

## FLOOD CONTROL FATE RESTS ON DIKE ELECTION

Consolidation of Districts In  
Skagit County Is  
Started

### AVON TAKES THE LEAD

All Dike Districts Must Unite If  
Aid From Federal Govern-  
ment Is Sought

March 6 may determine the fate of flood control in the Skagit Valley. On that day the diking districts will hold their annual election; and, if present plans are carried out, consolidation will also be submitted to the voters. Petitions asking for a consolidation election are already being circulated. Avon has taken the lead and will hold a mass meeting tomorrow night to consider the proposal.

Consolidation of all the diking districts of Skagit County as a condition in obtaining federal aid received a favorable start last Friday, when commissioners and interested persons numbering more than 150 met in the superior court room to consider the proposition. Attorney R. V. Welts, who was one of the delegation which went to Olympia last week to plead the cause of flood control, outlined the position of the state and the federal government. He held that the towns should bear their just share of the burden in any plan to obtain relief from overflow.

#### Consolidation Needed

"Under the law, the county can get state, federal and county aid for flood control, but consolidation of diking districts will be necessary," Mr. Welts asserted.

"It rests with you," he said, "and if you want to fight your own battle, as in the past, you can do so, but there is a chance to get financial assistance other than your own. The program involves building up the bayfront dikes, the Skagit River dikes and the straightening of the Skagit River. Fifty thousand acres of land and 10,000 people are involved.

"It is a problem of the whole west part of the county, both rural and city. If we can build permanently without any appreciable cost to you, then I think the farming problem of the county is partially solved."

#### Include Private Dikes

Mr. Welts advised that it would be advisable to include private dikes in the scheme. If all districts would clean up their own indebtedness and consolidate, the individual drainage districts can be included later.

"If you don't unite now, just forget ever trying to get help in the future, because you can't get it as individuals," Will Hayton warned. "It will be a benefit to all because the property is no better than the county you live in. In all the 50 years I have lived here, I have never seen such disastrous tides as we have just had. Let's act now so that we can have a permanent program for flood control," urged Hayton.

Jim Squires spoke next to urge the inclusion of the Samish River in any flood control program.

Commissioner James Hayton

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