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WINNIPEG, SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1950

FORECAST: Sunny and Warmer

8,500 HOMELESS IN MANITOBA

City Fortifies Defence On 4 Fronts 4,000 Urbanites Flee; Rural Total Is 4,500

Hurst Outlines Set-Up

As large-scale emergency flood relief measures went into effect, the city Sunday prepared to carry on its flood defence on four immediate fronts. City Engineer W. D. Hurst Sunday outlined the city's main, top-priority jobs in the continuing flood crisis: 1. To keep the bridges open between Winnipeg and St. Boniface. 2. To protect hospitals and keep public utilities in operation (power, light, water and telephones). 3. Maintain dikes still holding. 4. Undertake pumping operations where it might be possible to reduce the level of the water. Sunday at 10 a.m., members of the city's flood emergency committee met in the city engineer's office to review further defence measures. "We discovered what might be gained by throwing up a secondary string of dikes in the event we manage to pump the water out of certain districts," Mr. Hurst, chairman of the committee, declared. No 'Material' Change The flood situation had not "materially changed" Sunday, he pointed out. He estimated that the comparatively small increase in the river level over-night was due to the water spreading out in low-lying areas. With the army directing work, the Glenwood crescent dike in Elmwood was still holding out, Mr. Hurst added. Both the Provencher and Louise bridges had, to be closed, and the Norwood bridge was partly open, but every effort was being made to keep all bridges open, he said. Meanwhile, a wire received from the United States corps of engineers at St. Paul, Sunday, informed Winnipeg officials that the United States weather bureau forecast the following river heights: Grand Forks - a new crest of 42 feet on Tuesday. Emerson - 46 feet on Thursday. "This means that the flood crest is going to be maintained at both Grand Forks and Emerson," Mr. Hurst said. "It follows that the high water level will remain at Winnipeg for a longer time," he added. Predictions of a possible further rise in the river level of five feet, made Saturday at an emergency council meeting, were based partly on the following, according to J. Taunton, deputy city engineer: "Several days ago the whole Red river valley received an inch or more of rain. This was followed by an 18-hour down-pour over all the valley area, Thursday. "This has caused a four-foot rise in the level of the Red river at Grand Forks in two days." Experts were busy predicting Sunday that it might be more than six weeks before the river goes down below minimum flood level of 13 feet above datum.



Water reaching closer to the heart of Winnipeg itself can be seen in this picture looking down Sutherland avenue. A dip in the road surface holds enough water to splash car hub-caps, although the road is still passable.

More people had been driven out of their southern Manitoba homes by Sunday than might have been forced out had it been a battle area. Approximately 4,500 men, women and children had been forced to flee their dwellings and take refuge in sleeping cars, with friends, or with the Red Cross. Some of them were in a hopeless condition. They had nowhere to go—their homes were ruined and, in some cases, their livelihoods were impaired. In addition, more than 3,000 head of cattle are in danger of dying from drowning, starvation or the paralysis that sets in when the animals have stood too long in water. Winnipeg was the evacuation centre. To it came families from throughout the south. They were split up in many cases—the father having stayed behind to fight floods. Everyone helped in the evacuations until high winds immobilized the boats that piled the south like pressure canoes on a park lake. Even before a state of emergency was proclaimed—flood relief functions as if it had. "The R.C.M.P., both railroads, the Red Cross, private individuals, a jerry-rigged, turned too and did their best to get the dazed families out. As they arrived here scenes were reminiscent of the European war evacuations. But everyone was cheerful. A catalogue of evacuations, taken by towns, would fill a telephone book. Latest mass evacuation was from St. Adolphe, Sunday. R.C.M.P. took out about 50 persons from the Re. river's east-bank village. They used two diesel-powered boats brought from Kenora Saturday. Small boats were used to shuttle the evacuees from the town to the larger craft. En route to Winnipeg, none of the evacuees had arrived here by press time.

Driven from an estimated 985 homes throughout Greater Winnipeg, close to 4,000 flood victims had sought refuge in friendly households and emergency shelters up to Sunday. The worst hit areas of Greater Winnipeg to date have been St. Vital and Fort Garry, where an estimated 535 homes have been abandoned. Suburban police forces have in some instances been augmented by R.C.M.P. to prevent looting in the desolated areas and to help direct traffic around the murky waters. A total of 290 homes have been left to advancing waters in Fort Garry, including about 280 homes in the Wildwood district and about 10 in the King's park area. R.C.M.P. sent out six constables to help Fort Garry police to guard these homes against looting and to control traffic. Boats are being used in the 24-hour job. A new dike was built along the low spots of Crescent drive Saturday. Abandoned in St. Vital were an estimated 245 homes. These include about 175 homes in the Kingston row and Kingston crescent area, another 30 along Victoria crescent and about 40 homes in southern St. Vital along the Red river. Flooded homes are heavily guarded by police in these areas. Approximately 180 homes have been left behind to police protection in West Kildonan. The flooded area extends along Scotia street for eight blocks from Hartford avenue to the city limits, and is two blocks in depth. Another flooded-out district on the half block in depth extends up a ravine from Kildonan park to Hartford avenue. All old dikes are down, but a new one has been built on Seven Oaks avenue to protect a few homes from sewer water. A total of approximately 150 Winnipeg homes had to be left behind in the last two days as flood waters rose in the Riverview, Elmwood, Lombard avenue, Point Douglas and Scotia street areas. An estimated 85 families left Riverview homes, where flooding is general in the area bounded by a line from the foot of Brandon avenue south-east to Casey street and Arnold avenue and along to the corner of Ashland avenue and Eccles street. Three Areas About 10 homes were abandoned in the Winnipeg section around Scotia street. A similar number are deserted in both Notre Dame-Water avenue and Point Douglas areas. So far no evacuations have been reported from the Glenwood crescent area in Elmwood. "St. Boniface reports about 100 homes vacant in the north end of the city near Whittier park. Residents were evacuated from these homes to Canadian National railways cars early Saturday, when the river swept over its banks along the park. By Sunday a new dike was constructed along the edge of the park from Messenger street to LaVerandrye street. An estimated 20 homes have been evacuated in East Kildonan. The flooded area here is bounded by Leighton and Heimsdale avenues along Kildonan drive. All children were evacuated Saturday from the Woodlawn avenue danger area as a precautionary move. Dikes in East Kildonan were reported early Sunday to be barely holding.

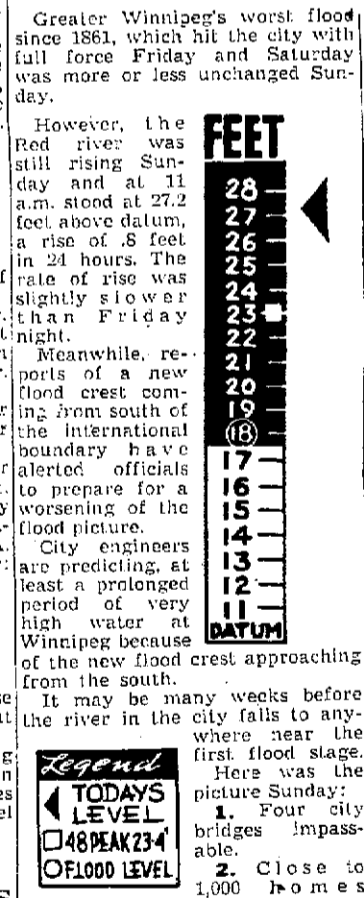
985 Homes Evacuated In City Area

Greater Winnipeg homes evacuated up to early Sunday were estimated as follows: Fort Garry ..... 290 St. Vital ..... 245 West Kildonan ..... 180 St. Boniface ..... 100 Winnipeg ..... 150 East Kildonan ..... 20 Total ..... 985

Bread Eases St. Adolphe 'Nightmare'

Battling against Friday's storm and a violent current, a small boat captained by George Giguere, 45, of Provencher street, St. Boniface, took five hours to travel 20 miles from St. Norbert to St. Adolphe with 500 loaves of bread. Soaked and frozen by the stinging gale, Mr. Giguere and a young companion found a nightmare town at St. Adolphe when they arrived. "They were slaughtering cattle in the main street for food, and

Long Flood Siege Is Seen As New Crest Approaches



Greater Winnipeg's worst flood since 1861, which hit the city with full force Friday and Saturday, was more or less unchanged Sunday. However, the Red river was still rising Sunday and at 11 a.m. stood at 27.2 feet above datum, a rise of 8 feet in 24 hours. The rate of rise was slightly slower than Friday night. Meanwhile, reports of a new flood crest coming from south of the international boundary have alerted officials to prepare for a worsening of the flood picture. City engineers are predicting at least a prolonged period of very high water at Winnipeg because of the new flood crest approaching from the south. It may be many weeks before the river in the city falls to any level where near the first flood stage. Here was the picture Sunday: 1. Four city bridges impassable. 2. Close to 1,000 homes evacuated. 3. An estimated 4,000 persons evacuated. 4. Five subways impassable. City engineers said the river would have to rise ten more feet before the whole city would be flooded. This is not considered possible. In 1826, the worst flood in Manitoba history, the water was nine feet above the present level. Water At Roofs In Wildwood and Elm Park, worst hit areas, water was up to the roofs of houses Sunday in low valley. "We are all anxious to have done whatever can be done to relieve the distress and suffering of those whose homes have been invaded by the floods. All agencies of all governments as well as the Red Cross and other voluntary organizations are doing all they can to help and we all hope that the disastrous conditions may soon be ended." Hon. Stuart Garson, federal minister of justice, who is in Manitoba during the flood emergency, will tour the Red river valley area by air Sunday. Accompanied by government officials and newspapermen, Mr. Garson was scheduled to leave St. Louis in an R.C.A.F. plane at 10.30 a.m. BRIG. R. E. A. MORTON, general officer commanding, prairie command, who is directing officer of all Manitoba flood relief work. Both these districts have been almost completely abandoned. Weather was the only vaguely bright spot in the flood picture Sunday. Clear, sunny skies prevailed. Saturday night's frost, while it added to discomfort of flood-fighters, helped to get rid of much surface water in little-flooded districts mainly affected by rainfall of the past few days. Evacuation of families in worst-hit areas was still going on Saturday night and Sunday but only a comparatively small increase in flooding occurred throughout the city. At 27.2 feet above datum, the Red river is now more than nine feet above first official flood stage. This is 3.8 feet above the 1948 flood peak; 3.2 feet over the 1916 high; 2.6 over 1904; 1.2 feet over the peak reached in 1862. High level of the river in 1861, next most serious flood, was 32.5 feet above datum. The river has 5.3 feet to go to reach this record. More than 2,000 volunteer flood fighters turned out Saturday afternoon and night to help bolster defences against the flood where dikes were still holding. Swamped With Workers Flood headquarters in city and suburbs were swamped with workers and in some cases had more than they could handle. Dikes in St. Boniface and Norwood, East Kildonan and Elmwood were still holding back the river from hundreds of threatened homes Sunday. So far no serious disruption of power or telephone systems has been reported. About 500 telephones out of 65,000 in the Greater Winnipeg area have been disconnected. Save Power Both the Winnipeg Electric and the city hydro reported Sunday that they were keeping ahead of the river at their main power substations. One is located on River avenue, the other at the foot of Lombard. Both these sections are badly flooded. City workers were concentrating Sunday on attempts to keep bridges open between Winnipeg and St. Boniface and to protect essential services from being cut off by the flood. Fears of Winnipeggers that there is possibility of city-wide flooding and mass evacuation of the whole city are unfounded, officials say. Even if a further five-foot rise were to occur, the major part of Winnipeg proper, at least residential areas, would still be above the flood level. However, if this occurred, the city would probably be without electricity and telephones and the situation would be extremely serious. At St. Boniface sanatorium 45 per cent. of patients were reported evacuated Sunday but there have been no further evacuations from city hospitals. About 500 acres of the Fort Garry district is estimated under water. Water was pouring across South drive Sunday like a mountain torrent and also sweeping over the Oakenwald dike from the inside. Rail Line Cut Service on the Canadian National railways line to Pine Falls was reported discontinued Sunday following a wash-out on the line Saturday morning. Officials said that service on the line might be re-opened by Monday morning as crews were now working on the break. Adolphe has risen 10 inches since Saturday morning and shows no sign of dying at present. Approximately 300 persons in the district had evacuated their homes by Saturday midnight. Meanwhile the lack of feed left a total of 350 cattle in danger of starvation. Food being rushed to Winnipeg from far-distant points. Early Sunday, three North Stars, carrying 80,000 sandbags, touched down at St. Norbert airport after a flight from Montreal. A fourth plane is on its way. At the same time, six navy pumps, ranging in capacity up to 40,000 gallons an hour, reached Winnipeg by air from Vancouver. These were expected and had been allocated. From Rivers, Man., 18 officers Aid in equipment and men is

Grand Forks Flood Waters At New Peak

Flood waters Sunday rose to a new peak at Grand Forks, N.D., engulfing the city for a second time. In Crookston, Minn., gas mains broke in one section of the city, exploding and killing two persons. A. P. Hulteng, city engineer at Grand Forks, said the crest would go two feet higher than the present 43-foot level. Previous high was 42.65 feet. The river is rising at 1/10 of a foot an hour, and the situation looked worse than ever, he said. Mr. Hulteng estimated the levels at Pembina and Emerson would reach 51.5 and 46 feet respectively. The water was the run-off from the vast flooded areas of the Red river valley, given additional impetus of water from the Red Lake river, Mr. Hulteng said.

City Sets Up Body To Organize Battle

As flood waters reached disaster stage, Winnipeg's city council took steps Saturday to organize the city's flood-fighting resources. W. D. Hurst, city engineer, was placed at the head of an administrative flood committee consisting of J. W. Sanger, city hydro manager, Chief Constable Charles Malver, Fire Chief Dave Clawson, Dr. M. S. Lougheed, medical health officer, and William S. Courage, general supervisor of emergency housing. Council gave the committee "full powers" to cope with the flood situation in any way necessary. It was also agreed: That the emergency housing registry prepare to arrange housing for homeless flood victims not cared for by the Red Cross. That a special telephone office be set up in the engineering department to centralize all flood information calls and relieve official city lines. A trained staff will be ready to answer all flood queries at 934-321. Acting Mayor C. E. Simonite, at the same time, issued a plea to citizens not to phone civic departments or civic officials for information except in severe emergencies. "We have just been flooded with phone calls," he declared. Given Free Rein The acting mayor, who hurriedly called the emergency session of council Saturday morning, proposed that Mr. Hurst and his committee be given free rein in handling the city's flood problems. Council agreed that it be left up to Mr. Hurst whether a secondary string of dikes be built up in the places where city dikes collapsed Friday night. Mr. Hurst informed the aldermen that there were now three key areas: Elmwood, where the Glenwood crescent dike is still holding; Lombard avenue district, where the dike proved useless against backing sewers and the rising river level; and the Riverview district, where the dike also went Friday night. "We are going to try to keep the water level down in the Lombard and Riverview districts by using pumps. And we'll do our best to keep that dike in Elmwood," Mr. Hurst said. He pointed out that the dikes had not actually broken down, but that pressure of water from backing sewers in the rear had resulted



W. D. HURST

All Canadians Ready To Help -St. Laurent

OTTAWA, May 7 (CP)—Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent expressed hope Saturday that the disastrous flood conditions in Winnipeg soon will be ended. He said in statement: "From end to end of Canada the people are deeply concerned about the anxiety of their fellow citizens in Winnipeg and the Red river valley. "We are all anxious to have done whatever can be done to relieve the distress and suffering of those whose homes have been invaded by the floods. All agencies of all governments as well as the Red Cross and other voluntary organizations are doing all they can to help and we all hope that the disastrous conditions may soon be ended."

Garson Tours Valley By Air To Con Havoc

Hon. Stuart Garson, federal minister of justice, who is in Manitoba during the flood emergency, will tour the Red river valley area by air Sunday. Accompanied by government officials and newspapermen, Mr. Garson was scheduled to leave St. Louis in an R.C.A.F. plane at 10.30 a.m.

Red Surge Rises All Along Line; Threatens Herd Worth \$250,000

There was no respite. All along the Red river, including Emerson—the flood waters rose Sunday. Most spectacular swell was at Gardenton where an 11-inch increase was recorded. Just behind was St. Adolphe, 20 miles from Winnipeg, with a jump of 10 inches. It took the waters three-and-a-half feet over the 1948 high. At St. Norbert, where the situation was "critical" about 150 persons from outlying districts were sheltering in the Oblate Fathers' home. An estimated \$250,000 worth of purebred Holstein cattle was said endangered by the advancing waters, in that area. Only bright spot in the otherwise dismal picture was the sun. It shone Sunday, and gave weather-weary Manitobans a relief from overcast skies and rain. But a feed shortage approached crisis proportions. Many districts fed stock on a hard-to-mouth basis, relying on shipped-in grain. At Emerson an improving situation blanketed out Sunday when the river rose again. Saving part of the situation was a smooth running emergency organization that missed no bets. This is how it looked elsewhere: Nearer the International border the situation appeared improving, with Emerson reporting only a small rise and Dominion City, a three-quarter inch rise. Sunday gave the following picture: ST. NORBERT — 12 miles south of Winnipeg — Situation here is "critical." An estimated 75 or 80 per cent. of the town's houses are under water. Meanwhile workers were busy Saturday night sand-bagging the Oblate Fathers' home where 40 families have taken temporary residence. The water has risen approximately 6 inches since noon Saturday. ST. ADOLPHE — 18 miles south of Winnipeg — The Red at St. Adolphe has risen 10 inches since Saturday morning and shows no sign of dying at present. Approximately 300 persons in the district had evacuated their homes by Saturday midnight. Meanwhile the lack of feed left a total of 350 cattle in danger of starvation. Food being rushed to Winnipeg from far-distant points. Early Sunday, three North Stars, carrying 80,000 sandbags, touched down at St. Norbert airport after a flight from Montreal. A fourth plane is on its way. At the same time, six navy pumps, ranging in capacity up to 40,000 gallons an hour, reached Winnipeg by air from Vancouver. These were expected and had been allocated. From Rivers, Man., 18 officers Aid in equipment and men is being rushed to Winnipeg from far-distant points. Early Sunday, three North Stars, carrying 80,000 sandbags, touched down at St. Norbert airport after a flight from Montreal. A fourth plane is on its way. At the same time, six navy pumps, ranging in capacity up to 40,000 gallons an hour, reached Winnipeg by air from Vancouver. These were expected and had been allocated. From Rivers, Man., 18 officers Aid in equipment and men is

Brig. Brice Gives Picture Of City Battle Of The Red

Despite a 3-foot rise in the Red river overnight, bringing the official level to 27.1 feet above datum, weary civilians and service flood fighters managed to hold all dikes left, even though there were some breaches in the earthen walls. Brig. J. W. Brice, deputy-commander of the flood control service said Sunday morning. At a press conference at control headquarters in the legislative building, Brig. Brice, who had just returned from a tour of the flooded areas, paid high tribute to all who

Power Cut May Hit Two Areas

The city flood control committee Sunday warned that there may be a power failure affecting residents of the city between Arlington and the river and Elmwood because the Rover street sub-station is threatened by flood waters. Citizens in this area are warned to provide themselves with alternate sources of heat and light as far as possible to meet a possible emergency. The chief of police stated that Redwood bridge was forbidden to all traffic other than residents, emergency calls and supply trucks. City officials appeal to citizens not to panic and attempt to hoard food supplies. There have been reports of grocery stores having their shelves cleared of supplies. The city flood control committee listed its aims: 1. To reopen the bridges and get traffic moving. 2. Do everything possible to protect public utilities, gas, power and water. They are battling to protect the Rover street sub-station and to safeguard power supplies as the water works as otherwise fire protection would go and the possibility of disease would be great. 3. To maintain the dikes that are still holding. War End Anniversary OTTAWA, May 7 (CP) — Sunday is the anniversary of the ending of war in Europe. Just five years ago — May 7, 1945 — the final peace terms were signed in a little red schoolhouse in France.

Temperatures

Temperature readings during the 24 hour period ending at 6.30 a.m. Sunday were: Vancouver ..... 59. 25. Precip. 0.03 Calgary ..... 52. 45. 0.03 Edmonton ..... 57. 51. 0.03 Swift Current ..... 29. 45. trace Saskatoon ..... 32. 56. 0.01 Regina ..... 27. 41. trace WILSON ..... 34. 47. 0.01 Winnipeg ..... 34. 47. 0.01 Churchill ..... 12. 41. 0.01 Fort Arthur ..... 26. 41. 0.01 Toronto ..... 44. 78. 0.01 Ottawa ..... 43. 75. trace Montreal ..... 39. 70. 0.01 Halifax ..... 49. 53