

## FRAUD CHARGED IN ELECTION OF DIKE DISTRICT

McBee Contests Election Of  
F. N. Haley In Padilla  
District

Contesting the election of F. N. Haley as a commissioner of the Padilla Diking district, Attorney Alfred McBee, who is associated with Attorney C. J. Henderson of this city, today instituted proceedings in Skagit superior court in which he seeks to have the election of Haley set aside, and himself declared commissioner instead. The action which was filed by Attorney Henderson, alleges that Haley was elected through unlawful and fraudulent means.

At the election in question, Haley received 33 votes for commissioner, while Mr. McBee, who is still serving as a commissioner, was given five votes. McBee complains that Haley deeded a small portion of land to each of 31 persons, in exchange for their votes.

McBee's complaint sets forth that on March 5, 1926, Haley "fraudulently and unlawfully and with the unlawful and fraudulent purpose of creating illegal voters at the said election, issued and recorded deeds to one-tenth of a chain of land" to the 31 people. None of the 31 persons had theretofore owned land in the district. McBee states in his complaint, and F. N. Haley issued the deeds "with the agreement and understanding and for the consideration of and in exchange for the promises of the persons named to vote for Haley at the dike-district election."

All 31 people voted for Haley, but they were not qualified to do so, according to McBee, for the reason that they were not property owners. He claims that Haley actually owned the property and that since, the 31 people held their small portions in trust for Haley's use.

According to McBee's complaint, there were only five qualified to vote. Two of these were Mr. and Mrs. Haley and McBee was a third. Had the election been legal, according to McBee, he would have received three votes to Haley's two.

McBee was elected a commissioner of the district in 1924 and is still serving. The Padilla project was formed for the purpose of reclaiming 10,000 acres of tide lands. A million-dollar program was in prospect, according to McBee.

The list of illegal voters, according to McBee's complaint, follows: John Batdorf, Minnie Batdorf, Ellen A. Watson, Peter Watson, W. E. Moss, Agnes St. Pierre, Edward H. Kemp, Myrtle Webster, J. W. Webster, Milton Cookstan, Alvin Smith, R. K. St. Pierre, Stanley Anderson, Goldie Haynes, Mary L. Kemp, Agnes Smith, Gladys Anderson, John Webb, J. A. Denton, H. Ferguson, Fannie Denton, Cora E. Ferguson, Edla Stanley, W. H. Stanley, Tillie A. Deane, Lillian A. Stedman, Charles J. Deane, Henry H. Stedman, William H. Haynes, Letty Wallace and Irwin S. Wallace.