

Grim Fight Against Rampaging Red Reaches 'Watch-and-Wait' Stage

The grimmest fight that East Kildonan has ever had to put up was lost Wednesday night of last week to the overflowing Red River. After long days and nights of back-breaking toil to keep the river from inundating their homes, the residents were forced to concede another victory to the river as it punched a hole in the huge Leighton ave. dike flooding almost 300 homes.

A soft spot in the corner of the dike at the foot of Rossmere ave. gave way and the hole torn in it was impossible to plug.

On Sunday an estimated number of 80,000 bags of sand were dropped into that part of the dike and five caterpillar tractors piled tons of mud at the base of the dike to no avail.

The workers wallowed in a sea of mud and towards the end of their fight it became so bad that the bags had to be transported from Lay ave. to the dike on the "cats."

Following the levelling off of the river a second dike was started immediately to protect other homes that are on higher ground. This dike threads its way between houses just west of Woodlawn ave.

It has been built to a height of approximately three feet and is now being watched closely, although no more diking is expected to be necessary.

A small area that was almost lost to the flood last week was on East Kildonan's last street, McLeod ave.

Not being on the banks of the turbulent Red River the residents of McLeod ave. were overlooked entirely as all materials were being rushed to the priority areas along the river.

About five families on McLeod ave., east of Henderson Highway,

were about to be flooded by Brazier's Creek unless they took matters into their own hands.

For three successive nights these people took turns in waiting for a few yards of sand and a number of bags. They had to content themselves with what little material they received to start a dike.

For a time it didn't look as though it would amount to anything as the water slopped over the small dike. Grim determination held them together and when the Leighton ave. dike caved in more material was made available for them.

Now they have a substantial four-foot dike extending 200 yards east of Henderson Highway protecting not only their own homes but also

SERVICES TO BE HELD AT ALL CHURCHES SUNDAY

Permission has been granted by the Army authorities for a morning service of worship in King Memorial Church on Sunday. The minister, Rev. H. S. Dodgson, will therefore conduct a short service at 11 a.m.

Worshippers are urged to dress warmly, if the day is cool, as the motors have been removed from the furnaces.

There will be no evening service. The basement of the church was still free from water Wednesday.

At time of going to press, the Herald has been informed that services will be held in all the local churches. Please refer to "Church Services" column for all particulars.

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The regular meeting of Jephthah Chapter No. 22, O.E.S., to be held Friday, May 19, has been cancelled.

a low-lying area in North Kildonan immediately to the north which would have been flooded.

Although the terrific tension has eased somewhat in the last day or two, dike workers in Elmwood and East Kildonan are keeping a very close watch on the Red River.

Stock piling has become the main job along with that of patrolling the dikes. Local citizens who have done such a magnificent job of protecting their homes do not take all the credit for their success to date.

Numerous workers report working alongside residents from Brooklands, St. James, Charleswood, West Kildonan, St. John's, Selkirk, Transcona, Poplar Point, Steinbach and other points.

Those in charge of the remainder of the dikes in East Kildonan and Elmwood are quite optimistic. The Bredin Drive dike, along with the now huge Glenwood Crescent dike, is reported to be in good shape. At Harbison ave. this dike is 10 feet high and 30 feet wide.

The Digby ave. barrier, although seeping a little at times, is reported to be in good shape as it runs through the Elmwood Cemetery to join the dike at Riverton ave.

The one protecting Nairn ave. along Concordia Hospital is reported to be in very good condition.

One of the brighter aspects of the flood situation over the week-end, along with the levelling off of the river, was the addition of a huge pump on the sewer at the foot of Hart ave. on Glenwood Crescent.

The pump was taken from Aubrey street when a larger one was obtained for that point from Eastern Canada. It has a 24-inch pipe and pumps 2,500,000 gallons a day.

Since its addition to the smaller pumps on the Crescent, the water in the sewers has been lowered considerably. On Monday it was possible to walk down Noble ave. again and Wednesday night the water on Hart ave. had completely disappeared.

The fire engine pumps, although considerably smaller, have done a grand job in keeping the water level down. One of these pumps has been in operation for two weeks without a letup, having the oil changed while still working.

Still a further area to report flooding of streets is that between Wolfe and Grey streets.

The two pumps at Montcalm are not able to keep the sewers down, with the result that the backwash of the sewers is flooding the roadways.

A large pump will be placed at Robert and Logan to help relieve the situation and the sewers from Montcalm, Wolfe and Grey connecting with the Higgins ave. trunk will be lowered to a more normal level.

The buses in the area are still in operation. Although some families have left the area it has not been found necessary to issue evacuation orders.

During the present emergency one hears more stories than would fill a book. Most of them are like the chap who lived out of Winnipeg and came down to the Lay ave. dike with his own caterpillar and commenced to help in on that dike with no remuneration to himself. After 50 hours on the job his eyes had become so puffed up from lack of sleep he could hardly see.

Another dike worker who attracted the most attention and admiration of his fellow workers was a young Japanese gentleman, Charles Omori, who has been reported to the Glenwood Crescent