

# Skagit County Times

DECEMBER 22, 1904.

## THE STERLING CUT-OFF

### Meeting at Commercial Club Last Tuesday

#### Some Opposition Met With by Prop- erty Owners in That Locality

The meeting held on Tuesday afternoon at the Commercial Club rooms to consider the matter of securing the right-of-way for the Sterling Bend Cut-off in the Skagit river was largely attended by the owners of property adjacent to the proposed cut-off, and the owners of property which is being damaged by the present erratic course of the river.

The urgent necessity for action in securing an appropriation as soon as possible in order to prevent the great amount of further damage threatened, seemed to be thoroughly appreciated by all who have seen the effects of the high floods during a long residence along the river, but it developed that parties who have recently settled on the river and have not had any experience of extreme high waters were unable to appreciate the possible consequences to their property should the cut-off fail to be secured.

The owner of the Ed. West place declared himself to be opposed to the cut-off, which would take a considerable part of his land, unless his whole farm was purchased at once, and as he seemed unwilling to make any agreement to sell contingent upon the appropriation being made for the work by the government, the committee, after discussing the matter with the owners of property present, and finding that in practically every case it would be possible to secure waivers of any possible damages because of the making of the cut-off, and that the meeting was emphatically and urgently in favor of the work being done, adjourned to consider plans for the securing of the right-of-way by condemnation proceedings prosecuted by the county, if possible. It is deemed unlikely that it will be possible to secure the necessary right-of-way in time to secure an appropriation from the present congress, but it is hoped that all the necessary steps for securing the right-of-way can be taken, during the two years it will be necessary to wait for the passage of the next river and harbor bill, and the committee, it is understood, will shortly hold another meeting to lay out a plan for overcoming the difficulties encountered at the meeting on Tuesday.