

The Burlington Journal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 1918

Flood Notes

Postmaster McIntyre expects the first mails to arrive here today via Vancouver since the interruption by the flood last Saturday.

The Howard Freeman farm at Varney station was quite seriously damaged by the overflow caused by the break in the river dike on the old Freeman farm east of Varney. Mr. Freeman's fine new home and barn were damaged in some extent. The break in the river at the old Freeman farm, which was probably 800 feet in width, caused serious damage to the farms in the path of the overflow. The break occurred when the river was at the highest point, the water stretched over a territory of about 2500 feet in width, carrying away the Great Northern and interurban highways, undermining the dwelling and carrying away the barn on the old Freeman farm, and covering the land with piles of drift wood. The water found an outlet in the bay near Whitney.

During the height of the flood Sunday morning a foot of water from the overflow of the river from the east covered a small portion of the residence and business districts of Burlington, the water flowing out that night when the river fell. On account of

poor drainage and inadequate sewerage, there is still some water in the low places in some of the districts, which will soon all pass into the drains.

The Great Northern railway between Mt. Vernon and Burlington expects to have the line restored and running within five days after the water goes down so that the... [two lines of missing text] is expected that early next week trains will again be running. The interurban tracks and right-of-way between here and Mt. Vernon, the management believes may be restored so that the cars may be running within five or six days, after the water in the sloughs and new channels permits the construction crews to get to work. By the end of next week train service on all lines in and out of Burlington ought to be restored again.

The interurban construction crew is at work on the right-of-way between Burlington and the river bridge south and will soon have the line restored to traffic.

The first interurban train south from Bellingham since last Saturday reached Burlington last night. Service is now restored between the above points.

Skagit county sorely needs a more efficient drainage system during flood periods. In many places overflow waters cover the land because there is no outlet.

There was no outside mail Thursday. It is expected that mail from the north will reach here today.

At North Riverside Fred Shannon and A. C. Miller, whose homes were on the river front were serious losers. Mr. Shannon's home was completely carried away, and practically all household effects were lost. His house was outside the dike.

The loss of property on the Higginbottom farm south of Burlington (the old Freman place) was serious. When the dike broke the house was undermined, the barn and sheds carried away, and the land covered with large-quantities of logs. The owner had only one cow which was saved.

The Mussor, Wakley and Lamphier farms were all in the path of the Higginbottom break and the owners were serious losers.

The Riverside district south of the river on the Pacific highway to Mt. Vernon's limits suffered serious inconvenience and losses by the flood. The highway was under from two to ten feet of water that was dammed in by the Clear Lake railroad right-

of-way, with inadequate spillways to let the overflow water out. The overflow was back water from the breaks in the dike west of the highway in the Riverside bend.

About five acres of land on the John Hutchens land were washed out by the Saturday flood.

The Great Northern engineers and construction crews are now working north, and expect to have the right-of-way cleared and restored to traffic early next week.

The damage to the Pacific highway between Burlington and the river bridge is not great. The trestle bridge was washed out, and in a number of places the right-of-way undermined. A week's work or less ought to restore the road for traffic.

The Mt. Vernon Herald says the breaking of the dike at Higginbottom's saved Burlington. What an idiotic untruth. Why not Mt. Vernon? Burlington is protected by no diking system. It is so fortunately situated that it does not need dikes to protect it from river overflow. The truth is, and why not be honest, that the diking system maintained on the Skagit river was inadequate to control the Skagit river, a break somewhere was inevitable, and shortly after midnight it came down at a dozen different places. Undoubtedly these breaks saved the dikes from giving away at other places. The water had reached the top of practically every dike in Skagit county when the breaks occurred. Flood damages were

generally distributed throughout the lowlands. Unfortunately neither the districts directly to Mt. Vernon, Burlington nor any other Skagit County town escaped inconvenience or losses. Burlington had mail, daily newspapers, telegraph and telephone communications from the north and telephone communications from the south at all times. The editor of the Mt. Vernon Herald should confine himself to fact and truth. Why not give his readers the interesting story of the need of a gasoline engine to pump water out of the basement of the county courthouse. At least this is better than lying about a neighboring town.