

# 30 MILLION HOMELESS IN FLOOD

## Ten Million Utterly Destitute On Yang- tse River In China.

HANKOW, China, Aug. 19—(Wed-  
nesday)—(AP)—At least several hun-  
dred Chinese residents of Hankow  
drowned today when the big Chia-  
kow dyke protecting the city's west-  
ern suburbs collapsed, inundating  
the principal native industrial dis-  
trict, including big flour, cotton and  
silk mills.

An accurate estimate of the num-  
ber who perished was not possible in  
view of the chaos that prevailed fol-  
lowing the disaster.

Although all foreigners in Han-  
kow were reported safe, a great ma-  
jority of foreign women have de-  
parted from the city and more were  
leaving on every steamer.

### Chinese Leave

A Chinese exodus from the stricken  
city also was underway on a huge  
scale. All available means of trans-  
portation was packed with humanity  
and what personal belongings could  
be loaded aboard. Big river junks  
were traversing what once were city  
streets, removing valuables from  
homes and warehouses.

The highest ground in Kankow  
was under ten feet of water today  
while most of the city was inun-  
dated from ten to twenty feet.

Epidemics were becoming more  
serious among the tens of thousands  
of refugees who had nothing to drink  
but flood waters. Typhoid, cholera  
and dysentery were ravaging the  
helpless Chinese.

One of the most important dykes  
of Wuchang, which with Hankow  
and Hanyang form the so-called tri-  
cities, collapsed today while at Han-  
yang the waters reached the tops  
of the gates of the city's ancient wall.

### Baker Arrives

Today's disaster at Hankow came  
just a day after arrival here of John  
Earl Baker, American adviser to the  
ministry of railways, who has been  
loaned to the flood commissioner and  
headed a party of commissioners who  
came from Shanghai by airplane.

John Earl Baker, American ad-  
visor to the ministry of railways, who  
was loaned to the flood commission,  
headed the party flying here. He was  
told carefully prepared estimates in-  
dicated 30,000,000 people were home-  
less in the provinces of Hupeh, Anh-  
wei, Hunan and Honan and 10,000,000  
of these were utterly destitute.

### China's Worst In 30 Years

Baker said he considered the pres-  
ent flood "probably China's most ter-  
rible disaster in the present century."  
The American has had considerable  
experience in flood relief work.

The Yangtse last night reached a  
level of 53 feet five inches, a new  
record. The previous record was 50  
feet six inches on August 4, 1870. The  
seasonal variation is between 40 and

(Continued on Page 10, Col. 5)