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County Ready For River Bank Work; Now up to State

Need Critical, Says Walberg as County, City Unite on Job

With both jobs classed as emergencies, estimates and plans for rock fills at two points on the river front have been submitted to the Flood Control Engineer at Olympia, according to H. O. Walberg, county engineer. "We consider these problems critical," said Walberg, "so critical that we have started the powder work at the quarry."

The two projects, known as Unit Seven and Unit Four, extend from the bridge south for several blocks and along the river bank near the Darigold plant. Number Seven, or immediately south of the bridge will get first attention with an estimated 6,000 yards of rock. After safety is assured at that point, 3,600 yards will be dumped at the lower unit.

Basalt rock will be quarried on the 10-acre plot north of Sterling bend. Powder experts will supervise the drilling of holes patterned to break up the rock as it is blown from the hillside. Both large and small rock is necessary for the job, Walberg said. The small is used as a filter blanket to bind the wall. As to the permanency of the project, Walberg cited similar work done on the Panama Canal by DeLesseps, saying that it is still there and anything short of comparative permanency would be folly where the danger is so great as it is in Mount Vernon.

"We are much concerned with the bridge approaches," said the engineer. That, he stated, was the beginning of the investigation. The city agreed then to cooperate with the county, selling \$5,000 worth of bonds to handle the job. The money has already been transferred to the county. The rock and equipment is to be furnished by the county by the agreement. Although "We do not know if we have a job until it is passed upon favorably at Olympia" we are ready for action, said Walberg.

Soundings were made early this week and it was found that the river is 33 feet deep just south of the bridge with the wall approximately on a one to one slope. There will be variations in the slope but the engineers are hopeful that the average will hit at about that figure. With a 33 foot depth, it is 61 feet from the street elevation to the lowest point. It is expected that the wall of rock will be about five feet at its thickest point. Logs may have to be removed at a few points but little soil will be disturbed.

Walberg pointed out that fine sand seems to have filtered from spots undermining some of the bank. The rock fill with the filter blanket is expected to prevent further undermining.

Speaking of the drilling operations, the engineer said that it might be possible to loosen around 6,000 tons with one blast. At any rate, said Walberg, we are getting ready for action and approval from Olympia will find us hauling rock before further damage is done by high water.