

HELP FOR FLOOD VICTIMS POURS IN

To Mansion House, headquarters of the Lord Mayor's Flood Distress Fund, arrive contributions large and small from all over the world. The King has donated a thousand pounds, big sums have been received from the ~~dominions~~ ^{dominions} and colonies, and in the first four days the total reached two hundred thousand ~~pounds~~. Flood damage is computed at twelve millions. Dwellers in the Thames Valley, first big area from which the water receded, are trying to start again. Sodden carpets are hung out to dry, while the damaged houses are being repaired, and cleansed of the filth left behind. Window frames ~~will not~~ close; front doors are warped, and days of fine, drying weather are a crying need. Two thousand scrubbing brushes, fifty tons of soap, and three tons of disinfectant are the practical gift sent by the American Zone in Germany. Carpets and lino, hastily taken up, could not be removed to safety, so rapidly did the water rise. The extra hundredweight of coal allotted to flood victims won't go very far in the process ~~of~~ of drying out.

Meanwhile, near Selby, fourteen miles south of York, the Yorkshire Ouse burst its banks. The historic church of Saint Mary is on the ~~sight~~ ^{site} of a former Benedictine abbey and Selby is the reputed birthplace of Henry the First. ^{But} At the moment it has no interest in history. Whole square miles of farmland are inundated. The catastrophic damage and misery of the Fen country ~~is~~ ^{is} being duplicated in the north.

FLOODS

One of the manufacturing products of Selby is oil cake for feeding cattle. Output looks like being reduced for some time. As if agriculture hadn't suffered enough! When the river bank burst a great column of water bore down on Selby. In a short time parts of the town were standing in fifteen feet of water. ^{To} scores of people it all happened too quickly ^{4 m} to get away. They took refuge upstairs till Northern Command mobilized amphibious craft to bring help. Without food, light or heat, many people were only too glad to be taken to dry parts of the town.

(Dug)
To give aid to victims of the floods, in town and country, is no less a national responsibility than to aid those who were bombed out during the war. Coming on top of the severe and prolonged frost the latest disaster bears

~~the heaviest of all on agriculture. The floods underline the fact, too often lost sight of, that the fundamental interests of town and country cannot be separated. In~~

~~this peacetime Dunkirk every shoulder must be put to the~~
~~defence.~~
this peacetime Dunkirk all must unite in the common defence.