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M.F.U.

FLOODS IN FEDERATION OF MALAYA.

Extensive and disastrous floods have taken place in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. The main areas involved appear to be Johore, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Trengganu and Kelantan. Immediate steps are being taken by the Governments of the States and Settlements for widespread relief. Heavy rainfall had swollen the rivers and streams and inundated large areas. Railway tracks, too, in certain areas have been flooded. In some cases rivers have risen 20 ft. above their normal levels, and are still rising. Folding canvas boats and outboard motors are being sent into areas in Johore from the Army Stores Depots.

In Johore alone nearly 20,000 people have been evacuated from their homes since the monsoon rains started in the middle of December. Widespread appeals have been made for gifts of clothing, money, and other help but, until the floods recede completely, the true extent in loss of homes, property, crops and livestock will not be known.

Many motorists found themselves in deep water on some of the main roads. The rains started on the 10th December and in one hour at Singapore, 2½ inches of rain fell. In an hour in another heavy downpour, 1.54 inches of rain fell.

At times the Singapore Airport had to be closed to traffic, and planes were diverted.

Many passenger trains were held up through bank slips on railway lines and, in other cases, parts of the railway embankments were swept away, leaving the rails suspended in the air.

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