

LEADERS GATHER HERE

RUBY DAM WILL AID IN SKAGIT FLOOD CONTROL

State Wide Tax for Control
Is Advocated At
Meeting

Interesting Facts On Skagit River
Told By City Light
Engineer

Construction of Ruby dam as a vital factor in bringing about an effective flood control for the Skagit river was strongly recommended by Glen H. Smith, outside construction engineer for City Light, at the annual conference of the Puget Sound Flood Control council which is in session in Mount Vernon today.

Smith spoke briefly shortly before noon today, outlining the history of the Skagit river floods and emphasizing the assistance already realized through the Baker river and the Diablo dams. The Ruby dam with the assistance of the proposed Avon cut-off will eliminate flood danger for the Skagit Valley, he concluded.

Flood control needs and policies as they affect much of the state, were under discussion this morning and will be concluded this afternoon. Members from King, Pierce, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties were in attendance. Approximately 75 representatives had registered at noon.

R. V. Welts, vice-president of the flood control council, welcomed the members to Mount Vernon at the start of the meeting. Response was made by W. S. Gainer, after which Col. Howard A. Hanson, chairman of the rivers and harbors committee of the state development committee of the Seattle chamber of commerce, presented the President's address.

President Hanson was rather critical in the manner in which our senators and representatives at Washington, D. C., have allowed other coast states to completely usurp the federal flood control moneys, practically ignoring the state of Washington.

California has \$486,000,000 appropriated for its work; Oregon has \$102,000,000 appropriated for that state; Washington, with its constant flood menace of nineteen major streams, has only \$52,000,000, he stated.

The Skagit problem was then presented by Mr. Smith. "This rich fertile valley is in danger of a flood such as the white man has never seen," he reported. "A survey made by James T. Stewart in 1923 revealed that the flood of 1915 swept down on the Indians without warning, covering the lower Skagit flats to a depth of 10 to 15 feet. Evidence of the flood has been found in cedar trees in the lower flats, where river silt has been found some 15 feet above the ground. In Diablo and Ruby canyons the water marks show levels more than 100 feet above the normal stage. Geological surveys in the upper canyons have revealed that the Skagit in times past has gone on dozens of such rampages and that such is possible today.

[Continued on Page 4]