

The Skagit News

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DIKES AND FISHERIES

Upon the call of Representative J. E. Nelson quite a large number of Skagit county people who are interested in the subjects of dikes and fisheries gathered in the court house in Mount Vernon last Tuesday and a thorough discussion was had of the needs of the county in relation to the above subjects. In the matter of improving the diking system it was the universal opinion that the first and most important steps to be taken is to secure the removal of the "boom works" from the mouth of the river so that the water will carry its load of debris out to sea instead of depositing it in the river channels where it forms a dam to the free outlet. Old settlers related that in the early days before the erection of the "boom works" there were three clear channels out to deep water with a depth of from 16 to 18 feet of water, but immediately following the construction of the "boom works" the channels began to fill up with drift until now there is but one navigable channel and that has only a depth of about 6 or 8 feet in a most tortuous channel. To remedy this state of affairs it is recommended that the "boom works" be removed from their present location, and petitions setting forth the facts in regard to choking up of the river have been prepared and will be signed in the form of affidavits for presentation to the legislature and will further ask that some action be taken to remedy the present desperate state of affairs.

Another fact emphasizing the necessity of removing the "boom works" is

the opinion of the U.S. engineers, who are now making a preliminary reconnaissance of the ground to be covered by the intended improvement dredging operations, that the dredging cannot be done unless the "boom works" are removed as they are now in the way of the proposed channel that is to be dredged out.

In regard to the fishing interests it was the general opinion that laws should be passed prohibiting the erection of traps in or near the mouth of any river or in any "fish runway." And further that the state would foster the fishing industry by the establishment of an additional number of hatcheries.

Representative Nelson makes a request that the commissioners of the several diking districts throughout the county prepare a statement of the lessons occasioned in their district by floods in the past two years, and it would be well to add to the amount of property destroyed the depreciation in the value of the lands by reason of these floods, the entire statement to be signed by the commissioners and under the seal of their district. He asks that these statements be prepared at once and mailed to him either at Mount Vernon or Olympia, at the earliest possible moment as he wishes to use the information in preparing a statement, of the damages wrought by floods here, to the legislature so that the members may see the necessity of immediate action in the matter.