

“Our Stone Crop,”

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“Farmers are expected to produce bread and not stone, and yet there are some owners of hill lands near the bay of San Francisco who make more from their crop of paving blocks than they can from any softer material. The subject of stone has, however, always had an agricultural significance, and the stone crop on New England farms is never affected either from winter frost or summer blight. In California, as a rule, field stones are not burdensome, though we have seen some fields which would put Massachusetts to shame with cobble covers.

“California quarries, yielding granite, marble and other rock of architectural value, are quite an item of our local resources. They are also attractive topics for illustration, as the engravings on this page show. The view in the Rocky Point granite quarry is especially interesting because of its showing of Indian picturing on the rock which is now being worked to minister to the progress of another race and another age. This quarry is situated near Exeter, Tulare county, and is of syenitic granite – a notable quarry.

“The other engraving shows a general view of one of the largest granite quarries in the world, located about three miles southeast of Raymond, Madera county. It yields a light gray granite of even texture, which lies so as to admit of separation into immense blocks. One is described about two years ago as having the entire force of 70 men then at work on it; it was 325 feet long, five to fifteen feet in thickness, and exposed for fifty feet in width, without seam or flaw.

“Granite rock occurs in nearly every county of the State and is one of our most abundant building materials. There are almost as many varieties as localities where found, the general term ‘granite’ being applied to many masses of rock that strict mineralogical classification would place differently.

“In many parts of the State railroad facilities have made possible the opening of granite quarries, the commercial value in several instances being considerable. In Placer county, at Rocklin, Griffith, Gould & Towles, and Penryn, are large quarries constantly worked, and from that locality has come much of the granite in use in this city. At the Griffith quarries, near Penryn, is opened up what is said to be the only true black granite quarry in the State. Extensive polishing works form a part of the quarrying plant at this point. The State Prison granite quarry at Folsom, Sacramento Co., also furnishes a large amount of granite. Considerable granite quarrying is also being done in the southern part of the State.



(photo caption) “Rocky Point Granite Quarry, Tulare County, showing Indian paintings and effect of a blast.”



(photo caption) “Raymond Granite Quarry, Madera County, Cal.”