

The council of Seattle, upon the report of a competent engineer, decided to provide for supplying the city with water from Rock creek, a tributary to Cedar river, flowing into it about twenty-six miles northwest of the city. This involves an aqueduct or conduit to conduct the water to reservoirs in the city, the discharge being obtained by gravity, pumps only being used for such part of the city as may be too high to be thus supplied from the proposed source. Rock creek is to be relied upon as the principal source of supply, but instead of piping the water direct to the city it is recommended that it be conducted into Swan lake with such other water as may come in the way, and that this lake be used as a head or impounding reservoir for the city water works. At the head of Rock creek, and in the vicinity of the little lakes lying on the divide between the Cedar and the White and Green rivers, west of Rock creek, there will always be a rural population very few in number. The ground throughout this region is a glacial drift, of a gravelly nature, which readily absorbs water and watery substances. This combination of a sparse population, with a wooded country and a porous soil, is such as to reduce to a minimum the chances of contamination. Rock creek at the point it is proposed to drain it is 556 feet above high tide in Seattle harbor. Swan lake is 475 feet high. By far the larger part of the city is less than 200 feet above the harbor. From Swan lake it is proposed to feed two reservoirs having different elevations located within the city limits. The plan of water works proposed for the city may therefore be said to embrace a high service and a low service gravity system, each supplied through one conduit from Swan lake, and a high service pumping system supplied from the upper reservoir for such portions of the city as can not be reached by the high service gravity works. The supply being drawn mainly from Rock creek through Swan and intermediate lakes, will contribute the amount they are capable of furnishing, the estimate being based on a supply of 25,000,000 gallons daily.

Fall river valley is, in many respects, the most desirable place for a home in California. It is the southernmost valley of the Pit river system and is situated mostly in the northeastern portion of Shasta county, a small portion being in Lassen county, at an altitude of 3,100 feet above the sea level. The valley has daily stage communication with Redding, eighty-five miles distant, and a tri-weekly stage and mail runs to Sisson, sixty miles. The traveler by private conveyance has his choice of several routes from the railroad to the valley, both toll and public roads. Two railroads are expected to soon start from the Southern Pacific for this valley—one from Anderson and the other from some point near Sisson. A telegraph line from Mott will soon be built through the valley to connect with the Alturas and Susanville line. Fall river valley, with the smaller outlying valleys immediately tributary to it, embraces about 200 square miles of tillable soil. Though the valleys, large and small, are almost destitute of trees, yet the encircling mountains are stocked with an abundance of timber, principally pine (a portion of it being sugar pine), some fir, juniper, cedar and oak, plenty to supply the home demand for fuel and lumber. The climate of Fall river valley is by far the mildest of any valley in the Pit river system. Snow usually falls in the winter but remains only a few weeks, and it quite often happens that plowing, seeding and general farm work goes on all winter. The rainfall is abundant and continues until late in the spring. The soil and climate are very favorable to the growth of all the fruits and vegetables peculiar to the temperate zones. Pears, apples, peaches, plums, cherries, grapes and even the delicate apricot are grown in this valley with perfect success, and are of exceedingly fine flavor and quality. It is

only lately that the people of the valley realized how well the country is adapted to the production of fruits, and many are now turning their attention to the planting of fruit trees.—*Swasey Mail*.

On the overland road east, twenty-three miles from Boise and eight miles this side of O. Corder's ranch, has been found a remarkably rich and extensive system of quartz ledges carrying free gold. Corder's was once a stage station and the universal stopping place for freighters, stockmen, neighboring ranchmen and the general traveling public. The country is diversified by rolling hills. The first discovery in the district was made by Mr. Neal, and it is a ledge one hundred feet in width and carries free gold plainly visible to the unaided eye in almost every piece of rock examined. The croppings of this wonderful ledge have been traced by the float for three miles, and where Mr. Neal made his location the rock pays on top and increases in richness wherever uncovered. He is now cross-cutting to ascertain its average assay value. There is a sufficient quantity of \$15 rock now in sight to keep a one-hundred-stamp mill running for months. In the immediate vicinity is a system of smaller ledges that seem to be feeders or laterals of the greater or mother ledge, all of which prospect well in free gold. The gold is unusually fine in quality and is worth \$18 or \$20 per ounce. O. Corder has run a tunnel seventy feet and struck the ledge eight feet in width. It carries the same character of gold as does the original discovery. The district also abounds in rich placers, which are being rapidly located. As usual in the majority of such discoveries thousands and thousands of men had passed and repassed over it for years with no thought of the wealth cropping out under their feet and hidden beneath; and its final discovery was by accident.—*Boise (Idaho) Democrat*.

In speaking of the timber resources of Alaska the *Canadian Lumberman* says: "The most common tree in Alaska is the Sitka spruce; the most valuable, the yellow cedar. Both these trees grow to a large size, some of them reaching a height of 250 feet, with a diameter of six feet near the ground. Generally they are about four feet through at the butt. The Sitka spruce makes a good coarse lumber, much like the spruce and fir of California. The yellow cedar is, however, a much more valuable tree, having a close, fine grain and being remarkable for its strength and durability. It is also very fragrant, and taking readily a fine polish becomes a most desirable cabinet wood. Hemlock is also a common tree in Alaska, with willow and alder along the water courses. The bark of the hemlock will some day become valuable for tanning purposes. Intimating that the forests of Alaska are in some sense restricted, compared with the extent of that territory, is not to say that they will ever suffer extinction. Centuries hence, when the forests further south have all disappeared, the coming generation will be able to draw their supplies from this vast timber reserve, with its power of production and its immunity from the ravages of fires, and it will prove practically inexhaustible. Owing to the moisture of the climate and the thick coat of moss that everywhere covers the ground, it is impossible for a fire to occur in the forests of Alaska."

The people of the lower sound are now circulating petitions asking that a congressional appropriation be made for the purpose of dredging the Swinomish channel. At present all steamers enroute from Tacoma and Seattle to Whatcom and lower sound points are obliged, unless the tide serves just right, either to wait for the tide or almost circumnavigate Fidalgo island, going some fifteen or twenty miles out of a straight