

Official Sees River Waters Back In Channels In 2 Days

River waters should be off Winnipeg streets and back in their normal channels within two days, a city engineering official said Wednesday.

N. S. Bubbis, director of Winni-

peg's re-establishment activities, said he expected the streets to be clear of flood waters by Friday or Saturday.

However, Mr. Bubbis warned that there would be water in base-

ments for "some time to come" and that the lowest-lying part of the Riverview area might still be inundated for many days.

'Be Patient'

He issued a special appeal to returning citizens not to be "too impatient" in their desire to pump out basements and clean their homes.

"It will be a slow process," he cautioned.

Mr. Bubbis advised flood sufferers to pile flood-affected furniture in back yards pending appraisal by relief fund authorities or government officials.

Many citizens were afraid to touch anything until they had heard a definite announcement of policy from the senior governments, he pointed out.

He disclosed that he would ask Mayor Garnet Coulter to press for some immediate statement on rehabilitation policy from the senior governments.

"Something must be done to relieve these people's minds," he said.

While it was not up to the city's employees in zone headquarters to give advice on a matter where senior government policy was concerned, he added, zone officials were generally advising people to go ahead and clean up their homes.

"If a floor has been ruined, they might as well tear it up. The appraisers will take cognizance of that," he said.

158 Approved

City health inspectors have so far approved re-occupation of 158 homes in the four flooded Winnipeg areas, Mr. Bubbis revealed. He added that many more homes had been re-occupied anyway.

About 269 electrical inspections and 120 building inspections for structural safety have been made so far from the zonal headquarters, he said.

City-Suburb Damage Feared \$20,000,000

Estimated flood damage for Winnipeg city and six municipalities Wednesday jumped to more than \$20,000,000 as figures came in from finance officials.

An official loss of \$2,953,000 was reported Tuesday by the city of Winnipeg. Additional flood damage to private properties, including

homes and businesses, was estimated at another \$2,500,000 Wednesday.

St. Vital and St. Boniface, hard hit by the flood, reported combined losses in all phases of flood damage - at more than \$11,000,000.

Municipal officials in many flooded areas emphasized that loss estimates were tentative, since accurate figures could not be ascertained until flood waters had completely receded.

Latest figures available Wednesday indicated major losses stemmed from inundated private homes and business establishments. Preliminary costs of flood-fighting also accounted for millions of dollars in the breakdown of estimates.

By municipalities, figures were reported to the Free Press as follows:

St. Vital, \$8,713,000; Fort Garry, \$2,100,000; St. Boniface, \$2,800,000; East Kildonan, \$1,100,000; West Kildonan, \$900,000; North Kildonan, \$142,000.

Two Sunday evening socials in aid of the Manitoba Flood Relief fund will be held by the C.U.A.C. Teens n' Twenties Youth club at 8.30 p.m. June 4 and June 11 in the C.U.A.C. community clubhouse, Church avenue at Sinclair street.

Interim Flood Aid Being Considered Coulter Reveals

Possibility of an immediate interim payment from Manitoba Flood Relief funds to flood victims is now being considered, Mayor Garnet Coulter revealed Wednesday.

Such a payment would take the form of grants to flood victims immediately in need of aid, he said.

The general committee of the Flood Relief fund, he said, had been urged Tuesday to take some action to alleviate sufferings of victims immediately, pending completion of the full appraisal of flood damage.

Mayor Coulter also disclosed that the \$18,500 remaining from the 1948 Greater Winnipeg Flood Relief fund had been turned over to the present Manitoba relief fund.

Hint Of Tighter Decisions