LOWER VALLEY FARMERS KEEP DIKES SECURE

Constant Patrolling Wins Over Turbulent Waters Of Rising Skagit

3 BREAKS REPORTED

Damage Is Comparatively Small — Samish Floods Northern Part of County

Combined efforts of more than 1500 lower Skagit valley residents to effect a 60-hour constant patrol of the river dikes during the highest stages of the Skagit proved effective despite the fact that the river rose to the peak attained during the flood of 1922. Stronger dikes constructed during the past year by the dike districts also proved instrumental in checking the turbulent waters that rose to within inches of the dike tops Saturday afternoon.

The Samish River, which went on a rampage early last week, caused the most damage in the county, flooding hundreds of acres of land and causing residents to take temporary quarters elsewhere. Schools were closed in many sections of the county because of the water. At Edison, damages to the school's heating system necessitated a two weeks' shutdown.

Worked Night, Day

Patrolling on the Skagit dikes started Thursday evening and many farmers worked continuously until Sunday morning. Women assisted by bringing food and warm dry clothing to the men. Some women joined in with the men and worked shifts on the dikes proper.

Thousands of sand bags were used to reinforce the weakening walls, but the efforts were rewarded as no serious damage was done. Three breaks were reported Saturday just as the river started to recede. The largest of the breaks occurred northeast of Burlington when a portion of the Sedro-Woolley-Burlington dike road gave way. The water found its way into Varney Slough and was slowly carried off by way of North Avon into the bay without much damage.