

PITTSBURGH FREED OF PERIL AS FLOOD WATERS PASS AWAY

Again Supplied with Drinking Water, Utility Services and Food—Damage Estimated at \$225,000,000—Refugees Return

Gazette, 1936, By The Associated Press
PITTSBURGH, March 24 (AP)—Danger of disease and famine all but disappeared and industry moved to get its houses in order today while the forces of reconstruction began the task of rehabilitation in the denuded 200-mile area where flood waters demoralized the persons of some 4,000,000 inhabitants.

Pure drinking water poured back into the reservoirs, heat and utility service slowly was being restored, and caravans of food rolled in to relieve the distress of the thousands of homeless.

Transportation was returning; big steel companies began clearing out the mud-ravaged mills and city and state officials pursued with the federal government negotiations for the relief of the destitute.

191 Dead in Two States

The death toll for Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia stood at 191. Revised figures for West Virginia amounted for four-hundred dead, instead of the eighteen previously reported. Twelve of these were in the Wheeling area. Pittsburgh counted fifty-seven dead and the remainder of western Pennsylvania 36.

Damage remained at incalculable figures although some estimates put it at more than \$225,000,000.

Authorities were cheered by the absence of signs of epidemic disease, but held great supplies of serum ready to cope with any outbreak. Many households were inoculated. Free typhoid clinics were set up by the Red Cross.

Trains and airplanes brought more medical supplies, food, rats and

blankets. Telephones, street car and power services were nearly normal in metropolitan Pittsburgh, although many homes and buildings still were without electric lights after five days.

The dead were carried to their graves after solemn ceremonies attended by many persons in the smaller communities.

At Washington, Governor George Earle B. Rife said an extra session of the Pennsylvania legislature is "practically inevitable".

\$225,000,000 Damage

The cleanup drive sped at rapid tempo in the stricken communities of Wheeling, W. Va., and Johnstown, Pa., hardest hit outside of Pittsburgh by the mighty sweeps of the rivers.

After a survey by a committee of experts, city assessor M. M. Chodry, of Johnstown, estimated the flood damage there at \$25,000,000. Exclusive of destroyed bridges and streets. This compared with an estimate of \$70,000,000 damage in the great flood of 1900, which took more than 2,000 lives at Johnstown after the sudden bursting of a dam.

Refugees Return Home

Thousands of refugees flocked back toward their homes, but

health authorities saw to it none moved in unless the houses were cleaned and dried out. The flood broke up many families, sending them fleeing to the highlands. They came back to streets strewn with slugs, debris and broken furniture. For days they have been housed in churches, schools and public buildings.