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SKAGIT BAY DIKING PROJECT SHOWN UP BY STATE ENGINEER

**SAYS PLAN IS NOT FEASIBLE AND LAND NOT WORTH RECLAIMING - WOULD COST ALMOST \$260 PER ACRE
FOR DIKE**

The Skagit Bay diking project, which has been extensively advertised, and under which it was proposed to reclaim 9,300 acres of land at Skagit Bay near the mouth of the Skagit River, was inspected recently by E. M. Chandler, chief engineer of the Washington State Reclamation service and Prof. S. J. Sievers of the Washington State College. These men made a personal survey of the entire district, and in a report, filed with the state board say that, the plan is impracticable and infeasible. It is shown that the location of the lands and the character of the tides would require exceptionally high and strong dikes, and that the cost would be more than \$260 per acre for diking, with the engineers believing that in several parts of the district successful diking would be impossible. Owing to the character of the land, expensive pumping plants would be needed to keep off seepage, and this expense would add much to the cost per acre.

A survey made of the soil shows that if the entire tract was reclaimed, only 150 acres would be found to be tillable land. The remainder is almost entire sand, practically devoid of plant food, and that it is doubtful whether it could ever be used for agricultural purposes. The investigation of the project was made at the joint request of the United States postal authorities, the Seattle Advertising club and Sparks & Dye, the owners of the land.