

# MOUNT VERNON ARGUS.

December 17, 1909

## FLOOD CAUSES BIG DIKE TAXES

Dike Repairs in District Max Cost \$18,000

### BIG TAX TO MAINTAIN DIKE

The Work of Reconstruction the Dike is Begun and will be Processed as Rapidly as Possible – Owners Demand a Stronger Dike

Ole Gunderson, of this city, who is one of the commissioners of dike district No. 3, says that work was begun last Tuesday between Conway and Milltown, to repair the damages to the dike caused by the recent flood. The work of constructing the dike at this point will have to be done largely with wheel-barrows, as the tides makes it impracticable to use teams.

Mr. Gunderson says that approximately a mile and a half of dike was washed away in his district during the flood. The total damages to the dike will doubtless aggregate \$15,000 or \$18,000. There are 8,000 acres of land in this diking district. It has an outstanding indebtedness of \$21,500. The district is also expending \$20,000 or \$25,000 in constructing a drainage ditch. Because of these large expenditures for the maintenance of a diking system and the construction of a drainage ditch, the farmers at the south end are required to pay double the dike tax that the taxpayers of the city pay for the same purpose. Add to this the sum required to repair the damages to the dike during the recent flood, and it materially increases an already heavy burden on the tax payers at the south end of the district.

Mr. Gunderson says that he desires to express his sincere appreciation of the

substantial evidence of confidence he received at the recent dike election. If he had followed his personal inclinations he would not have been a candidate for re-election. But the farmers at the south end who pay a major portion of the dike taxes in the district urged that he again accept the position, and he finally reluctantly yielded to the solicitations. His associates are both capable men, and he feels confident that the new board will fully appreciate the responsibilities of the duties assigned them and will faithfully and intelligently discharge the same.

He says that the work of rebuilding the dike will be prosecuted as rapidly as possible. When the new board shall have been organized, plans for the improvement of the diking of the district will undoubtedly be formulated.