

# CAMPBELL PLEDGES AID

## Dike Holds Back Disaster

### Too Few Workers On Job

A thin line of sandbags about six miles long is now holding back a 70-mile muddy lake from flowing into the Winnipeg residential areas of River Heights and Crescentwood, flood control headquarters claimed Thursday.

While high winds from the south threatened to boost the water level over the top of the barrier, there were not enough men to man sandbags.

Engineers in charge of the operation said Thursday noon that a

Level of the Red river at 1 p.m. Thursday, as recorded at the James avenue pumping station, was still 30.2 feet above datum. It has remained at this peak now for almost 48 hours.

call for 250 volunteers had only brought out 180 men.

Flood control called the situation "extremely bad" and prepared to throw all resources into the fight to hold back the large body of water.

In addition, Lyndale dike, bastion of Norwood, would be seriously threatened if the vast quantities of water dammed at Fort Garry broke loose.

Main concern Thursday morning was for two miles of the Fort Garry wall that stretched along McGillivray boulevard.

Water here rose six inches overnight as strong south winds swept it against the already waterlogged dike.

Wind was the enemy of the hundreds who have manned this dike since the floods began.

Officials in the municipal building, taken over long ago as flood headquarters, cursed the complacency that was leading Greater Winnipeggers into thinking flood danger no longer existed.

The officials were planning to blast the Canadian National railways' line which parallels the Red river and Pembina highway.

One of the most serious effects of a breached Fort Garry dike would be the flooding of the Canadian National's yards and shops there.

City engineering officials, however, said Thursday



Rough winds buffeting the flood water against this thin line of sandbags at the Fort Garry dike, crossing the Pembina highway was termed "extremely hazardous" Thursday by army engineers. Feverish activity to build the weak section higher can be seen as men pile bag after bag against the crushing wall of water.

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Legend  
TODAYS LEVEL  
48 PEAK 234'  
FLOOD LEVEL

See FLOOD Page 8

## Exodus Bogs Down; Keep Moving—Morton

More citizens were urged to leave Winnipeg by flood control authorities Thursday, as they scanned figures showing that the exodus had slowed considerably despite the threat of flood disaster still hanging over the city.

Wednesday was the slowest day for the movement out of Winnipeg. Only 4,325 persons departed, raising the total exodus to 93,224. Thursday the evacuation total is expected to exceed the 100,000 mark.

Situation Unchanged  
Brig. R. E. A. Morton, flood control commander, was asked at his daily press conference Thursday if the authorities were still anxious to have Winnipeggers leave the city. He replied, "very definitely we want more to go. The situa-

tion has not changed." He was referring to warnings by engineers that the threat of a possible disaster in Greater Winnipeg would not end until the Red river has dropped about five feet. One day's heavy rain could make the situation critical.

Authorities are worried on two counts:  
1. The decline in the number leaving the city indicates that the warmer weather and sunshine has lulled Winnipeggers into believing the danger is past.

2. There is a possibility some of the evacuees might want to return to the city before the danger period is over.

Flood control headquarters has had both railways wire their offices outside the inundated area asking that it be made quite clear to evacuees that they cannot re-enter their homes until sanitary conditions and electrical attachments are in proper order.

The word has been passed on to Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal for relay and throughout the prairie region where refugees have been taken in. It asks all rail representatives to warn passengers anxious to return when flood waters start to recede of the exact situation which will prevail in rehabilitation.

Evacuee Figures  
Wednesday 1,233 evacuees left by bus; 25 by R.C.A.F.; 129 by Trans-Canada Air lines; one by Canadian Pacific Air lines; 1,512 by Canadian National railways; 825 by Canadian Pacific railway and 600 by private car.

The greatest movement in one day was last Friday when 14,920 persons left the city. Other totals were: Saturday, 13,072; Sunday, 11,000; Monday, 8,502; Tuesday, 5,379.

Five extra sleeping cars have been added by the Canadian Pacific railway to transcontinental trains leaving Winnipeg for the east and west Thursday.

Transfer of old persons from Deer Lodge to Shilo has been postponed. Dr. Athol Gordon reported Wednesday.

The Canadian Pacific railway has announced its special morning train to Lake Winnipeg resorts will not operate Saturday and Sunday of this week but will run Thursday and Friday as scheduled, at 11 a.m. daylight time.

Students' Rooms  
United college announced Thursday its students who have been evacuated from their homes will



LLOYD VEZEY

## Final Blast To Life Work

"I'm wiped out completely." And he was.

Lloyd Vezey's house, its contents and all his dreams were in danger of being blown sky-high Thursday morning.

In flooded Fort Garry the \$4,000 home that Vezey had built himself was a hazard to Elm Park and Norwood bridge.

Torn loose from its foundations by the still unpredictable waters of the Red, it was due to float downstream any moment.

Army engineers were set to blow it up.

All they wanted was Vezey's permission, and he gave it willingly. "I don't want it to be a hazard," he said.

At 48 years of age, he was ready to watch the outcome of his life's work go up in smoke.

"Used to be Lot 18 Crescent drive — middle of the Red river now."

With no ideas of recompense from anywhere, he was planning for the future. "Guess I'll borrow

See RUIN Page 6

## Experts Feel Lyndale Dike Up 'For Keeps'

Civilian engineers Thursday told a volunteers' meeting in Norwood that the Lyndale drive dike should be safe from any danger of water pressure.

They said the dike was so solidly backed and had been started on such a firm foundation that it could probably be left up after water receded and used as a permanent rampart against the river.

## 'Needy Cases' Assured 'Substantial' Help

The Manitoba government Thursday pledged that "substantial" financial assistance will be forthcoming to owners of flooded homes in Greater Winnipeg, on farms and in towns along the Red river valley.

The government also promised that assistance would be extended to municipalities to compensate for damaged roads, streets and bridges "within the financial competence of the government."

### Text Of Statement

Here is the complete text of the statement issued Thursday morning by Premier Campbell in which he promised "substantial financial help" to flood victims:

"The flooding of the Red river valley this year has resulted in losses, public and private, far greater in extent than has ever been experienced in the history of Canada. The full extent of the disaster is not yet known and cannot be known until the danger has passed, but it is evident that the losses already involved are far beyond the financial resources of many citizens, municipalities and the provincial government.

"The provincial government has already taken steps to lay before the federal government the fact that the present flood situation creates a disaster that is a national emergency, which has so been recognized by the federal and provincial governments. A commission has already been set up to ascertain the total damage caused by the flood and the amount the federal government should contribute for the relief of those affected by flood damage.

"As, however, it is recognized that it will be some time before this commission can report, I wish to make the following statement:

"To those whose homes in Greater Winnipeg, in small towns and on farms, have been seriously damaged by the flood; the provincial government gives its pledge that in cases of need, substantial financial help will be forthcoming in rehabilitating such houses.

"Also, damaged public property, such as roads, streets and bridges, must be repaired or replaced and government assistance to the municipalities concerned will be dealt with on a similar basis of need within the financial competence of the government."

## Fraser Flood Aid Formula

The federal government in 1948 paid the bulk of the costs arising out of the Fraser valley flood. Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent has promised to apply the British Columbia formula to Manitoba. Leslie Fox of the British Columbia legislature's press gallery in Victoria, sets out in the following despatch the amounts paid by the federal government under that formula.

VICTORIA, B.C., May 18 (Special) — Total cost of the Fraser valley flood, including dike rebuilding to prevent a recurrence of the disaster, was \$17,403,664. Of that total the federal government paid \$14,122,532 and the province's share was only \$3,371,132. That is, the Federal Government paid 81 per cent, and British Columbia 19 per cent.

The municipalities paid nothing for flood fighting and relief except to supply any machinery or equipment that was useful at the time. The municipalities, however, paid in part for reconstruction of highways.

For fighting flood Ottawa agreed to pay 75 per cent.  
Ottawa paid ..... \$ 1,090,032.  
Province paid ..... \$ 353,344.  
Total cost ..... \$ 1,413,376.

For relief and rehabilitation  
Ottawa provided outright gift of ..... \$ 5,000,000.  
Rehabilitation costs were ..... \$ 4,125,038.  
Balance remaining in hands of province ..... \$ 74,962.  
Relief costs were ..... \$ 471,523.  
Province paid full amount out of \$874,962 remaining from federal grant.

Thus federal \$5,000,000 gift spent as follows:  
Emergency flood fighting ..... \$ 353,344.  
Emergency relief ..... \$ 471,523.  
Rehabilitation costs ..... \$ 4,125,038.  
Total ..... \$ 4,949,905.

Still remaining in hands of province from \$5,000,000 grant ..... \$ 50,005.  
Restoration of flood-damaged roads and bridges cost province ..... \$ 733,727.  
Offset against this was the \$50,005 left over from grant.  
Actual cost to province for rebuilding roads and bridges ..... \$ 683,682.  
Rebuilding Fraser valley dikes — Total cost ..... \$ 10,750,000.  
Ottawa share — 75 per cent. .... \$ 8,062,500.  
Province's share — 25 per cent. .... \$ 2,687,500.  
Final cost to federal government ..... \$ 14,122,532.  
Final cost to provincial government ..... \$ 3,371,132.

## Canada's Generosity Pin Points On 'Peg

Manitoba's flood-sick residents came in from cities in the United States and Britain.

Alexander Message  
Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Canada's governor-general, sent a telegram to flood relief headquarters through his secretary, Maj. Gen. H. F. C. Letson.

The message stated that it would See FUND Page 9

## 30-Mile Wind Not Expected To Harm Dikes

Providing a 30 mile an hour wind Thursday is not accompanied by forecast thunder showers, Joe Bibeau, superintendent of St. Boniface public works, is not too worried about his seven-mile-long dikes.

Mr. Bibeau told the Free Press that he thought the dikes were high enough to prevent the water from blowing over into the streets. But, he added, "There is always a danger."

The superintendent said he was more concerned if the wind was accompanied by a driving rain. He said the sewers were working well and the pumps were only working at half their capacity.

CROP REPORT  
The first Free Press crop report of 1950 will be found on page 20 of this issue.

In a special statement issued shortly before noon Thursday, Premier D. L. Campbell said the government recognized that flood losses already suffered are "far beyond the financial resources of many citizens, municipalities and the provincial government."

Steps had already been taken to seek federal assistance, Premier Campbell said, and a commission appointed to ascertain the total damage.

Because the commission would not be able to make its report for some time, the premier said he wished to assure Manitobans that financial compensation "in cases of need" would be forthcoming.

Premier Campbell is expected to elaborate on his statement in a radio address over all Winnipeg stations at 9:30 p.m. tonight.

## River Balance 'Precarious,' Says Official

D. M. Stephens, provincial deputy minister of mines and natural resources, described the flood situation Thursday as remaining in a "state of precarious balance."

He said there had been a "very slight" drop in the Red at Emerson of one and one-half inches, and a drop of .33 feet at Morris.

"Neither of these facts can be treated optimistically," he said. Mr. Stephens pointed out that, in any case, any declines registered at southern points would take a long time to reach Winnipeg. It would now take about two days, the deputy minister said, for a decline at Morris to show here.

Engineers explained that the 600-square-mile lake of water south of the city acts as a reservoir draining into the flooded Winnipeg area. This is one reason why even marked declines in river level to the south would make no appreciable difference for some time here, they say.

Flood control is not concerned over a possible flood threat from the Assiniboine river. Experts say the Souris river, although in flood at present, is not affecting Assiniboine levels.

Last of 147 truckloads of debris from the river at Norwood bridge was removed at 1 a.m. Thursday. Removal of this material, which was jammed under the upstream end of the bridge, should relieve some of the pressure, engineers say.

The debris, including furniture and sides of houses that have floated down the river, has been dumped at a central point in St. Boniface.

Greater Winnipeg's reserve stockpile of sandbags Thursday passed the million mark for the first time, army engineers announced. They now have 1,357,500 bags.

With the exception of planes being used in reconnaissance of flooded districts, all R.C.A.F. aircraft have been returned to their home bases. All Dakotas and Lancasters, however, will be on 24-hour standby notice until May 21, air force officials stated.

Emerson residents still in their sewers are suffering no shortage of food supplies. Glen Phillips, a sanitary inspector of the department of health and public welfare, said Thursday. Mr. Phillips has just returned from the border town after a three week tour there.

Three stores are still operating in emergency quarters in Emerson. Many families are still living on the second floor of their homes, where they have been marooned for three and a half weeks, Mr. Phillips stated.

At Wahpeton, N.D., headquarters of the Red river, a steady decrease in the flood level was broken by a half-inch rise early Thursday.

Other points south of the border and in Manitoba reported a regular fall in the river level.

Fargo had a two-foot drop, while Grand Forks reported the river down seven inches.

## RCAF Ready For Total Evacuation

All R.C.A.F. stations having Dakotas and North Star aircraft have been ordered onto 24-hour standby notice — ready for any possible evacuation of Winnipeg — the air force reported Thursday.

The stand-by order will hold only in the event of flood waters hitting a "disaster level" of 32.5 feet. The readiness warning is effective until May 21, the air force said.



It's grim but we'll come back!

See EXODUS Page 6