

The Skagit News-Herald

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DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY

RAILWAY ACTIVITY IS SKAGIT COUNTY

The Great Northern is Planning Much Improvement for Next Year

Within the next year Skagit county will be developed more than has been the case since the county has been in existence. This is made possible from the fact that Mr. James J. Hill, who deserves the title of Father of the Northwest, is planning many valuable improvements on such a nature as will bring into the county hundreds of people who will settle upon the rich lands and improve and develop the many resources.

One thing which has been neglected in Skagit county is her valuable mineral deposits. These deposits have been neglected by the transportation companies. For a number of years the mining men of Skagit Pass, of Ruby and State creek have cried out for roads and transportation facilities, but have been unable to get them. On every instance, when the state has made an appropriation for a road to these mines, the money has fallen into the hands of grafters and nothing has been done to assist the prospectors who have invested time and money in developing their various claims. There is now a movement on foot by which Mr. Hill is to tap these valuable mineral deposits with his railway and there is no longer a doubt but he will build thru from Spokane, making a truck line of what is now known as the Skagit branch tapping with

spur lines the Ruby Creek and Slate Creek country, making the deep water terminal at Anacortes. That Skagit county has paying mineral deposits there is but the slightest question. She has not only gold and silver but iron and copper and cement rock and other valuable minerals. In the State Creek country, in Whatcom county, there are many fine prospects, gold bearing rock of \$40, \$50, and even \$80 per ton is found, with whole mountains of lower grade ore. With transportation facilities all these properties can be made to pay and a great industry will be developed which now lies as dormant as the stone which encompass the mineral deposits.

But the mineral is not Mr. Hills only object, there are great forests of timber to be moved and there are fertile acres to be developed in the future.