

# THE COURIER-TIMES

JUNE 20, 1946

FRANK S. EVANS, Editor and Publisher

Published at Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County, Washington, Every Thursday  
807 Metcalf Street

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Sedro-Woolley,  
Washington, under the Act of March 3, 1879

Subscription rate—\$2.50 per year in advance in county;  
outside county \$3.00 in advance

Member Washington Newspaper Publishers Association



## FARM LAND OR FISHING

The question will soon arise as to which is more important, several acres of rich Skagit valley bottom land or a river full of fish for the sportsman and the commercial fisherman.

We are referring specifically to the unquestionable possibility of one or more flood control dams that may be erected on the Skagit river. Surveys for such a dam at the Faber ferry have already been taken and these water barriers have a habit of popping up suddenly, especially in periods of unemployment.

If such a dam were to be erected on the Skagit river it would mean the saving of several acres of rich soil that is being washed away by floods. However, on the other hand, it would in all probability mean the eventual elimination of the great migratory runs of fish in the river. Past experiences with river dams have proven that even with so-called efficient fish-ladders, they have in many cases completely destroyed fish runs.

Is the value of fish runs in the Skagit more or less than the threatened farm land? In our estimation and that of state game officials and sportsmen, the fishing value is by far greater.

A system of soil erosion control by straightening channels and bank revetment work is the only answer. This would control the loss of farm lands and at the same time not destroy the fish runs.

Unfortunately, however, one of these days we may wake up and find a crew of men pouring a foundation for a new dam. The federal government too often goes ahead with such construction with little or no regard to a million dollar fishing asset.

It doesn't make sense to save a few acres of farm land at the expense of one of our most important resources.