

FLOOD DANGER HERE SEEN IN BIG SNOWFALL

Warm Rain Or Chinook Is
Feared — Late Spring
Swells Danger.

BRIDGE WEAKENS DIKE

Great Northern Structure Acts as
Partial Dam, Mount Vernon
Engineer Points Out.

BULLETIN.

At the suggestion of Judge E. Crookston, the Mount Vernon chamber of commerce this afternoon instructed President Brisky to appoint a committee to confer with the county chamber, Tuesday, on the flood danger.

Judge Crookston urged that the Puget Sound Power & Light Co. be requested to lower the level of the water in Lake Shannon, behind the Baker River dam, so the lake could absorb the surplus which will come down when the warm weather sets in.

He said that conditions now are similar to those in the spring of 1894, when the Skagit Valley was flooded. The difference now, he added, is that the forests on the hills which formerly retarded the rush of melted snow have been removed; therefore the danger is more acute.

With the Red Cross bending every energy to swell the local relief fund for Mississippi river flood sufferers to \$600 today, this city and residents of the Skagit Valley were warned that this county may shortly have a flood of its own.

The late spring, coupled with an unusually heavy fall of snow in the mountains, has set the stage for a "more than ordinary flood," according to Allan R. Moore, civil engineer of Mount Vernon, who has studied the Skagit river closely for several years and who makes frequent trips into the hills, from which the river is fed.

Warns Folk Behind Dikes.

"I do not wish to assume the role of a harbinger of disaster," said Mr. Moore today, "but those citizens of the Skagit Valley whose homes and live stock are protected from floods by dikes, should understand that the stage is partly set for a more than ordinary flood. The mountainous district to our east has as heavy a snowfall as I have seen in 15 years, with much of it recent or new snow, which is rapidly melted by a warm rain or chinook wind, and as the spring is far advanced we can expect a sudden change.

"Lake Shannon, the result of the dam at Concrete, will be of benefit during a flood, although the Baker river only represents one fifth of the total water in the Skagit river. Such a lake retards the water to some extent, lengthens the time of passing and thereby lowers the peak of the flood.

G. N. Bridge Criticized.

"One of the unfortunate conditions permitted by the government engineers is the diagonal position and oversize substructure with riprap, which carries the Great Northern railroad bridge, north of this city. This substructure obstructs one-sixth of the waterway at or near a sharp bend in the river, which causes repeated failure of the dikes above the aforesaid bridge.

"Let us hope that no sudden change in temperature comes and the fresh snow packs and hardens; then there will only be the usual June rise.

"In the meantime be prepared."