

TORONTO AREA FLOOD DISASTER: Sweeping northwards through the Carolinas and Pennsylvania, Hurricane 'Hazel,' as it had been designated by meteorological authorities, on Friday night, October 15, struck across Lake Ontario with its full force of wind and torrential rain hitting the Toronto area. It left a toll of 79 known dead and maybe \$100,000,000 damage. It was one of the worst disasters in Canadian history.

The Humber River, on the western outskirts of Toronto, drowned at least 57 persons, according to mid-week compilation, with more than 30 of the deaths occurring at a bend of the river where 19 homes were swept away on two short streets - Raymore and Gilhaven Drives.

The Humber and the Don River, on the eastern side of Toronto, and other streams, smashed 50 bridges and culverts, paralyzing travel. At Holland Marsh, 35 miles north, 7,000 acres of the most fertile farm land in Ontario was turned into a lake and almost 2,000 left homeless.

Governments at all levels were organizing aid throughout this week. The Ontario Hurricane Relief Fund had reached a total of \$2,000,000 toward its \$10,000,000 objective near the week-end. A plan of relief distribution was announced which would provide immediate emergency assistance in cash advances, provide immediate relief of needs of dependents of flood victims, and provide compensation to flood victims for household effects, clothing and living requirements lost or destroyed.

The federal Government was in consultation with the Ontario Government as to required rehabilitation aid and Prime Minister St. Laurent stated that sympathetic consideration would be given to any request by the Province. Federal aid toward rehabilitation would follow the principle applied in aid granted for the Winnipeg floods and other disasters.

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First of two volumes containing the final results of the 1951 Census of Distribution, the Bureau of Statistics has released 1951 Census Volume VII dealing with retail trade. Its companion Volume VIII, which deals with wholesale trade and service establishments, is in the hands of the printer.

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MINISTER-COUNSELLOR, TOKYO: Theodore F. M. Newton, at present Head of the Information Division of the Department, has been appointed Minister-Counsellor, Canadian Embassy, Tokyo, effective in November. The Ambassador Designate to Japan is the Hon. T. C. Davis.

Mr. Newton, formerly on the staff of McGill and Harvard Universities, was associate chairman of the United Nations Information Board in New York from 1943-1946. A former member of the Wartime Information Board, he later became supervisor of the Canadian Information Service in the United States. In 1946 he was appointed to the Canadian Embassy, Washington, as First Secretary.

When Canada opened its Consulate in Boston in 1948, Mr. Newton became the first Canadian Consul for the New England States.

Subsequently, he was loaned by the Department in 1950 to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to organize an international information service for NATO. After a three-year period in London and Paris as NATO's first Director of Information, he returned to departmental duties in Ottawa in June 1953.

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INVENTORIES DOWN: Total value of manufacturers' investment in inventory declined \$31,000,000 during August to reach \$3,456,500,000, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was 99.2% of the December, 1952 value, down 1% from July and 4.5% lower than in August 1953.

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NEW HOUSING: With increases in Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and Newfoundland more than offsetting declines in the Maritimes and Quebec, starts on the construction of new dwelling units in August climbed to 10,978 units from 10,883 in the same month last year. This raised the number of starts in the January-August period to 71,567 units from 69,463 a year earlier.

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The trend was to fewer but more powerful tractors on Canadian farms last year. Farmers bought over 11% fewer new standard and row-crop wheel tractors than in 1952, but purchases of models of over 27 H.P. increased nearly 2½ times to 16,709 from 6,702.