

1-07-1932

## FLOOD CONTROL WILL NOT BE ASSURED UNTIL RUBY CREEK DAM IS FINALLY COMPLETED SAYS ENGINEER

Present dams on the upper Skagit River would not provide flood control for the Skagit Valley in the event of a flood like that of 1917 or 1921. This is the statement made to The Argus in a special interview by Glen Smith, assistant to Seattle Light Superintendent J. D. Ross and outside engineer for that city, who was in attendance at the Grange power banquet at Rexville Monday night.

A big flow of water would fill the Diablo basin in one day, and would continue over the dam with the same disastrous effects as in previous years, Mr. Smith said.

Existing dams serve a good purpose in holding back sudden small freshets and also tend to maintain a higher water level in the valley during extremely dry years, but no safety from heavy

floods can be felt until the completion of the Ruby Creek dam, the final unit of the Seattle project.

The Ruby Creek dam will form a 30-mile lake which will extend back into Canada. This enormous basin, Mr. Smith explains, will have a capacity of 3,000,000 acre-feet (an acre foot is an acre one foot deep). To fill this huge reservoir would require fifteen days of the heaviest water flow, and 300 days at the normal flow of the river.

The completion of this dam will render impossible even such floods as the one in 1815, which Indian tradition has it, submerged much of the Skagit Valley to a depth of fifteen feet, the engineer believes.

It is hoped by the city of Seattle that money can be obtained

from the national government to assist with the construction of Ruby Creek dam, which is now being delayed on account of the financial crisis. At the present outlook, the dam may not be built for five or even ten years, Mr. Smith stated. People of Skagit Valley will be appealed to for aid in an effort to get such an appropriation on the grounds of flood control.

The work on the Skagit Project has been greatly facilitated and the strength of the dams assured by the presence of solid granite foundation rocks, which are twenty times as hard as any man can build, the Seattle engineer said. In the construction of the dam on the Skagit River has been necessary to dig 130 feet through rock to find