

MOUNT VERNON ARGUS.

November 26, 1909

THE SKAGIT IS FALLING

The River Reached Highest Point Tuesday Night.

RIVER OVERFLOWS BANKS

Upper and Lower River Points Were Threatened with a Flood – A Number of Road Washouts Only Damage Reported.

A chinook zephyr and a steady downpour during the past week or so precipitated a freshet throughout the northwest, and in some instances the mountain streams have overflowed the banks, and in consequence the county was inundated. The Skagit in the vicinity of Hamilton had overflowed its banks and caused more or less inconvenience if not damages. In the vicinity of Sedro-Woolley the river had at a number of points overflowed its banks and threatened to inundate the north end. The river reached the highest point Wednesday morning, and at the time the high water mark attained was within a foot and a half of the river bank at the west side bridge. Just south of town where the river widens out and is low the water raised above the banks. At no time was the river within four feet of the dike on the east side. On the west side the river had overflowed its banks Wednesday morning, and was within three or four feet of the top of the dike.

South of town at Skagit City, Conway, Fir and Milltown, the high water and tide caused the river to pour over its banks, and when its reached the highest point was within less than a foot of the top of the dike.

The wind, however, shifted to the southeast Tuesday, and Wednesday noon again veered to the south, the clouds gathered, and a gentle webfoot mist fell throughout the night and continued yesterday almost without interruption. During the night, however, the river had fallen a foot or two, and is now gradually receding. A number of reports which could not be verified were brought to town to the effect that a railroad bridge or two were carried away near Concrete by the high water.

During the prevalence of the storm the elastic imagination of the sensational "penny-a-liner" ran riot and scented in the wake of the flood and storm ruin and disaster everywhere. Reports of a sensational character relative to the condition of Mt. Vernon at the height of the storm were sent abroad that were utterly without foundation. At this point at no time was there any danger of a flood, particularly on the east side. At upper river points, south of this town, and on the west side the river overflowed its banks and backed up to the dike, and at Skagit City, Fir, Milltown and other down river points, it was at one time dangerously close to the top of the dike. The precipitation in the mountains during

the past two weeks has been unusually heavy, and the consequent melting of the snow in the foothills caused the rapid rise of the mountain streams. The Baker River rose to a point, the settlers say, since their residence there the Baker River had never reached. Traffic on the Great Northern Rockport branch was temporarily suspended because of the unsafe condition of the bridges. The only damage resulting from the high water are a number of road washout at upper and lower river points.

The latest reports are to the effect that all the rivers and mountain streams are gradually subsiding, which is assurance that the danger of a flood at the present time has passed.