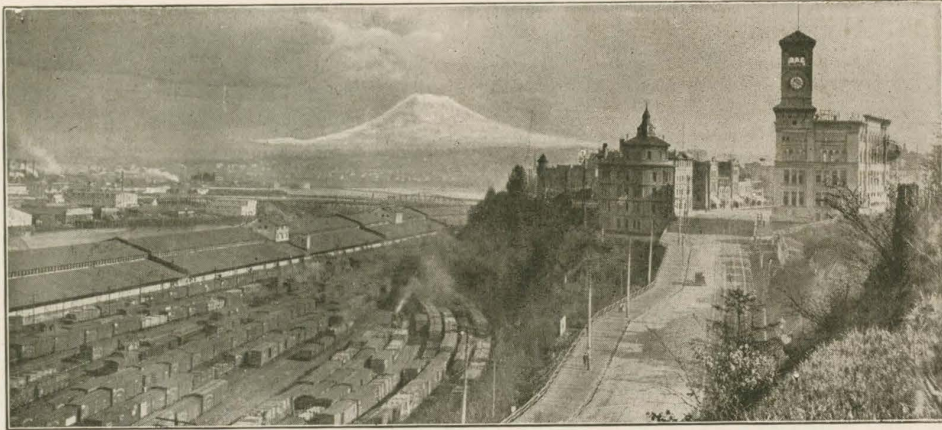




THE NORTHWEST METROPOLIS.

By R. F. Radebaugh.

When we speak of Tacoma as surely destined to become the metropolis of the Northwest, we mean to include a wide range of territory. The term is to be defined as embracing Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and Alaska. The "metropolis of the Northwest" has been on the move, lo! these many years; but in coming to Tacoma, on the verge of the great ocean, it can go no further. It abides here and gives laugh to dreaming aspirants that have gone before. Cincinnati, away back in the Buckeye state, now accounted far East—pioneering scene of the elder Nick Longworth, our Alice's grandfather-in-law—was the metropolis of the "Northwest" of nearly three generations ago, and her newspapers of that time rang the changes upon her ascendant star and the happy and golden prospect. But her term of rule was of short duration, and her scepter fell away under the lengthening shadow of the giant of the lakes. Chicago became the metropolis of a greater Northwest lying beyond, and yet towers, higher and higher, as the seasons pass, trade center for teeming, multiplying millions—national emporium, indeed, world marvel among inland cities, and whose limits of expansion lie beyond vision of the true prophet.

Again, in the like direction, the width of two states beyond, northerly and westerly, as the course of empire takes it way, the later "Northwest" pitched its tent at the Falls of St. Anthony, and there became builder of Minneapolis and St. Paul, twin cities,

at the head of the Mississippi Valley, the commercial center of still another and more extended "Northwest," reaching to the summit of the Rocky Mountains. Minneapolis journals of twenty years ago, exalting and promoting, declared that their location seemed destined, from geographical, political, industrial, commercial and transportation considerations, to become the central metropolis of the continent—the future seat of North American empire. They quoted extensively some French-Canadian, who, writing in a then current number of the North American Review, maintained that "continental union" was the ultimate destiny of Canada and the United States, and added the comment that Minneapolis would be the continental capital. Thus so wild, for inlanders, like noisy geese.

Next come we to a long step in the westward course. The process is again being repeated, this time for all the vast region north of 42 degrees which lies west of the Rocky Mountain range, the latest "Northwest," and the greatest, though not the last, for Alaska is left. The developments here, on the continental boundary at tidewater, facing the Orient in trade connection, with its many hundred millions, are destined to so far supersede and eclipse those of the twin cities that the latter will almost pass out of ken of the world at large when the name of Tacoma will be leading among the maritime cities, which are the greatest, and her fame ringing in the ears of all men from darkest Africa through Asia, Europe, America and the islands of the sea.

For, note the difference between inlanders and seaport—and such a seaport! In addition to serving and

