

Mount Vernon Herald

JANUARY 10, 1918

FLOOD WATERS ARE RECEDING

The flood waters of the Skagit valley are gradually receding and in a short time, the rancher will be able to walk upon that which he calls ground and view the results of a vicious Skagit river.

Individuals are now counting up their losses. Estimates of the aggregate loss to farmers, householders, the county and state in roads and bridges, and to the public service corporations are largely guesswork. The real loss will never be computed. It is large, probably larger than that caused by the freshet of eight years ago. Particularly is this true in the case of the railways, the telephone companies and the county in its roads and bridges. The railways are really hard hit, and while the main lines will be opened this week, it will be several weeks before the branches are opened to traffic, and months before all the damage to the tracks and roadbeds is repaired.

Great Northern Rushes Work

The Great Northern lost no time in getting its crew to work and the job of reconstructing the roadbed has been rushed to the limit during the past week. Busy crews labored twenty-four hours each day in a strenuous effort to get the roadbed in shape to allow the trains to pass.

Train connections have been made, however, and the city and county points have been provided with service and the mails have been coming in regularly during the past three days.

Mail routes are being established on schedule as fast as possible.

Whole Valley Flooded

Reports from all points of the valley show that more or less water and damage was the result of the freshet. Roads everywhere are in bad shape and will require a good deal of money to put them all back in a passable condition.

The county is badly hit and the commissioners in session this week decided to review the county roads and put them in shape at the earliest possible date.

Losses Variously Estimated

Losses are reported from almost all points where the flood reached. Some are cases where the ranchers lost livestock, others lost buildings and fences, while still others report heavy losses in produce and stock on hand. The losses are variously estimated and in all likelihood, no accurate figure will be compiled to show the aggregate loss to the valley.

Many Tales of Travel

During the few days when the flood waters were at their worst, many tales are told of how people traveled around the county. Most of the stories tell of much foot travel here and there.

Herald by Special Messengers

In the midst of the trouble, when it was hard to get in or out of a place, the Mount Vernon Herald went to press with the distribution a serious problem. However, as soon as the papers were off the press, special messengers were sent to Clear Lake, Sedro-Woolley, Burlington and to the Bow post offices. These post offices were reached by “hoofing it” and the subscribers served as usual.