

# OTTAWA PROMISES AID

## Prompt Reply To Plea

BY HUGH BOYD

Ottawa, May 8 (Special)—The appeal of the Manitoba government for financial aid to cope with the Red river flood disaster had a prompt response from Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent Monday. The prime minister pledged the assistance sought in a statement to the house of commons.

He said he was in full agreement with a letter from Premier Douglas Campbell, brought to a special meeting of cabinet by Hon. Stuart Garson, minister of justice, who flew back to the national capital with the message.

While asking for federal aid, the Manitoba government did not suggest any formula at this time. The amount could be discussed later. At the moment, what was sought was an assurance that the federal government would be ready to share in the ultimate cost of the flood damage in greater Winnipeg and along the valley.

Mr. Campbell also said that the province meanwhile was getting everything it was asking for in the way of immediate physical aid in fighting the flood.

The cabinet met immediately on Mr. Garson's return from Winnipeg. It heard his report and discussed the letter he had brought from the Manitoba premier. Also before the cabinet was the sudden Rimouski fire disaster. This likewise was dealt with in the prime minister's statement as the commons met Monday afternoon.

St. Laurent Answer Following is the text of the telegram requested Prime Minister St. Laurent to Premier Douglas Campbell as read to the Commons Monday afternoon:

Immediately upon his return to Ottawa the Honourable Stuart Garson delivered to me your letter of May 7, 1950, outlining the serious floods in the Red River Valley in your province. We are glad that all of the federal agencies and authorities in your province have been extending to you any assistance which you required since this is what they had been instructed to do.

We have been following the development of this flood

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## The Last Stand

The Lyndale drive area of Norwood, shown here from the air is still dry, but only because thousands of volunteer workers (right) and a million dollars' worth of machinery have been thrown into the fight to keep back the Red river at this point. Flood fighters from all parts of Greater Winnipeg are pouring into the danger spot day and night. If the mile-long dike collapses, a torrent of river water will rush in among all the houses, pictured and flood an even larger area as well. Flood fighting headquarters estimates water up to 12 feet deep will cover this district if the dikes collapsed. The epic battle is going on 24 hours a day. All householders have been advised to leave. Last remaining women and children pulled out Sunday night.



## 'National Emergency' Status, Federal Financial Aid Sought

The Manitoba government Monday requested Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent to declare Red river valley floods a national emergency and extend federal financial assistance commensurate with the province's needs.

The request was made in a letter from Premier D. L. Campbell to the prime minister, and carried to Ottawa Sunday night by Hon. Stuart Garson, federal minister of justice.

Following is the text of a statement issued by the premier's office:

"An announcement is being made by the prime minister in the house of commons this afternoon that he has replied to Premier Campbell's letter of yesterday, which asked for federal financial assistance arising from the flood emergency to the effect that:

"1. The federal government recognize the state of emergency.  
"2. Federal financial aid be extended to Manitoba on terms to be arranged by negotiation."

Premier Campbell simultaneously released copies of the letter he had written to Prime Minister St. Laurent.

The letter noted that Manitoba floods now covered an area 70 miles long and from five to 30 miles wide from the U.S. boundary to Lake Winnipeg.

"The situation took such a sudden turn for the worse late last Friday afternoon as to indicate the necessity of immediate action to evacuate two hospitals and two large residential areas."

"In spite of all efforts, however, the situation became not only serious but critical last Friday... resulting in my declaring a state of emergency and asking the army to assume over-all charge of all flood relief activity."

"The situation was 'still critical' and expenditures would be so large as to be beyond the capacity of individuals, organizations, municipalities and even the provincial government to assume."

"Under these circumstances," Premier Campbell wrote, "and

## Temperatures

Temperature readings during the 24-hour period ending at 6:30 p.m. Monday were:			
	Min.	Max.	Freq.
Vancouver	39	52	50
Calgary	27	44	34
Edmonton	21	34	24
Swift Current	22	36	26
Saskatoon	34	55	46
Regina	32	46	36
Brandon	30	42	32
WINNIPEG	32	58	48
Port Arthur	23	47	37
Toronto	27	49	39
Ottawa	25	52	42
Montreal	28	54	44
Halifax	28	54	44

## 'Keep Radios Turned On'

Brig. R. E. A. Morton, flood control director, Monday asked all citizens to keep their radios tuned to Winnipeg stations for hour-by-hour instructions. All official news and messages, he said, would be broadcast as quickly as necessary.

## Morton Warns Of Deluge If Major Dikes Break

The army Sunday night warned 1,450 residents in low-lying sections of Norwood and East Kildonan municipalities to get out at once because dikes holding back the storming Red river might break at any time.

Brig. R. E. A. Morton, controller of flood relief in the Red River valley, said water 12 feet deep might pour over the two sections of Greater Winnipeg. "The danger is real," he said. "Everything is continuing to be done to prevent a calamity." The break of dikes, if it came, could be a "deluge."

## More Rain Ahead For Flood Areas

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent in the house of commons announces federal flood aid for Manitoba. The prime minister's statement followed an appeal from the Manitoba flood control committee which was flown to Ottawa by Hon. Stuart Garson after a personal survey of situation here.

Here are the basic facts in Winnipeg's flood picture today:

The river is still rising. It was 27.9 feet above datum at 1 p.m. This is a rise of .7 feet in 24 hours.

Rainfall is predicted by the weather bureau.

A new flood crest is approaching from the south.

## Special Phone Numbers

Attention of Winnipeggers is called to the fact that special telephone numbers have been established to facilitate flood control. These numbers are to be used exclusively except in cases of the most extreme emergency.

Citizens are advised that officials will not accept calls that are not of an emergency nature.

The numbers are as follows:

907 499 — Army Headquarters. Calls for assistance in building dikes, requests for sandbags or other assistance should not be put through Army headquarters number in the phone book. Calling this number direct will save delay and eliminate confusion.

848 121 — City Hydro. Calls for emergency cut-off of service or requests for temporary service. The City Hydro has an emergency staff to handle electric light service only.

722 551 — Red Cross. Emergency phone number of the Red Cross is not being made public. Only the police and the military are channeling calls through this number. The measure was deemed necessary when the line became clogged and efficiency was threatened.

934 521 — Exchange installed by City Engineer's department Saturday to deal with problems involving householders' individual flood defence programmes, basement protection, dike construction and other engineering flood measures.

849 281 and 849 232 — For those requiring emergency shelter or prepared to offer accommodation, food, or cars in the flood relief plan.

934 934 and 932 561 — For those on high ground who can provide accommodation. Give numbers you can accommodate.

9040 — Due to increasing pressure on emergency telephone service the Winnipeg Electric Company requests all calls for emergency service in connection with gas or electric operations, or transportation be given to number 9040.

932 561 — Central Volunteer Bureau, to look after feeding of some relief workers.

502 413 — Registry for accommodation of East Kildonan residents.

46 255 — Fort Garry typhoid inoculations.

204 565 — St. Vital typhoid inoculations.

105 — City police flood service extension.

204 043 — St. Vital health unit, emergency aid such as food, clothing or boats.

504 846 — Army headquarters on Kildonan drive, East Kildonan.

504 464 — Canteen headquarters and jay communications centre, on Leighton avenue near Kildonan drive.

Hon. Stuart Garson and Premier D. L. Campbell made an air survey of flood areas Sunday.

Chief of Canada's naval staff terms Winnipeg's flood "the most catastrophic ever seen in Canada."

President Truman allocates more money to Minnesota-North Dakota flood areas.

The body of Alfred Orr, flood victim, is recovered by a diver.

Although dikes in threatened areas were holding at noon, authorities warned they might go out at any time with heavy rain.

City workmen are fighting to keep transportation, communications and power in operation.

The threat to these essential services becomes more serious hourly.

City officials have estimated a probable high of 30 feet above datum if heavy rain should occur.

Evacuation of threatened and flooded homes was still in progress Monday.

Four miles of dikes holding in St. Boniface. Most residents in Lyndale drive are evacuated.

A 100-yard dike is holding back water on Seven Oaks avenue for evacuation purposes. Boat evacuations carried out in Scotia area.

A dike, 2,000 feet long, is holding back the river along Kildonan drive, but water was trickling through sandbags and dirt in several places.

Mass evacuation made on east side of St. Anne's road and south of Ferry road.

City and suburban hospitals in flooded areas are carrying on mass evacuation of patients. Only emergency cases are to be accepted at those hospitals in operation.

All city schools were closed Monday. However, half of the schools are to reopen Tuesday.

City police have organized a boat patrol for flooded sections.

Flood control authorities have ordered all available city laborers from all departments to join the flood fight.

No immediate danger seen to the city's water supply.

More than 1,000 servicemen are now flood-fighting in Greater Winnipeg.

Another 250 persons have been evacuated from low-lying areas of St. Mary's road between St. Vital and the St. Boniface sanatorium.

Brig. R. E. A. Morton, flood control director, announced Monday.

Greater Winnipeg police forces have been asked by the flood control committee to take "severe action" against crowding by sightseers.

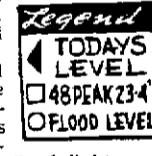
Four bridges were closed Monday morning — Norwood, Provencher, Louise and Elm Park. Redwood bridge is restricted to area residents and flood-fighting vehicles. Emergency trucks were allowed over Norwood bridge.

Four subways were completely closed at 11 a.m. Monday — Annabella street, Sutherland avenue and Higgins, Osborne, and McPhillips. Detour possible around Osborne subway.

Building of \$10,000 approach to Provencher bridge authorized by Acting Mayor C. E. Simonite. Bridge may be reopened by Tuesday night.

Work is underway to pump the

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## River Level Figures

Water Elevation	Rise or Fall (ft)	Distance OVER 1948 peak
Fargo	.89 (r)	4.18 feet (under)
Grand Forks	1.91 (r)	2.81 feet (under)
Emerson	.28 (r)	1.92 feet
Letellier	(no report)	(no report)
St. Jean Baptiste	.5 (r)	4.54 feet
Morris	.21 (r)	3.59 feet
St. Agathe	1.0 (r)	5.5 feet
St. Norbert	.6 (r)	4.8 feet
Winnipeg		



"Oh boy! Are those sandbags ever heavy!"

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