

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

December 17, 1921

HEAVY DAMAGE WAS CAUSED BY FLOODS IN LOWER VALLEY

NO LOSS OF LIFE IS REPORTED. FARMERS SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES WHEN DIKES BREAK ON LOWER SKAGIT

Reports reaching here from Sedro-Woolley, Mount Vernon, Burlington and other points in the western end of the county are to the effect that the flood damage in that section will mount to several million dollars. Dikes along the lower Skagit, from Burlington west, broke in many places and thousands of acres of farm lands were flooded. Many dwelling houses and barns were swept from their foundations and hundreds of head of livestock drowned. Many of the residents of the flooded districts had narrow escapes when the dikes gave way, but so far as known no lives were lost.

At Hamilton the entire town was covered with water to a depth of from three to seven feet, the water entering every business house in town. Sidewalks were washed away and considerable inconvenience and small damage caused the residents, but no heavy losses are reported. Lyman and Sedro-Woolley were above the flood mark, but many losses are reported from the adjacent farming communities. It was at first reported that F. E. Eldred, a farmer of Sterling, and former resident of Concrete, had been drowned but this was later found to be untrue.

The entire city of Burlington was flooded to a depth of from three to five feet, and the damage in the city will total a large sum. Mount Vernon was entirely surrounded by water for several days, but so far as can be learned, the city itself was not flooded. Breaking of dikes near Riverside flooded the entire flats from Mount Vernon to Edison and

LaConner, and it is in this district that the greatest loss was caused. The communities of Conway and Stanwood also suffered heavily from the high waters when dikes near Stanwood gave way.

All cities of the lower valley were completely cut off from outside points between Sedro-Woolley and Everett. Mount Vernon residents were able to reach Seattle by steamboat, the Harvester making several trips during the flood period. Yesterday the G.N. was opened from Burlington to Bellingham and from Burlington to Sedro-Woolley, so railroad travel through the county is now possible by the use of both railroads. Mount Vernon is still cut off from railroad communication, but it is reported that the interurban line is open from Bellingham to that city.

Several farm residences near Burlington were swept away, the occupants being reached by rowboats. Several large barns also collapsed, and a large warehouse near LaConner, containing about 3,000 sacks of oats, was washed away. Damage to furniture and household effects on the flats is expected to be heavy, as the water was up to the eaves in many of the dwellings in that district. Many fine farms were badly cut up, and several are said to have been almost ruined by washouts and heavy layers of sand. County roads in the lower end of the county are washed out in many places and it will be several weeks before they are open for travel again.