

armoured by the crystallized sentiment of the old Orient. The ultimate battalia are the forces which make for progress in Nature, forces perennially radiating, swift and electrolytic, yet reconstructive, when recognized, mild and genial in action as the Spring, yet universally compelling towards the ever-changing, ever-perfecting order of the cosmos. The operative agencies visible to the eye are those of commerce. Unintermittently the armadas of peace, the argosies of the Northwest, bear to and from the margin of Asia the produce mutually productive of betterment and wealth. Mutual interests bind together commercial correspondents, and the reciprocated cordiality of mercantile communities is the seed of international amity. The increasing wealth and independence of Asiatic traders begets partiality towards that order of things from which their material amelioration has arisen; with increased intercourse the horizon broadens, prejudice melts, and the nuclei of old world commerce perceive in the advance of the newer order the irresistible movement of events, an advance intolerant of aged infancy, before which the ancient races must die out of the old stagnant civilization, and be born into the life of the modern order, or must decline and wither. From the foci of commerce to the seats of authority is often but a step, and with realization of the issues at stake the law of self-preservation will inevitably compel the self-assimilation of the old world to the spirit and progress of the new.

THE BASE OF OPERATIONS.

As the base of operations in this campaign, the Northwest littoral of our continent discharges a cosmic function. Its ports become world-ports (not mere gateways of trade and currency), but portals of progress—doors of embarkation, whence go forth the forces that overcome in the contest of the ages, but which overcome to re-establish with enlarged consciousness the organic life of the race. If the Germans (as Goethe told them on the field of Valmy) could say they had been present at the beginning of a new epoch, much more may every active inhabitant of Tacoma and Seattle, Vancouver and North Vancouver feel that he is contributing to that maritime base whose operations have already begun to change the condition of Asia.

The last vantage point chosen by Canada in this contest is the new maritime city of North Vancouver, to the advent of which, at the present time, wide significance attaches. The following cursory glance at the British Columbia littoral will indicate the most important points in the Canadian base of operations. The international bearings of Canada's western commerce having first been touched upon, it here becomes requisite to turn to those aspects referring more particularly to the Pacific province and cities of the Dominion.