

THE WEST SHORE.

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THE CITY OF TACOMA.



HERE is but one Tacoma. It is the city whose natural location, whose established commercial connections, whose varied and extensive resources, have given it such material prosperity, and assured it such a substantial future as to attract the attention of all who keep posted in regard to the development of the Pacific Northwest. It is the city which has made greater strides in the past year than any other north of California, and west of the Rocky mountains. The object of this article is to show the causes which have brought the city into existence, and the reasons why its future greatness can not be open to question.

Tacoma does not depend upon any one resource for its future growth. Many cities in the Mississippi valley have grown into commercial importance by having centered in them an extensive trade in grain. Pennsylvania has her cities built up by the manufacture of iron. In Colorado, cities have been the outgrowth of the development of her extensive mines. In Michigan, the lumber industry has developed great commercial centers. In California, cities of metropolitan importance have sprung up in a few years, in regions where the fruit industry is their chief resource. Tacoma is so favorably located as to enjoy all of the natural advantages which contribute to the growth and development of a large city, and in this particular she is unlike other cities, which have grown wonderfully with limited resources, as compared with those of Tacoma. If any one of the following named industries, to-wit: The handling of grain, the manufacture of iron, the converting of tim-

ber into merchantable lumber, the raising of fruit and canning and drying the same for market, the development of mines of precious metals, the exporting and importing of the products of other countries, has been sufficient to develop and sustain cities of several scores of thousands of people, what shall be said of the prospects for the future growth of that city whose natural location is such that she has for her resources, not only all of those mentioned, but many more?

In order to consider the subject fully, let us inquire into the natural sources of wealth which are tributary to Tacoma; first, of the country in general, and afterwards the particular locality in which Tacoma is situated. Tacoma is located at the head of navigation on Puget sound, in Washington Territory. The territory comprises sixty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-four square miles, of which it is estimated fifteen million acres are tillable. The eastern portion of the territory is largely prairie land, adapted to the raising of grain. The Cascade range of mountains separates the eastern portion of the territory from the western, and a little to the west of the center. The western portion of the territory is covered with a magnificent growth of fir, spruce and cedar timber, the finest in the world, and estimated to have contained, originally, one hundred and sixty billion feet, of which only about three billion feet have as yet been cut out.

The climatic conditions of these two divisions of the territory are marked. The western portion has a climate which is mild and moist, owing to the influence of the Japan current, which strikes the Pacific coast on the western shore of the territory. Every variety of climate and soil can be found in Washington Territory. In the southeastern portion of the territory, grapes, peaches, and fruits which thrive in warmer countries, are raised successfully and in abundance. In the Yakima and Kittitas valleys, just east of the Cascade range, both of which are highly productive under irrigation, immense crops of barley,