

even more than that of the present. Business men, recognizing the advantages the townsite possessed, invested their means and settled down with the intention of making this their future home and field of activity. This spirit has wrought wonders, and is still working toward greater achievements. Aladdin's castle was created in a night, but the power which brought it into being removed it with equal celerity. Not so with this magical city. Its growth was almost as phenomenal, but even its creators have not the power to undo the work of their hands, and Yakima will be numbered among the leading cities of the West when the name of every man who gave it birth shall have been forgotten.

In the center of the great system of rivers and valleys which constitute the Yakima country, lies the city which will be the metropolis of the surrounding hills, valleys and mountains when they shall have become the homes of many thousands of people. Nature has opened the mountains that the waters of a vast region may unite their volumes here, and has provided passes through the mountains, by easy grades, for railroads to bear from this point to the sea the products of a great and rapidly developing region.

When the Northern Pacific decided to begin actual construction upon the Cascades division, the officials of the land department made a careful examination of the Yakima country. It was plainly evident that in this region there would spring up a large inland city, the center of trade for the great agricultural, mineral and timber district through which the road would run. Being also the geographical center of the territory, and, when the road was completed, the point most accessible from all portions of it, there seemed little doubt that a city, suitably located and properly laid

out, would receive the general preference for the state capital, when, in the wisdom of congress, the time should arrive for the admission of Washington into the sisterhood of states. Their examination resulted in the decision that the site described above was the natural commercial center of the country. In this valley they found the town of Yakima City, containing about five hundred people, and transacting the business for a large portion of this new and sparsely settled region. In several respects the town did not meet the requirements for a great inland metropolis, and the officials were compelled to decide between adopting it, with its imperfections, or founding a new one. The latter course was decided upon, as being the wisest one to pursue, and a site, in every way eligible, was selected, three and one-half miles north of the old town. This was surveyed and laid out in blocks, lots, streets and alleys, with plots reserved for public uses, state capitol and other buildings of a public and educational character. To compensate the people of the old town as much as possible, the company offered to donate to such of them as would remove their buildings to North Yakima, the name chosen for the town, or would erect new ones there, business and residence property equivalent in value to that occupied by them in the old town.

As soon as this decision was announced, there was a great rush of enterprising business men to the new town site. The company immediately began the construction of depot, side tracks, etc., and the work was commenced on two score of buildings almost in a day. Several business men of the old town, clearly appreciating the situation, immediately began the removal of their buildings, or the construction of new ones, upon lots accepted on the company's proposition. Others held back and