

Dredge Necessary For Flood Control, Says James Squires

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To the Editor of The Argus:

Regarding flood control of rivers of Western Washington, and especially the control of flood waters in the Skagit and Samish rivers, at present we have the most substantial dikes from the Conway country to Blanchard we have ever had, thanks to the generosity of Uncle Sam. And I think everybody concerned appreciates this dike work to the fullest extent.

But let us not forget that no matter how high our dikes are built, if these two rivers get "out of control" like all of us have seen them do in the past, we will have the same old trouble, only worse. In my opinion there are two things to be done, the necessity of which is so self-evident that no proof is required.

Those two things are: dredge and straighten these two rivers properly, and construct adequate spillways.

In view of the fact that now, and in the immediate past, the government has shown more interest in this part of Washington than ever before, I think it proper that we who are subject to loss and inconvenience from overflows from the rivers should unite on some feasible plan to secure a dredge and put forth our every effort to get this work done. And if possible get dredge started at mouth of the Skagit before next winter's freshets are due—(so long to wait for legislative action and they are so apt to do the wrong thing or nothing).

At least one good point in favor is that the government has already spent a lot of money on our salt water dikes. I suggest we work harder than ever to get that fine work protected by proper dredging of Skagit and Samish rivers. And let us who are personally interested put in spillways and pay for them as we pay for insurance on our barns, hoping we will never get our money back, only the satisfaction of being protected.

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