

Premier Campbell Declares:

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Morton Issues Orders

Here is a statement from Brig. R. E. A. Morton, directing officer of all relief work in Winnipeg's flood emergency:

"The Red Cross will continue to handle all requests for assistance dealing with personal problems such as housing, feeding, evacuation and first aid. Those wishing to submit such requests should telephone 31 798.

"Request for material aid such as sandbags, pumps, boats, working parties, etc. should be made to the director of flood relief; telephone 907 409.

All will appreciate that both material and labor resources are limited, Brig. Morton said. Every effort will be made to allot these where they will do the most good for the greatest number of people, he added.

"Members of the armed forces in this emergency have been given every assistance by the civilian population. I urgently appeal to all citizens to continue this support and assure them that the men of the armed services will do everything in their power to assist in this emergency," he continued.

Brig. Morton explained that an operations room has been established in the Manitoba legislative building. This will be the control centre for armed forces work and its staff will be composed of senior staff officers. Fort Osborne barracks will be employed as an administration centre.

Winnipeg will be divided into sectors roughly corresponding to the present municipalities and army personnel will be stationed in each to co-operate with civic authorities and co-ordinate relief work in each area, he said.

5-Foot Rise Is Feared By City

The emergency meeting of the Winnipeg city council Saturday morning was warned by officials that there was a possibility the waters may rise another five feet in the city.

J. W. Sanger, general manager of City Hydro, told the council that the city will be faced with a major evacuation job, which may have to be handled on a "national organization basis."

An emergency committee of the city department officials was set up headed by City Engineer W. D. Hurst with "full powers" to try and cope with the situation in the city.



This is how Elm Park and the Wildwood area looked Saturday morning from the air after the dikes gave way ending a gallant battle by flood fighters. In the foreground is Jubilee avenue, while in the centre can be seen the completely inundated Elm Park section. In the background Wildwood can be seen under water with the dike still showing.

Paper Sunday

Further critical rise in the Red river is expected Sunday and in order to keep the public informed of all latest developments the Free Press will be published Sunday at 12.00 p.m. There will be a free delivery throughout the city.

Army Commander Heads Full Scale Relief Job

The Manitoba Government Saturday proclaimed a state of emergency in the flooded Red River valley and appointed Brig. R. E. A. Morton, general officer commanding, prairie army command, as directing officer of all relief work. A special statement from the office of Premier D. L. Campbell Saturday disclosed that an emergency meeting of flood relief directors had been held between 11.30 p.m. and 2.30 a.m.

"The heavy rains and winds, which have prevailed throughout the Red river valley in the past 24 hours," the statement said, "have transformed a serious flooding condition into an extremely critical one."

Premier Campbell said arrangements were made at the meeting for immediate evacuation of patients at the Winnipeg municipal hospitals in Fort Rouge to Dr. Lodge military hospital.

In addition, warnings were issued to residents of River-view, Wildwood, Fort Rouge, Lyndale Drive, Glenwood Crescent and the St. Boniface and Lombard street dikes, "to be prepared for heavy flooding which could take place very rapidly if rising waters broke the dikes protecting these areas."

The meeting agreed that warnings would consist of radio messages to the effect that a break in a dike will be indicated by repeated three-blast signals from the Free Press siren.

The emergency meeting held in the premier's office was attended by: Brig. Morton; Col. R. B. Halsey; Lt. Col. J. W. Ritchie; Assistant Commissioner J. D. Bird, R.C.M.P.; Supt. E. H. Parson, R.C.M.P.; Chief of Police Charles MacIver; City Engineer W. D. Hurst; A. J. Taunton, assistant city engineer; D. M. Cox, secretary-manager of the city municipal hospitals; Dr. M. S. Leugheed, city health officer; Hon. Stuart Garson, minister of justice; Hon. Erick Willis, deputy premier; George Collins, deputy minister of public works; and Premier Campbell.

Water Sweeps Man To Death



ALFRED OGG

Bus Service

Buses provided free of charge by Moore's Taxi, will leave the Free Press commencing at 3 p.m. Saturday and thereafter every hour on the hour, for volunteers wishing to help in the flood emergency.

The flood situation in Greater Winnipeg by Saturday had reached disastrous proportions.

City engineering officials announced they had given up the battle to hold back the fast-rising Red river except at one dike in Elmwood.

The flood claimed its first life in the city Saturday morning when Alfred Ogg, 26, of 873 Sherburn street, was drowned while helping fight flood waters on Kingston crescent, St. Vital.

Mass evacuations started in Elm Park, River-view, St. Boniface, and other sections of the city Friday night when heavy rain and the swelling river collapsed dikes.

Everywhere, except in isolated cases, the battle appeared to be lost.

Level of the Red river at James avenue pumping station at 11 a.m. Saturday was 26.4 feet above datum.

Record flood of 1882 has now been surpassed.

The city is experiencing its worst flood in 80 years. Water rose at the alarming rate of one-tenth of a foot an hour during the night as thousands of volunteers worked desperately to hold dikes.

Deputy city engineer A. J. Taunton, said Saturday:

"The city has come to the end of flood defence fighting."

"Our resources are exhausted and things have gotten out of hand."

"It is no longer a question of defence but of relief."

An emergency meeting of city engineers was called Saturday morning.

The drowning victim was working with five other Optimist club members to save the home of Dr. A. V. Johnson, 357 Kingston crescent, when flood waters burst through the rear door of the home.

See CITY FLOOD Page 8

Winnipeg Elevations By Districts

Here is a list issued by the city engineer's department showing approximate elevations in feet of various Winnipeg districts as indicated by streets. First flood stage in Winnipeg is 26 feet.

Table with 2 columns: District Name and Elevation in Feet. Includes districts like Higgins and Main, Sutherland and Syndicate, etc.

City Authorities Issue Warning

Important announcement by the city engineer and the manager of the city of Winnipeg hydro electric system to the citizens of Winnipeg:

1. The public is warned that all previous estimates of the flood level in the Red River are likely to be exceeded. The city engineer and the hydro manager are making preparations to protect municipal properties based on a river elevation at James avenue of 27 feet above datum.

2. The public is advised to prepare immediately to raise any electrical equipment or any other moveable property that might be damaged at least to an elevation of 29 feet above datum.

3. The public is warned that it is very dangerous to stand in water and handle live flexible electrical cords.

4. The public is advised that as flood levels increase in the Red River the difficulties of discharging sewage from buildings become much greater.

5. The public is warned that there is always the possibility of the failure of a dike to hold flood waters. In the event of a break of a dike the public will be warned by repeated three blast signals from the siren on the Free Press building.

Free Press Siren To Sound Alarm

In view of existing rain and flood conditions arrangements have been made with the Free Press by the city engineer's department and also the municipalities of St. Boniface and Fort Garry that in the event of any further flood-emergency or disaster threatening Greater Winnipeg the Free Press siren will be sounded to arouse residents.

The warning signal will be three long blasts on the siren repeated at two minute intervals. On hearing the siren citizens should immediately check their basements and maintain watch while the danger period exists.

They should also tune in to the local radio stations for exact details of developments. During the past few days municipal officers have been swamped with phone calls as a result of false rumors. Accordingly, the above system has been adopted to ensure an advance warning when it is required and thus keep municipal phones clear.

These instructions were issued Friday night and were carried out when conditions arose with the bursting of dikes in Greater Winnipeg.

Rising U.S. Waters Aim New Threat At Manitoba

More misery threatened southern Manitoba Saturday. A brand-new flood menace from the United States was predicted. Engineers at Grand Forks stated the Red river of the North rose swiftly overnight in front of a crest expected Monday.

Their prediction came as residents of Pembina, just across the border, started coping with fresh flood conditions.

At the same time, local flood waters rose again throughout the Red river valley of Manitoba. The rise varied from two feet at Gardenton, 20 miles east of Dominion City, to seven inches here.

The northern Red went on its fresh rampage as heavy rains lashed the border country. At Crookston, vital point in relation to Manitoba floods, the new rise was one-tenth of a foot per hour.

Ninety families at Pembina, ready to return to the homes they left six weeks ago, were compelled to stay in their temporary quarters because of the new flood.

Helicopters and other emergency flood equipment were out again evacuating stranded residents.

A Canadian Pacific train brought 35 persons from McTavish to Winnipeg at five a.m. Saturday. It was expected 100 more would leave the town and its surroundings as waters continued their encroachment.

Heavy winds made the flood waters, which extend across the bottom of the province, resemble a huge choppy lake. Evacuations from hamlets and outlying areas were hampered and in some cases stopped altogether. Red Cross authorities and the army called a halt to activities when conditions endangered lives.

A Canadian National supply train was held up at a bridge near See COUNTRY FLOODS Page 8

Mass Evacuation From Winnipeg May Be Needed

An emergency session of Winnipeg's city council was told Saturday that the city will be faced with a "major evacuation job" as a result of still-rising flood waters.

J. W. Sanger, general manager of city hydro, suggested that all city employers make arrangements for their own staffs in order to relieve the now overburdened Red Cross.

"It will likely take a national organization to handle evacuation, not only for the people of Winnipeg, but outside the city also," he declared.

A special city committee, consisting of civic department heads, was formed under the direction of W. D. Hurst, city engineer, to handle the entire city flood problem.

It was decided that the city's emergency housing registry be organized to handle the problem of finding shelters for homeless flood-victims. This will be done in co-operation with the Red Cross.

It was also decided to request that city stores remain open during the week-end in case of urgent need for flood supplies.

Cabinet Holds Crisis Talks

The Manitoba cabinet Saturday held an emergency session on the flood situation, following appointment the night of Brig. R. E. A. Morton as co-ordinating director of flood relief work.

It was rumored at the legislative building that the possibility of seeking federal aid was under discussion, but responsible sources would neither deny nor confirm the report.

Small Talk



"Am I too late?"

Suburbs Criticize Govt.

A majority of spokesmen for Greater Winnipeg municipalities Saturday were critical of the provincial government's flood-aid programme.

Although there was a limited feeling the province had done the best it could, the general opinion was its assistance had been too little and too late.

Acting Mayor C. E. Simonite believed the province could have "put forth a greater effort. If I'd been in their position I'd have strained every effort possible to assist municipalities."

The acting mayor added he thought the province "has a hold on the situation now and intends to do something about it."

Mayor J. L. Bodie, of East Kildonan, asserted that if the province had taken appropriate action "two or three weeks ago when it was known a flood was coming, much more could have been done" to save losses now being incurred.

Mayor E. F. Boie, of St. Vital, said he had sent a wire to Premier D. L. Campbell about a week ago See PROTESTS Page 6

Flag of Israel To Fly

The flag of Israel will fly from the courtesy flagstaff of the Free Press on Sunday, May 7, in honor of the second anniversary of the new State of Israel.