THE COURIER-TIMES

JANUARY 26, 1939

HELP CONTROL EROSION

Backed by the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, the farmers of Utopia have become roused to the necessity of immediate action to protect their farms from being washed into the river, and are really getting action. The county commissioners should be commended in their promise to purchase the new $15,000 dragline and start work on the $420,000 Skagit river project, as soon as these farmers show real evidences of planning to raise maintenance money.

With some $260,000 already spent in putting in some four miles of revetment work along the river from Hamilton to Burlington, in six projects, there have been no county funds available for maintenance, and as a result what should have been minor injuries if quickly repaired, have grown into revetment damages totaling several thousand dollars and threatening to destroy the complete project, especially at Utopia.

There is no sense in spending three quarters of a million dollars in brush, concrete and steel cables and revetment work along the Skagit river banks to protect farmland, and then not have a few thousand dollars a year available to keep a crew busy inspecting and repairing damages and doing general maintenance work.

The formation of the district, as proposed, should solve this problem. Farmers along the river, whose lands are benefitted by the revetment work, should be overjoyed to get into such a district and pay a small acreage tax, as in a diking district, if their farms can be protected from washing down stream. Damage by log tows will be at least partially avoided by log booms, as promised by the county board. It appears as if we are on the way to getting real results in this river bank protection.