

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920

WILL IMPROVE RIVER AT ONCE

Commercial Club Hears Officially of Government's \$30,000 Appropriation for Work

At the regular meeting of the Mount Vernon Commercial club Monday night it was announced to the members officially that \$30,000 was available for the improvement of the lower Skagit river. This appropriation was made by congress last year. According to a letter received by John Kill, chairman of the club's river committee from Congressman Lin H. Hadley, the federal engineers have approved the work. The letter also stated that before the work could be started, a bond must be filed protecting the government against claims for damages on account of the work to be done.

The work to be taken up under the appropriation calls for the dredging of the Skagit channel from the mouth up at least as far as Mount Vernon and the building of retaining walls where needed. Government engineers estimate that it will require at least \$45,000 to complete the task contemplated at this time and an effort is now being made to secure an additional appropriation of \$15,000 to finish the project. The work, however, is to be begun at once and carried as far as the money available will permit.

Mr. Hadley's letter suggested that the club committee get in touch with the district engineer's office at Seattle in regard to the work and the club so ordered the committee.

The future status of the band again was brought before the club and before the band committee's report was adopted much debate ensued, mostly over the proposition of whether the band would be allowed to play at pavement dances. The committee's resolution as finally adopted provides: First, that the Commercial club will finance the band; second, that a committee of three shall have entire charge of the organization acting practically as its managers; third, that the instruments and uniforms not property of the members shall belong to the club; fourth, that the band shall be prohibited from playing at pavement dances as a Commercial Club band without the permission of the committee of three and a majority vote of the band members; fifth, that the band give a series of high-class entertainments to secure funds for the purchase of uniforms, music, etc. The committee stated that the uniforms had already been ordered and would be here for Decoration Day.

No discussion of the dairymen's plant was had although when John Kill was asked whether the plant was really going to Burlington replied that the directors had decided to build the plant on "neutral ground" between that town and Mount Vernon. He stated that it was their intention not to benefit one place more than any other but that they wished to place the plant where it would do the greatest good.

The club also went on record as favoring any movement which the county officials might make in closing up public dance halls located outside of any corporate limits in the county. The vote was unanimous and it is expected that these notorious dives, especially the one at the Burlington fair grounds would be closed at once.

The question of police protection was discussed and the club finally moved to have a committee call upon the city council to see whether steps could not be taken to provide this protection. If such measures cannot be taken, then a patrol will be provided by the business men themselves.

The club added fifteen new members at this meeting.