

# MOUNT VERNON ARGUS.

December 10, 1909

## INDIANS RESCUE FLOOD CAPTIVES

John A. Olson, a prominent farmer of Skagit Island, was a business visitor in this city last Monday. Mr. Olson says that the greater number of the farms on Skagit Island escaped the flood. He attributes this to the fine system of dikes that district recently built, and largely to the vigilance of the farmers who throughout the memorable Monday night were watchmen at danger points along the dike, and busily at work strengthening the dike where it required it. Probably if some of the drones had been at work on the west side to aid the small band of workers in their superhuman attempt to save the dike, that flood-stricken district might have averted such a calamity. Human endeavor to save life and property is one of the noblest attributes of mankind.

M. Costello came down from Lyman last Tuesday. Mr. Costello is a prominent logger of the upper Skagit, where the high water of the past two weeks compelled the suspension of all logging operations on the river. He says that the recent flood was the highest he had ever seen on the river. The oldest inhabitants on the river declare that the high water mark attained during the recent flood was at least 22 inches higher than it had ever reached during a period of 22 years. During the flood a number of families were rescued from drowning by the timely assistance of three Indians – John Buck and his two brothers. A family by the name of Price who reside on a ranch near Minkler, were in desperate straits when rescued by the Indians. The high water had driven the family from the house to the barn where they found a temporary place of

safety in the hay loft. The water had reached the beams of the hay mow when the Indians arrived in a canoe and took the family to a place of safety; the Indians then returned and saved all of Mr. Price's stock. At the time Minkler was under four or five feet of water, and a number of families were in serious danger of being drowned. The Indians knew of the danger threatening these people and hastened to their rescue. Among those rescued from a perilous situation were Joe Morrow, the bookkeeper and the clerk at the Minkler store, and a number of other persons. They had been warned of the impending danger, but seemed inclined to discredit the probability of unusually high water.

There were examples of sublime moral courage and fortitude during the flood. On the west side on the river bank just north of the city quite a number of the farms were quite seriously damaged by the ravages of the flood. There is John Calbolm, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of the county. Mr. Calbolm had recently built one of the largest and finest barns in Skagit County. It was a solid structure, built to endure for ages. In its capacious hay mow had been garnered 60 tons of the choicest timothy and clover hay. On the memorable night of the flood his fine dairy herd of 20-odd milch cows and four horses had been comfortably sheltered. This thrifty farmer knew that they were threatened with a flood. However there was no apprehension for his splendid barn and its securely sheltered occupants. The evil hour came. The angry waters burst through the

dike and quickly inundated the country stretching across the flats to the sea. Under the Calbolm barn had been built a root house. Probably that weakened the foundation and gave the seething, whirling water a chance to undermine the foundation. This probably caused the huge structure to collapse and crush the life out of nearly all of the animals under it. An attempt was made to save the horses which had been caught and crushed by the weight of the breaking timbers, but all in vain, and to end their suffering the animals were finally shot. Yet under such a crushing misfortune Mr. Calbolm could see cause for gratitude that none of his family had been injured. This is, indeed, sublime fortitude and Christ-like resignation.