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MONEY AVAILABLE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SKAGIT RIVER

ENGINEERS APPROVE PROJECT AND \$30,000 WILL BE SPENT ON LOWER RIVER DURING THE PRESENT YEAR

Letters received in Mount Vernon this week from Congressman Lin H. Hadley carry the information that the war department engineers have approved the proposed improvement work on the lower Skagit River, and that the appropriation of \$30,000 made by congress last year for this work is immediately available. The appropriation was contingent on the proposed improvement being approved by the federal engineers, and the work has been held up to this time while an inspection was being made of this project. The war department also requires the filing of a bond protecting the government against claims for damages on account of the work done, which is now being prepared, and as soon as this is filed the work of improving the river will be started.

The work to be taken up under the appropriation calls for the dredging of the channel from the mouth of the river to Mount Vernon, or further is required, and the building of retaining walls where needed. Government engineers estimate that it will require at least \$45,000 to complete the work contemplated at this time, and an effort is now being made to secure an additional appropriation of \$15,000 to finish the project. However, the work will be started at once and carried as far as the money available will permit. If the additional funds are not provided some of the less urgent parts of the project will be abandoned.

There has been no money spent on the Skagit River for several years, and it is reported that parts of the lower river are almost closed to navigation. The work to be undertaken at this time will re-open the river and make it navigable for small steamers the year round.