

THE COURIER-TIMES

JANUARY 26, 1928

H. M. Eakin Consulted by Congress on Flood Help

H. M. Eakin of this city, who is recognized as a national authority on river flood relief methods, has during the past few weeks been consulted frequently by Congressmen, on his plan for stopping floods in the Mississippi river basin. At the request of members of the committee on rivers from both houses of congress he has sent detailed plans to be added to the bill being prepared for Mississippi flood relief.

Eakin, who as a United States geologist, had many years of practical experience in river affairs and is the author of textbooks and encyclopedia articles on the subject, had had a recent article of his in the Thrift magazine, quoted in over 150 daily papers of the United States. From letters received from members of Congress, it is expected that he may be called to Washington, D. C. in consultation when the flood relief bill comes up for passage. He said today that such legislation should be the joint product of science and engineering, and that as a geologist he believed many of the engineers' plans were faulty. He believes that his plan for having the Mississippi river work out its own salvation, will eliminate all flood dangers on the Skagit.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, in a recent editorial, commenting on the Sedro-Woolley man's nationally known plan for Mississippi flood relief says:

Let the River Do it!

"Nearly everyone knows something of the levee method of controlling flooded streams, but not so many know of the science of river morphology, which aims at so regulating the force of waters that the

river could not overflow its banks.

"A nation burdened with taxes and facing the necessity of preventing repetition of last year's Mississippi flood, will be inclined to regard with favor a plan suggested by Henry M. Eakin, for many years a geologist of the United States geological survey, and a recognized authority on river matters. He views the construction of higher and higher levees as useless, because in time the river will deposit between them sufficient silt to raise the level of the water as high as they can be built. By "dynamic control," he claims, the river could be made to discharge at its mouth as much silt as it takes in from its tributaries.

"The dynamic method of control," Eakin wrote in a recent issue of the magazine Thrift, "involves the management of stream energies to regulate erosion. We have in the river itself a powerful engine of construction and destruction, the natural activities of which are largely adverse. The same energies can and should be directed to useful ends. The effectiveness of the means I have developed appears to exceed any possible requirements of the conditions of the lower Mississippi."

"Because the lay mind would be unable to grasp the complexities of the science, Eakin does not indulge in a technical treatise, but his experience in the study of rivers, his standing as a scientist and the large number of recognized works which he has written on river morphology gives his words an authority which should carry weight when plans and budget allowances are being decided for Mississippi control."