

The Skagit News-Herald

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HIGHEST WATER IN MANY YEARS

SKAGIT RIVER GOES ON BIG RAMPAGE

All Bridges are Damaged and Dikes Broken in a Number of Places Along the River

While no great amount of damage resulted, it is never the less a fact that the old timer does not remember when the Skagit river contained as much water as it did Thursday night and Friday, and only prompt action on the part of the city officials and citizens saved the town from being inundated. The dikes here were very secure and did not break but the torrents of water poured over them and it was only by prompt action on the part of the citizens, who labored like Trojans filling sacks of sand and placing them in the low places, that saved the city from another baptism worse than that of 1897, as the water was at least eight inches higher than it was during that memorable freshet.

Above and below the city the dikes gave way, but as the water will give benefit rather than damage to the lands that were flooded, there will not great amount of damage result.

The greatest damage done is to the numerous bridges along the river. The railway bridge between this city and Burlington has been greatly damaged and one span of the Mt. Vernon bridge was swept away which leaves the city practically cut away from all communications. No trains are running and no word has been

received. It is believed the bridge at Baker has been carried away.

The Great Northern railway bridge was saved but the drift struck the draw and turned it around so displacing things that it will take eight or ten days work before trains will be able to cross. The bridge at this place will never lament with safety, one span carried away, the others injured. A ferry will be established and sustained here until such time as a new bridge can be constructed. Any reports about great loss of life can be branded as false. One man, Mr. H. Peterson, of this place, was injured on the bridge by running against a crank which turns the draw, injuring himself internally and later dying from his injuries. This is the only loss of life known at any point for which the flood was indirectly responsible. These floods are fraught with no great danger and throughout the country where the dikes gave way there has been no loss of life and but little damage to property and the farmers are not at all discouraged or alarmed about the future. The dikes in the main remained secure and when the damaged dikes are repaired they will be made sufficiently strong to withstand all future floods. Any home seeker or investor when contemplating coming to Skagit Valley

should not hesitate to do so for in truth these floods are of no great consequence except what damage is done to bridges. They really benefit the land, but there is no doubt but in future years the dikes will be so strengthen as to withstand these floods and the country back of them will always remain dry.