

Plan Big District To Control River

**Utopia Farmers Start Move to Finance Maintenance
Of River Revetment Work; County Board
Will Then Start \$420,000 WPA Job**

A big flood control district may be formed from Burlington to Marblemount, to raise funds for maintaining the revetment work done by the WPA project on Skagit river banks. A big group of farmers from Utopia met with the county commissioners Monday and demanded immediate relief. A committee went to Olympia today to consult with state officials.

Frank Goodyear, acting as spokesman, told the county board of the washing out of the work on the bend at Utopia and he and others stated that they would lose their farms unless some action was taken at once. Chairman John Mason of the county commissioners stated that the board had no money for maintenance work, and advised the farmers to form a district similar to the diking districts along the lower part of the river.

Mason said that if such action were taken, that the board would then buy the \$15,000 dragline and start the \$420,000 river revetment project which has been delayed for more than a month. If funds are in sight for maintenance, Mason said the board was ready to act at once.

All three commissioners explained that under the 40 mill limit the county had no funds for maintenance. Goodyear said that if the river broke through and went into Minkler lake, that it would cut across the valley to the north and cut a new channel to salt water. The board said the new project would start at this danger spot.

The forty Utopia farmers who appeared before the county board named Frank Goodyear, Frank Marchant and Tony Betschart as a committee of three to make plans for forming a district as suggested by the board. President Frank Evans of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, and Attorney A. H. Ward, whom the chamber had employed some time ago to represent the Utopia farmers in their

(Continued on Page 4)

Flood Work

(Continued from Page 1)

fight to protect their farms, met with the board.

Following the courthouse meeting, the committee met with Evans, Ward and Iner Nelson, superintendent of the revetment work on the Skagit for the past three years, and discussed plans. The same committee met on Tuesday and decided to go to Olympia today to consult with the head of the state conservation department, who is in charge of such work, to get his approval of plans for forming a district.

Nelson estimated that the total cost of maintenance of the revetment work would be less than \$10,000 a year. He stated that a crew of three or four men and a truck should be kept constantly inspecting the revetments. The big damage done at Utopia would never have resulted had the commissioners repaired the break when first reported.

The commissioners have agreed to install a log boom along the entire revetment work on the river to try to protect it from the log tows, which have damaged it in many places, according to farmers who have seen many cables in the revetment broken.

It is planned to have representative farmers of each of the six revetment jobs meet soon to discuss plans for district boundaries. Petitions will then be circulated. The county board has promised to get the new revetment project started as soon as the farmers show an intention to raise maintenance funds, even before such a district is completed.

Among those who met with the commissioners were the following from the Utopia district: Mose Mitchell, Earl Mitchell, Oscar Dickenson, Walter Nichols, Mrs. Severson, Fred Fredrickson, Francis Attwell, F. C. Goodyear, Antone Betschart, John Olson, William Strom, O. H. Buchanan, Bill Mosher, Albert Johnson, Charles Johnson, Charles Newberg, E. J. Attwell, Louis Betschart, Charles Wilson, Carl Johnson, Fred Silverthorn, George Marchant, Frank Marchant, Chris Woolf, Bob Oman, W. Lyden and others.