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DRAINAGE PROJECT IN LOWER VALLEY IS BIGGEST IN COUNTY

WILL RECLAIM 13,000 ACRES OF LOW LANDS WEST OF BURLINGTON - WILL COST THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION.

After being four years in process of formation, the biggest drainage projects ever planned in the Skagit County, and one of the biggest on the Pacific coast is now rapidly taking shape, and the first hearing on the project will be held before the board of the county commissioners early in July. More than 15,000 acres of rich farm land are included in the area to be drained, and the work of constructing the main and lateral ditches, building dams and out flow gates, with the necessary machinery, will require and expenditure of more than \$750,000. It is estimated that the land within the district will be assessed between \$45 and \$50 per acre to pay for the improvement. Damages to be allowed for land taken for right of way for dikes, dams and other necessary items are expected to be exceptionally large.

The main ditch will start west of Burlington, near the hill on the Knutzen farm, and run southerly through the lands of the Conner Land company to North Avon. From there it runs westerly through the low lands near Fredonia and on to empty into the slough at Whitney. When completed thousands of acres of what is now practically waste land will be reclaimed and made highly productive. It is estimated that it will take several years to finish the work. Practically every person who owns land within the area of the drainage district is in favor of the improvement, and at

this time it seems certain that the district will be officially organized and work started within a few months. John Meehan, former county engineer, is in charge of the engineering work on the project and will likely be in charge of construction.