

U. S. ENGINEERS NOT FAVORABLE TO DREDGING

A letter written by U. S. Senator Homer T. Bone last April 26, and received here by Mrs. W. F. McCormick, secretary of Skagit Pomona Grange, revealed that the chief of engineers, U. S. war department, considers the dredging of the lower Skagit as "inadvisable" at the present time. The letter from Bone, and several others, was read at last night's pomona meeting.

C. F. Shrauger, special representative of the Skagit River Dredging association, at Washington, D. C., telegraphed last week that war department chiefs had reported themselves as favorable to the dredging plan. This was four days after Bone's letter was written. Shrauger is expected back from Washington, D. C., Saturday or Sunday and will probably throw additional light on the subject.

Major Gen. E. M. Markham, chief of army engineers, wrote to Bone as follows on the subject:

"I have recently had a report from the division engineer, north Pacific division, advising me that three of the subsidiary sloughs were closed by the construction of dams or dikes at their heads in 1910 and 1911. These dikes have been reinforced and reconstructed from time to time. Their purpose was to confine the river discharge to one channel and thus increase the navigable capacity of the south fork of the river.

"If the sloughs were opened, the water would be divided between the open sloughs and the main channel, and the existing navigation channel would be destroyed. This channel is used by tugboats towing logs from Tom Moore slough and from points up the river to Utsaladdy where they are taken in tow by deep water towboats.

"The work was authorized by congress in the river and harbor act of June 25, 1910. The removal of these closing works could not be undertaken without further congressional action. This action would appear inadvisable at the present time as it would seriously interfere with the use of the south

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fork by navigation."

Another letter received by Mrs. McCormick, from Congressman Wallgren, stated that since he had become a member of congress, he had endeavored to secure an appropriation of \$100,000 for the purpose of constructing a dredge to be located on Puget Sound. "So far I have been unsuccessful in my efforts, but I shall continue to insist upon an appropriation for this purpose," Wallgren wrote.

Senator Lewis Schwellenbach wrote State Senator L. L. Todd, who is a prominent granger, that he had taken the dredging proposal up with war department engineers and asked for a report.