

(Draft)

To the Chairman & Members of the River Welland Catchment Board.

Mr Chairman, My Lords & Gentlemen,

On the suggestion of the Clerk to the Board, I have given further consideration to the possibility of extending westward, the Area now under the jurisdiction of the Deeping Fen, Spalding & Pinchbeck I.D. Board.

The topographical western boundary of this additional land would be the King Street Drain and its extension to the Deeping-Stamford Main Road at West Deeping cross roads. All waters to the west of this watercourse are diverted into the River Glen.

The triangular area enclosed by the King Street Drain and its extension on the West Side, the present Deeping Fen Boundary to the East, and the River Welland from Towend Tunnel to Market Deeping and beyond that the Deeping-Stamford Road to the South, is divided into two systems.

- (1) Lands in the northern portion draining to the Counter Drain.
- (2) Lands in the southern portion draining ~~to~~ already into the Deeping Fen pumped system.

In (1) the southern boundary would be as follows, running

from west to east:-

The Deeping-Stamford Road from King Street to Godsey's Lane, thence in a north westerly direction along Godsey's Lane and the dyke in the same line to that dyke's junction with the parish Drain, thence in a north easterly direction along that parish dyke to the western boundary of Deeping Fen.

This Area covers parts of the parishes of Baston, Langtoft, Market Deeping and West Deeping and is 4270 acres in extent.

Parish Drains would be cleansed and adopted as Main Drains discharging into an enlarged Gravel Drain, flowing from thence to the Counter Drain. The present gravity system, however, would not give a satisfactory discharge at all times, especially when pumping was taking place in Deeping Fen.

A pump at the junction of the Counter and Vernatts Drains or thereabouts would give efficient drainage at all times. If this suggestion was adopted, the discharge from Bourne South Fen would also benefit.

In fact, by allowing for a pumping plant of sufficient capacity, the question of the drainage of that difficult basin could be settled outright.

The total area of land affected would be as follows:-
Lands beyond the Deeping Fen West boundary to be drained

by the Gravel and Counter Drains
Bourne South Fen

4270 acres
2996 "

7266 acres

To deal with the water from this area of land a pumping plant with a capacity of 114.5 cusecs of 190 tons per minute, or about a 50" pump would be necessary. Some improvement to the Counter Drain would be called for and the banks of the Vernatts drain would have to be restored where they have been removed by the adjacent owners or occupiers.

Referring to (2), land contained in the southern portion of the original tract under consideration, and comprising 2590 acres in the parishes of Deeping St James and Market Deeping; this area is served at present by parish dykes discharging into the drains of the 5th District of Deeping Fen, namely, the Swinesmeadow, Halmeadow, Froggnall, Deeplake Hole, Cranmore and Park Engine Drains. It has come to my knowledge that complaints as to the drainage of these lands have been made with varying success to the parishes concerned and later to the appropriate County Council, hence, if the present Deeping Fen Drains were extended westward, the benefits gained by a quicker discharge into the Deeping Fen pumped system would justify the inclusion of this district within the Deeping Fen, Spalding & Pinchbeck I.D. Board's Area.

(2)

Although not within the scope of the present report it might be justifiable to suggest how the costs of the above proposals could be met. Boume South Fen, the new Gravel Drain District and Deeping Fen, Spalding & Pinchbeck I.D. Board would each subscribe in proportionate amounts but the last named would be re-imbursed for its share by the extra revenue gained from the taxation of the lands in the Deepings now enjoying free drainage.

I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,