

# MOUNT VERNON ARGUS.

July 10, 1908

## WILL HARNESS THE SKAGIT

Engineers Will Soon Complete Preliminary Work

### HUGE DAM TO BE BUILT

Installation of Plant Will Require Investment of Five or Six Million Dollars – A number of Serious Engineering Problems to Master.

N. Aall, of Seattle, electrical engineer of the Skagit Power Co., was in the city last Tuesday. During the past eight months Mr. Aall with a corps of engineers has been engaged on preliminary work for his company north of Marblemount. The Skagit Power Co. was incorporated for the purpose of harnessing the water power of the Skagit River. The exploitation work of Mr. Aall and his assistants comprehend the possible cost, possibilities, and physical environments and barriers which would result in the development of the Skagit's splendid water power. Mr. Aall says that the utilization of Skagit's water power is not only practicable but capable of tremendous possibilities. His company plans to develop 75,000 or 100,000 horse power.

Mr. Aall says he will recommend two sites which are admirably adapted for a dam, one above and one below the canyon. Should the dam be built above the canyon it will be necessary to construct four miles of flume, but if built below only two miles will be required. The canyon is situated about five miles below the confluence of Skagit river and Thunder creek. The huge engineering operations of the company will probably be not far removed from Goodell's landing, which is situated fifteen miles north

of Marblemount. The canyon through which the Skagit flows is nearly five miles long. Mr. Aall roughly estimates the cost of the development of the Skagit's water power at between five and six million dollars. He says that sufficient power can be developed to turn every industrial wheel on the wetsside for years to come. The development of this splendid motive power will play an important part in satisfactorily solving in the Northwest the industrial problems of the future. Cheap motive power is one of the greatest factors required to successfully compete with the East in the industrial development of the West. The utilization of Washington's magnificent water power will largely aid it in removing one of the most serious barriers to low cost of production.

Mr. Aall expects to soon have all preliminary work completed for the company. Transportation is one of the serious problems confronting the company in the development of its power plant. To remove the hundreds of tons of cement and the ponderous machinery and physical equipments which will be required for the plant over an impassable mountain trail would involve almost an impossible task and tremendous cost. Some plan must be

figured out for rapid and cheap transportation. Probably a trolley electric system will be employed for the purpose. The cement will probably be purchased at Baker, but the machinery and equipment will have to be hauled in from the outside.

It is understood that it is the intention of the company to begin development work this fall, and vigorously prosecute construction work throughout the winter. They are financially strong and abundantly able to command the money with which to build the plant.

Mr. Aall's mission to this city at the present time was to get his pack horses, which were fed here last winter. He says that there is great activity in the Thunder creek mining region at the present time. One company alone that is prosecuting extensive operations there this season employs forty-five horses in its pack train, and already ninety pack horses have passed in with supplies. He anticipates many favorable reports from this promising mining region before the season closes.