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### 1000 Mennonites To Aid Marsh

First of an army of 1,000 Mennonites will move into flood-ravaged Holland Marsh in the next couple of days to help rebuild the area.

Lack of housing facilities has held up acceptance of their offer which was made 20 hours after the flood struck.

George Horling, chairman of the Holland Marsh Flood Relief committee, said the Mennonites' offer had been gratefully acknowledged at the time.

The Mennonites, from some 50 Ontario congregations, are construction experts.

As soon as quarters can be found the first of the Mennonites working army will move in.

## Hurricane Report from Local Health Unit

On 15 October, 1954, the rapidly rising waters in the Humber and Holland river valleys brought destruction and death with considerable contamination of premises. Many communities and homes in the County suffered damage of varying degree, but particularly severe damage was incurred in the Woodbridge, Schomberg, Aurora, Newmarket, Humber Trails and Holland Marsh areas. Physical damage to property and simple flooding was widespread, but in almost all instances contamination with polluted waters occurred.

All available expert health personnel was immediately rushed to scenes of devastation. Assistance from further expert personnel was promptly provided from East York-Leaside Health Unit, the City of Toronto, the Department of Health for the Province of Ontario, and the Federal Department of Health and Welfare. Altogether twenty-one sanitary engineers and inspectors became immediately available in the flooded areas in York County north of Steeles Avenue.

Water Supplies

Municipal water supplies in Aurora, Newmarket and Woodbridge suffered knock-out damage immediately. Prompt attention to disruption and possible contamination of these water supplies resulted in restoration of municipal water supplies in safe measure in these three municipalities within the matter of 24 to 48 hours, although boiling of drinking water was recommended as a necessary precaution for several days.

In Woodbridge, Schomberg and the Holland Marsh area, a safe water supply became promptly available by tank truck by the good graces of the Department of Works of the City of Toronto and the Fruehauf Trailer Company of Weston.

Private wells throughout the entire area were for the most part flooded and in many cases contaminated. Artesian wells, where they occurred, were examined, and for the most part, found to be satisfactory. Dug wells, however, which suffered contamination, can not be considered safe until the saturation of the ground in the area has been cleared and a satisfactory water test has been received.

The populations affected by the disruption of water supplies, municipal or private wells, were immediately notified by the use of sound truck announcements and by the posting of posters and handbills warning of the contamination throughout the Newmarket, Woodbridge, Schomberg and Holland Marsh area.

Food Supplies

General warnings were put out by handbills and other methods regarding contamination of food supplies from private premises where basement flooding occurred. Commercial establishments which suffered damage to stocks of food were promptly inspected by representatives of the Food and Drug Division of the Federal Department of Health and Welfare, and appropriate action taken to safeguard the public. In the Marsh area close co-operation between the Department of Health for Ontario and

the Department of Agriculture for Ontario with the assistance of the Ontario Provincial Police has produced a working policy with regard to contaminated crops.

Waste Disposal

Toilet facilities in areas not supplied with municipal sewers became an immediate emergency. Privies in many cases were completely washed away. With the assistance of the Canadian Army, Oakville Command, temporary pail privies were supplied in quantity to the emergency area where needed.

Premises provided with septic tank waste disposal systems were warned of difficulties that may arise in the operation of flooded tile beds.

Damaged and Contaminated Premises

While minor damage occurred in flooding of basements in many communities over York County, serious damage occurred to approximately 426 premises in the Woodbridge, Schomberg and Holland Marsh areas. Included in this number were approximately 333 homes completely destroyed, taking into account those premises still not inspected in the Holland Marsh area, and which can not be approached due to persisting flood waters. Reevaluation of the situation in the next weeks may change the estimated figures given here.

Every premises, which on inspection, was unfit for immediate occupancy was placed as uninhabitable as an initial step in the sanitary clean-up campaign. Work crews for the most part voluntary labour, proceeded in a cleaning out of mud and debris from the flooded premises. When cleaning up of the premises was completed, disinfection crews entered and sprayed disinfectants throughout the building. Then a final inspection was done by the health inspector, and where the situation was satisfactory, the home or premises was released for occupancy.

Public health nurses temporarily dropped their routine activities and made special visits to homes which have been re-occupied following clearance by the health inspectors. The public health nurses have given valuable assistance and advice to the families who are attempting under many difficulties to re-establish their homes again in somewhat devastated situations.

Each rural school in the County where there was possibility of contamination of the well water supply was promptly visited by a public health nurse to instruct the teacher with regard to safeguarding the water supplies until satisfactory tests could be obtained.

The Holland Marsh disaster differs markedly from the Humber valley disaster in certain respects. In the Humber valley the flood waters rose rapidly with tremendous violence and physical force and then receded in a matter of hours leaving a scene of desolation and pollution which could be promptly approached and rehabilitation efforts immediately started. In contrast, in the Holland Marsh area, the flood waters rose and remained

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### Mr. Thos. Philip Lifelong Resident Of Pickering Twp.

On Wednesday, Nov. 3rd, Mr. Thomas Philip of Brougham, a lifelong resident in Pickering Twp., passed away at the Claremont Nursing Home in his 57th year. Mr. Philip was born in Whitby Twp. in the year 1867, the son of Geo. Philip and Marion owie. He was identified with St. John's United Church, Brougham.

Besides his wife, the former Sarah Russell, the deceased is survived by four sons, Russell of California, Thomas of Brougham, Boyer of Brooklin, Gordon of Highland Creek and three daughters, Mrs. Arthur Farthing (Marian) of Stouffville, Mrs. Frank Gostick (Pearl) of Claremont and Mrs. Gormley Crawford (Maude) of Hampton.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. H. Lackey at the home of his son, Thomas of Brougham on Saturday, Nov. 6, with interment in the Claremont Union cemetery. The pallbearers were Jas. Farley, G. E. Holby, Carl Devitt, Levi Hopkins, Cecil Phillips and Walter Bayles.

### Former Resident Of Uxbridge Twp. Dies in Hospital

Founder and owner of the Lawrason-Doughty Co., Jay B. Lawrason of Thorncliffe Ave. died at Toronto East General Hospital following a brief illness.

A charter member of Park Rd. Baptist Church, he was chairman of the building, had served for 25 years on the board of deacons and was a former chairman of the board. Mr. Lawrason had been a member of the extension and the edifice boards of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. He served on the finance committee of the Ontario Temperance Federation.

Born in Uxbridge Township, he came to Toronto as a young man. He was a member of the Canadian Club and Board of Trade and was a past president of the Canadian Paper Box Manufacturers' Association. In his younger days Mr. Lawrason was keenly interested in lacrosse and basketball.

His widow, Mable Dyce Lawrason; a son, Jack, and two sisters, Mrs. Leahy Wellington and Maude, survive.

You figure this one: A girl steps into society by coming out.

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