

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); Oct 12, 1929;

THE GOYT VALLEY.

The Proposed Reservoir.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—May I through your columns appeal to the Stockport Corporation to spare the Goyt Valley, the most beautiful scenery within sixty miles of Stockport, from being utterly spoiled by the creation of a reservoir?

The most beautiful part of the valley—that which runs for two miles to the south above the Goyt Bridge—is to be put under the waters of the reservoir, according to the scheme which is now under consideration by the Stockport Corporation. If it were really necessary for Stockport to obtain additional water from the upper part of the Goyt Valley there would be nothing to say, as urban populations must have necessary water. Sir William Kay, the chairman of the Manchester Waterworks Committee, has, however, stated within the last fortnight not only that Manchester is willing to supply the future needs of Stockport from its Haweswater scheme, but that Manchester is already under Parliamentary obligation to supply the future needs of Stockport from Haweswater. Furthermore, Sir William Kay has stated that it would cost Stockport less to lay down pipes to bring the water from Manchester Corporation reservoirs to Stockport than it would to build reservoirs in the Goyt Valley.

Under these circumstances it would appear to be to the advantage of the ratepayers of Stockport to take the water likely to be required in the future from Haweswater rather than the Goyt Valley.

—Yours, &c.,
M. INGLEBY.
Manchester, October 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Manchester Guardian (1901-1959); Oct 15, 1929;

THE GOYT, VALLEY.

The Proposed Reservoirs.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—I was pleased to read in your issue of Saturday last the letter from Miss Ingleby on this subject, which seems to have swept away the whole assumption that the construction of these reservoirs was an economic necessity for Stockport. In view of what Sir William Kay, chairman of the Manchester Waterworks Committee, has said, who can doubt that the Stockport Corporation would actually save money by availing itself of the obligation of Manchester to supply it with water from Haweswater?

In face of this evidence, and speaking as one with no other knowledge of Stockport's affairs, but a great love for the Goyt Valley, I can only assume that there is a large volume of opinion in Stockport in favour of constructing the reservoirs from motives of local patriotism, and that the town for some reason or other is violently opposed to being beholden to Manchester, even though it would thereby actually save money.

Lastly, there is a body of opinion in existence that honestly sees nothing in the Goyt Valley that will be missed after the waters have closed upon its trees and heather. It is clearly hopeless to argue with these people. An extremist of this "school of thought" has gone so far as to describe the Goyt Valley as "a wilderness of blackened tree stumps and withered shrubs": he has evidently not extended his researches into the reasons for the fame of the River Goyt beyond the immediate purlieus of Stockport and New Mills!—Yours, &c.,

T. H. SOWLER.
Manchester, October 14.