

## FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL HELD MOST FEASIBLE

### ARMY ENGINEERS SPEAK AT MONTHLY LUNCHEON OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; DI- RECTORS NOMINATED

Two U. S. army engineers from the office of Col H. J. Wild, in charge of the district, today told the Mount Vernon chamber of commerce that \$4,982,000 flood control channel from Avon to Padilla bay is the most feasible procedure to eliminate flood danger in the lower part of Skagit county. The two speakers were Major H. J. M. Baker and E. I. Pease, who were the pinch hitters for Col. Wild who was taken to the Fort Lewis hospital yesterday for an emergency operation.

The chamber also received twelve nominations for the six directors who are to be elected. The nominating committee, consisting of G. W. Fowler, Wm. Hayton and Alfred Polson, nominated Frank Dowd, George Sprouse, Paul Wells, Howard Stucky, Ernest Barnett, Dr. George Boynton, George Springer, Ed Nobles, Charles Ellinger, Ted White, W. H. North, and James King.

Six who are retiring and who are not eligible for reelection are Wm. Hayton, Fred Ornes, Alfred Polson, J. R. Hurley, H. A. Moldstad, and

(Continued on Page Six)

## Flood Control

(Continued from Page One)

Frank Jenne. Jenne has moved from the city.

Consideration of a proper procedure to effect an efficient, economical system of flood control formed the major subject of discussion at the meeting today. The meeting, well attended by local businessmen, farmers and Grangers, was very informal with discussions being prompted and carried on by members as well as by the speakers.

President Hibbard turned the meeting over to R. V. Welts, president of the Skagit county planning council who summarized the flood control situation before introducing Major Baker.

Congress adopted a rather comprehensive flood control policy last June, Maj. Baker told the group. The policy is based on cooperation with the states in three major factors; namely:

1. Land must be provided.
2. Maintenance and operation after the project is completed must be assured.
3. The U. S. government must be kept free from any damages which might arise during the construction operations.

"The Skagit river has been studied from many different angles," Maj. Baker stated, and after naming several stated that the most effective means visualized was by the diversion of the channel at Avon.

"The estimated cost of this project is \$4,982,000 of which the local sponsor would have to allocate \$1,432,000. Investigations show that the benefits to be derived will equal the gross total and be a decided advantage from the standpoint of the sponsor's contribution."

When questioned as to how he had arrived at the cost of the benefits, Maj. Baker stated that damages from all the past floods had been totaled and the average annual loss computed with the construction costs.

The proposed channel is to start at Avon but preliminary work would have to start east of the Great Northern railroad bridge. The proposed channel is to be 1,500 feet wide at the bottom. It will be used strictly as a flood control measure and will not carry water except during flood conditions.

Maj. Baker reviewed the history of floods on the Skagit during the past 26 years for which records have been kept. The highest flow of water at Sedro-Woolley during that time has been 220,000 feet per second. The present river below Mount Vernon can accommodate a flow of about 120,000 feet per second.

The proposed channel is to carry any in excess of 100,000 feet per second, Baker stated. The channel's capacity is 120,000 feet per second. We have had larger floods, the speaker stated. In 1815 it is known that a flood with 450,000 cubic feet per second was seen. In 1853 there was a flow of 350,000.

The building of power dams on the Ruby, at Diablo, on the Baker and Cascade rivers will all tend to help the flood control situation and although the channel in itself is not capable of handling flood waters to such extremes as has been mentioned, with the aid of these other factors it should be adequate.

Many questions and suggestions were raised by the people present. Suggestions by Wm. Hayton, Albert Mcsier and Gene Dunlap that ripping the cut banks of the river from Mount Vernon to the Sauk and dredging the mouth of the river were heard. The guest speaker stated that such was a good policy but that its cost would far exceed that of the channel proposal. He estimated the costs of such a system at eleven million.

Dredging at the mouth of the river met opposition from the speaker. Dredging will have no effect on high tides, he stated. And high tides are always higher during flood periods. It is the high tide that will tend to hold your river up, he added.

Preliminary to the flood control discussion a short business meeting was held by the chamber of commerce. John Dennett reported that the street department will start next week grading, leveling and marking off vacant lots to be used as parking lots in the business district.