

# THE COURIER-TIMES

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## River Work Passes High Water Test

### Engineers Pleased With Failure of Flood to Damage

The brush mat revetments along the Skagit river bank had their first real test last week, when the river rose fourteen and one half feet in less than twenty-four hours, after a night and a day of hard rain and warm winds in the hills. Iner Nelson, U. S. Army engineer in charge of the river bank protection projects, reported that all completed jobs were undamaged.

The river at the N. P. bridge here rose twelve feet in twelve hours during the night of October 26 and the day of October 27, raising to a point within six feet of the 1935 spring flood stage. At present the river is back to within four feet of extreme low.

The sudden rise was completely unexpected by the river engineers, as there was thought to be little snow in the hills. In past years, such a quick rise and big increase in the swiftness of the current would have caused thousands of cubic yards of Skagit farmland to be washed downstream. Below Sterling and above Burlington, for the first time, there was no land washed away, due to the perfect protection afforded by the thousands of feet of brush and concrete pavements. Other projects were equally successful in withstanding the swift current.

Engineers estimate that without the work already done, at least 200,000 cubic yards of Skagit county land would have been washed into the river, from the points now protected. Congressman Wallgren last week was eager to hear how the work would stand up under swift current and flood conditions and the engineers in charge of the job are much pleased with the way the protected banks held up.

On one job, which was partially completed, the current washed out a little brush, but this has already been repaired.