

# Strong Winds And Rain Forecast

Wind gusts which may reach 50 miles an hour tonight accompanied by steady rain are heading for the flood-stricken Manitoba Red river valley, a special weather bureau warning says. An intense storm moving northward across Nebraska was causing strong north winds and rain over the north central states. The winds were expected to increase to 25 to 35 miles an hour along the valley this afternoon. Rain was expected by mid-afternoon and continue to tomorrow morning. The winds would drop to 20 miles an hour tomorrow. Winnipeg received almost three quarters of an inch of rain in the 24 hours up to 6.30 Friday morning. The highest precipitation recorded in the Red river valley was 1.42 inches at Pembina, just across the international boundary from Emerson. Further south, at Fargo, N.D., the total was .14 inches.

## Morris Evacuation Climaxes Grim Saga



Grim and weary, the flood-evacuated patients of Morris hospital arrived in Winnipeg early Friday morning. In these pictures, three of the patients are shown being eased from the



special Canadian National railways trains which carried them from flood-swamped Morris. In the first picture, Dr. J. S. Holowin — who ordered the evacuation — helps a sympathetic



attendant to lift Mrs. Peter Warkentine from the train. Mrs. Warkentine Monday became the mother of a baby girl. In the other pictures, the attendant carries an ailing elderly man and

woman — assisted by dishevelled army men and civilians who effected the evacuation.

**FINAL EDITION**

# Winnipeg Free Press

Winnipeg: Cloudy with occasional rain or rainshowers. Temperature much the same as Thursday. High today, 40.

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WINNIPEG, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1950

Sun Set 5:52 p.m. Moon Set 5:00 a.m.  
Sun Rise 5:39 a.m. Moon Rise 3:03 a.m.

FORECAST: CLOUDY WITH RAIN

## 'Last 148' Leave After Bitter Fight To Defend Morris

BY GORDON SINCLAIR

Final chapter in the Morris-evacuation saga was written in the Canadian National railway station Friday.

In wheel chairs, on crutches, by stretcher and on foot the last 148 men, women and children to be removed from a water-whipped town came off a special train at 3.10 a.m.

These were the fighters — the ones who would not admit defeat to the worst flood in the history of their town, but who volunteered to evacuate so food, water and fuel supplies could be maintained for the few who must remain.

They were people like 71-year-old R. S. Paterson, who retired last year after 43 years as town clerk. He was born "right on the banks of the Red in Morris," and has lived all his life there.

A veteran of five previous Morris floods, he agreed "this was the worst — even the 1897 one was nothing like this."

From his wheelchair he explained:

"I didn't want to leave. I thought I could see it out. But my supplies ran short. Some of my friends told me I'd better leave. Supplies are going to be slim for those who remain."

Mrs. Paterson interjected, "We were doing fine, but we were running out of fuel."

"You can have no idea here what this is doing to the people of Morris," she said. "It's been an awful blow."

Meanwhile, Dr. J. S. Holowin, with a group of nurses, was removing from the train four

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## 20 Grim Men, Big Dike Nip Letellier Disaster

BY FRED EDGE

LETELLIER, Man., May 5 (Special)—Twenty miserably cold, unshakably determined men here have fought the worst floods in their experience — and won.

They beat potential disaster with a 100-foot dike.

But behind their victory — of more significance than the eight-foot wall of protective sandbags that lines the west side of this town — is the preparedness and co-operative spirit of the people themselves.

And beneath it all lies a community heart as big as a barn. Letellier — like most Manitoba towns — knew a flood was coming.

The memory of the floods of 1948 was still bitter-fresh in their minds.

But this time the people of Letellier were prepared.

Principally they were prepared because of Councillor Joe Damp-house.

"Joe was the driving force behind the preparedness that enabled us to meet the flood threat head-on," said Dave Parent, secretary of the local Red Cross. "It was late Saturday night, April 22, when Joe suggested a protective dike on the west side of town."

"I thought it was a good idea. We started to build the dike right that night."

"Within two days," he added, "working 24-hour shifts, the dike was finished."

He paused. "I'd like to say that this town owes a great debt of gratitude to 'Boche' Roy, municipal machine operator, who worked day and night to see the

dike through its successful completion.

"Without Boche," he continued, "we would have had no dike. Also due a great deal of praise are the 20 or so local residents who gave all their time and effort to carry out Joe Damp-house's instructions. It was these instructions — in time and in proper place — that saved the town."

Letellier's "stitch-in-time" started six days before the flood threat became an actuality.

It started when Reeve Art Beaudin called a special meeting April 18 to discuss ways and means of beating the 1950 flood threat to the "punch."

By the time the flood ac-

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### Daily Traffic Pointer

A number of Winnipeg motorists have been in the habit of turning around, or crossing from one side of a street to the other, in the middle of blocks.

The city's traffic bylaw states that only at intersections can such a movement be made, and only then when there are no restrictions to the contrary.

# FARMERS KILL HUNGRY STOCK

## Fear Herd Of 50 Lost Due To Lack Of Feed

Army flood fighters lost their week-long battle with flood waters at Morris hospital at 2 p.m. Friday when the sandbag dike collapsed. Pumps were unable to keep up with water in the building. Patients had been evacuated Thursday night.

Manitoba farmers were reported to be shooting livestock Friday as flood waters destroyed feed supplies. There was little hope of saving a 50-head herd near Morris where most of the shootings were reported. Further north-west farmers fought a losing battle to save their feed and seed grains. They battled as flood waters continued stubborn advances in all flooded areas.

Throughout the flooded sectors feed was short and cattle suffered.

From Dominion City herds were moved to high ground six miles away. Town stock was in "poor condition."

In other places animals that had stood in the wet and drizzle of the three-week flood were in worse condition, despite emergency treatment where veterinarians were available.

The majority of flooded towns Friday depended finally on feed shipped from outside.

Further and heavier stock losses were predicted if rain and flood conditions continue, reports indicated.

Cattle Cars Used Stock was best off in towns that had stabled cattle in rail cars — but still the beasts suffered.

As the flood emergency hardest hit were the small communities lightened to a disaster crisis, flooded recently.

In most of these the unexpected flood found a lack of emergency organization when it struck hard and fast.

Developments: The Red river rose at all points between its source and Winnipeg except at Emerson. Reeve W. R. Johnson organized



**LEGEND**  
 TODAY'S LEVEL  
 48 Peak 23.4  
 FLOOD LEVEL



"So... What's good about that?"



A canoe — not a horse — is transportation for an R.C.M.P. inspecting officer who visits detachment headquarters in Morris. As the inspector paddles into the room, the detachment officer sits writing flood reports. His desk and chair are held out of the water by high stilts. Behind him, against the wall, the wireless set is also raised.

## Rain, Flood Hit Heat, Transport

The Red river level at Winnipeg Friday hit 25 feet above datum at 1 p.m. — a rise of six inches in 24 hours — to pass the high point reached by the flood of 1904 by one-tenth of a foot — the highest it has been since 1882.

Heavy rainfall Thursday night brought the most critical flood situation the city has experienced in 68 years.

The still-rising river is now 1.6 feet over the peak of 1948, and one foot over the 1916 high.

Provincial government engineers feared Friday the flood crest might not reach the city until sometime next week.

Here was the flood picture in Greater Winnipeg Friday, noon as

### Horse, 3 Cows Swim In Water 6 Feet Deep; Man Along For Ride

LETELLIER, Man., May 5 (Special) — A St. Jean man Thursday found his own solution to evacuate cattle from the flooded areas.

First, he tied a rope to his horse's tail.

Then, he tied three cows to the rope.

Next, he mounted the horse and rode into town.

The three cows followed behind — swimming in six feet of water.

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