

# MOUNT VERNON ARGUS.

September 4, 1908

## SKAGIT'S HUGE WATER POWER

Denver Capitalists will Harness Waters of Skagit

### A SPLENDID ENTERPRISE

Will Require an Investment of Several Million Dollars – A Native Son of Skagit  
Seeks the Nomination of County Commissioner

"I fully believe that Skagit County has one of the finest undeveloped water powers in the world," declared Mr. Paul Von Pressentin, while in the city a few days ago.

"There is, indeed, untold wealth in Skagit's magnificent water power," continued Mr. Von Pressentin. For months past a corps of civil engineers under the supervision of Chief Engineer Mitton has been making a through survey for the Skagit Power Company of the water power of the Skagit River above Marblemount, and have about completed the preliminary work. The survey has shown that 75,000 horse power could easily be developed in the Skagit alone. And it is estimated that there is available in Baker River and other near by streams 50,000 or 75,000 additional owner that could also be developed when required. The development of Skagit's tremendous water power will be one of the greatest industrial achievements of the century. This huge industrial undertaking is being promoted by a coterie of Denver capitalists who have abundant financial resources to develop the power. The guiding spirit of the enterprise is E. M. Biggs, of Denver, who is vice president of one of its leading financial institutions. Another gentleman who is

associated in the enterprise is Mr. Parker, also of Denver. The later gentleman has personally inaugurated a number of huge irrigation plants in Mexico. Mr. Parker recently made a personal inspection of Skagit's water power and was so deeply impressed with its immense possibilities that it said he strongly favors its developments. Engineers Mitton is confident that the preliminary survey will be finished within thirty days. Doubtless, no construction work will be done this fall, but there is reason to believe that developments along the line will be begun next fall. The development of this huge water power will require an investment of four or five million dollars.

"We have experienced an unusually active year at the north end. The construction of the large cement plant at Concrete has given impetus to every line of business. The springing into existence of Baker, an active, bustling manufacturing center within the brief period of a few months is almost miraculous. We mountaineers are confident within a few years Baker will have a population of several thousand and become one of the most important industrial towns of the county. There is in sight 25 miles of cement

bearing ore, in fact, an inexhaustible supply of this valuable building material.”

“Yes, I am on a campaigning tour,” said Mr. Von Pressentin, “I have almost the solid support of our people. We feel, and I believe justly, that we are entitled to a commissioner. We have not had a representative on the board for years. Would it surprise you to know that we pay a large share of the taxes in the county, in fact, far more than is distributed among us for road, bridge and other county improvements. I am a native son of Skagit county and feel that wherever I may be in the county that I am at home and among my people.”