

SEEK TO LESSEN MANITOBA FLOOD HAZARD

SURVEYS PROVIDE INFORMATION: The Minister of Resources and Development, Mr. Winters, announced on September 1 that work has been actively in progress for some weeks on investigations and surveys in Manitoba designed to provide information on which to base measures for reducing the hazard of flood such as occurred last spring in the Winnipeg area. Surveys are being conducted by Resources Department officials in close co-operation with several other federal Departments as well as with the Province of Manitoba.

These investigations at the outset involve the basic topographic, hydrometric and hydrographic surveys which are a first essential in formulating any plans for remedial measures.

Overall co-ordination of the surveys rests in the hands of the Water Resources Division of the Department of Resources and Development. The Division itself, throughout the flood and since, has been engaged in the collection and analysis of data concerning the flows and water surface elevations experienced at various points on the Red River and its tributaries. The Division has also under way a hydrographic survey of the bed and banks of the Red River extending from the Agricultural College, near Winnipeg, southerly to Emerson at the international boundary.

Hydrographic surveys of the bed and banks of the navigable reach of the river from the Agricultural College through Greater Winnipeg and northerly to Lake Winnipeg are being undertaken by the Greater Winnipeg Dyking Board under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Commerce. These surveys will include sub-surface explorations in reaches of the river where controls exist such as at Lister Rapids and below Lockport.

Precise levelling and topographical surveys in the basin are being carried out by the

Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Work commenced on July 24 on a line of precise levels along the west side of the Red River from Winnipeg to Emerson, and the level party expects to reach Emerson at the end of the week. Lateral lines from this base line will then be run to points east of the river to establish precise controls in that area. Topographic surveys of the area inundated in the 1950 flood were commenced in mid-August, and it is planned to have ground control work and the aerial photography necessary for the preparation of a contour map of the area completed before winter conditions set in. Further topographic surveys, if required, will be made east and north east of Greater Winnipeg in the area where floodways have been proposed.

Investigations of several storage reservoir sites on the upper waters of the Assiniboine River have already been made by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of the Department of Agriculture, and further investigations of such possibilities are being undertaken together with surveys of a possible route to divert surplus waters of the Assiniboine River to Lake Manitoba from a point in the vicinity of Portage La Prairie. Reconnaissance surveys are also to be made by P.F.R.A. of storage possibilities in the valley of the Pembina River in Manitoba.

Mr. Winters stated that this is a problem involving a large area and a number of rivers. In order to avoid a piece-meal approach or incomplete conclusions, it is important that all engineering data be accumulated before an overall solution can be contemplated. The Minister made it clear, however, that if it was agreed that certain specific action was required as part of any over all solution, arrangements would doubtless be made to have the required work initiated at once.

* * *

MUNICIPAL FINANCES: Revenues and expenditures, tax collections and gross debenture debt of municipalities in eight Canadian provinces increased considerably in 1943 over 1947, according to the annual report on financial statistics of municipal governments by the Bureau of Statistics. Statistics for Quebec municipalities are not included in the report, as they were not available at time of publication, and Newfoundland did not enter Confederation until the following year.

General municipal revenues for the eight provinces totalled \$396,000,000 in 1948, up nearly 13 per cent from \$349,000,000 in 1947. General expenditures showed a slightly smaller increase of 11.6 per cent from \$355,000,000 to \$396,000,000, these totals being exclusive of surpluses of previous years used to reduce taxation, and deficits of previous years met

from the current year's revenue.

Taxes levied and taxes collected both increased 12.4 per cent over the previous year's totals, the levies from \$263,000,000 to \$296,000,000 and collections from \$261,000,000 to \$293,000,000. Tax collections in 1948 were 99.1 per cent of current levies. Assessment of property and business -- the basis of by far the greater part of the levies -- rose by 4.2 per cent from \$6,333,000,000 to \$6,601,000,000.

Gross debenture debt grew 10.9 per cent in 1948, from \$547,000,000 in 1947 to \$607,000,000. This rise followed an increase of \$13,000,000 or 2.4 per cent in 1947 and marks the renewal of public works construction on a large scale after the wartime lull, when little capital was borrowed and debenture debt was reduced.