

THE COURIER-TIMES

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BIG CROWD LISTENS TO SEATTLE EXPERTS DISCUSS FLOOD PLAN

DAM SAID TO BE SURE CURE FOR SKAGIT VALLEY FLOODS

Engineers Uhden and Dimock of Seattle, Explain Plans for Huge Dam: Sedro-Wooley Interested.

A large crowd gathered in the Rex theatre in Mt. Vernon Tuesday evening to listen to the plans for a possible means of stopping floods by damming the water at its source. About three hundred were present. Among those in the Sedro-Wooley delegation were H. Condy, W. H. Curry, S. S. McIntyre, D. G. McIntyre, Dave Donnelly, Frank Hoehn, W. M. Kirby, Lawrence LaPlant and several others.

Mr. Uhden, the engineer in charge of the big Seattle project on the Skagit river, told all about his work, illustrating with lantern slides. He said that Seattle is planning a dam 480 feet high, on Ruby creek, which will take ten years to build, according to present plans. If Skagit county men wish to raise money to pay for the work, a flood gate dam will be built instead of a solid crest dam as at present planned.

He showed the possibilities of stopping flood which this dam would have. He said that the Skagit river had 100,000 cubic feet per second through Sedro-Wooley, while the flow through Ruby creek was 30,000 per second. The last 20 feet of the dam will take care of one-half of this volume of water for three days, during a flood, and an additional 10 feet would take care of the remainder for six days. The engineers are agreed that this dam is the only logical solution of the flood problem.

Mr. Gilkey said that his idea was to get federal aid to help build the dam with flood gates. It was stated that if the people of Skagit county wished to go in on the dam, and have Seattle change its plans, the work could be speeded up to take only five instead of ten years. Another statement made was that the damage in Skagit county for the last two floods was a million and a half of dollars.

The Ruby creek dam, a snow planned, will take 800,000 barrels of cement which is more than the Concrete cement plant produces in a year and will be the largest dam in the world. The Seattle engineer stated that the enormous horsepower which will be developed will make it possible to deliver electric power to Seattle at a cost of one-fourth cent per kilowatt hour. It is estimated that the dam as now planned will cost the city of Seattle about \$9,000,000. If the plans are changed to provide for flood gates, it will cost more. The engineers stated that it would be practically impossible for the dam to break, as no concrete dam so constructed had ever been known to break. One man stated that any means to prevent a flood will cost a huge sum, and this dam, although expensive, is a sure cure for floods.