$10,000,000 Damage Prevented by WPA and ERA Flood Control Work in Three Eastern States.

In New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts where March floods took lives and did property damage on a broad front and record scale, the Works Progress Administration and the Emergency Relief Administration flood control projects in a number of counties kept swollen rivers and streams from making a clean sweep of threatened regions, averting additional damage of more than $10,000,000, state administrators in the affected areas have reported to Works Progress Administrator, Harry L. Hopkins.

Although few in relation to the number of streams that burst their bounds, these projects at various points delayed or checked inundation of threatened communities in seven counties in New York, four in Pennsylvania and five in Massachusetts, according to the reports.

Flood control projects at Glens Falls, Binghamton, and Elmira—cities which bore the brunt of New York's floods prevented these localities from experiencing even greater losses than they did. Property losses of at least $200,000 at Glens Falls, $250,000 in the Binghamton area, and $150,000 around Elmira were averted by WPA dikes and retaining walls partially or completely constructed during the winter, it was estimated.
At Whitehall, in Washington County, N. Y., a partly completed Works Progress Administration dike along the Metowee River and the State Barge Canal served to keep the waters from flooding the town's only industrial plant, Champlain Spinners, Inc., until the mill workers had moved machinery, perishable materials and finished products from lower to upper floors. Last July, before work had started on the dike, the company is reported to have sustained a $100,000 flood loss. Another such loss, the owners stated at that time, would close the mill, throwing 1,100 workers out of employment. When completed the dike will afford complete protection for this part of the town.

In Binghamton construction of culverts, straightening of creek beds and other Works Progress Administration work accomplished since the July floods averted thousands of dollars of potential March flood losses, the New York State Administration reported. At Hammondsport, Steuben County, heart of New York's rich grape country, a concrete WPA-built dike along Glen Creek diverted the creek's swollen waters, preventing flood ravages almost entirely.

Ithaca, isolated for several days by storm and flood, escaped heavier damage because a sheet piling wall built by the Works Progress Administration held back the water long enough so that household goods could be removed from affected areas. A project at Tupper Lake, Franklin County, calling for the widening and straightening of the bed of Little Wolf Creek was sufficiently advanced to carry off flood waters safely. This flood control project, local observers claim, resulted in a saving of lives and property and prevented a repetition of the village's heavy losses last July.

In Elmira and surrounding towns, where July's flood loss reached $3,500,000, the damage in March was cut to approximately $1,000,000, principal-
ly because of Works Progress Administration flood control work. It was pointed out that the March floods were more severe than those of July.

Flood control in Pennsylvania was equally valuable, a check-up revealed. At Wilkes Barre where a 33-foot stage occurred an incompletely Works Progress Administration dike held back the waters for 24 hours, enabling much of the later inundated section of the city to be evacuated. Local authorities are of the opinion that had the dike been completed the damage would have been negligible. The completed section was a major factor in stemming the Susquehanna River long enough to save lives and property.

At York, Works Progress Administration flood control measures taken on Codorus Creek saved one of the principal industrial sections of this important industrial city. In 1934 a lower stage caused more than $3,000,000 loss.

Dikes built by the Works Progress Administration saved Clyphant and Blakely boroughs in Lackawanna County from inundation. Flood waters climbed within inches of the top of the recently completed dikes but the barriers held. Pottsville, in Schuylkill County, escaped the flood because the Works Progress Administration had previously cleaned and deepened Norwegian Creek to provide protection for the city. Gibertson, in the same county, which in the past has suffered almost every year from floods was secure because Works Progress Administration workers had dredged, walled and straightened Mahanoy Creek. In the same area many mining villages were saved from serious water damage because of the protection afforded by Works Progress Administration flood control measures.
Emergency Relief Administration flood control projects in Massachusetts prevented thousands of dollars of property losses, the report indicates. At West Springfield, Hampden County, an Emergency Relief Administration project for removal of an old jetty and reconstruction and rip-rapping of the banks deflected flood waters of the Connecticut River, saving the city from complete inundation.

The report cites the conviction of the city engineer of Springfield that the Emergency Relief Administration project under which the banks of the Connecticut were cleaned of debris saved the city's Southend Bridge. The accumulations, if they had remained, when swept against the bridge at the flood's peak would have put too heavy a strain against the bridge abutments and the flood of the structure.

At Haverhill the construction of 1,800 feet of reinforced concrete wall kept the Merrimac River from overflowing river front sections. The river rose two feet higher at this point than it did in 1927 when record stages caused considerable damage. The Emergency Relief Administration project for the cleaning of Little River and reconstruction of retaining walls saved Haverhill further damage.

Widespread inundation was prevented at Amesbury, Essex County, the State Administration's report states, when the Pow-Pow River failed to break through a section along which the bank of the stream had been raised two feet, by the Emergency Relief Administration. More than 150 homes in Wichendon, Worcester County, were saved from washout when Emergency Relief Administration rip-rapping along the banks of Goodrich Brook held back flood waters successfully. Similar rip-rapping along the banks of brooks in Milford, in the same county, protected
properties adjoining the brooks from damage.

At Shell Bridge, in Franklin County, the Connecticut River washed out a stretch of the road from Northfield to East Northfield that was 800 feet long, 250 feet wide and 25 feet deep. A 400-foot strip of Emergency Relief Administration rip-rapping on the west bank held and saved the only section of the road that was not completely washed out. Rip-rapping at nearby Orange saved Holtsire Road.

Other states in the flood-ravaged East claim savings through flood control projects of the Works Progress Administration, the reports show, but on a somewhat smaller scale. In Richmond, Virginia, a Works Progress Administration dike along the James River was close enough to completion so that with the addition of a few feet of sandbags inundation of a section along the north bank was prevented. This dike, one important unit added recently to a city-built dike system, saved Richmond more than $100,000 in flood losses. The cost of this unit, when completed as a permanent structure, will be less than $25,000.

In New Hampshire and Vermont culvert and ditch construction by the Works Progress Administration along farm-to-market roads prevented widespread damage to county road systems during the floods. Drainage and mosquito control work under WPA and FERA in Connecticut had indirect flood control value since it hastened the run-off from flooded areas.

Previously constructed WPA flood control projects in the interior of Ohio and Kentucky were not put to the test, the check-up indicates, since flood waters rolling into those states originated in the north and traversed regions some distance removed from these projects.