

FLOOD DISTRICT HEARING TO BE HELD IN JULY

SISSON ARRANGED FOR OFFICIAL HEARING HERE; REPORT OF ENGINEER SHOWS NEED OF IMMEDIATE CONTROL MEASURES

A public hearing on the formation of a flood control district in Skagit county will be held in Mount Vernon either July 1 or 2, Grant Sisson, a member of the state's flood control commission for Skagit, disclosed today. Mr. Sisson states that legal notice of the hearing will be published just as soon as the date is definitely selected. The proposed district will embrace all of the county east of Swinomish channel.

The act passed by the last session of the legislature provides that anyone can attend the hearing and speak on the proposal to form the district. After the hearing the district will be permanently established and the next step will be the calling of an election, at which time those residing in the district will vote on the proposal.

Formation of the district is the county's first step in compliance with rules laid down to obtain federal aid for flood control. The flood control committee of the national house of representatives has already approved a bill that includes \$2,000,000 for flood control work in this county.

Engineer's Report Given
B. H. Allen, flood control en-

FLOOD DISTRICT HEARING TO BE HELD IN JULY

(Continued from Page One)

gineer of the state department of conservation and development, recently made a survey in this county and a copy of his report to E. F. Banker, state director of the department, has been sent to Mr. Sisson. Allen had the following to say:

"About ten days was taken covering the area west of Sedro-Woolley in county districts Nos. 1 and 2. A flat bottom boat was used on the South and North forks of the Skagit river and every dike and drainage district covered.

"There are now organized 11 drainage districts and 15 dike districts, having a combined area of 39,222 acres. Outside of these organized districts there are privately operated districts kept up by the farmers of an estimated 15,000 acres, making a grand total of 54,222 acres. The population of all this area is 25,000 (estimated). During the past 10 years there was levied upon these organized dike and drainage district the sum of \$363,197.66, or an average of \$36,319 per annum, for damages arising from floods.

\$75,431 in 1934

"The past year, 1934, this assessment amounted to \$75,431.65. The average levy for 1934 for dike and drainage districts was about 43 mills. This does not take into consideration the money spent in unorganized districts by private owners. This flood area takes in all the bottom land between Sedro-Woolley and Swinomish slough. The diking system ends at Sedro-Woolley.

"In my opinion the project is feasible and would follow roughly the following plan:

What Should Be Done

"1. Dredging of lower channels

of river. A dredge operating in lower channels would deepen same, thereby releasing pressure upon dikes and supply the necessary material for broadening and strengthening dikes. Sloughs at the western ends of the North and South forks of the Skagit river should be cleaned out to allow free passage of water. This work should be carried out to deep water.

"2. Bank Projection. Bank projection should be started as soon as possible to save existing banks and the erosion of acres of valuable bottom land now in danger of being carried away at the next stage of high water. This, of course, would stop a large part of the flood sand and silt now being carried down to the lower and western part of the district, filling up the lower channels.

"Several important points are as follows: Lyman to Sedro-Woolley, Hamilton, mouth of Sauk river and the Skagit river east of Sauk for several miles; Marblemount near mouth of Cascade river. Barriers should be built at mouth of small sloughs leading off the main river from Lyman to Marblemount to prevent further erosion in these sloughs and the forming of new channels where the main river could enter, causing great damage.

"3. Cooperation of Shannon and Diablo dams at peak of floods: This is shown by the graph compiled by the U. S. G. S. of the high water of 1932 in the flood of February 27, when the peak of 182,000 cubic second feet was reduced by storage in these two dams to 120,500 cubic second feet, a control of 61,500 cubic second feet.

"The rivers and creeks flowing into the Skagit are the Cascade, Sauk and Baker rivers and Finney, Jackman and Day creeks, to name the most important. There is a potential storage reserve on the upper Sauk river. Nookachamps creek, running from Big Lake to the Skagit river, offers another possible storage reservoir. The upper waters of the Skagit, Sauk and Cascade rivers would not probably enter into this work project as offering no difficulties to be overcome. Channel changes could undoubtedly be made at several points to throw the main surge of flood periods to the south bank of the Skagit river.