

MEN, NOT STEAM SHOVELS, OUGHT REBUILD LEVEES

Farmers Ask Contractor To Put Aside Machinery As Soon As Possible

WILLING TO PAY MORE

Needed Work at Water Plant Up To City of Anacortes—Want Additional Dolphins

Local men and teams must be given as much of the dike reconstruction work at the Varney break as is possible, it was the opinion of almost a hundred farmers in diking district No. 12, assembled in a special mass meeting at the Avon school gym Monday evening.

The meeting was called following the awarding of a contract last week to Claude Davis for the rebuilding of the dike immediately to protect the district against the high water common in June. The meeting was called to order by Ira Gilbert, who was elected chairman.

Championing the demand that residents of the district, badly in need of employment, be given work on the dikes, Joe Hall urged that every dollar possible be given for the work of men and teams.

Worth Preserving

"The splendid feeling of cooperation among residents of the district, unequalled in any other part of the county, is worth preserving, he said. The fact that men here are willing to furnish sacks and help protect the property of others as well as their own was the only thing that saved additional destruction of property and expense of repairing another break up the river. We can't keep this spirit of good will by hiring steam shovels to build our dikes, when there are men in our midst in need of work to supply the bare necessities for their families, Mr. Hall stated.

Joe Ewing's motion that the matter be left entirely to the dike commissioners was amended by Charles Gaches to read "that machinery be used only to rebuild the dike past the danger level, even though the employment later of men and teams increase the cost by 20 per cent." This met with the unanimous approval of

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Up to Anacortes

The commissioners were requested to consult the city of Anacortes about urgent repairs to the fill which replaces the dike around the pump house at Avon. Considerable dirt was washed away from the small trees used in constructing the fill. Additional piling are needed to continue the dolphin up closer to the dike at the up-stream end, as well as a check valve in the outgoing main, just outside the pump house, as a protection against the water backing up from Anacortes, it was explained by Lester Thomas, who is in charge of plant.

Dike commissioners in this district are Hollis Abbott, M. F. Snelson, and Ben Otterstead.

Claud Davis Construction Company has also been awarded the contract for rebuilding the dike in front of the Iverson place, where there is a break more than 500 feet long and 25 feet deep in places. The cost of this will be approximately \$9,600 at 40c per cubic yard, there being about 24,000 cubic yards of dirt to replace.

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