

135 Passengers Thrown Into Sea In Excursion Boat Blast

One Hundred Rescued Later — Three Dead Recovered — Thirty-two Persons Still Missing — Survivor Alleges Crew Was Among First to Leave Vessel — Orchestra Tried to Calm Terror-Stricken Crowd on Glass-Bottomed Ship — Wreck Sinks in Shoal Waters

Miami Fla.—Fire and explosion sank a glass-bottomed excursion boat 15 miles south of here on the evening of Dec. 14th and drove the 135 men, women and children with which it was laden into the sea. It was known later that about 100 persons had been rescued, 3 bodies had been found, and 22 are still unaccounted for.

The craft was the Eureka II, which had left here earlier in the day for its regular Sunday run. It was returning after the passengers had spent the day viewing marine life and vegetation through the glass bottom of the boat, when an explosion occurred in the engine-room, and smoke began to pour forth.

FLAMES SPREAD QUICKLY.
Panic developed aboard the vessel, according to the excited tales of survivors. The flames quickly spread through the ship, despite the efforts of those who kept their heads and strove to fight them.

Attempts to quench the blaze with the contents of drinking water tanks and any other utensils that came to hand were futile, and the hysteria which gripped many of those on board balked any organized effort.

Driven back foot by foot, the passengers and crew were forced to the rails. Through the ten minutes or more than the vain attempt to extinguish the flames went on, a three-piece orchestra of pianist, saxophone player

and drummer did its best to quell the panic by playing popular pieces.

Some jumped into the tropical waters, others, fearful of the danger from sharks, stayed on the burning craft until the flames reached a gasoline tank and a second explosion, more violent than the first, threw them into the sea.

BOAT SINKS.
The boat listed and sank, leaving the surrounding waters filled with men, women and children struggling for their lives.

The pillar of smoke and flame from the stricken ship caught the eye of D. W. Barrett, owner of the yacht Dorothea, as he was fishing ten miles away, and he sped to the rescue. When he reached the scene of the disaster the sea seemed filled with its victims. As rapidly as possible he took from the water thirty persons, all his small boat could carry.

The roar of the explosion was carried three miles to the south, where P. W. Miller of Cincinnati was cruising in his 64-foot yacht Lois Ann. He sped to the rescue and took aboard 83 of the passengers as they swam about frantically or clung to scattered pieces of the wrecked boat.

A definite check-up on the exact number aboard the Eureka II, when the flames broke out was impossible, as there was no passenger list, while it was also uncertain just how many had been saved.

Ottawa Planning New Plane Routes

Winnipeg-St. Paul Link Shortens Postal Time From Prairies

Ottawa — Preliminary plans for aviation routes that will make Canada an effective factor in international aerial communications involving both Europe and Asia were announced here on Dec. 12th at the conclusion of a conference between post-office officials of Canada and the United States.

The first step in the program has been taken with the definite decision to put into effect an aerial link between Winnipeg and St. Paul and Minneapolis. P. T. Coolican, Assistant Deputy Postmaster-General in Canada, and W. Irving Glover, Assistant Postmaster-General of the United States, who have conducted the negotiations, announced that, subject to approval by the heads of the departments, a service will be instituted shortly to carry passengers and mail from Calgary to Miami in 42 hours over present methods of communication.

To Alaska and Asia

While the details of the Winnipeg-St. Paul schedule were being worked out, the officials were discussing also the more ambitious scheme to develop a route from Calgary through Fort McMurray into Alaska and thence into Asia. It was agreed that unless Canada and the United States joined in the development of the Asiatic route, a few years might see serious competition from Russia in that region. Russia is making considerable strides in aviation, Mr. Glover said, and 22,000 miles of flying is being done in that country daily.

Three years are regarded by the officials as sufficient time to bring the Asiatic service into being. In the meantime, definite progress is being made. Mr. Coolican said, in setting up aerial communication routes from Calgary to Vancouver. The route through the Rockies was not, he said, regarded as particularly difficult. As soon as communication is established to the Coast by air, new links between Canada and the United States would be made at Lethbridge, Alta., and Vancouver. The Lethbridge link will be to Great Falls, Mont., while the western extremity of the United States system will be contacted at Seattle from Vancouver.

From Prairies East

The flights arranged between Winnipeg and St. Paul will complete the aerial chain between the Prairies and the East. Mail for Eastern Canada will be carried over United States air lines to Detroit and will there re-enter Canadian territory. While the schedule has not been settled definitely, M. Coolican said that mail from Calgary would reach Montreal in forty hours, a saving of thirty-eight hours. A saving of forty hours would be effected in mail for Toronto.

Ship to Shore

Turning toward the Atlantic, Canadian officials see in ship-to-shore flights at Belle Isle the answer to the problem of speeding up the movement of mail to the British Isles and Europe. Inbound and outbound liners can be met at Belle Isle, it was explained, and a saving of 43 hours can be effected between Montreal and British ports. A trial flight was successfully accomplished when Premier R. B. Bennett was on his way overseas. Letters and newspapers were carried by plane from the Atlantic and were delivered to him on board.

In the United States a program is now on foot for flying the Atlantic with mail via Bermuda and the Azores. Depending on weather conditions, Mr. Glover said that flights to Bermuda would be made from either New York, Baltimore or Charleston, S.C. Thence a hop would be made to the Azores and from there to Lisbon, Portugal. Mail would be carried from Lisbon through France into England. Tenders for the Atlantic service already have been asked by the United States Government.

A well-developed service is now moving from the east coast of the United States through the West Indies into South America, Mr. Glover said. He regarded the Bermuda-Azores route as the desirable method of linking Europe with Central and South America by air.

Death Trips Trigger As Guest Trys to Show Gun-Skill

Young Hamiltonian Believed Dying After Display With Revolver

Hamilton.—Pressing the muzzle of a .22-calibre revolver against his right temple, Roy Griffiths, of this city, aged 25 years, was about to demonstrate a trick before party guests early Sunday morning, when the firing pin was accidentally released and he fell to the floor with a bullet through his head. The young man was reported to be dying at the General Hospital late in the evening.

Griffiths was in the home of Russell King, and had been drinking, it was alleged. Shortly after midnight he produced a revolver from his hip pocket and despite protests from the other guests, insisted on showing his skill in the handling of the weapon.

He announced that he would move the fully loaded chambers by operating the trigger and, at the same time, prevent the bullets from discharging, by clever manipulation of the control.

At Last Chamber

The young man boldly placed the gun against his head. Four times the barrel advanced a notch as Griffiths clicked the spring. He reached the fifth and last chamber when the accident occurred.

The police found the victim unconscious, lying on the floor in a pool of blood, with the revolver clamped in his right hand.

The pellet had entered just to the right of the right temple, had passed through the brain and out the top of the skull.

Corroborative stories were told by guests at the party, and, after questioning, they were allowed to go. A charge of selling liquor was later laid against the host, Russell King.

On Nov. 22, 1925, Griffiths had a narrow escape from death when he drank coffee containing cyanide of potassium, prepared by his 19-year-old wife, Elsie Griffiths, formerly of St. Catharines. Mrs. Griffiths collapsed and died, but by using an emetic Griffiths saved his own life. Officials at that time declared an inquest unnecessary. The two had experienced marital troubles, it was stated, and Mrs. Griffiths arranged to meet her husband that they might discuss their future. Later a note was found in which she told of her disappointing experience in marriage, and charged lack of affection on the part of her husband.

Griffiths was married again some

A Ribbon Winner



Five million dollars worth of champion livestock were at Union stock yards, Chicago, for International Live Stock Exposition. Youngest exhibitor, Clarence Moffett, 10, Redmond, Wash. with ribbon-winning bull.

Thousand Insane Saved by Grey Nuns

Patients Are Moved to Safety in 20 Minutes When Whole Wing is Destroyed by Fire

Quebec.—Twenty minutes after fire broke out in the east wing of St. Michael Archangel Asylum for the Insane here on Dec. 14th, 1,000 inmates had been removed to safety. The fire destroyed the entire wing of the institution with a loss estimated at \$700,000.

The asylum, built in 1864, is located at Beauport, a suburb. The east wing housed the male patients, comprising half the entire occupants of the institution, the blaze was discovered by a watchman at 6.15. Immediately it became known that the building, with its 2,000 inmates, was endangered by fire, the entire Quebec Fire Department was rushed to the suburb while hundreds of citizens organized volunteer rescue squads. But so carefully had the Grey Nuns, who operate the asylum, organized their fire drills, that in 20 minutes every patient was in a place of safety and the firemen were enabled to concentrate their entire efforts upon saving the building.

The fire gained great headway and at midnight was still raging with firemen devoting their efforts to protect the central building and the west wing. The central building was damaged slightly by smoke and water, but the west wing was saved intact.

It was not until 12 hours after the outbreak that the firemen were recalled from the scene. Municipal and provincial police remained throughout the night and Premier Taschereau

visited the asylum twice, once last night when the blaze was at its height, and again this morning to personally congratulate the nuns on their efficiency in handling the situation.

It was stated, that the building would be replaced at once. In the meantime the patients were being cared for in an annex of the main building.

Since construction in 1864, the institution has been twice previously damaged by fire. The first time was in 1874, when it was partially destroyed with heavy loss of life. A few years ago it was slightly damaged, but no fatalities occurred.

Two Boys Perish As Ice Gives Way

Beville.—Breaking through the ice while skating with companions on a pond on the Moira River near Canelfton Saturday afternoon, Clarence Holgate, 13 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holgate, was drowned. The coroner, Dr. R. W. Tennant, went to the scene, but decided an inquest unnecessary. The lad was rescued twenty minutes after he went down by grappling from a boat, after being rescued by Ernest Pope had proved unavailing. Resuscitation efforts were continued nearly two hours after the boy was brought to the surface. The parents, one sister and one brother survive.

Ingersoll Fatality
Woodstock.—Jack Wheeler, 7-year-old Ingersoll boy, was drowned on Saturday on Carroll's pond in that town, when the ice on which he and companions were sliding gave way under his weight. The body was recovered by firemen after an hour's dragging.

Marooned!

Farmhouses completely isolated at Wandre, near Liege, Belgium, which was cut off as were many other houses in general flooding of country owing to heavy rains and gales which swept northern Europe.

Comrades Follow Policeman's Bier

Hundreds Take Part in Ceremony For Slain Officer

Toronto.—Dec. 15th.—While the alleged slayer of Roy McQuillin, Toronto constable, who was shot down last Thursday in performance of his duty, lay fighting for his life, brother officers, from as far west as London and east as Peterboro came to pay their last tribute to a fellow policeman.

Hundreds of spectators lined the streets in a last gesture of respect as the hearse passed to its final resting place.

Alleged Slayer Worse
"A little worse," was the condition of Jack Brokenshire, 21-year-old gunman in St. Joseph's Hospital, according to hospital authorities Sunday night.

On Monday, the third after the operation for extraction of police bullets, in all probability will decide whether he will live to face trial for the murder of P.C. McQuillin, for, doctors said, if by evening peritonitis has not set in, his recovery is practically assured.

Sunday night his pulse had quickened considerably and he was somewhat feverish, reaction, it was believed, to the unusually successful progress he has made since he was operated upon. "Not so good, following a condition too good to be natural," was the report given by his doctor at 8 o'clock Sunday.

Trust Fund Planned

Establishment of a trust fund of \$25,000 for the support of the widow of Roy McQuillin, police constable murdered Thursday night, is planned by Alderman Charles A. Ward. All members of city council are called upon to donate \$100 each in a resolution which Alderman Ward will submit at the last regular meeting.

Provides \$25 a Week

"In Montreal the citizens in a very short time raised a trust fund of \$22,000 for Constable Pelletier, who was killed under somewhat similar circumstances," the alderman stated. "We in Toronto should easily raise \$25,000. This would provide the widow with an income of about \$25 a week, which is little enough on which to raise and educate a couple of children."

The text of the resolution follows: "That this council owes the most profound debt of gratitude to the late Police Constable Roy McQuillin, who was murdered in the discharge of his duty, and to the Toronto police force as a whole, which has repeatedly demonstrated its readiness at all times to protect the lives of our citizens at the cost of its own: "And that this council would deem it an extreme injustice and an inhuman neglect if the family of any police officer were permitted to suffer poverty or want in consequence of his devotion to duty."

"And that in consequence this council is willing to undertake the responsibility of creating the nucleus of a trust fund of \$25,000, more or less, to be established by voluntary subscription, for the purpose of providing the widow of the late Constable Roy McQuillin with an income for life or until she shall marry again, such fund upon her death or remarriage to become the property of the police benefit fund."

Menace of Dogs

Brantford.—Dogs continue to play havoc with sheep in the county. Over the weekend the flock of Edwin Hunt, at Mount Vernon, suffered, the canines killing one and injuring several others. When snow falls again, a well-organized drive will be made through the territories that these dogs frequent. Provincial police joined in the hunt Sunday, but met with no success.

London.—Cats to match the shades of their owners' carpets were exhibited in a show at Croydon.

If you can't be thankful for what you received, be thankful for what you escaped.

The Markets

PRODUCE QUOTATIONS

Toronto dealers are buying produce at the following prices:
Eggs—Ungraded, cases returned, fresh extras, 45 to 47c; fresh firsts, 40 to 42c; seconds, 28 to 29c.
Butter—No. 1 Ont. creamery solids, 29; No. 2, 28c.
Churning cream—Special, 31c; No. 1, 30c; No. 2, 27c.
Cheese—No. 1 large, colored, paraffined and government graded, 13 to 13 1/2c.

Quotations to poultry shippers are as follows:
Poultry (alive) "A" grade—Spring chickens, 6 lbs., 18c; over 5 to 6 lbs., 17c; over 4 1/2 to 5 lbs., 16c; over 4 to 4 1/2 lbs., 15c; and under, 14c.
Fatted hens, over 5 lbs., 19c; over 4 to 5 lbs., 16c; over 3 1/2 to 4 lbs., 13c.
Old roosters, over 5 lbs., 12c. White ducks, over 5 lbs., 16c; over 4 to 5 lbs., 12c; colored ducklings, 2c less. Guinea fowl, per pair, \$1.25. "B" grade poultry 2c less and "C" grade 7c less than above prices.

Young turkeys, over 14 lbs. (dressed), 26c; over 12 to 15 lbs., 24c; over 10 to 12 lbs., 22c; over 8 to 10 lbs., 20c; over 6 to 8 lbs., 17c. Geese, over 8 to 12 lbs., 16c; all other weights, 14c. "B" grade 3c le. and "C" grade 10c less than above prices.

PROVISION PRICES

Wholesale provision dealers are quoting the following prices to retail dealers:
Smoked meats—Hams, med., 26 to 28c; cooked loins, 40c; smoked rolls, 28c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 26c; hams, 1c-meat, 27c; do, smoked, 37c.
Pork loins, 22c; shoulders, 17 1/2c; butts, 18 1/2c; hams, 19 1/2c.
Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 50 to 70 lbs., 21c; 70 to 90 lbs., 19c; 90 to 110 lbs., 18c. Heavyweight rolls, 15c. Lightweight rolls, 50c.
Lard—Pure, tierces, 14 1/2c; tubs, 15c; pails, 15 1/2c; prints 15 1/2 to 16c.
Shortening—Tierces, 12 1/2c; tubs, 12c; pails, 13 1/2c.
Specials pastry shortening—Tierces, 15c; tubs, 15 1/2c; pails, 16c.

GRAIN QUOTATIONS.

Grain dealers on the Toronto Board of Trade are making the following quotations for rail lots:
Man. wheat—No. 1 hard, 65 1/2c; No. 1 North, 64 1/2c; No. 2 do, 63c; No. 3 do, 62c; No. 4 do, 54 1/2c (c.i.f. Goderich and Bay ports).
Man. oats—No. 1 feed, 33 1/2c; No. 2, 32 1/2c.
Argentine corn, 75c (c.i.f. Port Colborne).
Millfeed, del. Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, net ton, \$20.25; shorts, per ton, \$21.25; middlings, \$20.25.
Ontario grain—Wheat, 68c; barley, 28c; oats, 29c; rye, 45c; buckwheat, 58c.

LIVE STOCK PRICES

Heavy beef steers, \$5.75 to \$7.50; butcher steers, choice, \$7 to \$7.50; do, fair to good, \$6.25 to \$7; do, com., \$4.50 to \$5.50; butcher heifers, choice, \$7 to \$7.50; do, fair to good, \$6 to \$6.75; do, com., \$4.50 to \$5.25; butcher cows good to choice, \$4.50 to \$5; do, med., \$3.50 to \$4.25; canners and cutters, \$1.75 to \$2.75; butcher bulls, good to choice, \$4.50 to \$5.25; do, Lologna, \$3 to \$3.50; baby beef, \$8 to \$10; feeders, good, \$5.25 to \$6; stockers, \$4.50 to \$5.75; calves, good to choice, \$10 to \$11; do, med., \$8 to \$10; do, com., \$6 to \$7; do grassers, \$4 to \$5; lambs, choice, \$3.75; buck lambs, \$6.75 to \$7; milkers, \$15 to \$20; springers, \$75 to \$100; sheep, \$1.50 to \$1.50; hogs, bacon, w.o.c., \$10 to \$10.50; do, trucked in, 50c cwt. under w.o.c.; do butchers, 75c per hog discount; do, selects, \$1 per hog premium.

France to Import Canadian Wheat

To Take 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 Bushels in Next Four Months

Ottawa.—The first encouraging ray on the wheat landscape in weeks took tangible form with the announcement on Dec. 4 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, H. H. Stevens, that France had promised to take a minimum of 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 bushels of Canadian grain in the next four months and would probably be in the market for at least 20,000,000 bushels by May 1 next.

First steps in this arrangement were made by the Minister during his brief visit to France, following the Imperial Conference, and confirmation was received on Dec. 4 from the Canadian Trade Agent in Paris. At present France will only permit 10 per cent. of the blend of wheats for milling to be imported from foreign countries, but an early extension of this to 15 per cent. is reported probably by the commissioner.

The Minister announced on his return after investigation of other European markets that France was the one promising customer for Canadian wheat just now.

Australian Government Protects Honest Tenants

Adelaide, S. Aust.—A new law known as the Evictions Act, prevents landlords in the State of South Australia from evicting or taking legal proceedings against unemployed tenants.

The tenant has only to satisfy a magistrate that, by reason of his unemployment, he is unable to meet his rent and that he is making every reasonable endeavor to obtain employment. Unemployed persons who have fallen into arrears with their mortgage payments are protected in the same way.

Several penalties are imposed upon landlords or mortgagees who disregard the law.

Rancher Earl Sells Family Portraits

Unable to Adopt Himself to Life of Aristocrat, Former Canadian Sells Art Treasures — May Return to Alberta

London.—The tenth Earl of Egmont, who until January of last year was plain Frederick J. T. Perceval, Canadian rancher at Priddis, Alberta, is again holding the spotlight amongst England's nobility. This time it is not the romance of his over-night rise from rancher to Earl which is securing him prominence, nor the precedent which he set amongst the English aristocracy of buying his groceries at the village store and carrying them in a basket himself. It is the fact that he is holding a ruthless auction of his ancestral portraits.

Evidently twenty-nine years of contemplation of the picture of nature in the Canadian West, with the Alberta foothills in the background, is not the best introduction to the masterpieces of British portraiture. Conceivably its effect might be to make the brush of a Kneller or a Reynolds seem feeble in comparison.

Is Restive Noble

This is not the first sign of restiveness which the Canadian Earl has given with his new life. He was a remote cousin of his predecessor in the title, and when told on his ranch at Priddis, where he had spent all his life, that the succession had fallen upon him, he was at first undecided about accepting. He was in independent circumstances and felt intuitively that the life he knew and loved was the one in which he would find the greatest satisfaction. But he had promised his mother when she died that he would bring the boy up to the title in case the reversion should fall upon him. And so, taking the general store-keeper at Priddis to be his chauffeur, and presumably his intimate, and the storekeeper's wife to be his housekeeper, he departed for the ancestral seat at Ringwood, Hampshire.

Lonely in Splendor

And as his rancher spirit makes him too proud to persist at the door which does not open willingly to him, he has become somewhat of a lonely figure. He has locked the gates of the ancestral home because so few visitors ever come to them and he, his son, and their general store cronies live in isolated splendor, the sole occupants of the mansion. Even the staff of servants has been dismissed.

It is reported that in the dispersal of his pictures the Earl is preparing to turn his back upon the English society which has turned its back upon him and spend his time in travel. If he does so, it is certain that Canada and his beloved Alberta foothill country will see him again.

The Egmont family is far from the foot of the precedence table governing England's aristocracy. The first Earl secured his title in 1735 for services in the Irish Parliament. Since then the family has bred many important figures. Sir Spencer Perceval, who was a contemporary of the Younger Pitt and Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1809 to 1812, was a grandson of the first Earl. He was shot in the corridors of the House of Commons while still Prime Minister by a madman named Bellingham, who fancied he had a grievance over a bankruptcy matter. The first Earl previously to this had gained distinction in partnership with J. E. Oglethorpe, by colonizing Georgia.

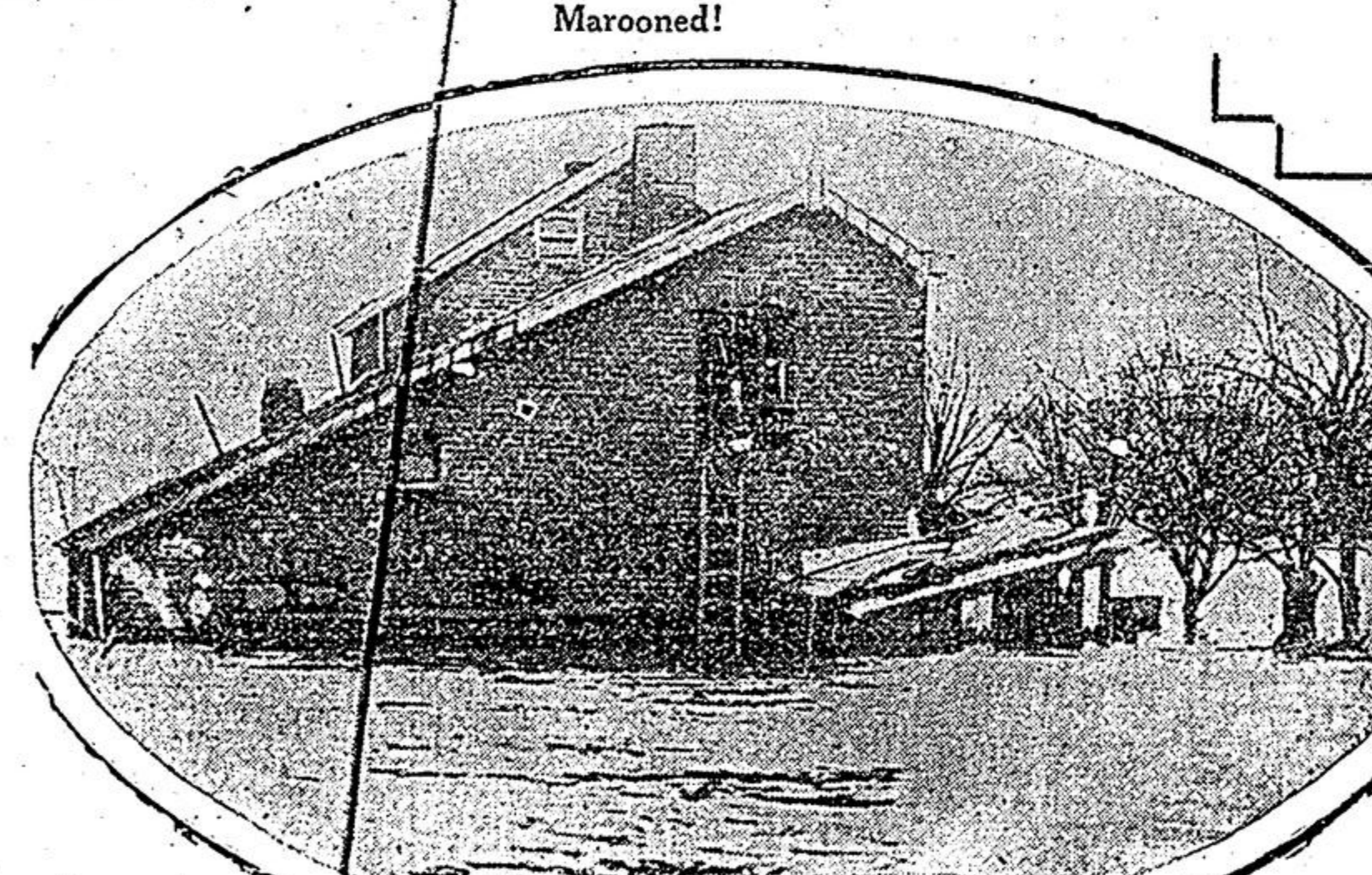
It has been many years since the Earldom has been occupied by a native Englishman. The predecessor of the Rancher-Earl was a native of New Zealand. Had the Rancher-Earl waived the title, the next in line would have been an even more obscure personage, a younger brother. At the time at which the succession was open this individual was getting less satisfaction from his noble lineage than from the fact that he had established a record in the Vancouver stockyards by holding a job as sheep shearer for 18 months. The contenders against the Canadian Percevals for the title were also persons in humble life, one James Perceval, a baker of London, and one R. Downall, a retired optician of Lancashire.

First Upper Laker Arrives in Toronto

Toronto.—For the first time in the history of Great Lakes shipping an "upper laker" freighter steamed into the port of Toronto on Dec. 6th. The John Ericsson, a whalebacker over 600 feet long, slipped through the Western Gap, now rock dredged to 13 feet six inches, under the command of Archie Hudson, manager of the Northwest Transportation Company.

This boat, built especially for grain cargo, came from Port Colborne with 170,000 bushels of mixed wheat, corn and feed. She was originally carrying 225,000 bushels and drawing 17 feet six inches, but had to be lightered at Port Colborne under orders from Ottawa.

She is also the first "upper laker" to pass through the Welland Canal. The freighter Lemoyne, C.P.L. boat, more than 600 feet long, is expected here next Spring.



Farmhouses completely isolated at Wandre, near Liege, Belgium, which was cut off as were many other houses in general flooding of country owing to heavy rains and gales which swept northern Europe.