

# Mount Vernon Herald

JANUARY 10, 1918

## ARE THE DIKES A FAILURE?

Are the dikes a failure?

If so, what is the remedy?

These two questions have agitated the minds of hundreds of ranchers in the Skagit Valley during the past week since the old Skagit river ran amuck again.

In the end, when the enormous flood waters of the river come down upon the community, dikes are found to be weak, and the result is as shown by the flood of last week.

What is the remedy?

Much money has been spent in making dikes and in the end, practically nothing has been gained.

A practical remedy is needed and needed badly. Just what this remedy should be has been discussed by many ranchers during the past week. President Nelson of the Mount Vernon Commercial Club brought the matter up at the meeting last Monday evening and a general discussion ensued. The club members, while perfectly willing to take hold of the matter and assist in solving the remedy were reluctant to do so, believing that the first move should come from the farmers. If the club can do anything toward helping in the solution of the great problem, the ranchers are privileged to call upon the business men of Mount Vernon and every assistance will be given.

The remedy is believed to be found in the construction of spillways. Several plans and suggestions have been made during the week, but this matter, being of such enormous proportions, will require more than talk to get something started.

Where there is a will, there is a way. Let all unite in finding the way. Concentrated action is needed. It is believed that government aid can be secured to help in this big undertaking. The ranchers should arrange meetings in their various sections, and select two or three to represent the section in a larger body. Let this larger body plan out the remedy, or the way and then GO AFTER IT.

When a plan has been evolved, one that seems practical, then let all get behind the project and "put it over."

It has been nine years since a flood came. It may be nine years again and it may be next year. Don't wait until it comes again. There is too much valuable land in this valley to wait until a disastrous flood has overtaken it again and again.

Now is the time to plan the remedy.