

SEND FLOOD DATA TO CONG. HADLEY

**Figures Show Enormous Loss in
Damage and Cost of Protec-
Against the River.**

J. W. Collins on Saturday mailed to Congressman Lin H. Hadley available data on flood damage from the Skagit river. This data although not as complete as was desired, gives some convincing figures of the amount of water that has come down the Skagit in flood periods. Mr. Collins secured information from J. E. Stewart, an engineer who has been working for the past week or so collecting figures on past floods and their damage. He is working under the direction of the board of county commissioners.

Other information was secured from H. A. Herzog, chief engineer of the Great Northern; J. M. Clapp, of general engineering practice; H. L. Willis, chairman of the citizens' committees; Capt. F. A. Siegel, of the U. S. snagboat, Swinomish; Frank Gilkey, county engineer; Judge Augustus Brawley, Auditor Walter Barrow and Assessor W. H. Whitney.

The report to Mr. Hadley first gives figures of flood periods as shown by the government station near Sedro-Woolley from 1908 and 1918, exclusive of 1909 and 1917. The station was discontinued in 1918. This shows four freshets came in November, two in June, one in January, one in April.

Mr. Stewart has obtained proof that this valley was visited by a flood in 1861 and there are figures for the fall freshet of 1894, 1896, 1897, 1906 and on up to 1921. The flood of 1909 was the largest flood of recent time.

The total damage estimated in dollars for the period from 1894 to 1921 has been given at more than five and a quarter millions.

As to the probable recurrence, the report states, "Engineers who are familiar with river control problems state that a history of any stream for a period of eighty to a hundred years will give reasonable data as to the probable events as of the succeeding hundred year period."

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The report shows that the twenty-one diking districts which take in approximately forty thousand acres of land. "There has been," it states, an expenditure up to and including the year 1921, of \$1,087,779 by the organized districts for flood control. There has also been expended by individuals and co-operative organizations not regularly incorporated an additional \$900,000 bring the total expenditures for the flood protection by the residents of the Skagit Delta to the staggering total of \$1,987,799."

The report tells of the filling up of the Skagit at the mouth, which it says will force the abandonment of the diking system for protection. It states the South fork channel has filled 16 feet in twenty-nine years.

The report describes very comprehensively the territory involved in the Skagit floods and closes with the statement that "the people of this valley are continually menaced by loss and damage which, if not checked will ultimately result in the practical abandonment of intensive farming as carried on at present. The facts above indicate that the people have already spent the enormous sum of \$50 an acre over the entire district for measures which have not achieved the result sought."

It is the plan of Mr. Hadley to secure at least the \$45,000 which has been recommended by the federal engineers for the Skagit and he will take up the matter with the committee before which this matter is to come.

A letter received by the Mount Vernon Commercial Club from Mr. Hadley stated that consideration of the Skagit river flood conditions would not be taken up as soon. SunEs, a. not be taken up in committee until after the flood problems of the Mississippi river are reviewed. Mr. Hadley, who wrote under date of December 13, said he expected the Skagit question would be considered within several days and at that time he would arrange for a hearing and present the available data.

The congressman stated that he did not believe it advisable to send a representative from Skagit to this hearing.

Mr. Hadley's letter concluded with, "This is not a case of deciding upon the character of the improvement, but a decision upon the part of the committee as to whether it will recommend a preliminary survey to be made. If the bill passes, providing for such a survey, then will come the inquiry on the part of the officials of the government at which further hearing can be had as to the necessary kind of improvement to effect the result desired."