

THE COURIER-TIMES

FEBRUARY 2, 1939

Flood Control Plans Will be Made Saturday

Mass Meeting of Farm Owners at City Hall Here

A mass meeting of Skagit county farmers will be held this Saturday at 2 p. m. in the Sedro-Woolley city hall auditorium to discuss plans with state and federal officials for forming a river bank maintenance district. The river is at present threatening destruction of hundreds of acres of valuable farmlands and the authorized expenditure of \$420,000 for further river bank revetments is delayed until maintenance can be financed.

Following the meetings last week of about fifty farmers from the Utopia districts, whose farms need immediate protection, a committee, including Frank Goodyear as chairman, Iner Nelson, superintendent of the recently completed, \$260,000 Skagit revetment work; Attorney A. H. Ward and G. A. Youngquist, secretary of the National Farm Loan Association at Mt. Vernon, went to Olympia and met with J. B. Fink, head of the state department of development and conservation.

Fink and Lars Lauglow, engineer in charge of the flood control of the state, told the committee that Mount Vernon was in a death trap, with the river at a higher level than the surrounding land, because of the hundreds of acres of farmlands being washed down each year and deposited in the lower river.

These officials said that the entire county was threatened with flood and destruction unless immediate action is taken to complete the revetment work as authorized by the WPA, and to provide funds for maintenance. They recommended that all farmers throughout the county should be included in a maintenance district.

Some suggest that the district should extend only from Burlington east to Hamilton. With these state officials planning to attend the meeting, together with officials from the U. S. Army Engineers office, county commissioners and others, it is hoped that plans can be made at the Saturday meeting in Sedro-Woolley for immediate formation of a district.

As soon as this is done, the county commissioners have promised to purchase a dragline, and then the WPA crew will start the new \$420,000 river bank revetment work, which includes the entire length of the river.