# NATURE'S METROPOLIS

Chicago and the Great West

WILLIAM CRONON

W-W-NORTON & COMPANY
New York London

# **Contents**

# MAPS AND GRAPHS PREFACE

# PROLOGUE: Cloud over Chicago

#### PART I

#### TO BE THE CENTRAL CITY

# 1: Dreaming the Metropolis

Patterns on a Prairie Landscape 23

Booster Dreams 31

Metropolis and Empire 41

Reading Turner Backwards 46

#### 2: Rails and Water

Market in the Mud 55

Artificial Corridors 63

Railroad Time 74

The Logic of Capital 81

#### CONTENTS

#### PART II

# NATURE TO MARKET

3:	Pricing the Future: Grain	97
	Prairie into Farm 97	
	A Sack's Journey 104	
	The Golden Stream 109	
	Futures 120	
	Boundary Disputes 132	
	Necessary Fictions 142	
4:	The Wealth of Nature: Lumber	148
	Where Value Comes From 148	
	From Forest to Prairie 151	
	The Business of Lumber 159	
	Cargo Market 169	
	Buying by Rail 180	
	Lost Hinterlands 183	
	The Cutover 200	
5:	Annihilating Space: Meat	207
	The Great Bovine City of the World 207	
	Slaughtering the Bison 213	
	Open Range and Feed Lot 218	
	Porkopolis 225	
	Storing the Winter 230	
	Triumph of the Packers 235	
	Unremembered Deaths 247	

# CONTENTS

# PART III

# THE GEOGRAPHY OF CAPITAL

6:	Gateway City	263
	Mapping Capital 263	
	Credit Flows 269	
	The Urban Hierarchy 279	
	Gateway Rivalry: Chicago and St. Louis 295	
7:	The Busy Hive	310
	Reaping the Factory's Harvest 310	
	The Merchant's World: Prerailroad 318	
	The Merchant's World: Postrailroad 32-f	
	Catalogs on Kitchen Tables 333	
8:	White City Pilgrimage	341
	The Great Fair 341	
	Miracle of the Phoenix 345	
	Metropolitan Vice 350	
	The Moral Economy of City and Country 357	
	City and Country as a Unity 364	
EPI	LOGUE: Where We Were Driving 371	
API	PENDIX: Methodological Note on the Bankruptcy Maps	387
NO	TES 391	
BIB	SLIOGRAPHY 471	
IND	DEX 505	

Illustrations follow pages 168 and 328