

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

MORE DREDGES NEEDED

Once more the feasibility of a government dredge, available for extensive channel work in Washington's troublesome rivers, has been demonstrated by a freshet, which stopped just short of inflicting real damage in the Skagit Valley.

Dikes have risen even higher, yet each freshet has found them practically at the same relative height. The explanation offered by men long experienced and by engineers has been that the bottom has constantly kept pace with the elevation of the dikes.

If this is true (and we have no reason to doubt our authority) a partial remedy, at least, is likely to be had by the deepening of the channel. To bring this about it would seem wise to ask congress to reinforce the government's present Sound equipment with one or more dredges so that rivers, such as the Skagit, may have a larger measure of flood relief.

Another thing we have learned is that the power dams are not the protection engineers promised.

ARGUS
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