

DAMAGE OVER

Starts Rebuilding After Fourth Flood

Factories, Escape Serious Damage—
Most Will Reopen Monday—High-
ways Passable Again—Trains Still
at Standstill—Refugees Return to
Homes—National Guard is Re-
leased.

NO FURTHER FATALITIES

The ravages of its fourth flood disaster veiled by snow, the Northern Berkshire area took a New Year's day inventory this morning and found that the raging waters yesterday caused damages which probably will exceed \$1,000,000, took one life, and injured other persons that may not be apparent for days.

On the brighter side was the fact that industries suffered little or no damage and will be operating as usual Monday in most cases.

Renewed Control Plans

The disaster renewed efforts to win federal support of a flood control program here, and Mayor James A. Bowes intends to urge Rep. John W. Heseltine of the First district to ask the army to revive the control plan dropped two years ago.

With the flood levels dropping steadily during the night, transportation links were restored partially this morning, but it may be days before normal rail and highway traffic is resumed.

All main highways in the area with the exception of the Taconic trail, were open this noon. Motorists were advised to keep off the Taconic trail because of ice, water, and snow, but the Mohawk trail was open to Boston, and traffic moved easily again on Route 7 from Bennington to Pittsfield.

No Trains

No trains reached the city on either the Boston & Maine or Boston & Albany railroads today, and there was no indication when rail service will be restored.

No outside mail arrived here, but efforts were being made to establish truck service between North Adams and Greenfield and south to Pittsfield. Mayor Bowes said the damage in North Adams probably will be in the upper hundreds of thousands of dollars, while Public Works Commissioner James M. Lilly placed the figure at \$500,000.

Upper Brooklyn street was washed out to a depth of eight to 10 feet when Wheeler brook roared down the roadbed, carrying with it gas and water mains in that section.

Tons of Debris

Tons of debris were dumped on Massachusetts avenue in Blackinton when Wood street was wiped out by an overflowing brook. Massachusetts avenue was open to Williamstown, but motorists were advised to be careful in Blackinton and near the home of Atty. Edward N. Gadsby.

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City Still Without Trains; Both Railroads Have Damage

**Boston & Maine Authorities Say Service Will Be
Suspended Several Days—High Water Damage
Reported to Tracks—Boston & Albany Makes
No Announcement on Resumption.**

North Adams was still isolated today as the railroad service was suspended.

Boston & Maine railroad authorities at Greenfield said last night that east-west service on the Fitchburg division will be suspended for a few days. They were reluctant to say how long service would be disrupted. The railroad suffered considerable damage from high water along the Deerfield river between North Adams and Shelburne Falls. The extent of the damage had not yet been determined today. The track is said to be under water in some sections and landslides occurred near Zoar.

Tracks Cave In

The road experienced some serious difficulty at Hoosac Falls, N. Y. At that point, cracks crossed at two levels and the upper tracks caved in on the lower ones, blocking all traffic on both tracks. R. L. Harris, general agent, said today he thought one track might be cleared today.

As to when service would be resumed, Mr. Harris was uncertain. He said it was barely possible that some trains might run tomorrow. He will notify WMNB.

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Fireman Has Close Call in Building Collapse



Photo shows rear of Petri Cleaning and Dyeing firm building at River and Eagle streets which collapsed yesterday afternoon and (circled), clinging to debris, Fireman William Perovani who nearly lost his life a month before picture was snapped when a section of the damaged building on which he was standing, visible at bottom of photo, Petri plant suffered



MEAL TIME—William E. Martin of 25 Spring street gives supper to his 13-month old son, Arnold R. Martin, at Y. M. C. A. building where they, Mrs. Martin, and Arnold's seven sisters took shelter when evacuated from their home.

BEDTIME STORY—Miss Lorna Moon, nurses aide, of 125 River street, reads a bedtime story to eight-year-old Florence Lenczynski, one of the 18 members of her family who took refuge at Y. M. C. A. during flood.

Flood-Struck Industries Suffer Only Minor Damage

**Contrary to Fears, Manufacturing Plants Discover
Damage Superficial—Plan to Operate Monday
as Usual in Most Cases—Petri's Sole Major Loss.**

The best news since the rains ceased and waters began to subside last night came this morning when it was learned that industries in this flood-ravaged city suffered only superficial damage and will be operating as usual Monday.

One Major Loss

Contrary to fears that the city's industrial life might be crippled for the fourth time because of floods, a survey today disclosed that little or no damage was caused at manufacturing plants. The only major loss was that which occurred when the rear wall of the Petri cleaning establishment on Eagle street collapsed into the river.

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Flood Control Job Is Asked by Bowes

**Mayor Calls on Government to Carry
Out Army Plan—Says Loss in Four
Floods Has Exceeded Its Cost—
Heseltine Pledges His Aid—May
Provide Surplus Equipment.**

ARMY TO MAKE SURVEY

As Northern Berkshire communities today began to assess the damage caused by yesterday's flood, new agitation arose from many sources for a federal flood control project to prevent future floods.

Taking one of the first steps Mayor James A. Bowes said that he would write Rep. John W. Heseltine at Washington urging that he endeavor to have the army corps of engineers revive the proposed flood control project for the Hoosac river in North Adams which two years ago was declared "economically unsound."

Calls Work Justified

"We have had four floods in the past 21 years and the total damage from them would certainly be greater than the cost of the army's proposed project," Mayor Bowes said. "They have the plans and designs on hand and could start the project without any unnecessary delay."

The army plans, the mayor observed, include among other things, a concrete chute 55 feet wide with walls averaging 14 feet in height for a distance of 6,250 feet along the north branch and he declared that had been installed would not have any where near the damage we have, especially in the River street area."

Cost \$11,975,000

The cost of the North Adams project for which plans were drafted after the 1936 flood, was estimated by army engineers at \$11,975,000 and the cost of a proposed Adams project was placed at \$3,125,000.

At a public hearing held here Sept. 10, 1946, the plans were described by Col. W. F. Healy, the army's New York district engineer, as the minimum that would take care of the heaviest floods encountered up to that time, which was the 1938 disaster.

Local interests called the army's project "appalling" and urged a restudy of the plans to develop a "reasonable project." Nothing as far as is known here, has ever been done about a restudy of the plans.

Calls Damage High

Meanwhile Mayor Bowes said he saw no reason to revise an earlier estimate of the damage which he placed in the "high hundreds of thousands." The mayor gave this estimate last night shortly before 11 o'clock as he ended a long vigil that began Thursday morning when he reported at his office.

Before leaving for home he authorized Commissioner of Public Works James M. Lilly to start repair work without delay, although no money has been appropriated for 1949 work.

For a while yesterday Mayor Bowes toyed with the idea of calling a special meeting of the city council last night, but following a conference with City

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Calls Governor

Mr. Heseltine immediately called Gov. Robert F. Bradford and he was told by the chief executive that a meeting had been called for this morning of all agencies concerned in flood relief, rehabilitation work and that the Northern Berkshire problem would be given every consideration.

May Get Equipment

Recalling that in the recent Oregon flood, the Army department sent army surplus equipment to aid in rehabilitation work, Rep. Heseltine got in touch with Secretary Matthew Connolly of President Truman's staff to see what might be done along this line.

Mr. Connolly, a Clinton resident, was very interested in the problem facing communities in his home state. Rep. Heseltine said that every effort would be made to help out the problem. The first thing that must be done to obtain such help, however, is to have the governor of the state declare an emergency.

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Principal Routes Into City Found Open to Traffic Today

**Routes 7 and 8 to Pittsfield Clear—Mohawk Trail Clear
—Taconic Trail Dangerous—Roads to Readsboro
Open—Crews Filling in Wash-outs on Road to
Hoosac Tunnel.**

Motor traffic over the principal highways to and from the city was back to normal on most routes today. On minor routes, however, there were a few delays caused by landslides and washouts.

The state police reported on main routes this morning as follows:

Route 8, North Adams to Pittsfield, clear; Route 7, Bennington to Pittsfield, and south to Greenfield, clear; Route 2, Williamsburg to Boston by way of the Mohawk trail, clear, but the same route west from Williamstown to Troy over the Taconic trail was said dangerous, as it was covered by snow and motorists were warned not to use it.

McKendree Whitney, Jr., State police patrolman, said this morning that the road north through Readsboro was not closed at any time. The route had been open to Williamstown through Whittingham and Jacksonville, with a detour at Jacksonville due to a washout.

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