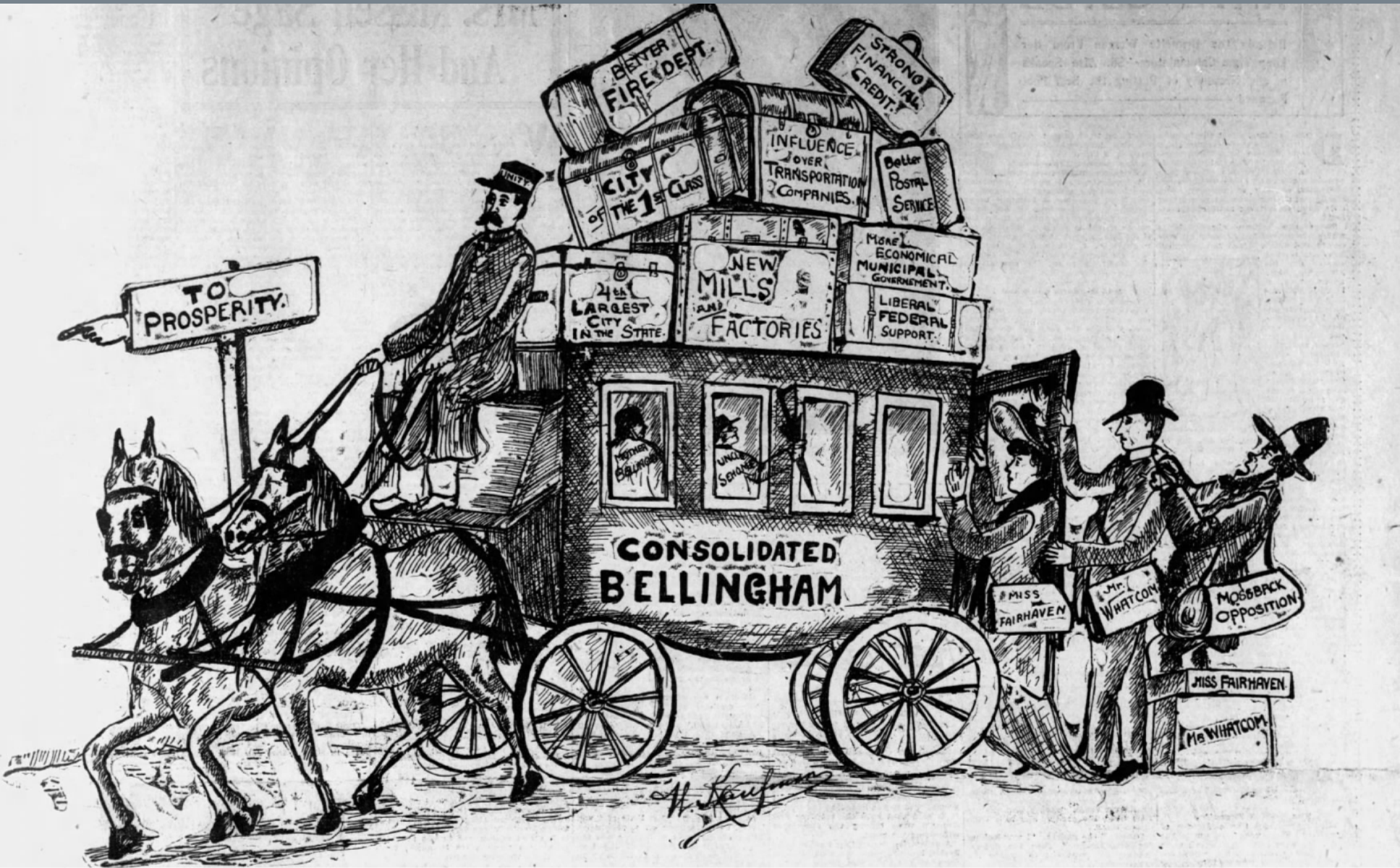
It cost the Bay cities thousands of dollars to adjudicate the laws governing cities of the third class, and the whole program is reopened by the second class.

Our large corporations for a number of years refused to pay a dollar into our city treasuries pending the contesting in the supreme court of every point of third class city authority.

If Whatcom has 19,000 population now, she should be ready next year to become a city of the first class, and consolidation then would be a more logical enterprise, without the pause of throwing us into the second class.

It is childish folly to discard an old,

established name for a new, longer and confusing one. It is not a concession to the small prejudice of Fairhaven, because nine out of every ten Fairhaven men would rather retain the name Whatcom than to adopt the new name Bellingham.



CARTOON BY W. KAUFMAN,
FROM THE EVENING HERALD,
PUBLISHED OCT 24, 1903

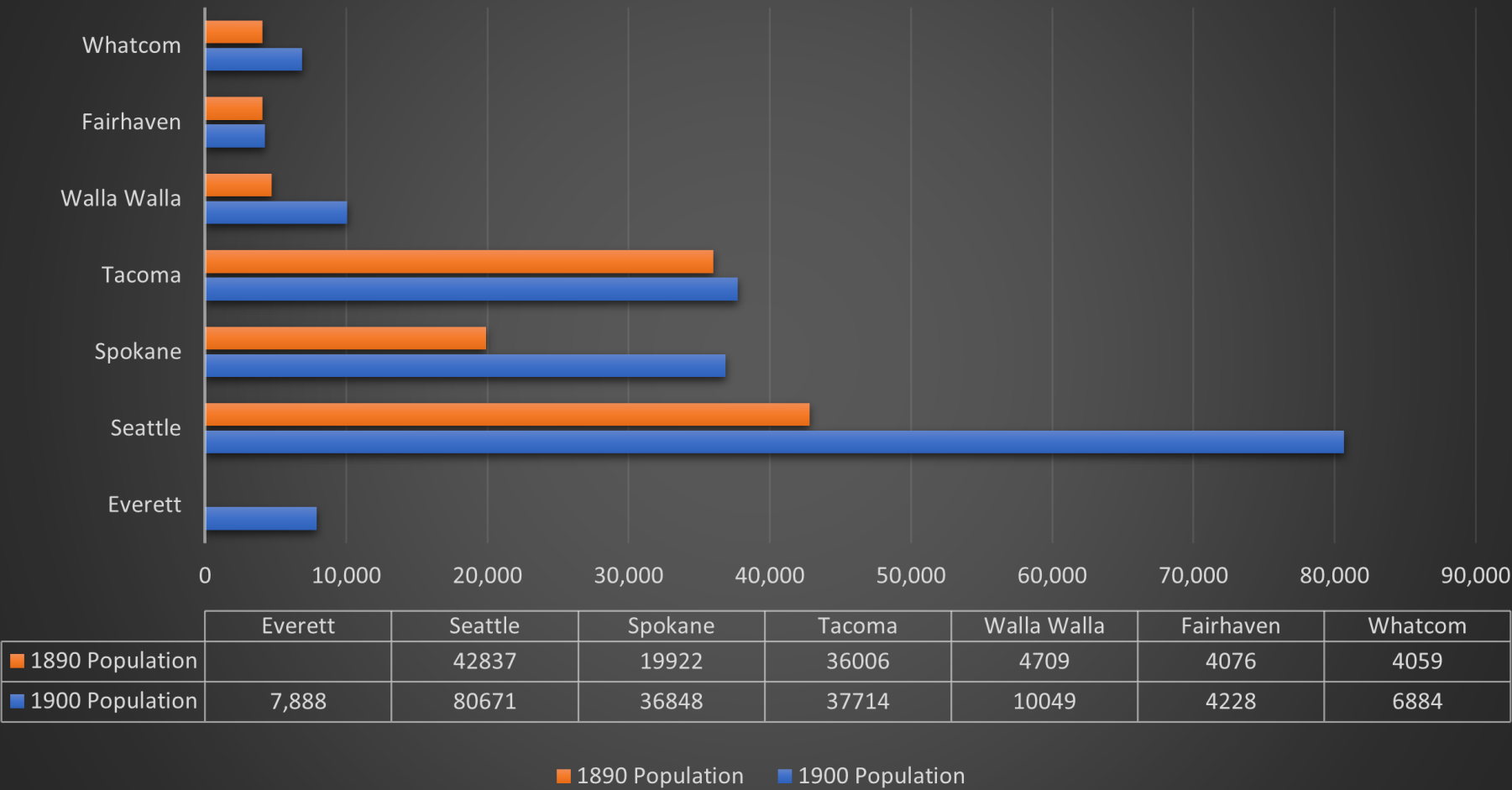
Valuable Vocab

MOSSBACK-NOUN-AN
EXTREMELY OLD
FASHIONED OR
REACTIONARY PERSON



FROM MERRIAM-WEBSTERS
DICTIONARY ONLINE

1890-1900 Population



POPULATION OF MAJOR CITIES IN WASHINGTON STATE,
STATISTICS FROM THE WA STATE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Identify

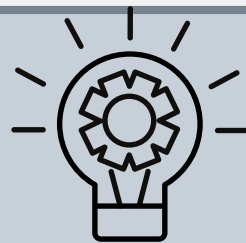


WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE FOR CONSOLIDATION, AGAINST IT, OR NEUTRAL?

WHO IS NAMED IN MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS?

IN 1900, WHICH CITY IS LARGER, WHATCOM OR FAIRHAVEN

Interpret



WHAT DO FAIRHAVEN PEOPLE FEAR CONSOLIDATION WILL LEAD TO?

WHAT BENEFITS DO WHATCOM PEOPLE HOPE CONSOLIDATION WILL BRING?

Wonder



WHY MIGHT A LARGER CITY BE BETTER THAN A SMALLER ONE?

WHY MIGHT PEOPLE PREFER TWO SMALL TOWNS OVER A BIG CITY?