

The Skagit News-Herald

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FREAKS OF THE BIG FRESHET

MANY CURIOUS TURNS ARE SUDDENLY TAKEN

Great Excavations are Made Showing the Wonderful Depth of Skagit County Soil

Although no great killing damage was done by the deed of last week, still at certain places the waters cut many curious capers, especially on the ferry road above the city where the greatest amount of damage was done to fences, walks, houses and barns. In places great excavations 400 feet in length and several feet deep were made. Towns were ruined and sidewalks carried away. Great stumps were washed out by the roots leaving the deep excavations all the way from 12 to 20 feet in depth. Old logs which had been buried no doubt for a century were exhumed by the playful waters leaving great trenches washed deep into the soil.

Below the city in the vicinity of Cedardale, the dykes gave way because of stumps being unintentionally left in them. These stumps were several feet below the surface and unknown to the dike commissioners. The waters however entered a rat hole, found their way and the stumps came to the surface by following the crevices made by the stumps at last passing through and soon soaked the dike until it gave way. The waters then lifted the great roots from hiding places of great years and tumbled them into the great torrents which rushed through the dikes. All the country from Cedardale to Milltown is flooded and much fencing and material carried away.

The waters have dug great holes in the earth like giant buffalo wallows, but aside from that no great amount of damage was done. In places houses and barns are left hanging on the very edge of the abysses made by the whirling waters, but in most cases the people and their stock had escaped to high ground and were perfectly safe.

The report published in the P.I. that the dykes at Avon had broken is false, as there is not a break in the dyke within a mile of that town.

In some places the people were forced to the upper story of their houses and the women were badly frightened, some into almost nervous prostration, yet all escaped unharmed aside from the fright. The dykes at Mt. Vernon did not break, all stood secure until the city limits were passed. Just above the city the dyke gave way and the water backed into West Mt. Vernon, making quite a serious time for their inhabitants of that side of the river, but all escaped unharmed, no less save a few chickens. Below the city a number of people will be inconvenienced for some time owing to the great amount of water now standing on their farms. In many places water stood for several hours.

The citizens take the freaks of the river in a philosophical manner and are not in the least discouraged.