

Glencoe Minn Aug. 21st. 1912

Mr. A.T.Pratt Atty.

Anoka Minn.

Dear Sir:--

Your letter of the 19th. inst. is at hand and contents noted. We also note that you appear to be under the impression that the ditch was not dug to the grade depth or that the grade was in error. We wish to correct this impression and give you the true cause of the trouble.

The wire grass swamp through which the main ditch of system #49 runs is a swamp having two out-lets, If you will refer to the profile you will find that the center of this swamp is much higher than the edges. This higher portion of the swamp was covered with a floating wire grass sod and was under laid by a semi-fluid mass of decomposed peat which was under pressure and as soon as the ditch was dug it flowed up into the ditch from the bottom as well as from the sides.

The above cause is the immediate cause of the ditch not being found to grade line at the present. We dug it not only to grade but far below grade and did remove much more material than would have been required had the ditch been in material that would have staid out of the excavation made.

That portion of the ditch from Nigger Lake down to the out let was in better material and consequently you have a ditch there but as a matter of fact that portion was not dug so far below grade as that in the wire grass swamp.

The land owners and the Engineer made a very serious error when they tried to drain the low part of the swamp at the head of the main ditch by trying to carry the water away from the natural trend and through the high upheaval of soft material under pressure. and they will make another if they try to deepen the present ditch now. Perhaps it can be done if they wait until the swamp has fully settled and become firm enough to allow an excavation to be made without its filling with the soft material.

But they will do far better if they will open a short ~~X~~ ditch and take the water down the brook to the south west where it belongs.

In regard to the branch the ground conditions are the same as on the main ditch, with the farther condition that the head of the branch is much lower than the ground where it enters the main ditch and further the branch is so located as to point up stream instead of down. The result is that ~~X~~ any flood in the main ditch which is bound to carry large ~~qua~~ quantities of the soft material rushes up the branch at flood and then slowly drains out as the water goes down in the main ditch, consequently it leaves deposit in the branch.

This branch was dug below grade as well as the other ditches but it never can be kept so on account of its peculiar location.

Now it is a fact which can be easily proven that we dug the ditches below grade and that we done our work in a thorough manner throughout, It is also a fact that that the material was such that the excavation would not remain open to the

depth called for by the grade in certain portions of the ditch. It is also a fact that we made extra effort to make a ditch deep enough at these points so that the grade might be obtained but that the same was not possible.

We know that we have done the work once and in places many times over and that if the grade line was not obtained at places it was from causes beyond our control. We also know that we have earned our full pay and feel that the balance due us should be paid.

In all friendliness and as one fully posted in the matter in question I earnestly suggest for consideration the construction of the ditch from near the head of the main ditch down the natural water course to the south west as by far the best solution of the drainage of that part of the swamp as the pressure of the swamp will fill any ditch for some time yet to come.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. J. Hankenson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours truly".

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*Ditch 49*