

grain and vegetables are produced. All of the country lying south and east of the Columbia river, clear through to the Rocky mountains, is adapted to raising wheat, the average yield for the acreage now in use being thirty bushels per acre. This region, which is generally known as the Columbia river basin, and sometimes called the Inland Empire, comprises about twenty-five million acres, capable of producing, when tilled to its fullest capacity, upward of two hundred million bushels of wheat per annum, the annual surplus of which has already reached the very considerable bulk of fifteen millions of bushels. West of the Cascade range of mountains, are found extensive fertile valleys, which yield, under the influence of a moist, mild climate, immense crops of hops, hay and vegetables, and the clay loam uplands, when cleared, yield plentifully of hardy fruits, such as apples, pears, prunes, plums, cherries and small fruits. Immediately east of Tacoma, about thirty miles distant, are found extensive deposits of coal, which have been reliably estimated to be worth more than the value of all the precious metals ever produced in golden California. These deposits vary in thickness from three to twenty feet, and are believed to extend throughout the Cascade range of mountains, from the extreme northern to the extreme southern boundary of the territory. The coal measures of this field have been opened up, and its mines are now being rapidly developed, upwards of one thousand tons per day finding shipment from Tacoma. Near by, have been discovered extensive deposits of iron, copper and marble. On the eastern slope of the Cascade range of mountains, rich mines of gold and silver are being worked, and in the Salmon river district, located in the central part of the northern portion of the territory, have been discovered ledges of gold and silver which bid fair to rival, in richness, the mines of an Eldorado. Immediately adjacent to Tacoma, and on the islands in Puget sound, tributary to this city, are extensive lime quarries, which supply, to a large extent, the market of the Pacific coast. In no portion of the world is there found, in such close proximity for manufacturing purposes, iron ore, coking coal and lime, the three essentials for the manufacture of iron and steel. The iron and lime are both found on navigable waters, and can thus be transported to Tacoma at very small expense. As the resources of the territory become more generally developed, there is found ample justification for the statement, that no similar area of the United States, or the world, enjoys so much and varied wealth in natural resources as Washington Territory.

The location of Tacoma is most favorable for reaping the greatest benefits arising from the development of these resources. It is situated at the head of

navigation on Puget sound, which is an arm of the Pacific ocean, extending in, through the Straits of Fuca, to the wharves at Tacoma, without reef or rock, open for navigation three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. The Straits of Fuca are thirteen miles in width, and present a favorable highway for navigators, who frequently sail their craft to Tacoma without assistance of pilot or tug. The safety of Puget sound for navigation is attested by the fact that no vessel has ever been lost between the Straits of Fuca and Tacoma. Vessels of the deepest draft can land at the wharves at Tacoma at any stage of tide. Commencement bay, on which Tacoma is located, is all that could be desired, being land-locked and capable of affording anchorage for all the vessels which will find their way here for cargoes. The local trade of Puget sound is tributary to Tacoma by numerous local steamers. The immense wheat fields of Eastern Washington are tributary to Tacoma by the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific, which has recently been completed across the Cascade mountains, and which, with other feeding lines, reaches the heart of the richest and most populous portions of Eastern Washington. The trade of the mining districts above referred to, is tributary to Tacoma by steamers on the Columbia river, in Eastern Washington, and thence to Tacoma by rail. On the south, Tacoma enjoys connection direct with Oregon and California, by means of the Pacific division of the Northern Pacific railroad to Portland, Oregon, and thence to San Francisco by the Oregon & California railroad. The main line of the Northern Pacific railroad, to St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, extends directly east from Tacoma, through the Cascade mountains and Eastern Washington. The trade of Eastern Oregon is tributary to Tacoma by connections made with the Union Pacific railroad, in the southeastern portion of the territory. Thus it will be seen that the channels of trade already established in the territory center at Tacoma.

Tacoma was chosen as the western terminus of the Northern Pacific railroad by a resolution of the board of directors of that company, passed in 1873. Owing to the financial difficulties under which that corporation labored, but little development was evidenced in the place until 1880, from which time its growth has been rapid. Its greatest growth has been within the last year, since the completion of the main line of the road across the Cascade mountains, which at one time were considered an insurmountable barrier. Knowing that a great city would inevitably spring up at the point on the tide water of the Pacific coast at which its road would terminate, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company's management years ago purchased, in and around the town site of