

15,000 FLEE DYKE BURST.

The dyke was breached: Water poured through a gap of 200 feet. The break happened at 6.15 in the morning. It was dark; the temperature, 10 below. Now, when these pictures were taken, rescuers were collecting the last of the 15,000 people from flooded homes, most of which were five feet under water. The dyke protects an outer suburb of Amsterdam from the water of the North Sea Canal.

Being enacted here was the classic calamity of the Dutch, one of their temporary, yet terrible, setbacks in the endless battle to keep out the sea. They never relax their vigilance, but now and then their natural enemy finds a weak spot in the defences and the flood comes pouring through, usually in winter, when it's dark and the freezing cold adds to the horror. It was expected that the dyke would be repaired within ten hours. But then would come the enormous task of pumping the water out. It will be some time before the people can return to their homes, and what indescribable mess they'll find there. Government relief is on the way.