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The Daily News

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Central Interior Situation Easing Today

LOUD, COOLER WEATHER RELIEVES FLOOD WATERS

Organization of Relief Measures Speeded
Calamitous Picture Is More Fully
Seen—Repairs Will Be Huge Task

ool, cloudy weather came to the Skeena and
ley River valleys during the week-end to relieve
the time being at least the danger of further degra-
dation of the already calamitous flood situa-
the full seriousness of which was becoming more

apparent as reports trickled in
from various localities. Head-
way has been made with the
organization of relief measures
in transportation and com-
munication. At the same time it
has become apparent that the
restoration of the regular ser-
vices, after the recession of the
flood waters which have been
clearly of unprecedented propor-
tions, will be a task of first-class
magnitude.

Between Kwinitsa and Prince
George, aerial and other obser-
vations, indicate the railway line
has suffered bad washouts at
innumerable points. In some
places, the rails have been left
hanging in the air with the
grades inundated below. In other
places hillsides have been swept
over the line to leave it buried.
The damage to telegraph lines
has been equally serious. "Far
worse than 1936," says one ob-
server. In that historic year, the
devastating flash flood hit only
the Skeena River. This time the
flood front has encompassed as
well the Bulkley, Nechako and
Fraser Rivers, making the area
from end to end of the central
interior.

**USK MOST SERIOUSLY
HIT COMMUNITY**
It began to look late Saturday
that Usk, a village of 108 per-
sons 107 miles east of Prince Ru-
pert, was the most severely
stricken community as a result
of lower Skeena River floods
which by then had reached un-
precedented proportions, exceed-
ing even 1936. "Usk is complet-
ely washed out," was the terse
communication received by the
Daily News through the courtesy
of W. W. Wrathall of the Prince
Rupert Amateur Radio Club
whose station VETLK was being
used as an emergency commu-
nications clearing house. All
people have been evacuated from
Usk and some of the buildings
are already missing. The build-
ings include two hotels, a gen-
eral store and some twenty re-
sidences. The people have left
the village and are camped on
higher ground above the town. Among
them are women and children
and two expectant mothers. The
town is completely cut off except
for the railway to Terrace, thir-
teen miles distant, over which
a speeder went out Saturday af-
ternoon taking canned milk of
which the town had run com-
pletely out. There was some
doubt as to how long the rail-
way line would hold out.

Provincial police and welfare
moved quickly Saturday to the
relief of Usk. Inspector F. B.
Woods-Johnson left for the
scene in the morning and Ed.
Coughlan, welfare chief at
Prince Rupert, left yesterday
for Terrace to take up tem-
porary headquarters. With
him went Miss Jeannine Cou-
pal, public health nurse.

Canadian Pacific Airlines Sat-
urday instituted an emergency
daily air service between Prince
Rupert and Smithers.

(Continued on Page Two)

PUBLIC MEETING
to organize
FLOOD RELIEF CAMPAIGN
City Hall, Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Representatives of Service Clubs and All Organizations
requested to attend.
N. E. ARNOLD,
Mayor.



EXPLAINING U.S. PALESTINE SWITCH—U.S. alternate Philip
C. Jessup (right) is pictured explaining the details of the draft
trusteeship agreement for Palestine which the U.S. submitted
to the first committee of the United Nations General Assembly,
to Gen. Andrew G. L. McNaughton of Canada (left). Meanwhile,
a three-man truce commission, set up in Jerusalem, is checking
a report of an Arab invasion of the Holy Land. The Jewish agency
contends that Arab forces appear to be moving towards an at-
tempt to take over the country by the time the British mandate
ended on May 15.

Flood Disaster Hits Suburb of Portland

PORTLAND—Vanport, a suburb of Portland,
Oregon, has been swept to pieces by flood waters
which broke through the embankments, north of the
city. At least seventeen are dead. Over 18,000 people
were caught in the town which was built during the

Flying To Canneries

**Natives from Kitwanga
Coming from Smithers
by Plane**
With the Canadian National
Railway line in the Skeena Val-
ley tied up by flood conditions,
Nelson Bros. Fisheries Ltd and
Canadian Fishing Co. have re-
sorted to aircraft to bring their
native cannery workers to the
mouth of the Skeena River.

Nelson Bros. are flying some
65 natives in for their plant at
Port Edward. Canadian Fishing
Co. is bringing down about 15
at the present time.

A special train is being used
for the movement from Kitwanga
to Smithers whence the na-
tive folk are to be flown to
Prince Rupert.

William Tocher proceeded to
the interior last week to orga-
nize the movement.

The native workers will be
used in connection with the
handling of spring salmon. The
sockeye canning season will
start about June 27.

In 1936, the year of the pre-
vious big Skeena River flood,
the native cannery workers were
transported from Kitwanga via
Jasper Park to Vancouver by rail
and brought to the Skeena River
canneries by boat.

**ELECTION IN
YALE TODAY**
KELOWNA—Political interest
centred on the Yale by-election
in which voting is taking place
today. The poll is to elect a suc-
cessor to Hon. Grote Stirling, re-
tired member. It is a three-corn-
ered contest in which promi-
nent campaigners of all parties
have taken part. Candidates are:
Progressive-Conservative, W. A.
C. Bennett, former M.L.A. for
North Okanagan.
Liberal, Edward J. Chambers.
C.C.F., Owen Jones, former
mayor and councillor of Kelow-
na.

EASY TO MAKE
Peach halves filled with tart
jelly make pleasing salads or
desserts.

Battle Against Fraser Flood at Pitt Meadows

**Supplies Being Dropped to Relief Workers
From Aircraft—More Evacuations Made—
Railway Traffic to Vancouver Paralyzed**

VANCOUVER—Major battle against the Fraser
Valley floods now is being fought at Pitt Meadows,
just 22 miles east of Vancouver. Reinforcements have
been rushed to the danger scene where waters
threaten to break through the defence works. Evacu-
ation of whole towns is continuing.

The naval force on "Opera-
tion Overflow" transported the
residents of two towns on the
upper Fraser today to relief
centres. More than 1000 resi-
dents were taken from the holi-
day resort of Harrison Springs
while 200 residents of the town
of Agassiz were moved to safety
in a naval diving tender.

New crisis today confronted
thousands of exhausted workers
fighting against the worst floods
in British Columbia's 77-year
history.
Pitt Meadows district is 30
miles southeast of here. One
thousand persons were being
moved from the path of the
wild-running Alouette River.

Reeves of municipalities in the
district declared a state of em-
ergency.

Men worked throughout the
night to hold the fast-crumbing
dykes and speed the evacuation.
Navy officials said today that the
dyke was still holding.

The serious flood situation in
the Fraser Valley of British Col-
umbia was pointed up last night
in an appeal to school children
to aid in the battle against the
raging Fraser River. Although,
no new major breaks have been
recorded, the officials are ap-
pealing for school children to
gather up all fabric sacks suit-
able for sand bags to reinforce
the flooding dykes in the valley.

The Royal Canadian Air Force
is also busy, making reconnais-
sance flights and dropping sup-
plies to harassed army and civil-
ian workers.
Forty thousand sand bags were
flown in from the East and an-
other 60,000 are already on the
way.

A tired sailor summed up the
whole situation in these dramat-
(Continued on Page Five)

Sees Three Great Possibilities In Damming Upper Skeena

Doug Frizzell, an old timber with new ideas, has come for-
ward with a three-way proposal for a gigantic Skeena River
damming project. He suggests a great dam on the Skeena
River just above Hazelton, where the Skeena and the Bulkley
join, would:

First, control flood waters of the Skeena which every so
often go on the rampage.

Second, make an enormous power development possible.

Third, back the water up far enough to open up the
Groundhog coal fields.

There is a natural site for a dam just below Kispiox, says
Mr. Frizzell. The dam could be 150 feet high. The potential
would be comparable with other waterpower developments now
being investigated by the Aluminum Co. of Canada in con-
nection with the proposed establishment on this coast of a
\$400,000,000 aluminum plant project.

The local man has already offered his suggestion to Hon.
E. T. Kenney, minister of lands, with whom the Aluminum Co.
is now in direct contact.

RED CROSS MOVING IN

**Instructed to Make Such
Purchases as Necessary
For Flood Relief**

Red Cross organization moved
into the Skeena River flood re-
lief picture today with receipt
of authorization to the local
branch from provincial head-
quarters to purchase emergency
food and medical supplies in
recommendation of the provin-
cial police.
The Terrace branch is already
understood to be active in the
ways of formulating relief plans.

Fish Sales
American
Carolyn, 18,500, 22.10c, 20.60c
and 10.50c, Pacific.
Marilyn, 24,000, 22.10c, 20.60c
and 10.60c, Storage.
Canadian
Cape May, 4,500, 21.50c, 20.50c,
and 10c, Allyn.
Kam Falls, 16,000, 21.50c,
20.50c and 10c, Booth.
Skeena M., 10,500, Co-op.
Lois N., 64,000, Co-op.
Jutsen, 4,500, Co-op.

THE WEATHER
Prince Rupert—Cloudy with
fog patches, little change in
temperature.

Czechs Anti- Communist

PRAGUE—Totals of yester-
day's ballots against the Com-
munist fixed slate in Czecho-
Slovakia's election have ranged
as high as 39 per cent in some
regions. With half the votes
counted, more than a half mil-
lion votes were against the gov-
ernment ticket.

Czechoslovakia has more than
eight million registered voters
but it appeared that many stay-
ed away from the poles rather
than vote in the one-sided con-
test.

Flood Flashes!

Mayor Nora Arnold today
called a public meeting for Tues-
day night to organize and co-
ordinate the local relief effort
for flood-suffering interior com-
munities. Local service clubs and
other organizations are being re-
quested to be represented with
delegates.

Mrs. Eric Christiansen of Usk,
in touch with her father, H. A.
Dodd, today said "everything is
all right" there. There is no ac-
tual want or distress. The popu-
lation of the lower village, forced
to leave their flood-filled homes,
were comfortable in the schoolhouse
and the large residence of James
Gould on the hillside.

The Prince Rupert Medical
Association was preparing to or-
ganize today for the sending of
relief medical supplies to in-
terior flood stricken centres if
necessary.

Railway service is being main-
tained from Jasper through to
Houston where wash-out is mak-
ing it necessary to transfer pas-
sengers, express and mail to
buses and trucks for Smithers.
From Smithers another train is
being run as far west as Kit-
wanga.

At Old Hazelton "everything is
under control" was the report
received at provincial police
headquarters this afternoon. The
weather is cooler and the Skeena
River is down two feet. The Bulk-
ley River is also down. Four
families on the main street near
the river front had to be evacu-
ated and the cabins were remov-
ed. Damage, \$1000.

Kispiox Indian village is flood-
ed and the residents evacuated.

Seventy natives were driven
from their homes at Glen Vowell
and are camped on a hillside.

Land line wire service might
be resumed to Prince Rupert by
the middle of the week, it was
suggested this afternoon.

SKEENA RIVER DEBRIS AND FLOOD WATER HERE; NAVIGATION MENACED

Great uprooted trees, swept out of the Skeena
River by waters of the big flood, were being carried
into Prince Rupert Harbor last night and were prov-
ing a danger to navigation all the way to Watson
Rock at the north end of Grenville Channel.

Capt. William McCoombe, master of the steamer

CAYUGA NOT COMING HERE

Naval rescue work in the
flooded Fraser Valley has caused
cancellation of the scheduled
visit of the Tribal class destroyer
H.M.C.S. Cayuga to Prince Ru-
pert on June 4. Cayuga, com-
manded by Commander Robert-
son, was scheduled to visit here
from June 4 to June 7 on a rou-
tine training cruise. The des-
troyer is at present taking part
in the evacuation work in the
Fraser Valley where hundreds
have been forced to leave their
homes.

C.P.R. steamer Princess Ade-
laide, Capt. Fred McGraw, is due
in port at 5 o'clock this after-
noon from Vancouver and way-
points.

HIGHWAY IN GOOD SHAPE

"From here to Kwinitsa, the
highway is in as good shape as
its ever been," said R. E. Ben-
son Sunday, speaking of the
drive taken by Dr. Cade and
himself the preceding afternoon.

They left at two o'clock and
were back by six. Kwinitsa is
the beginning of the trouble
zone. There the flood was in
full force. Beyond there, they
went on foot for a short dis-
tance.

Despite reports to the con-
trary, they are of the opinion
that the water is not (or was
not) higher than the record of
1936. Certainly, there are no
boats passing through the tun-
nels. Snags and other debris in
the river are numerous. Once,
a black bear was sighted crossing
the highway.

The Albertson & Sorensen
sawmill at Dorreen is flooded.
The Watson family there has
been flooded out and evacu-
ated.

At Kitwanga the ferryman's
house is flooded and part of the
cemetery has been washed out.

Telkwa reports \$1000 damages
with the main street flooded and
three families evacuated.

At several points in the
Bulkley Valley the highway is
washed out or covered with
water.

Provincial police headquar-
ters here were advised today by
Inspector F. B. Woods-Johnson,
now at Terrace near the distress
area of the Skeena River floods,
that the flood level had receded
14 inches from the high mark.
Temperature was 50 above today
after two cooler days.

Arrangements were being made
today for the Skeena Air Trans-
port Seabee plane to fly in re-
lief supplies to Terrace.

Section Foreman E. G. Storey
of Salvo, who last week was
driven with his family into the
attic of his section house, re-
ported to railway headquarters
here today that the water was
now out of the station house
with eight inches still over the
track.

"Everything under control" was
a morning report from Terrace.
There was enough food, a mes-
sage said, and plane service is
good. "Weather is cooler and
conditions should improve from
now on."

At Smithers it was expected
today that train service would
be resumed through to Jasper
by Wednesday. At present trains
are running only as far west as
Houston.

A bridge across a slough of
the Skeena River at Cedarvale
has been washed out.