

SUMMER, Washington.
JANUARY 3- 1933.

TO THE JOINT COMMISSION,
INTER-COUNTY RIVER IMPROVEMENT
KING AND PIERCE COUNTIES, WASH.

GENTLEMEN;

As Chief Engineer of the project it affords me the honor to hereby submit for your approval, the annual report of the activities and expenditures on channel improvement and flood control for the year 1932.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge to your Honorable Commission the services and assistance rendered, in the promotion and construction of the work undertaken during the past year, by your most capable Consulting Engineer, Mr. Ernest B. Hussey, who at all times has been ever ready and eager to render any assistance toward the successful promotion of the work in hand.

Many difficult problems in channel development and flood control have been encountered during the past year, which have been intensified by the occurrence of two major floods, one occurring in February and another in November. The occurrence of these floods with the attending loss and destruction, at many points, to the permanent control work placed during past years, necessitated immediate action to prevent further loss by erosion, entailing the expenditure of a considerable portion of the years funds that had been budgeted for new and permanent work.

The attending loss sustained during the year by the floods mentioned resulted in the immediate expenditure of funds that had been held in reserve for contingencies that might arise during the last month of the year. The special emergency report submitted to your Honorable Commission under date of November 30th last clearly outlined the existing condition, urgently emphasizing the necessity for additional funds to safeguard many points thruout the project that were subject to further destruction and loss if not immediately protected; however urgent the necessity, funds were not available for this work.

Providentially the prevailing temperature and stream run-off during December remained subnormal resulting in a minimum additional loss by erosion to points seriously effected during the November flood.

As a result of the near depletion of budgeted funds, the programmed operation for December was necessarily curtailed to the extent that all operating equipment was shut down, except the pile driver, which was employed about twelve days in the lower Auburn Section making repairs to the brushed pile retards on the right bank.

Gratifying indeed are the results obtained thruout the entire project by the many years of careful and deliberate channel development and control resulting in the passage of major floods with comparatively small loss when compared to the loss sustained in river systems thruout the Pacific Northwest, where no systematic development has been undertaken.

There is an urgent demand for major channel development thruout the Dieringer Section which was thoroughly covered in a special report to your Honorable Commission under date of June 20, 1932. It is indeed unfortunate that this channel development becomes most imperative at a time when the demand for curtailment in expenditures of all public funds is the greatest since the inception of this project. Further delay in making the necessary alterations in channel alignment thruout this section will result in further constriction and final diversion during subsequent flood periods.

The necessity for constant channel dredging thruout the Auburn and upper County Line Sections has been stressed, and efforts to prevent the formation of this river borne silt and gravel have been considered, however no plans have received favorable sanction that are commensurate with available funds.

The necessity for channel dredging thruout the Roesli Section immediately below the confluence of the Puyallup and Stuck Rivers becomes urgently necessary due to the ever increasing river borne silt and gravel from the Puyallup River, beyond the province of the Inter-County River Improvement. The delay in doing the very necessary dredging is resulting in serious stream diversions that are causing destruction to some of the permanent control works thruout this and other sections further down stream; special mention of this is covered in the detailed report appended hereto.

With the exception of the flood periods heretofore referred to, seasonable weather prevailed thruout the entire year until December, from the 5th to the 16th of the month during which time sub-normal temperature prevailed. Fortunately this unseasonable weather did not interfere or retard our operation, since practically all equipment was idle.

Since the drafting of the 1933 budget, numerous changes have occurred in various sections occasioned by stream erosion and accentuated by the November flood to the end that at present certain emergencies exist that could not be anticipated or provided for when the budget was adopted.

Instances of this condition are evidenced in the Muckelshoet Section where recent stream diversion and serious erosion necessitates a great amount of channel control work during the year requiring at least four to five thousand dollars.

In the Auburn Section, several points of quite serious erosion and diversion occurred necessitating the construction of additional brushed pile retards not contemplated, these will in all probability more than absorb the budgeted amount of \$13,000.00

Another instance where budgeted funds are not sufficient, is illustrated in the Roesli Section, where at least three points of pronounced erosion have occurred since the November flood resulting in the destruction of a considerable portion of levee, concrete revetment and brush mattress. A sum of ten to twelve thousand dollars will be required to make necessary replacements and to do at least a portion of the channel dredging that is vitally necessary.

In view of this additional work in the above mentioned sections necessitated by these contingencies, considerable alteration in the 1933 budget as drafted will be necessary, however this alteration may be made thruout the year and sanctioned by the Joint Commission when such alterations are requested.

To your Honorable Commission, I wish to express my full appreciation for the many courtesies extended me in the performance of the duties of my office.

Assuring you that no request, however trivial, or task, however important, will be unheeded and that at all times the best interests of both Counties will receive deserving consideration and constant vigilance.

Respectfully submitted,


Chief Engineer,
Inter-County River Improvement.