FLOOD CONTROL
FATE RESTS ON
DIKE ELECTION

Consolidation of Districts In
Skagit County Is
Started

AVON TAKES THE LEAD

All Dike Districts Must Unite If
Aid From Federal Govern-
ment Is Sought

March 6 may determine the
fate of flood control in the Skag-
it Valley. On that day the diking
districts will hold their an-
nual election; and, if present
plans are carried out, consolid-
ation will also be submitted to the
voters. Petitions asking for a
consolidation election are already
being circulated. Avon has taken
the lead and will hold a mass
meeting tomorrow night to con-
sider the proposal.

Consolidation of all the diking
districts of Skagit County as a
condition in obtaining federal aid
received a favorable start last
Friday, when commissioners and
interested persons numbering
more than 150 met in the super-
ior court room to consider the
proposition. Attorney R. V.
Welts, who was one of the dele-
gation which went to Olympia
last week to plead the cause of
flood control, outlined the posi-
tion of the state and the federal
government. He held that the
towns should bear their just
share of the burden in any plan
to obtain relief from overflow.

Consolidation Needed

"Under the law, the county
can get state, federal and county
aid for flood control, but consol-
dation of diking districts will be
necessary," Mr. Welts asserted.

"It rests with you," he said,
"and if you want to fight your
own battle, as in the past, you
can do so, but there is a chance
to get financial assistance other
than your own. The program in-
volves building up the bayfront
dikes, the Skagit River dikes and
the straightening of the Skagit
River. Fifty thousand acres of
land and 10,000 people are in-
volved.

"It is a problem of the whole
west part of the county, both
rural and city. If we can build
permanently without any appreci-
able cost to you, then I think
the farming problem of the coun-
ty is partially solved."

Include Private Dikes

Mr. Welts advised that it would
be advisable to include private
dikes in the scheme. If all dis-
tricts would clean up their own
indebtedness and consolidate, the
individual drainage districts can
be included later.

"If you don't unite now, just
forget ever trying to get help in
the future, because you can't get
it as individuals," Will Hayton
warned. "It will be a benefit to
all because the property is no
better than the county you live
in. In all the 50 years I have
lived here, I have never seen
such disastrous tides as we have
just had. Let's act now so that
we can have a permanent pro-
gram for flood control," urged
Hayton.

Jim Squires spoke next to urge
the inclusion of the Samish River
in any flood control program.

Commissioner James Hayton

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