

BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE,

January 15, 1915.

Dear Sir,

Re **Proposed Extension of Bourne South Fen and
Thurlby Fen Drainage District.**

I am directed by the Bourne South Fen and Thurlby Fen Drainage Board, and by several land-owners in Thurlby Fen, to inform you that a proposal has been made for the extension of the present district of the Board so as to include the whole of Thurlby Fen (except the Dales), and the South Bank, slipes, and the bed of the Bourne Eau.

The present area of the Board is 2021A. 2R. 7P., and the additional area is about 1100 acres. The proposed district would be bounded on the north by the bed of the Bourne Eau, on the south and east by the river Glen and on the west by the Car Dyke.

The matter formed the subject of a public Meeting at Thurlby in January, 1914, and was then approved by the owners present. The Drainage Board subsequently took the opinion of a civil Engineer upon several points connected with the Scheme and as to the necessity for any additional power to deal with the increased volume of water. He has reported favourably upon the Scheme and that the present Engine and Wheel are of sufficient power to drain the proposed extension of the district as well as the present area.

During the past year the Drainage Board thought it advisable to ascertain the opinion of the Board of Agriculture upon the possibility of taking over the repair of the south Bank of the Bourne Eau and the cleansing of the River bed. As you are probably aware, the whole of the Glen Bank, forming the southern and eastern border of the area, has been or is about to be considerably strengthened, and in the opinion of the Engineer, as well as of the Drainage Board, it is desirable that the south Bank of the Bourne Eau should be similarly dealt with, to afford as much protection as is humanly possible, against floods from a breach in the River bank, or from overflowing. If such floods did occur, enormous loss would result to the landowners and tenants in the whole of the proposed area. The present income of the Trustees of the Bourne Eau Navigation Trust is entirely insufficient to keep the Bank in repair, and there are no funds for the cleansing of the River bed.

After correspondence with the Board of Agriculture, I am pleased to state that they strongly approve the proposal, and have promised to assist the Drainage Board to obtain the necessary powers in their Provisional Order under the Land Drainage Act, 1861, without incurring the great expense of a Private Act of Parliament for the purpose.

A Public Enquiry will be held by a Government Official at an early date to consider the scheme, at which any person or persons who would be affected by the proposed Order can be heard, either in support of, or in opposition to, the same being made. Formal notice will in due course be given to you of such Enquiry.

In the meantime, however, I should be glad if you would inform me, on the enclosed post card, whether you assent to, or dissent from the proposal, on or before the 31st instant.

Yours faithfully,

Cecil W. Bell