

MOUNT VERNON ARGUS.

December 17, 1909

Adopt A Reservoir System.

Editor Argus – So far I have noticed no one seems to have mentioned the project of inaugurating a reservoir system along the headwaters of the unruly Skagit as an auxiliary to the diking system already adopted on the lower lands about the Sound. And, to my mind a wisely engineered system of locks and dams along at proper inlets of the upper Skagit would almost of itself render any serious damage from our fall or spring floods a thing of the past. Dikes are all right in there places for reclaiming tide lands and the like; but something nearer the source of difficulty is what is needed to supplement the preventive uses of the dike. Starting up the Skagit from the G. N. R. R. bridge near Burlington there is hardly a mile that has not some cove, ravine, or water-course tributary to the Skagit, which by the expenditure of a reasonable amount of time and labor could be turned into a reservoir which at a flood – such as just receded – would retain much of that water that now passes into the Skagit to increase the damages now largely visited upon the rich farming community occupying the flats immediately about the Sound. And these reservoirs would not all be at the banks of the Skagit, but even back upon the benches, in some localities two or more miles from the river. Hardly a rancher, whose holdings border upon the highlands overlooking the Skagit, but has a small creek or rivulet whose waters flow into the Skagit; and all of these streams passing down more or less abrupt and deep ravines are no small or tiny streams during periods of heavy or long continued rains. And not one of them but could easily be dammed up to hold back

lakes of water at a danger period till the mountain torrents had somewhat spent their volume and force. And these miniature reservoirs may be made sources of great profit by turning them into irrigation purposes in the dry season when the lands below them could be made to produce crops far in excess of what would otherwise be the case.

As for the larger tributaries farther up toward the mountains, it might require more money and engineering skill to construct dams, but they could be constructed more cheaply than to depend upon dikes altogether and have, every few year, to rebuild them and new bridge as at present. The matter is certainly worthy of due consideration, if not of adoption, by the county at an early day, while considering that it will cost to repair the many washouts and other losses sustained by our last flood of the past month. Stay the waters of the upper Skagit, and its many tributaries small and large and such a thing as a damaging freshet would be forever a thing of the past.

F.D. Carson, Sedro-Woolley, December 14, 1909