

The Skagit News-Herald

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BOND COUNTY FOR BRIDGES

TAXPAYERS SHOULD VOTE SUFFICIENT BONDS

County Must Progress and Many New Bridges Are an Absolute Necessity

The News-Herald believes only in bonds when bonds are an absolute necessity, and it would seem that at this time such is the case. There never was a time in the history of this county when bridges were such an absolute necessity. The county at the present is maintaining eleven ferries at a cost of \$3,036, this is for ferry tenders alone, not speaking of the expense of the repairs. If we had three or four new bridges the county could save \$996 per year on hire alone, but this is not the point at issue. In maintaining these ferries the county will eventually pay out money enough to have built a steel bridge wherever needed and will not have a thing to show for it aside from a few cables and a few worthless old scows. Sedro-Woolley should have a steel bridge, Swinomish should have a steel bridge, Skagit should have a steel bridge, Riverside should have a steel bridge, Hamilton should have a steel bridge and Mt. Vernon should have a steel bridge. Skagit County is rich enough to buy them, the people need them, for at the present time is a number of places where the county has abandoned the ferry. The taxpayers are forced to pay toll which is exceedingly unfair, and we have not the least doubt but the voters of the county would vote say at least \$300,000 for bridge purposes, and

bridges at every principal point where badly needed can be put in for that amount, the commissioners placing a call for bids in a number of the leading dailies of the country.

Ferries are dangerous, especially the weaklings which are constructed along the Skagit river. There has been loss of life and property on these ferries. They are only temporary, while steel bridges properly constructed are good for a lifetime, and once they are constructed the taxpayers feel secure, knowing that the expense is almost at an end. At the present time the county is paying out annually enough to pay the interest on the amount necessary to construct these bridges, and why not do it?

Bond to give each principal place in the county a bridge. Place the proposition before the taxpayers and it will and should carry. There is not a farmer who visits Woolley, not one who visits Anacortes, not one who crosses the Skagit river to reach his market but would vote for these bonds, as it is to his interest to do so. The farmers are entitled to good roads and good roads without good bridges are as bad as a Hamlet without a ghost. During the next year the businesses of Sedro-Woolley, Mt. Vernon, LaConner, Anacortes, Edison, Hamilton and many other towns will increase if a proper means was provided for the people to cross

the stream. In the next three years it would increase doubly, and it is our duty to provide such means.

Skagit county is becoming a great county, the farming element is becoming the backbone of the county, and in a few years they will be the mainstay of the whole county, and the better means provided for them for crossing the streams and reaching the markets the more prosperous they will be, the more prosperous our merchants will be and the more prosperous will be the entire county. Vote the bonds and build the bridges.

The suggestion of building our dykes a little higher, say two feet, is a timely one and should be done before we have a repetition of two weeks ago. Mt. Vernon can be made a dry town, there is no reason why the dykes should not be widened and made higher.