

# SKEETERS FIND ANOTHER ENEMY

**Sanitary District to Wage Determined Eradication War Here**

## TREAT SKOKIE VALLEY

**Oil Brigade to Start Operation at Once**

Potent measures for coping with the mosquito menace and speedy elimination of this dangerous nuisance through northern and western suburbs, have been undertaken by the trustees of the Sanitary District of Chicago, in accordance with their long established policy of active annual cooperation with localities subject to infestation. Determined to "get the jump" on the winged pest this year and destroy breeding beds before warm weather sets in, the District three weeks ago sent 16 crews into the territory from Des Plaines south to Lyons, a distance of 20 miles.

Mosquitos have been the particular seasonal bane of the residents in this district, but with five miles of the ground already thoroughly treated, it is safe to predict that the need for soothing lotion will be reduced considerably this summer. The recent cold snap retarded mosquito development and the early operations against the pest are expected to constitute a death wallop.

Assurances have been given by President Lawrence F. King, that special squads will be assigned as rapidly as possible in sections from which have come urgent appeals for assistance.

### Invade Skokie Valley

Within the next week the Skokie Valley is to be invaded by Sanitary District forces, according to Edward F. Moore, superintendent of maintenance and operation, who is personally supervising the campaign. Four oiling crews are being organized. Carrying out a program of practically identical proportions with that of 1924, the six-mile square area including Ravinia, Glencoe, Highland Park and Highwood and Winnetka, will be given painstaking and efficient attention.

This district, which has been divided into three divisions for the mosquito elimination drive, requires virtually no preliminary cleaning up, as all of the under growth was removed last year. Oiling can be started as soon as the four crews reach the scene. Numerous requests have been received from authorities of villages lying along the Des Plaines river and it is planned to begin cooperating with these places at

once. Thorough application of oil has been given to the bayous and stagnant pools. Driftwood, fallen trees and other debris which makes for mosquito breeding will be removed and other preventive measures taken.

The present low stage of the Des Plaines river is acting as natural aid against mosquito propagation, Superintendent Moore declared, and unless severe storms occur, forming stagnant pools away from the stream, the task of overthrowing the insect pest can be accomplished without great difficulty. Part of the program includes using boats to tow logs and other obstacles which have jammed around bridges to the banks and there burning them, keeping the river flow unimpeded.

### Form 17 Oil Stations

Seventeen separate oil distributing stations, located at half mile intervals in spots easily accessible, have been established for the west side portion of the project, this has been divided into four districts. Eight of the 16 crews now at work are engaged in clearing work while the remaining handle the oiling operations.

Regular inspection service is maintained and samples taken of water for examination where it is found in places adapted to mosquito breeding. The oilers then go over the ground. Later inspections are made again and this procedure is continued until appar-

ent total elimination of mosquito life is obtained. The five mile stretch thus far treated on the west extends from North avenue south to Lyons, embracing a denser population than any other district under the program. Salt Creek and its branch in the vicinity of La Grange, Brookfield, Western Springs, Broadview, Bellwood and Melrose Park are being treated.

Cooperation of home owners throughout the affected areas was urged both by President King and Trustee, Morris Eller, who is taking an active interest in the relief work.

### Employ Scientific Remedies

"It is our intention to keep the field crews on the job until the work is completed in a thorough manner and every scientific remedy at our disposal applied," Mr. King said. "To achieve the best results the cooperation of those living in infested districts is, of course, essential.

"Cisterns and the backyard rain barrel should receive attention. All debris should be removed and other similarly simple and easy measures taken to insure abolishing conditions inviting to the mosquito. This done, elimination of the pest can be accomplished swiftly and the irritation and menace of the mosquito hordes avoided during the coming summer months."

Mrs. Frank Ferry of Sheridan road, is a member of the Chicago Church federation which was in charge of the church competitive choral festival held last Monday evening at Orchestra hall.

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