

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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## Log Jam Breaks, Pours Tons of Debris on Farm; Railroad Blocked

By MRS. RAY HOYT

Railroad repair crews have been working sixteen hours a day since last Thursday trying to clear the Northern Pacific track just back of the Frank Oliver farm at Prairie, seven miles north of Sedro-Woolley, of some ten feet of tangled logs, gravel and other debris which came crashing down the mountain-side sometime between six and nine o'clock that evening.

A huge log jam, apparently released by the recent heavy rains and melted snow, suddenly broke loose far up the canyon above Heck Falls about dusk last Thursday and, gaining momentum in the increased flow of water below the falls, pummeled down into the valley, piled against and over the top of the track for an estimated eight to eleven hundred feet, and spilled over valuable hay land on the Oliver farm.

Repair crews hoped to have a

channel dug through the debris wide enough to permit trains to get through by Wednesday, but it will be some time yet before the high walls of gravel, logs and silt can be removed from either side of this channel. Oliver can never hope to get his property free of the hundreds of logs, great boulders and layer upon layer of gravel and muck which have washed over an estimated ten acres of hay and pasture land on either side of the track.

Taking as cheerful a view of his loss as possible, Oliver says he can salvage enough firewood to last him the rest of his life, and he has spotted a number of solid looking cedar logs which should be valuable as shake material after their coating of gravel and sand is removed. Damage to the farm land, which Oliver estimates to be buried under twenty-five feet of debris in some places, is irreparable.