

## DIABLO PROJECT IS BLAMED FOR FLOOD DAMAGE

**FLOOD GATES OF DAM WERE  
OPENED AT WRONG TIME,  
DIKE DISTRICTS AND FARM-  
ERS CHARGE IN CLAIM**

Alleging the flood gates on Diablo dam were opened at the crest of the recent high water, thus releasing an additional torrent of water in the already bankful Skagit river, causing dikes to break in many places, four Skagit dike districts, and three individual farmers today filed claims aggregating \$53,315 against the City of Seattle. The claims were rushed to Seattle today so they could be filed before the thirty-day limit expires.

### List of Claims

Following is the list of claims filed against the City of Seattle, owner of Diablo dam, which is a part of the city's power development on the upper Skagit:

Dike district No. 2, located on the west side of the Skagit river and north of Fir—Claims damages in the amount of \$17,500.

Dike district No. 13, located between Dry and Brown sloughs on Skagit delta, west of Fir—Demands \$4,000 damages.

Dike district No. 186, located between Fresh Water and Dry sloughs, on south side of pavement, west of fir—Demands \$6,500.

Dike district No. 12, located south of Burlington—Demands \$10,900.

Phillip Iverson, farmer living northwest of Fir, demands \$2,925.

Iver Iverson, same locality, demands \$7,650.

John Leander, same locality, demands \$4,000.

### Water Held Back

On February 23rd, according to the complaint filed with the City of Seattle, the reservoir behind Diablo dam was approximately half full of water, the amount being between 35,000 and 40,000 acre feet of water. At that time, the flood gates of the dam were not opened, although the water was continuing to rise, the complaint states.

## ROSS RIDICULES SKAGIT CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES

SEATTLE, March 26.—(P)—J. D. Ross, city light superintendent, today declared "ridiculous," claims for \$53,315 damages against the City of Seattle, filed with the city comptroller today by four Skagit county diking districts and three Skagit county farmers as a result of floods in the county late last month.

The claimants asserted the city owned Diablo power dam gates were opened at the height of flood conditions permitting an onrush of water to cover several thousand acres.

"The dam held back the first onrush of water down the river," Ross said. "As soon as the lake back of the dam rose to the height of the flood gates, we began releasing the water gradually. Only a part of the gates were opened, just enough to prevent the water from overflowing the top of the dam. This controlled the flood, releasing it only as fast as the river could carry it away.

"The damage to the dikes down in the valley occurred after the crest of the flood had passed at Diablo. It was simply a case of where the river could not hold the water which poured into it from numerous streams below the dam, in addition to carrying the controlled flow through the flood gates."