

Flood Control Program Takes New Life Here

Ninety Representatives Attend Meeting at Courthouse—
Immediate Action Is Advised—Investigating
Engineer Praises Skagit County

Flood control of the Skagit River made a long forward step last Friday night when more than ninety representatives from eleven drainage districts and fifteen dike districts met in the courthouse with B. H. Allen, special investigating engineer from the department of conservation and development, for a round-table discussion of the problem.

Mr. Allen told the gathering that he was deeply impressed with what he had seen of Skagit County. "I believe this is the most fertile and beautiful farm country I have ever laid eyes on; it is beyond anything I have imagined; it more than lives up to its reputation," he declared. "Such a country deserves the best that can be done to protect it from the ravages of flood waters.

"The more I have examined the past records of the river and consider what it may do in the future the more I am convinced that something should be done, and that soon, to control its flood waters; and, of course, that is up to you people who live here."

Attorney James G. Smith advised immediate action looking toward the formation of a district, which would include all the dike and drainage districts and eliminate the costly method now employed. Senator W. J. Knutzen gave an account of how the several bills which provide the means by which flood control districts may be formed were put through the last legislature. He emphasized the necessity for action and urged that all land owners support the move to organize Skagit County.

Attorney R. V. Welts presided and put the question of organization to speakers from every district represented and received favorable replies from every one. Not one dissenting opinion was expressed.

Mr. Allen told The Argus today that he was highly pleased with the manner in which the proposal was received. He said he will be in the county some days more going over the problems of the up-river country. He will then report his findings and make his recommendations to E. F. Banker, director of the department, whose decision will determine whether or not organization of a Skagit County flood control district may be undertaken.

Among those at the meeting were Hugo Bauman, chairman of the board of county commissioners, Commissioners Wallace Sharpe and John T. Mason and Robert E. L. Knapp, county engineer.