Plan Big District To Control River

Utopia Farmers Start Move to Finance Maintenance Of River Revetment Work; County Board Will Then Start $420,000 WPA Job

A big flood control district may be formed from Burlington to Marblemount, to raise funds for maintaining the revetment work done by the WPA project on Skagit river banks. A big group of farmers from Utopia met with the county commissioners Monday and demanded immediate relief. A committee went to Olympia today to consult with state officials.

Frank Goodyear, acting as spokesman, told the county board of the washing out of the work on the bend at Utopia and he and others stated that they would lose their farms unless some action was taken at once. Chairman John Mason of the county commissioners stated that the board had no money for maintenance work, and advised the farmers to form a district similar to the diking districts along the lower part of the river.

Mason said that if such action were taken, that the board would then buy the $15,000 dragline and start the $420,000 river revetment project which has been delayed for more than a month. If funds are in sight for maintenance, Mason said the board was ready to act at once.

All three commissioners explained that under the 40 mile limit the county had no funds for maintenance. Goodyear said that if the river broke through and went into Minkler lake, that it would cut across the valley to the north and cut a new channel to salt water. The board said the new project would start at this danger spot.

The forty Utopia farmers who appeared before the county board named Frank Goodyear, Frank Marchant and Tony Betschart as a committee of three to make plans for forming a district as suggested by the board. President Frank Evans of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce, and Attorney A. H. Ward, whom the chamber had employed some time ago to represent the Utopia farmers in their

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