

SHOW TONNAGE AT RIVER MEET

Skagit Citizens Ready with Figures for U. S. War Department.

The problems of the Skagit river were given a hearing Monday afternoon in the Seattle Chamber of Commerce before Col. Edward H. Schultz, representing the War Department of United States. The hearing had been called by the department in regard to the proposed appropriation by Congress for the improvement of Puget Sound tributary waters. The discussions and information reviewed had to do with the river from the standpoint only of navigation.

H. L. Willis presented the report which had been prepared to show the tonnage figures on the Skagit river and also gave other valuable information. He stated that the farm products originating in this county could be estimated annually at 50,000 tons of oats, 30,000 tons of hay, 12,000 tons of potatoes, 18,000 tons of straw, and 10,000 tons of general farm products.

He declared that if the Skagit river was cleared of all obstructions an increased amount of tonnage could be handled each year.

Mr. Willis, to show the great amount of tonnage available from Skagit county, particularly of the heavier farm products, declared these products would fill a freight train of 32 cars every 36 hours during an entire year.

J. W. Collins, secretary of the Mt. Vernon Commercial Club, pointed out various phases in the written report given Colonel Schultz and spoke on the matter of dredging the lower end of the river.

Capt. H. H. McDonald, pioneer of Skagit river navigation, gave some interesting figures relative to the filling up of the channel from the mouth of the river. He stated that he had built several boats during the past years and each one had been constructed with a more shallow draft than the one previous in order that it might get up the river from the Sound. He stated that he had now reached the limit on this form of construction.

J. O. Rudene also spoke on the advantages of a dredge that could be operated on this river.

The Skagit county delegation was the strongest at the hearing and the report presented to Colonel Schultz attracted keen interest particularly of Seattle officials, including Port Commissioner Cotterill.

Delegates from Snohomish, Whatcom, King and Pierce counties were also heard.

Those who attended the hearing from this county included H. L. Willis, J. W. Collins, J. O. Rudene, W. E. Moss, B. D. Moody, J. B. Hayton, George B. Reay, W. H. Franklin, Swan Swanson, Charles Nelson, Charles Elde. C. C. Callahan, of Burlington, also attended the hearing.