

# THOUSANDS FLEE CITY

## Norwood Bridge In Pincers Fight

### Evacuation Of Valley Forced To Halt

Canadian National railways' fight to evacuate the Red river valley ended Thursday. The decision went to the flood.

It was one of many that went the same way as R.C.M.P. patrol boats maintained almost lone vigilance over the 500 square miles of flooded Manitoba where water levels rose hourly.

More than 10 towns had been isolated and deserted. Communications were wiped out entirely for many villages.

Desolation was the keyword.

For 72 hours the railway had run its trains, for the most part, through six inches of water covering the steel. It had warned flood headquarters the evacuation operation would be on an hour-in-hour basis. The last hour came early Thursday.

Since May 4 more than 2,000 persons had been taken from their flooded homes by Canadian National "evacuation specials." They hauled 100 cars of livestock under rapidly worsening conditions as the flood crest rolled north. It had been a night and day effort for 21 days. The last train ran into a wash-out less than seven miles from Winnipeg Thursday morning.

Spotted on a spur track which

### Rivers Threaten 'Short Cut' Move

**BULLETIN:** Truck traffic over Norwood bridge was stopped at 2 p.m. because water seeping through a weak spot of the dike at the north-west side, reached a level on Main street deep enough to swamp vehicle engines. Officials in charge of the diking expected the bridge would be impassable for at least two hours.

Army and civilian flood fighters at noon Thursday were battling to keep the Red and Assiniboine rivers from joining at Norwood bridge.

If the two flood-swollen rivers should join at this point, one of the main links for emergency vehicles to St. Boniface and Norwood would be cut.

Convoys of trucks carrying flood workers, material and food supplies were still being towed through the low spot at River and Main at 2 p.m.

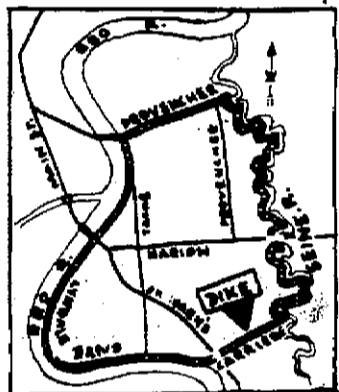
Diking is being carried out along Mayfair street and parallel to Main street between the two rivers in an effort to keep the road open. Water is now up to headlights on the highest trucks going through.

Water level at the James avenue pumping station at 1 p.m. Thursday was 29.5 feet above datum a rise of .4 feet in 24 hours.

One of the city's last major defences, the three-quarter-mile-long East Kildonan dike, was breached at 8:50 p.m. Wednesday, inundating another large section of the metropolitan area. No one was injured.

**One Huge Rampart**

Most of the city of St. Boniface and all of Norwood Wednesday was behind a huge dike surrounding the whole area (see map).



Two openings have been left in this rampart to let evacuees out of the Norwood and St. Vital areas. One is on Marion street and the other is Marion street bridge over the Seine river. This bridge has been restored. A new span was built over the inundated original.

Early Thursday morning a break

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## City Winning Fight To Maintain Power

The city was making headway Thursday in its fight to protect chief public utilities from flood danger.

W. D. Hurst, city engineer and chairman of the city's flood control committee, described the power situation as "much improved."

"We are certain in much better shape than we were 72 hours ago. That much we can say. We don't want to become too optimistic about things, however."

Mr. Hurst told the flood control committee.

Three top-priority jobs were almost completed, the committee learned. They included:

The flood-protective road to the Rover avenue power substation, surrounded by river waters.

The construction of a supply route to the Mill street substation of the Winnipeg Electric company.

Protection of the Winnipeg Electric

gas plant at Rover avenue and Sutherland street.

A. J. Taunton, deputy city engineer, reported that work crews were now busy again on the approach to the Provencher bridge. He said the approach could be finished by Saturday morning.

Crews and equipment had been ordered off construction of the 1,000-foot approach until defence of the power substations was completed.

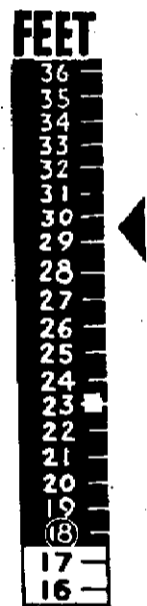
J. W. Sanger, city hydro manager, reported that the amount of power being used was down only 10 per cent. from normal.

"This decrease indicates that the majority of power services are continuing satisfactorily. It also indicates that a fairly large number of citizens have evacuated," he said.

E. V. Caton, chief engineer for the Winnipeg Electric company, asked that the public be assured there is no shortage of power.

Mr. Caton also said he had received orders to disconnect power in the whole of St. Vital, but that radio stations were still being served.

The flood control committee authorized Mr. Sanger to caution building superintendents to inform the utilities when abandoning buildings.



## Labor Group To Allocate City Workers

A civilian labor control organization has been set up by flood control headquarters to co-ordinate the available supply of voluntary civilian workers, it was announced Thursday by Brig. R. E. A. Morton, director of flood relief.

The city has been divided into areas and the new organization will allocate the civilian workers to each area, according to the number of men available and the need of each district.

Purpose of the new move is to prevent confusion which resulted in civilians applying directly to many different projects. It is designed to ensure that workers are employed where their services can best be used.

Civilian labor control centres have been established as follows:

Crescentwood community club, phone 43 445, in the south-west section;

St. James municipal hall, phone 62 375, in the west section;

Ralph Brown school, phone 595 954, in the north end.

Volunteer workers in the municipalities of Fort Garry, St. Vital, Norwood, St. Boniface, Elmwood and East Kildonan are asked to

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## Cooler Weather Heads Southward For Flood Areas

Cooler air lying over northern Manitoba slipped southward during the night and will lower temperatures in most of the southern regions Thursday and Friday. Some cloudiness accompanies this new outbreak of colder air.

The forecast for Winnipeg was: Friday clear except for afternoon cloudiness. Little change in temperature. Winds east at 15 m.p.h. Friday. Low Thursday and high Friday at Gimli 25 and 45, at Carman and Winnipeg 30 and 50.

**Temperatures**

Temperature reading during the 24 hour period ending at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, were:

	MIN.	MAX.	PREC.
Vancouver	43	62	
Calgary	45	68	TR.
Edmonton	47	71	
Saskatoon	39	71	TR.
Regina	38	69	TR.
Winnipeg	32	66	
Winnipeg	46	63	
Port Churchill	10	32	OC.
Toronto	55	66	
Ottawa	55	66	
Montreal	44	66	TR.

## Evacuees' Beach Train Lacks 'Holiday Spirit'

In spite of the predominant presence of women and children, paper bags and bundles, the Winnipeg Beach special which pulled out of the Canadian Pacific station, Thursday morning, had little in common with a normal beach train.

There was no holiday spirit abroad. The scene was reminiscent of war-time mobilization.

Approximately 100 people, mostly mothers with young children, occupied three of the 10 coaches that had been set aside for the first voluntary evacuation train to points along the Riverton line.

The special will run again Friday and Saturday, leaving the Canadian Pacific station at 9:30 a.m. daylight saving time.

"We are going for the children's sake," was the unanimous feeling. Few of the passengers were flood refugees proper. "I wasn't flooded out, but I'm going for the sake of my five week old baby," reported Mrs. S. Steedman.

G. Burnett, one of the male minority, had been evacuated from the



Mixed feelings of fatigue, relief and exultation can be seen on the faces of these evacuees from St. Norbert. Their train was stranded time and again on the Canadian National railways track leading into Winnipeg. They are part of 550 persons aboard the train, some of whom were ill.

## Mass Evacuation Plans Prepared

Thousands upon thousands of evacuees left the Greater Winnipeg flood area Thursday. They left by train, bus, plane and private car. No exact estimate of the numbers was available — the movement in and out of the city was too heavy to tabulate. One unofficial source, however, estimated that 30,000 will have left by Friday.

### Assiniboine Routs Citizens Along Roslyn

The Assiniboine river really began to assert itself Thursday, when rising waters drove from their homes almost all residents on the river side of Roslyn road east of Osborne street.

The exodus, initiated Wednesday by the evacuation of aged persons from a nursing home, had by Thursday noon affected about 200 persons.

Army personnel are laboring behind the home to strengthen a dike holding back five feet of water. Two soldiers were attempting to bail out with large tin cans a pool that had formed between the dike and building.

Residents on Roslyn crescent are preparing for evacuation. "There is no use my building a dike," said one. "If the river rises any higher we will just have to leave everything and get out."

Triple-layered sandbag dikes on Wellington crescent at the foot of Maryland bridge were still holding, at noon Thursday.

Troops and other workers in the area had early Thursday morning switched their labors to buttressing the dike protecting the Shriners hospital for crippled children against water from the rapidly rising Assiniboine river.

Precautionary measures were being taken in case the number of flooded homes became so great that a mass exodus was required.

The population flowed out to Brandon, Kenora, resort towns, to Toronto and Montreal, to Saskatchewan and points farther west. Everyone was in a hurry but movement was under control.

Roads leading out of the city were jammed with cars. Airlines reported capacity loads. The homeless milled about the railway stations, and the railways themselves rushed in extra equipment for the large-scale exodus.

Here are some of the developments Thursday:

1. Brig. R. S. Malone, acting chairman of the emergency committee on planning, said at flood control headquarters that evacuation of women and children had been orderly to date. This evacuation was prompted by an appeal from Brig. R. E. A. Morton Wednesday that the city's population be "thinned out."
  2. The Winnipeg flood control committee designated the community clubrooms in six city areas as reception halls for evacuees.
  3. William Courage, director of the city's emergency housing division, said all factors in the housing situation are "better than at any time since the emergency occurred."
  4. The Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways announced that extra equipment was being sent to help evacuate the flood-stricken.
  5. Brig. Malone said, "We are planning for something we hope will not happen. But we want to know exactly what we will do should the situation become worse."
  6. Committees have been set up by the planning committee to deal with the following services: food, general stores, goods and distribution, police co-ordination, engineers, evacuation, manpower, emergency shelter, medical, communications, trucking and gasoline and oil.
  7. Evacuees from outside points are not being left in Winnipeg. They are given temporary quarters and then taken on to areas safe from the flood waters.
  8. Winnipeg's flood control committee has warned citizens not to go to beach resorts or other areas purely on speculation. If citizens have no definite accommodation they should contact Red Cross headquarters.
- Every train out of Winnipeg Wednesday was jammed. The Canadian National estimated that 4,000 people went out, but not all were evacuees.
- Thousands Come In
- As thousands streamed out of

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## Navy Goes To Rescue Of Stranded Train

The Royal Canadian navy stepped in Thursday to complete the amphibious evacuation of 550 men, women and children from a Canadian National train, stranded since early Wednesday outside St. Norbert.

Reported aboard were several sick children and adults, including one stretcher case. The sick were removed first, by army duck, and taken to a rail train stopped at McGillivray boulevard.

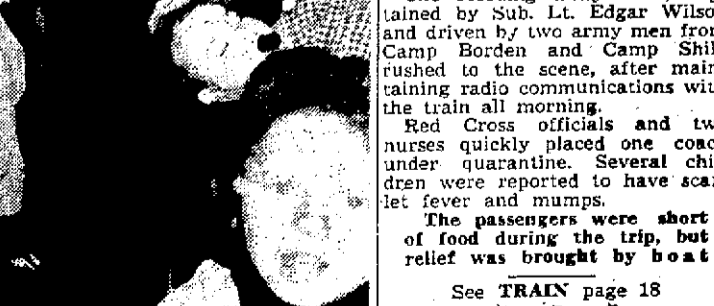
Word came in to flood relief headquarters Wednesday that the train, carrying refugees from Morris, Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe and Glenlea, was stranded. Tracks were awash all along the line.

The train, carrying some passengers who had begun the trip to safety Sunday, proceeded at a snail's pace, arriving at Portage Junction, after risking countless washed-out sections on the line heading into Winnipeg.

The rescuing army duck, captained by Sub. Lt. Edgar Wilson and driven by two army men from Camp Borden and Camp Shilo rushed to the scene, after maintaining radio communications with the train all morning.

Red Cross officials and two nurses quickly placed one coach under quarantine. Several children were reported to have scarlet fever and mumps.

The passengers were short of food during the trip, but relief was brought by boat.



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**Stockyards Announces Embargo On Livestock**

Effective immediately, an embargo is placed against livestock consigned to or in care of the Union stockyards, St. Boniface, the stockyards has announced. It will remain in effect until further notice.

## Small Talk



Well, I dunno... It's pretty close.

## Coulter Decries Rumors Of City Typhoid Epidemic

City water supplies are "completely normal" and free from pollution, Mayor Garnet Coulter announced Thursday.

Decrying "rumors" of a typhoid epidemic, Mayor Coulter declared that no single case of typhoid fever has occurred since the beginning of the year in Greater Winnipeg.

The mayor, on behalf of army, provincial and city health authorities, gave "most positive assurance" that mass inoculation against typhoid fever is not being contemplated in any degree whatsoever.

Flood control headquarters said Thursday no outbreak of typhoid fever is likely to result from the Manitoba floods. One suspected case of typhoid has been reported in Winnipeg involving a 14-year-old, army medical officers told newspapermen at a press conference. However they stressed that

it was only "suspected" and it "may not be typhoid at all." He pointed out it takes several days to prove a case. The medical experts said it was not true that typhoid necessarily followed floods. It was officially stated early Thursday afternoon that the sus-

## Visitors Urged To Stay Away

A nationwide appeal for people to stay away from flood-battered Winnipeg was issued Thursday by the Manitoba Hotel Association.

City hotels are greatly over-taxed, and some may even have to close due to flood conditions, the association said.