VALUE OF CANAL SHOWN BY STORM BIGELOW FINDS

Says 'Big Ditch' at Waikiki Handled Flood Water in Satisfactory Way

The Waikiki drainage canal, although not yet completed, has already demonstrated its value by the manner in which it handled the recent storm waters, in the opinion of Lyman H. Bigelow, superintendent of public works. He expressed his view today following a close check-up on the activities of the "big ditch" during the downpour that flooded a large portion of the Waikiki district.

Bigelow says that as soon as the canal has been dredged to the point where it intercepts the Manoa and Palolo streams, there will be no more floods in the district. Although the canal will still be unfinished, it will be able to handle the flood waters, and will carry them out to sea in the manner that it did during the recent storm.

Eliminates Three Streams

There are really three streams which the canal will do away with. One of them flows into the sea between the Outrigger Canoe club and the Moana hotel. The other has an outlet waikiki of Ohua lane, and the third flows to the sea along the border of Kapiolani park. It is estimated that another month of dredging will carry the canal to the point where all of these streams will be intercepted.

"After seeing the usefulness of the canal during the recent storm," said Dr. F. E. Trotter, president of the board of health, at this week's cabinet meeting, "I am convinced that it is a splendid thing."

During the recent storm there was a strong current in the canal, and millions of gallons of flood water were swept out to sea. This, says Bigelow, should serve to contradict the predictions of certain persons that there would never be a current in the canal, and that the water in it would be at a standstill, except, perhaps, during the rise and fall of the tide.

Saved From Flood

Residents of a certain portion of the Ainahau district, now protected by the canal, said, following the recent storm, that the "big ditch" was the only thing that saved their premises from being flooded as were other sections not yet affected by the canal.

The present dredging contract calls for the interception of the Manoa and Palolo streams. There seems to be no doubt that the 1923 legislature will appropriate funds sufficient for completing the work. As the canal now stands, Bigelow says, it is of sufficient depth. It may be dredged deeper, however, in order that material may be obtained to complete the filling-in of adjoining lowlands.