

STORM DEATH

upto 2-21" Rain, reported by DTW
0730 local time June 17, 1946

TOLL

REACHES 4

Man Electrocuted Here; Wide District Inundated

Fields Flooded by Torrential Rains;
Worst Storm Experienced in Years

The district death toll, resulting from the storm that broke over Western Ontario with terrific fury late yesterday, mounted to four, this morning, when Edgar Hayman, 1387 Lincoln road, a Hydro lineman, was electrocuted at 10 o'clock while repairing wires in the alley between Hall and Pierre, south of Shepherd street.

Other victims of the storm were Howard J. Harvey, Jr., 15, of 22409 West River road, Grosse Ile, who drowned when he fell off a sailboat near the island, and two unidentified men who were swept from a small power boat in Mitchell's Bay off St. Anne's Island.

Utilities men said it was one of the worst electrical storms in years. Lightning, torrential rains, and high winds disrupted utilities services, flooding fields, streets and basements and leaving in its wake masses of broken trees and utility poles.

CARS STALLED

Motorists arriving in Windsor during the storm said the highways were lined with stalled cars. The water was so deep that traffic which continued to move had to travel at a mile-an-hour rate in some spots. Motorists told of seeing fires at regular intervals along the highways and in some instances traffic was held up until huge trees, which had fallen across the highways, could be removed.

Focal point in the grim struggle was the Eriean marshes where hundreds of farmers and district residents were endeavoring to hold in check the gale-whipped waters of Rondeau Bay which engulfed dykes at more than one point. Here the rich marshland with its onion crop was threatened with complete obliteration. An estimated 1,000 acres were under water.

TERRIFIC LOSS

Damage to crops through Western Ontario was a loss that officials said they dared not estimate at once.

London escaped lightly in the storm which broke Sunday afternoon and swept a checkered course across Western Ontario.

Wallaceburg, Sarnia, Leamington and other points all had a taste of the storm. The experience generally was a flooded streets and basements, uprooted trees and disrupted service.

Lineman Edgar Hayman, who had been on duty all night with an emergency crew repairing lines broken in the storm, was electrocuted this morning, in a lane between Hall and Pierre, south of Shepherd, at 10 o'clock.

Despite the resuscitating efforts for two hours by the fire department and fellow linemen who took turns applying artificial respiration, he could not be revived.

HEAR CONTACT

Mrs. A. B. Ferrault, 1540 Pierre avenue, heard the crack when the 2,300 volts struck Hayman, called Hotel Dieu Hospital immediately, while her son, Clair, called the police and the fire department. Because of the broken lines and the many other calls for doctors this morning, it was some time before Doctor F. D. Linton, Riverside, was contacted, but the fire department was there at once.

Hydro was off at intervals in many parts of the city during the night. Grace and Metropolitan hospitals were both in darkness for periods during the night; two babies were born in the dark at Metropolitan, while another baby was born by flashlight at Grace, where even the battery emergency lighting system failed.

CARS STALLED

Scores of motor cars were stalled in and near Windsor when water reached their ignition systems. There were huge puddles on the streets which splashed right into the engines. Many were stalled as the rain, driven by a high wind, went right in the radiators. Garages were besieged with motorists asking help, but most of them had to wait until the rain subsided and they did a little wiping on their own account.

Storm sewers, loaded far beyond capacity, could not carry the rainfast away in time to prevent major traffic impediments.

Windsor Fire Department made a number of runs between 7:23 p.m. and 9:09 p.m. One call was to the apartment of Major Frederick A. Tilston, V.C., in the Granada Apartments, Giles and Dougall, where rain seeping down through the walls caused a short circuit.

The firemen also received a call from 1183 Prince road, where the wind had lifted the roof of a Wartime Housing home, letting the rain in. The firemen worked out there from 9:05 p.m. until 10:56 p.m., protecting the house by putting a salvage cover over the roof.

WORST SEEN

Frederick E. Hubbell, superintendent of the Windsor Utilities Commission's Hydro division, said it was one of the worst electrical storms he had ever seen, with lightning striking in many places at once that his whole staff, working all night, couldn't keep the lights on.

Asked where the worst damage was caused, Mr. Hubbell declared that sections of the city had been badly hit. Trouble was caused by lightning and by trees falling across Hydro lines. Comparatively few Hydro poles were broken.

This morning the Hydro crews were working to restore lighting in the Elm, Montreuil and Chilver and Iroquois neighborhoods. They were also bridging high tension lines so that the Empire State Ice could ice a train.

"Our first job," Mr. Hubbell said,

"is to get the power on again and we should have all lights on in the city by tonight. A lot of the repairs will be of a temporary nature, though, and we'll have to come back later to do more carefully over the patch jobs."

The Detroit weather bureau stated that up until 7:30 o'clock this morning, 2.21 inches of rain had fallen, a record fall for such a short period this year. The last heavy rainfall was on March 31, when two inches of rain fell.

MORE STORMS TODAY

Yesterday's storm came in the late afternoon and rain poured in torrents through the night. The weather bureau today stated that thundershowers were in order for tonight.

It was a warm rain and city gardeners welcomed it, because the ground had become pretty dry. The fall was greedily soaked up by lawns and gardens, but in the streets drains became plugged and in many instances pavements were almost impassable. From all parts of the city came reports that basements were being flooded.

At Grace Hospital, the power went off for two 15-minute periods during the night and was off for an hour this morning. Elevators were stopped, and the X-ray room in the basement was flooded. Operations had to be delayed because of the failure of the battery emergency lighting system. New batteries were installed this morning and the emergency system was in use again. It was explained that this emergency system can supply light for nine hours.

THREE BABIES BORN

One baby was born at Grace while the lights were out.

It was a busy night in the maternity ward at Metropolitan General Hospital, with an unusually large number of babies born—two of them were ushered into this world in the dark. It was explained that there is no emergency lighting system at Metropolitan.

The lights at Metropolitan were off from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. and then they went off again at 10:20 p.m. and remained off until dawn.

Windsor Police Department received a report at 8:20 a.m. that a telephone pole had caught fire in front of 1607 Howard avenue.

Last night at 7:23 o'clock, firemen were called to the corner of Drouillard and Alice, where Hydro wires were down. A similar call about Hydro wires, was received from 540 Sunset avenue at 8:17 p.m.

NO ONE INJURED

Hydro officials said it was fortunate that, with so many live wires down, no one was injured. They warned the public against playing with any such wires and asked that fallen wires be reported at once.

The 100-foot stone tower of 43-year-old St. Clements Church in McGregor Township was toppled into the courtyard of the church at about 9:30 last evening. The village appeared to be a storm centre and stone walls in half a dozen buildings tumbled in the blast. No one suffered injury.

Luckily for Father R. J. Lefaiwe and his parishioners, the lofty stone steeple was driven by northeasterly winds and fell away from the church roof into the courtyard. The heavy sixteen-inch stone blocks could easily have penetrated the thin wooden roof and crashed down into the main body of the church.

SAVES WORK

Villagers said that plans had been discussed for dismantling of the stone tower some years ago due to a weakening of the foundations from the big structure.

None of the big stone blocks dropped into the church, and none of the 12 six-foot stained glass windows was broken.

St. Clement's glebe house is built at right angles to the church and narrowly missed being struck by the falling tower. The huge 1,150 pound church bell fell with the tower and escaped damaged. Several trees in the courtyard were stripped of their branches.

\$10,000 DAMAGE

Father Lefaiwe places a conservative estimate of the damage at about \$10,000, and he said that as soon as a proper estimate of the storm toll can be taken, the process of re-building will begin. The structure was protected against damage from lightning bolts by four conductors running the length of the church roof, but the weakened stone power was vulnerable to 65-mile-an-hour winds.

The parishioners of McGregor suffered an additional loss during the evening when a vagrant blast ripped the roof from a church hall at the rear of the church and carried tar roofing and lumber two hundred yards to the south, depositing the debris in a turnip field. The hall had been erected only four years ago at an estimated cost of \$8,000. The brick walls had fallen inward to crush the handsome hardwood flooring, soiled by night-long rains.

WRECK SECOND STORY

A grand piano was overturned amid an assortment of folding chairs at the rear of the hall. The second story of the building suffered a total loss, but the first story was relatively undamaged.

Pierre Boudreau, a villager, told of the work entailed in erecting the structure four years ago, and said: "We worked like slaves to build that hall."

Freddie Girard had the building of his new stone bowling alley well begun yesterday before his township of McGregor became an Essex County storm centre. Today with neighbors he stood in the ruins. Winds of cyclonic proportions levelled his gray stone walls, and left standing only the high wall fronting the building.

Luckily for Girard, he had not commenced to lay a floor. The stone blocks fell inward. They can now serve no useful purpose and will be useless in re-building.

CANNING PLANT DAMAGED

Elsewhere the old Colonial Cannery's tomato canning factory suffered slight damage. High winds carried away a portion of the roof, and blew down the stone wall enclosing the giant boiler at the west end of the structure.

The children of the community were back at school this morning. One of the larger buildings in McGregor, the church convent, suffered no damage, and all the restaurants are continuing to function. Fallen trees severed telephone lines and when a car photographer entered Leo Galipeau's store-restaurant to place a phone call, he was confronted by three phones dangling from the wall, each one of them dead.

PELEE BOAT SAFE

C. H. Richardson, agent in Sandusky, Ohio, for the Pelee Shipping Company of St. Thomas, Ont., reported last night that the Steamer Pelee arrived from Kingsville and Pelee Island ten minutes ahead of schedule last night during the wind and rain storm which swept the lake region in this district.

Capt. J. N. Sheets of the Pelee who lives in Kingsville, reported he couldn't see very far ahead of him at various times, but he had been over that water so often, he could navigate it in his sleep. Passengers who arrived in Sandusky aboard the steamer reported they had a "fair" trip.

"Except for a little roughness, we wouldn't have known there was a storm."

The Pelee left Kingsville at 4 p.m. and Pelee Island at 8:30. It was scheduled to dock at Sandusky at 8:15 p.m.

Detroit and Cleveland Navigation Company reported an overflow crowd for the Detroit-to-Cleveland boat which left the Motor City last night at 11:30. Officials of the company attributed the large number on board to the cancellation of airline flights out of Detroit.

South Essex Heavily Hit

From The Star's South Essex Bureau

LEAMINGTON—One of the worst storms in years lashed across South Essex last night to uproot trees, snap telephone poles, impede motoring and flood fields.

BUS PASSENGERS WALK

In Essex, water in the streets was at a high level, reaching the first step of Greyhound buses forcing passengers to walk home in their bare feet.

Kingsville's streets were a shambles of torn trees, broken wires and tree limbs. On Queen street, a huge maple broke off at the ground to fall across the street to tear off the porch roof from Edsel Girty's house. After hitting the roof, the tree rolled in between two houses. Shortly after seven the Hydro went off in Kingsville plunging the town in darkness till 10:30.

In Harrow, trees were razed, power lines snapped and the town was left without power around nine o'clock. It was still dark at midnight.

It was 9:30 before cars could travel between Kingsville and Leamington via Highway 18. Limbs strewn across the roadway made the road impassable.

CROPS BADLY DAMAGED

Throughout South Essex, fields were awash, and damage to crops won't be determined for hours yet. If the water has a chance to get off the ground before the sun comes out, growers say that it may not be too bad. But if the sun comes out to beat down on drowned crops the loss will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Acres upon acres of land on the

Point Pelee onion marsh were flooded. In some spots, a person couldn't see anything but water. In many fields soy beans were completely under water.

Around the marsh, growers were hoping for a few cool and cloudy days to let the water seep into the soil and get away.

PUMPING FULL SPEED

Shortly after the storm abated, the Mersea Township pumps were going full blast seeking to keep the level of the dredge cuts which surround the marsh at a low level to enable the water to get away.

All along the highways, motorists who waded through water over a foot deep in some places, could be seen peering under the hoods of their stalled cars trying to dry wires to start again.

AT LEAMINGTON

At Leamington the storm broke shortly after 5.30. By six o'clock rain was pouring down in sheets. Fields were flooded. By six o'clock, it was too dark to read a newspaper inside. Outside, the atmosphere had a sickly green tinge to it. Around 8.30, a limb fell across Highway 3, near the Leamington High School and blocked traffic until it was removed. Another tree fell across Clarke street, blocking traffic on that thoroughfare.

Waves washed over the Leamington and Kingsville docks. Fishermen whose boats were tied in Kingsville harbor kept a close eye on them in case any of the boats broke their lines.

Damage to crops will be more sharply felt on clay land than on the sandy soil around Leamington. What corn will be like in such areas affected by heavy rain can be anyone's guess.

Wheat fields were flattened down but the wheat was not advanced far enough to prevent the stalks from straightening up. Peas which were about to be harvested are likely to show a heavy loss if it turns warm. When pea vines are fairly long they stool and when flattened to the ground they scald easily. The under vines close to the ground also have a tendency to rot.

Fortunately, little hay was on the fields. With the exception of a few fields around Harrow, very few fields have yet been cut. What is cut and on the field will be severely damaged.

REROUTE BUSES

KINGSVILLE—A severe electrical storm accompanied by a driving rain and strong wind struck this town about six o'clock last night wreaking considerable damage in town as well as in adjacent townships.

Several trees uprooted in town and one on Queen street crashed through the front porch of Edsel Girty's residence. Another uprooted tree on No. 18 Highway opposite the local high school disrupted telephone service between Hydro high tension lines were out of commission caused mainly by trees falling. Telegraph service reported all lines out of commission while the Greyhound bus lines re-routed their westbound buses through Har-

row on account of damage on Highway No. 3 west of Essex. Their Detroit-New York bus had to be re-routed by No. 2 highway.

IN ESSEX AREA

ESSEX—Widespread havoc resulted here from yesterday's cloudburst. Talbot street was covered with about a foot of water for several hours, forcing the extremely heavy tourist traffic to crawl through town. Several trees, including one of the largest in the park, were blown down, cutting off hydro service in some districts. A large maple completely blocked No. 3 highway at Maidstone for over an hour. Many householders and business men worked feverishly through the night to protect electrical equipment in their basements. By morning most of the flooded streets had cleared and traffic was back to normal.

BAD AT HARROW

HARROW—Blocked roads and destroyed crops constituted the chief storm damage here. A school bus had to be re-routed to dodge the path of the storm's destruction. One large tobacco barn was toppled in Colchester South.

Embryo apples, peaches and cherries were beaten to the ground in the down-pour.

Direct telephone communication with Windsor was cut; calls had to be relayed through Kingsville.

Telephone and Hydro authorities were unable to give any estimate of the damage done; all rural lines were down.

Near McGregor one and a half miles of telephone poles were swept to the ground.

Highlights Of Storm

Officials of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Limited, reported "quite a bit of damage" to lines during the night. However, they said it would be impossible to state the extent until all district reports were in.

T.C.A. passengers, waiting the departure of the scheduled 8:55 p.m. flight last night, whiled away the time with card games until it was announced the flight had been cancelled.

Basements were flooded in the vicinity of Gilles boulevard west, and householders donned rubber boots to speed the departure of flood waters as they receded in the late evening. More than one householder spent a good part of the evening, broom in hand, sweeping out the flood waters.

Parks department employees were kept busy to midnight clearing felled trees, particularly in Ward 5, where traffic was obstructed in a number of locations. According to A. L. Moor, parks manager, most of the trees which were blocking traffic were removed by morning.

Little damage is expected to gardens and garden flowers operated by the city parks department, A. L. Moor, parks manager, said. However, large blossoms were badly hit and the peonies were downed by the rainfall and wind.

On Wyandotte street west, near Piche, water backed up from city drains and filled the street from curb to curb flowing across sidewalks. Children of the neighborhood immediately donned their bathing suits and frolicked in the pools thus created.

Many west side residents went without hot breakfasts this morning when the power failed just shortly after 8 o'clock with dishes on the family stove half cooked. The same area suffered an hour's interruption Sunday night.

Fallen trees were common sights in Ward 5. One fell directly into the street at Wyandotte and Mill, miraculously missing traffic which is normally quite heavy at this intersection. Another large tree was uprooted just opposite the S. V. & A. terminal on Mill. It tore up a large section of finely seeded lawn, fell across the sidewalk and left a deep crater in the middle of the well kept landscape. So far as can be learned, no one was injured.

The storm, as is customary in this area, moved back and forth between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie with about 30 minutes between each downpour. The tip of the Essex peninsula at Windsor is directly in this path.

A 30-foot Chriscraft, carrying members of the Zakoor family of Detroit, was pitched 50 feet ashore by the storm last night, onto the beach at the summer cottage of W. E. Atkinson, former member of control board. The cruiser was left high and dry, by the whim of the storm. The boat and its occupants were riding out the storm and were wearing life jackets when they were washed ashore.

Fire at 795 Wyandotte street east destroyed a telephone cable early Saturday evening, and the storm prevented Bell Telephone Company workmen from making repairs with the result that a number of services were disconnected during the evening.

Telephone service was also interrupted in the vicinity of Chilver and Viny road when a Windsor Utilities Commission Hydro cable fell across a telephone cable and burned it through.

Large trees blown down in Kingsville, fell across telephone cables and broke telephone poles during the height of the storm last night. Toll lines of Leamington were put out of service by the effect of the storm. At Wheatley, a cable was severed when a large tree fell across it in the storm. Damage was also reported to telephone toll lines between Woodslee and Essex.

It is hard to tell where Lake St. Clair ends and the riverside property begins today. The highway is like a catwalk through the centre of the lake. Golfers will have to wear bathing suits if they intend to tee off at the ninth hole at Lakewood golf course, and at the 10th hole at Beach Grove.

Although many in districts outside of Windsor described the winds that accompanied last night's deluge as "tornadoic," the official recorded wind velocity for Windsor and Detroit was only 30 miles per hour, and that speed continued only momentarily, the constant being about 25 miles per hour.

As the thunder roared and the sky sprinkled heavenly moisture, a slightly damp lady on One-little avenue last night was certain that it was literally raining cats and dogs; dogs, at least, and she could prove it; why, she had just stepped on a "poodle."

"Get a boat," was the cry as motorists splashed through a short-lived lake in the 800 block of Janet's avenue last night. After the water had stalled his motor, one driver managed to creep through the flood on battery power.

Motorists on No. 2 highway between Tilbury and Windsor were forced to drive through water over the running board in many places during the storm. Ditches were full and overflowing. In some places small rivers were flowing over the road.

Traffic along the highway to Amherstburg was endangered late last night when the heavy rains inundated four telegraph poles which veered at a dangerous angle over the highway until linemen put up emergency supports.

Amherstburg residents who are employed at Bob-Lo Island received a few thrills when they were crossing from the island to the town in the small tug, Maudie, after the amusement park closed last night. Heavy waters caused by the downpour of rain and high wind tossed the little craft around quite a bit.

In the town of Amherstburg several trees were struck by lightning. One partially blocked the highway leading into the town, when a large branch cracked off and fell across the street.

Windsor city police donned raincoats and hip boots late last night to assist works department employees to clear clogged street drains. On Ottawa street, especially, some intersections were completely covered by the deluge.

A stock barn owned by Charles Rogers, was blown down near McGregor last night.

The whole structure was reduced to scrap as it collapsed.

Fortunately, there was none of the stock injured. They had somehow managed to get out of the doomed building before it fell.

Parts of the building were blown 600 feet out to the highway.

The loss was estimated by Mr. Rogers to be about \$3,000.

Waves Pouring Through Dykes

By JACK MEREDITH
Of The Star's Chatham Bureau

CHATHAM—A storm which cut a wide swath through this district late yesterday caused damage tentatively estimated at over a million dollars to property and power lines and agricultural crops and claimed the lives of two men who were swept from a small power boat in Mitchell's Bay off St. Anne's Island.

ERIEAU HIT

The Erieau district was the most seriously hit when high waves pounded by an inshore wind of hurricane velocity breached a 100-foot hole in the protective dyke on the Third Concession of Harwich, allowing waters of Rondeau Bay to pour on to the flat marshlands, which are 10 feet below the lake level. An estimated 500 of the 1,700 acres in the Burke drainage scheme under cultivation were inundated, and onion, carrot, corn and potato crops valued at \$250,000 ruined.

A small power yacht left Erieau bound for a United States port shortly before the storm broke, and no word has been heard from it since. Experienced lake sailors say unless it reached some inshore haven it must have been swamped.

Provincial Officers Cpl. Frank Scott and William Keller were investigating the report that two men were drowned off St. Anne's Island. Robert Dickie, caretaker at St. Anne's Club, on the island, told police the men disappeared from a boat, but the island has been cut off from telephone and boat communication by the storm.

EYE-WITNESS STORY

A graphic eye-witness story of the drowning of two men, as yet unidentified, in storm-lashed Lake St. Clair yesterday, was given to Cpl. Scott, by Cecil Kilbreath, 1290 Wallace street, Wallaceburg, at 10 a.m. today.

Mr. Kilbreath told Cpl. Scott that he and his two sons and two other men were returning to Wallaceburg by motorboat when they passed two men in a rowboat with an outboard motor. The men asked Mr. Kilbreath for a tow, he said.

"We threw them a tow line, about 12-15 feet long, and started pulling them behind. It was rough and the current was strong. It seemed that the men were sitting on one side of the boat pumping the water from it," Mr. Kilbreath told Cpl. Scott.

"The boat didn't capsize," he continued, "it just seemed to slip, then righted itself leaving the two men struggling in the rough water. One man held out longer than the other, then he, too, slipped out of sight in the raging lake."

"We were then about 80 yards from St. Anne's Club, on St. Anne's Island, three miles west of Mitchell's Bay. We turned our boat back to rescue the men, but the motor stalled as we turned in the heavy water, and by the time we got to their boat, the men were out of sight," he said.

ABOUT 4:15

"It was about 4:15 p.m. when it happened," Mr. Kilbreath told Cpl. Scott. "I can't give much of a description of the men other than one was quite dark complexioned. The boat they were using is now at St. Anne's Island at the club."

Cpl. Scott told The Star that the police were trying to identify the lost men and wanted any persons who might have information as to their identity to get in touch with his office.

At Erieau and nearby lake ports there was no word of loss of life. Marshland farmers are completely washed out in the flooded land and water will have to be pumped out before the area can be replanted. This operation will take several months. The last flooding of the marsh occurred in 1929 when the seawall along the lakefront crumpled under the lashing of storm-ridden waters.

In spite of the fact workers labored relentlessly last night they were unable to prevent the westerly spur of the Burke Drainage scheme from breaking through at 11 p.m., and flooding another 15 acres of onion marsh.

This brought the total number of acres flooded to 500. With the winds now shifting to the northwest the water is piling up against the entire internal drain.

If this does not hold the disaster of 1929 will be repeated. The entire onion crop was lost then.

The water is rushing from the land owned by Toll and Zaranin on the north of the drain through a cut approximately 30 feet wide on the property of Arthur Vanhesbrouck and Joseph Hussien.

HUNDREDS WORKING

Hundreds of men are filling in the hole with sandbags and placing them in weak places in the hope of averting total destruction of their crops.

When the break was discovered at the storm's height shortly before 5 o'clock the first alarms at Blenheim and Erieau were sounded and volunteers rushed to the broken dyke wall. Sand bags and blocks were piled in the break but the bay water had already covered the northern section of the marsh and forcing workers concentrated their attention on the northeast wall of the scheme at a low spot on the third concession which at the time of the 1929 flood was considered in little danger.

Repair work is under way on the internal drain which paradoxically was constructed after the last disastrous flooding of the marsh to protect the northern acreage from flood waters which at that time swept in from the west. This drain is now protecting the southerly and western section of the marsh from waters encroaching from the north.

CROPS ARE LOST

George Verstrate, owner of a large onion farm now under water and T. Howard James, Blenheim produce broker, stated there was no hope for the flooded crops. Even if rescuing were possible it is too late in the season. Most of the growers now flooded out had to replant several times, early in the year when winds swept topsoil away carrying with it young onion plants. Work of repairing the beach dyke was hampered by fallen trees which were strewn across the narrow concession roads leading to the endangered area. Recurring storms and heavy rainfall made it necessary to discontinue salvage work after it was evident last night that additional water would create little additional havoc to the crops.

Sections of the marsh not flooded by lake waters were inundated in many places to a depth of six inches by the torrential downpour of rain and crops already swamped in these localities by rain which fell late last week will in all likelihood be beyond saving and will boost the total loss to a figure higher than first estimated.

Besides loss of their livelihood a large number of the marsh farmers are temporarily homeless or living in upper stories of their dwellings. Houses of the growers were located right on the marsh in most cases and these have been completely isolated by the waters. Majority of them have moved into Erieau or Blenheim. No estimate will be available of property damage or loss of belongings until the flood has receded.

Sections of Erie Beach and Rondeau Park also bore the brunt of the storm's fury and cottages and beach areas were flooded and damaged.

Fields on higher ground near Chatham were under water today as the land sodden with heavy rain which fell last week was unable to absorb yesterday's deluge of cloudburst proportions. Rainfall was estimated at between two and three inches.

To add to the desolation beside towns were without power and only spasmodic telephone service. Travel to and from the flooded sections was hazardous as whole trees and heavy branches littered the highways.

Many trucks and cars which pulled off the roads to weather the gusts of wind and rain were stranded when water seeped into ignition wires or what was once firm soil became a quagmire of mud under the wheels.

Rural Hydro and telephone repair gangs were working all night searching for broken power lines and communication wires.

SEVERAL BARNs STRUCK

Several barns were reported struck by lightning and other farm buildings were flattened by the gale or unroofed.

James A. Garner, Kent agricultural representative, and other department of agriculture officials stated this morning they had not had time to make a complete survey of damage to field crops which prior to the storm were well advanced and gave promise of bumper yields. It appeared that the loss would be heavy to tobacco, corn, tomatoes and to strawberry and other early fruit crops. Strawberry picking had just begun but work will be halted today on this and most farm work while farmers take inventory of their losses.

During the height of last night's storm lightning struck the elevator of the St. Clair Grain and Feed Company, Tilbury. Fire department was able to extinguish the blaze, damage was not extensive. Uprooted trees and broken hydro lines made highway travel hazardous in the Wheatley district.

Chatham Gale Worst in 25 Years

From The Star's Chatham Bureau

CHATHAM — With communication and power services still partially paralyzed by a electrical storm which struck the city at 4 p.m. yesterday, Chatham was gradually recovering today from the effects of the worst gale in 25 years.

City department of work crews were cleaning up debris and ltered branches of trees from all thoroughfares in the city and carting away uprooted trees which fell across the driveways and in some cases struck homes.

Looming out of the north quickly late in the afternoon of a sultry day the storm haze brought on a darkness which caused motorists and householders to turn on their lights. Main streets presented a eerie sight with lighted motor vehicles poking their way through a midday darkness.

STREETS BECOME RIVERS

Full lash of the storm flooded sewers and turned streets into miniature rivers, while trees and limbs crashing made walking dangerous. On one street children juggled out a model of the Queen Mary and launched her in the gutter at the storm's height.

The fire department reported no serious fire in the city caused by the wild gusts accompanied by lightning and thunder. A false alarm took fire-fighters on a fruitless chase at the height of the storm's fury. The alarm was believed caused by a short circuit in one of the boxes due to lightning. In another section of town, falling branches brought down hydro wires which ignited a pole that burned fiercely despite the rain.

TELEPHONE SERVICE CUT

Telephone service was disrupted and circuits from the city were completely out for several hours. The central and southwest sections of the city were in darkness throughout the night and power was still off in some sections this morning.

PEDESTRIANS WARNED

Roy Reynolds, manager of the Chatham public utilities said today wires were down in many parts of Chatham and pedestrians were warned to watch their step when passing fallen tree limbs or broken hydro poles.

Danger of trailing electric live wires was creating a hazard. Telephone company repair gangs worked with hydro crews throughout the night, and utility service is expected to be normal by tonight.

Police said no traffic accidents were reported that could be attributed to the storm and hospitals had received no patients injured by flying wreckage. Signs of some stores were knocked down and shed and chicken coops blown down by the winds. These constituted the main storm casualties.

The storm seemed to have an affinity for the city and traveled in circles, striking the area several times. Lightning was sharp and almost continuous mingled with the roar of heavy thunder from mid-afternoon until almost 12 hours later.

Old residents of Chatham say it is one of the most serious storms that has menaced this section of the county for a quarter of a century.

This particular section from New Glasgow west appeared to bear the full brunt.

THAMESVILLE BLACK

THAMESVILLE — The town was literally blacked-out for a little more than three hours yesterday afternoon when one of the worst wind, rain and thunder storms swept through this district tearing limbs from trees and scattering them far and wide. No serious damage was reported.

A large limb from a maple tree in front of the Brown Funeral Home was torn loose and blown across power lines, crippling the power system for more than three hours. George Pacey and his assistants from the hydro office worked throughout the wind and rain storm to get the lines repaired.

Another large tree near the stock yards was split in two from the force of the wind but the falling portion did not interfere with telephone or hydro lines.

The streets of the town were flowing with water from the cloud burst. Farmers from the surrounding district reported their fields flooded. Crop damage from the storm in this area was not estimated.

Blenheim Suffers Bad Cloudburst

BLENHIM — Worst cloudburst to strike this district in years caused much damage to buildings, communications and livestock yesterday afternoon.

At 5:05 p.m., a deluge of rain started accompanied by high winds increasing in velocity. At 5:14 p.m., hail started falling, continuing until 5:18 p.m. The intense rain eased at 5:22 p.m. and finally stopped 15 minutes later.

TREES UPROOTED

Hydro power went off in and around this town before the rain started and those in charge state that there will be no electricity for some time. Communication lines were torn down as large trees were uprooted and fell across wires and in many sections as many as ten Hydro, telephone and telegraph poles were seen lying on the ground.

A complete check of the district has been impossible but so far there has been no word of deaths or serious injuries, although one farmer, Harold Henderson, lost a cow, which was electrocuted from a live Hydro wire. Farmers of the district state that thousands of chickens were lost as acres of land were inundated, and in many parts crops will be seriously damaged from hail and flooded land.

NO TREES DOWN

As the storm subsided and a check

was made it was

40 trees were down leading to north of this town motorist two hours from Rondeau Park

Trees fell on house store windows were torn from their word has been received in the district we ground and at 9 homes in both the sections of town rounded with water

WINDSOR DAILY STAR. MON. JUNE 17 1946.

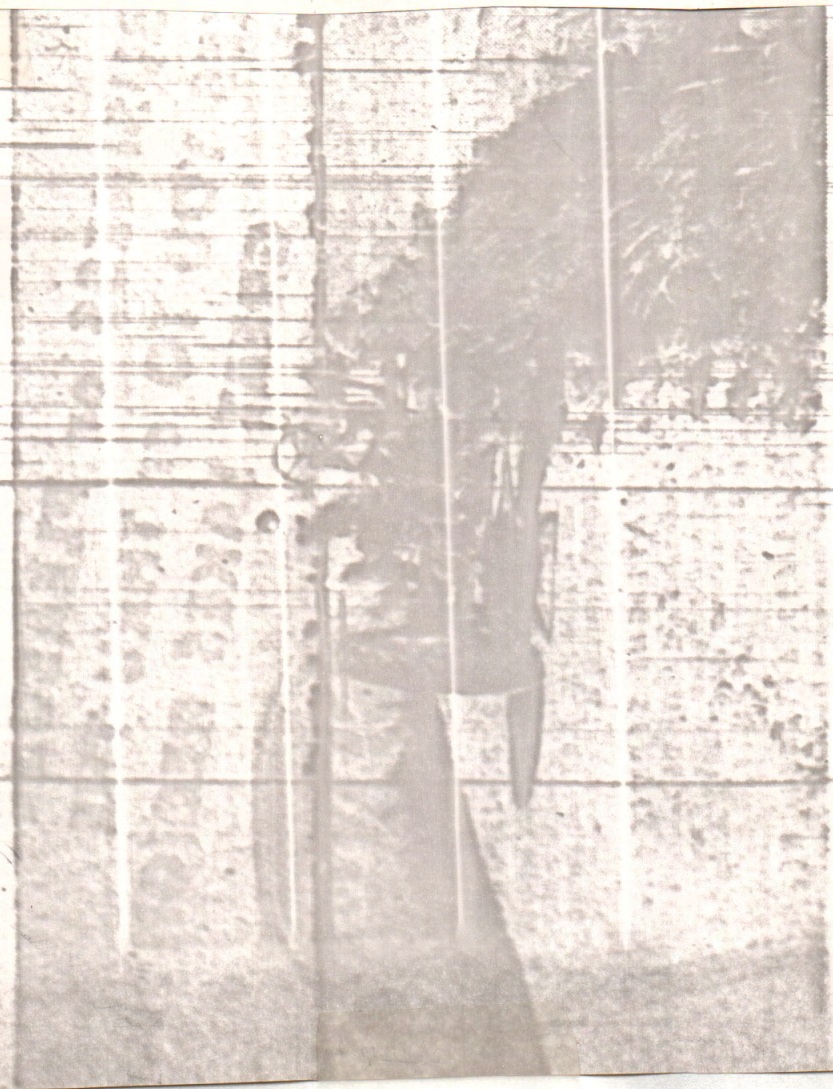
Erieau District Inundated

The Erieau district was the hardest hit of any by yesterday's rain storm. High waves pounded a 100-foot hole in the protective dyke on the Third Con-

cession, H
waters to
crop. Th

Wed. June 26

Rich Kent County Farm Lands Cov



Thirty-five farms on the Dauphin drainage scheme in Tilbury East Township, Kent County, are still under water as the result of flooding rains more than a week ago which overtaxed the drainage system. Crops are a total loss. Farmers say no hope for planting again this year. The water is not hurrying away.

These pictures were taken south of the C.N. by road, all road ditches are washed out and are badly put on the

GLOBE + MAIL, TORONTO
JUNE 18, 1946

Storm Damage In Essex, Kent Set at \$5 Million

Chatham, June 17. (Special). — Half of the farm lands in Kent and Essex Counties, between Chatham and Windsor, were under three feet of water tonight, following a 36 hours of rain. Damage to the crops is estimated at \$3,000,000.

Houses are flooded, with the occupants moving into the upstairs section to escape the rising water. Highways are plugged and motorists stranded. Eighteen miles of Highway No. 3 between Chatham and Tilbury is under several feet of water.

Farmers waded around their barnyards, hip high in water, trying to round up their livestock. The Thames River at Chatham threatened to overflow its banks.

Crops suffering most are the commercial corn, tobacco, potatoes, tomatoes and sugar beets. The tornado which hit a section of Windsor spent itself out in this district in a hour-long cloudburst.

'FOOD-FOR-EUROPE' PLAN BADLY HIT BY TORNADO

STAR JUN 20 1947 Special to The Star

Chatham, Ont., June 20—While flood waters in many parts of Kent and Essex counties were receding, new torrents of muddy waters raged across fertile acres in Dover and Raleigh townships, where battered drains and dredge cuts have given way under the pressure of the five inches of rainfall since Sunday.

Floods still blocked No. 2 highway, six miles west of the city, and highway officials reported the road at one point, near the weakened Drake bridge, was under 10 feet of water. More than a score of families have been evacuated where the still-rising flood waters are swirling through the bottom storeys of farm homes. Roads to Cedar Springs and No. 3 highway are now open, and for the first time in nearly 48 hours, traffic to Windsor is being sent along an almost direct route.

Some Crops Worthless

Heads of Kent county farm organizations toured the storm's stricken zone and reported the estimate of a \$5,000,000 loss in the two counties had been no exaggeration. George Parry, M.P.P., for West Kent, declared any of the crops which have been inundated for two days would be "worthless." White beans, he said, would be "wiped out."

Daryll A. Jubbenville, Tilbury, vice-chairman of the Kent's Essex Commercial Corn Growers association, said at least 25 per cent. of Ontario's corn crop had been lost. He said 60,000 to 70,000 acres in five counties would produce "little or no corn" this year. While some millet and buckwheat will be planted on the ravaged corn land as soon as the soil is workable, the loss will prove to be a "tremendous set back" to farmers who have been striving to produce more food for Europe.

Martin A. Drew, chairman of the Ontario burley tobacco growers marketing board stated it would not be possible to determine full dam-

age to the tobacco crop for several days.

Absolute loss of almost half of the near 14,000 acres of tomatoes planted in Kent and Essex was predicted by a representative of a district canning firm. This would mean a loss of nearly 45,000 tons of tomatoes this fall. Processing company officials declared the storm damage would definitely mean a continued shortage of catsup, canned tomatoes and other tomato products throughout 1947 and 1948.

On Duty Over 48 Hours

Officials of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company conferred throughout the afternoon on losses suffered by their growers. It is not too late to plant beets again, and as a relief measure to its growers the firm will offer free seed to all who suffered flood loss.

Onion, potato, strawberry and raspberry crops have also been badly hit. Near Prairie Siding in Dover township, farmers with their sons and wives worked in the dark last night to repair battered dredge cut embankments, which gave way early yesterday to flood another 40 square miles of the Kent farmland. One Dover man, Fred Pelkey, was on duty continuously for more than 48 hours.

It was announced three large pumping units would be shipped from Toronto to aid in clearing 1,700 flooded acres near Erieau.

where dykes gave way in the Sunday and Monday storm. Three pumps, including a 1914 model, in storage since the big flood of 1929, were in operation all day today and water was down several inches by nightfall. A full week will be needed to clear the land.

SCOB & MAIL, TORONTO

JUNE 18, 1946

Rich Farmlands in Two Counties Ravaged by Flood

Chatham, June 18 (Special).

Practically all of the Southwestern Ontario plain lying between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair was water-logged or flooded today, its surface dotted by strips of metal and debris dropped by the tornado which swept Windsor and Detroit Monday night.

Farmers stared in dejected silence at ruined crops or waded waist-deep over their flooded land in an attempt to rescue livestock and poultry. Damage estimates reached the \$5,000,000 mark. Not one farm in Essex and Kent Counties escaped, and in some sectors farmers looked glumly on as much as 100 acres of flooded land. Half of Kent's 9,000 acres was under water and it was estimated a similar area in Essex had been inundated.

Most of the corn belt in Kent and Northern Essex was under water, threatening almost total destruction of the crop, which had been increased this year to provide additional supplies for hungry Europeans. More than 90 per cent of Ontario's commercial corn comes from this section.

Glimpse to Faint Hope

Throughout the flat peninsula that is Essex County, tomato and tobacco crops, staples of the area, were wiped out. Farmers were loath to estimate their losses today, and many clung to the faint hope that some of the crop might be saved when the flood waters subsided.

Meanwhile the Thames River and MacGregor's Creek in the Chatham district were still rising, giving scant hope that the waters would recede quickly. Erieau's 1,700-acre onion fields were under some 10 feet of water but plans were already under way to start pumping water off that piece of reclaimed land, which is six feet below the level of Lake Erie, and farmers hoped to replant crops where

FLOODS INUNDATE—Page 3

Floods Inundate Rich Farmlands

(Continued From Page 1, Column 3)

possible. Pumping would require about two weeks, growers estimate.

The outer dike system at Erieau is still intact. Flood waters from Rondeau Bay swept over the low-lying onion fields from the ridge to the north. Only on the ridge-top did growers escape storm damage.

Tonight flood waters covered some sections of No. 2 Highway between Chatham and Windsor to a depth of four feet and traffic between the two cities was being routed to No. 3 Highway at Thamesville. Intermittent rains throughout the day added to the water level and dropping temperatures tonight banished hope of high land drying out.

Many sections of the two counties are without Hydro power or communications, due to storm damage, and most housewives have been boiling water for drinking. City streets in Chatham are still flooded, and scarcely a basement is dry.

At the height of the confusion this morning three German prisoners of war from the work camp on Chatham's outskirts escaped. Lack of communications brought about by the storm prevented many other communities from being notified of the escape. The three are: Otto Schultz, 47; Anton Martin, 21, and Edward Schwartz, 24. All speak excellent English.

In rural sections throughout the entire 1,623 square mile area of the two counties fortunate farmers with boats paddled about their fields, looking for livestock that had strayed away during the storm. Boatless farmers waded, where the water was not too deep, while others could only wait. In many places cattle and other animals had to struggle to keep their heads above water.

In their homes residents of the drenched Sun Parlor moved furniture and belongings from ground floors to the upper stories to save as much as possible from water damage.

No Word From Village

A bridge over Jeannette's Creek on No. 2 Highway six miles west of Chatham had disappeared beneath flood waters tonight, and no one was able to say whether or not it had been washed out. Residents of the district said the bridge had started to crumble earlier today. The highway itself was flooded over a 17-mile stretch between Chatham and Tilbury.

Northwood, a tiny village near Kent Centre, remained a question mark in the situation. No word has been received from residents of the tiny community for two days, and it is not known what damage was done in that area.

After the storm struck Windsor last night pieces of rubble started to fall out of the sky in this district, while chains of sheet lightning illuminated the entire road route between the two cities. Motorists driving on district highways faced a constant barrage of falling debris and high tension wires. Farmers were still picking up pieces of metal and other articles today.

Late reports tonight said water was still rising in streams throughout Southwestern Ontario and little relief for flood sufferers was expected.

Crops were washed out in Lambton County and many homes in the Sarnia district were without hydro power. Linemen worked all night Sunday night and again Monday night to restore service. At Ingersoll 34 telephone lines were out after lightning struck cables.

Late last night flood waters had spilled over the entire area bordered by Jeannette's Creek, Mitchell's Bay and Chatham. Bell Telephone linemen were unable to enter the area to restore service.

Linemen reported seeing one farmer attempt to carry a small child from his home to the roadway, only to turn back when the water reached a neck-high depth. Banks of dredge-cuts dug to drain the district were cut away by rampaging water. Banks of these drainage canals had been built high as a flood control measure.

Muskrat ranchers in Kent and Essex Counties saw next season's fur crop start to disintegrate to night as water levels in marshy areas continued to rise. Trappers feared the flood waters would either drown the rats in their houses or drive the animals to new areas.

GLOBE & MAIL, TORONTO

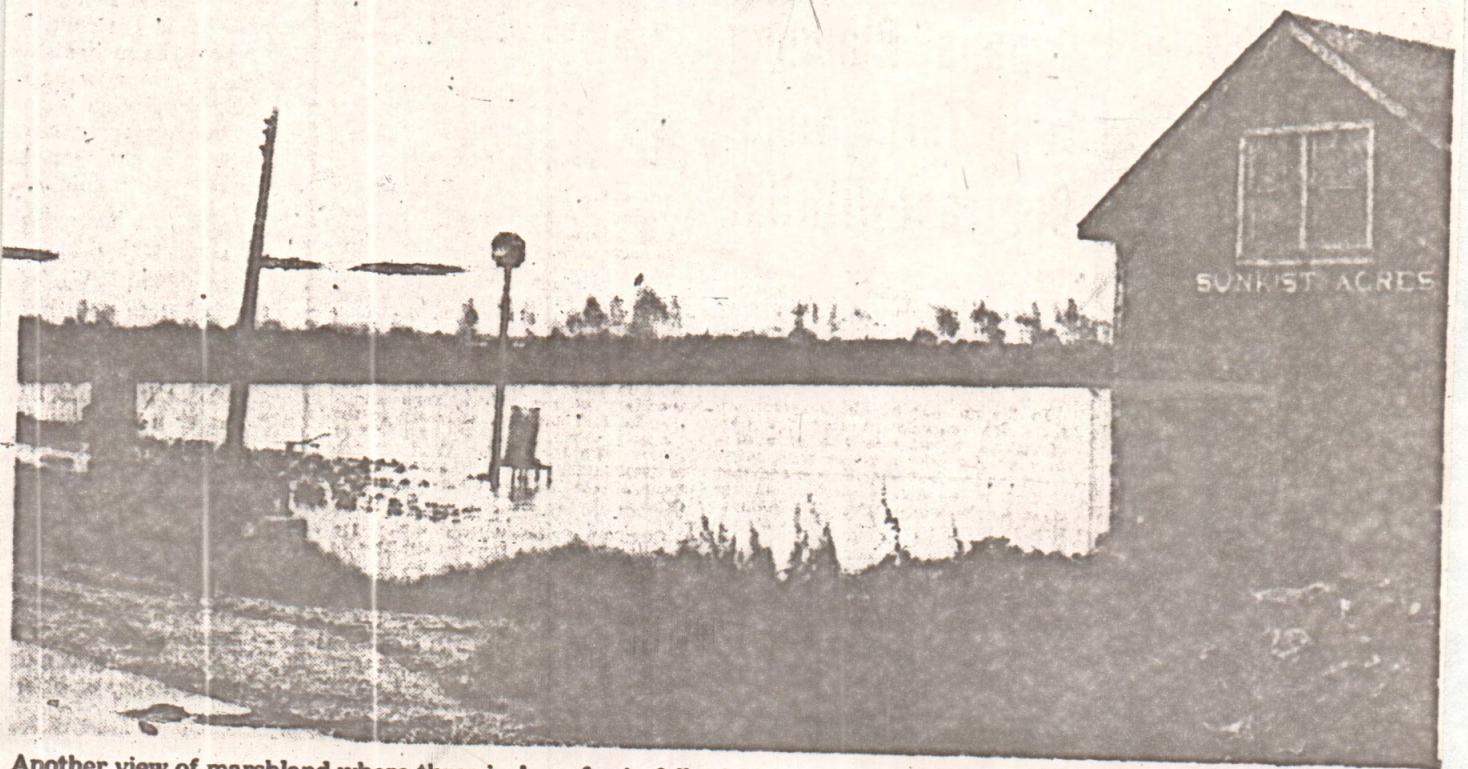
TUE JUN 16, 1946

L, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1946.

Storm Damage to Kent Crops Estimated at \$1 Million



Part of the 600 acres of flooded lands in the marsh area of Kent County, south of Blenheim, is shown after violent thunderstorms which swept through district Sunday.



Another view of marshland where three inches of rain fell within two hours. About 60 acres of onions escaped. One hundred and fifty acres of carrots, corn, potatoes and spinach were lost.

Kent, Essex Flood Damage

\$5,000,000

Rich Farmlands Inundated, Homes Isolated, Roads Blocked; Tomatoes, Tobacco Hard Hit

More than \$5,000,000 flood damage was indicated today in Kent and Essex counties as rich farmlands were covered with water, homes were isolated or flooded, and roads were blocked and bridges washed out.

BUMPER CROPS SPOILED

Thousands of acres of rich farm lands will not be workable for possibly 10 days, making it almost impossible to save the crops of onions, potatoes, tomatoes, tobacco and corn which, until wind and rainstorm lashed Western Ontario, were predicted to be of bumper proportions.

From Belle River in Essex County to Mitchell's Bay in Kent, and south to Tilbury, more than 100 square miles are inundated, and in the Eriean marshes 1,700 acres of rich onion land are under water.

Many Eriean district families are still taking refuge in Blenheim because their homes are still flooded. The marsh was flooded when a 300-foot gap was smashed in the dykes which prevent Lake Erie from flooding the land. Sandbags are being used to fill in the gap but it is almost a futile effort.

PUMPS AT WORK

The only way to clear the marsh is to pump the water out of the district back into the lake.

Fourteen pumping stations are laboring to clear thousands of acres of land clear of three feet of water in the Jeannette's Creek district. Families are moving their livestock to higher ground and yesterday moved their grain out of the water's reach.

In this area, Charles Fox, Omar

Donalds and Percy King have moved their families to the second stories of their homes. Farms in that area have a yield of about \$400 per acre.

The huge area between Belle River and Mitchell's Bay was flooded Monday night when for five hours rain fell as if poured from a huge pitcher.

While bright sunshine heralded the end of rain for the Chatham district that centre of Kent County was isolated from many sections flooded by the heavy rain. The Thames River rose considerably overnight. Telephone communication was almost an impossibility throughout the county. There was a three-hour delay for all but emergency calls from Windsor to Chatham.

"ASTRONOMICAL" DAMAGE

Agricultural officials there said estimates on damage to the farmlands were becoming "astronomical" as the water refused to leave the land.

Car, bus and rail travel was slowed to a crawl and highway traffic through Kent County was rerouted to avoid the Tilbury district. The diversion was to

No. 3 highway because No. 2 was covered with water between Tilbury and Chatham.

Soft railroad beds were feared and trains were feeling their way along the south shore of Lake St. Clair.

While hardly a farm in Essex County escaped crop damage from the heavy rains, the worst part in central and southern sections of the county was caused by lack of drainage.

PEACHES DAMAGED

Little hail damage was reported outside the Blenheim area where a two-mile swath was cut, "threshing" the young peaches off the fruit trees. Some farmers reported their entire crop lost.

Ernest Bezaire, Windsor Star staff correspondent, during a tour of the flooded areas, reported from Tilbury the district never looked more dismal.

In that town water in the streets has been so deep it ran over the running boards of cars, he said. All along the Tilbury town line, he said, the creek overflowed the road in several places. South of the town fields were washed. North it was worse—along the old Tecumseh road between Soney Point and Jeannette's Creek the water ran over the road in half a dozen places. The water to the south of Tilbury is piling up for a northward lunge to create more havoc.

At Big Creek, Mr. Bezaire found the planking of the bridge only a foot above the water. The railway bridge there is covered with water.

It was reported in Chatham today last hopes of saving the onion and tobacco crops in the Eriean and Harwich township areas had vanished, although some of the growers retained some optimism. The Chatham branch of the Red Cross offered aid to the flood-stricken area. It announced bedding and clothing is available for the homeless in the district.

About 150 families were evacuated from the marshland district up to Monday night. Since then a number of them have returned. Sunday's storm was only the prelude to the flood which hit the district. Monday evening saw the heaviest downpour.

STOCK LOSS HEAVY

Poultry and livestock loss in the district was serious. Where the water is deep enough the bodies of the dead animals float over the once-fertile fields.

Flooded lakeside communities in Kent are still without electricity and there is little likelihood it will be restored for several days.

Chatham City Engineer T. M. S. Kingston said this morning auxiliary gasoline pumps will be sent to the flooded areas in an effort to clear the land quickly.

Farmers throughout the two counties are praying for cool, breezy and cloudy weather. Should the hot sun burn into the fields crop damage will be doubled. The plants will be scalded.

The tobacco crop is the worst hit at present. It does not take much water. The other crops may be saved although rot, it is feared, will take the biggest toll.

SAT. JULY 6 1946

Boil Water, Is Advice

Notice Given Folks In Town of Essex

ESSEX—Residents here have been urged to boil their drinking water as a result of the heavy flow through the canning factory.

CONFUSION RESULTS

The town council has called a meeting regarding the notice of warning published over the name of the Board of Health. Considerable confusion has resulted from the notice because, some town officials claim, there was authority lacking for publication.

Residents of this town boil their drinking water during several seasons of the year, when the canning factory is particularly busy with the various crops. Right now it is in the middle of the pea canning season and the plant is using water faster than the chlorination plant can purify it.

FED BY WELLS

The water supply is fed by wells. The medical health officer was not obtainable today for comment on the warning but it is stated tests of the water by the Ontario Department of Health showed the samples to be all right to drink. Nevertheless, during the heavy flow through the canning factory the residents are urged to take precautions.

Residents have stated this condition is nothing new. It happens yearly and they are well equipped to cope with the situation. Many say the supply is not too good at anytime and boil the drinking water all year round.

Thurs June 27

THURS. JUNE 20 1946

Floods Drop At Erieau

Battery of Pumps Draining Land

ERIEAU BEACH — With a battery of seven pumps operating at full force, the water level of the inundated acres surrounding here is dropping, it was reported this morning.

In addition, four have been obtained from Toronto and the Air Force at St. Thomas. They are operating between the 3rd and 4th concession roads. More are expected today.

Basements here are flooded and residents have been without fires and water since the deluge began Sunday.

Farmers here say the damp and cloudy weather prevailing today is better for them than sun, if no heavy rains result from it. They fear a scorching hot sun will burn up the ground and crops which would be a total loss.

Essex, Kent Flood Waters Receding

Many Districts Still Inundated

Flood waters which have caused an estimated \$5,000,000 damage to Essex and Kent counties were receding today but thousands of acres of rich farm land were still covered with water ranging from a few inches to eight feet deep.

TRAFFIC CRAWLING

Travel was still slowed to a crawl through the inundated areas in north-east Essex and west Kent counties, and along the southern Kent shore of Lake Erie.

Hundreds of men and boys laboring to dam up the floods and drain the water from the land entered their third straight day of unceasing effort. Although fatigue was getting the better of many, farmers among them were optimistic today that if the water recedes the next few days at the rate it did last night, some of the crops can be saved.

Around the Tilbury area crop damage was estimated from 75 to 100 percent. In the Erieau district, where the wealthy onion marshes are still flooded and a number of families are still homeless, crop damage is almost 100 percent. Some farmers still hope to save some of their crops. However, agricultural officials held out little hope.

Property damage and livestock loss there is extremely heavy. The shores of Lake Erie from Rondeau Bay to the eastern extremity of Essex County all received a severe lashing. Cedar Springs and the Blenheim area were hard hit by gale and rain storms.

STILL NO POWER

Motorists must feel their way along the roads in that district. Electricity still is cut off in most of these sections, increasing the difficulties of the—in many cases stranded—residents.

From Belle River to Mitchell's Bay drainage ditches could still be seen flowing over into the fields, despite the numbers of emergency workers rushing to plug the holes in the walls. The Pikey drainage scheme was said to be the most effective and farmers were winning their fight to drain the land, it was reported.

The Pike drainage, however, flooded over into the fields.

MOVE IN EQUIPMENT

Caterpillar equipment was being moved into the area today to fight the breaks in the dykes.

Toronto is sending new pumps to the Erieau district to try and drain the land of the two feet of water washing over the valuable crop.

Erieau farmers expect to plant a new crop by the end of the month if equipment arrives in time.

George Parry, M.P.P. for Kent West, said saving of any of the crops after the land had been awash more than two days was an impossibility. White beans, he said, would be washed out completely.

Clearing Skies Bring Hope to Kent Area

From The Star's Chatham Bureau

CHATHAM—Clearing skies and a promise of cooler weather brought partial relief today to storm harried farmers and flooded out residents in Kent and the Erieau and South Harwich marshes. Reports from Erieau stated Lake Erie waters which have inundated 1,500 acres of rich farm land below the dyke levels have dropped nearly six inches.

USE BIG PUMPS

Onion growers have secured three high pressure pumps from Toronto which will be placed in operation on the marshes today. Smaller pumps have been used continually since Monday night in an effort to empty the submerged fields.

Most homes of onion growers on the marshes are still isolated although a great many of the 180 families forced out by Monday's second lashing gale have returned. High winds sweeping across the marsh lands today formed waves which threatened to weaken foundations of the island houses.

Hector Vermeersch, prominent onion and celery producer, told The Star "we are not licked yet." He believed it would still be possible to plant beets, spinach, carrots and potatoes, but was ready to admit the onion crop was totally ruined. Mr. Vermeersch stated if there is no further rain, the combination of drying winds and pumps should clear water off most of the low land in a week's time. After that the land would be dry enough for replanting within two or three days.

LAND DRYING

In other sections of the county good drains and the wind's effect was gradually drying the land. Flooded fields were still draining into streams and creeks and all of the main roads leading from Chatham will likely be clear by tonight.

Waterworks Engineer W. H. Stover said the Thames river level in the Chatham area has dropped one foot and is still going down. At the storm period height it rose two feet above normal. Mr. Stover stated the storm area extended eastward only as far as Thamesville and the greatest volume of water from flooded fields has now emptied into the river. Heavy steel plates were discovered in a field near Merlin which may have been dropped, by the tornado which swept the Windsor Essex area Monday.

The plates badly twisted bear the trade mark of a River Rouge, Michigan firm. River Rouge was one of the districts hit by the wild storm.

Lambton County Damage Is Light

From The Star's Sarnia Bureau

SARNIA—In marked contrast to the situation in Kent and Essex County, heavy rains which hit Lambton early this week did comparatively little damage to the crops, according

to vendors at the local market yesterday.

The hail took a toll of buds on fruit trees but this was only in scattered areas.

"It is too early in the season for a hail storm to do extensive damage," one vendor said, while other farmers said the heavy rains might set the crops back some but that there was not much evidence of whole crops being wiped out.

WINDSOR DAILY STAR, WED. JUNE 26 1946.

Farms Still Under Water More Than Week After



Room

Farm Animals Drown, Kent, Essex Lose Crops As Flood Waters Rise

By RALPH HYMAN

Chatham, June 19 (Staff). — The fertile farm lands of Kent and Essex Counties, where one of the biggest grain and vegetable crops in years was anticipated, lies buried under flood waters—a disaster that has wiped out at a single blow the work of years on the part of many farmers.

Land that only a few days ago was green with growth, today has disappeared beneath the waters of unrelenting floods. Farm buildings have been ruined, livestock killed or drowned, and many precious implements lie beneath the lakes.

A trip from Windsor to Chatham, with detours to take in the worst-hit areas, showed scenes of desolation and havoc. In some districts a minor edition of the Windsor cyclone lifted roofs and caved in barns. Shattered trees reared their tops above the flood.

Tilbury Hard Hit

What the farm loss will be in terms of dollars can only be estimated when the waters subside. In the Tilbury section it was believed yesterday that 75 per cent of the vegetables and grains will be ruined, particularly if hot weather occurs during the next week.

But the farmers of Western Ontario are taking the blow with their chins up. The risks that they run have conditioned them to the losses caused by storm. It will be a long time before many of them are able to restore their properties to their normal prosperous appearance. For the most part they have written off this year's crops as pretty much of a total loss.

Strong east winds aided in drying some sections of flooded lands, but added to the difficulty of farmers struggling to rebuild gaps in drainage schemes. Approximately 40 square miles in Raleigh and Dover

Townships were flooded anew when the dredge-cut banks gave way, pouring tons of water back on the land.

The land was already past the saturation point, and the new deluge has written finis to any hopes of salvaging crops in the area. The driving east wind piled waters up in some sections so that they were level with banks separating fields from drains, making pumping useless.

One Drain Benefits

The Pilkey drain was the only one which benefitted from the wind. Banks of the drain stood solid and the water piled against them was higher than the water in the drain.

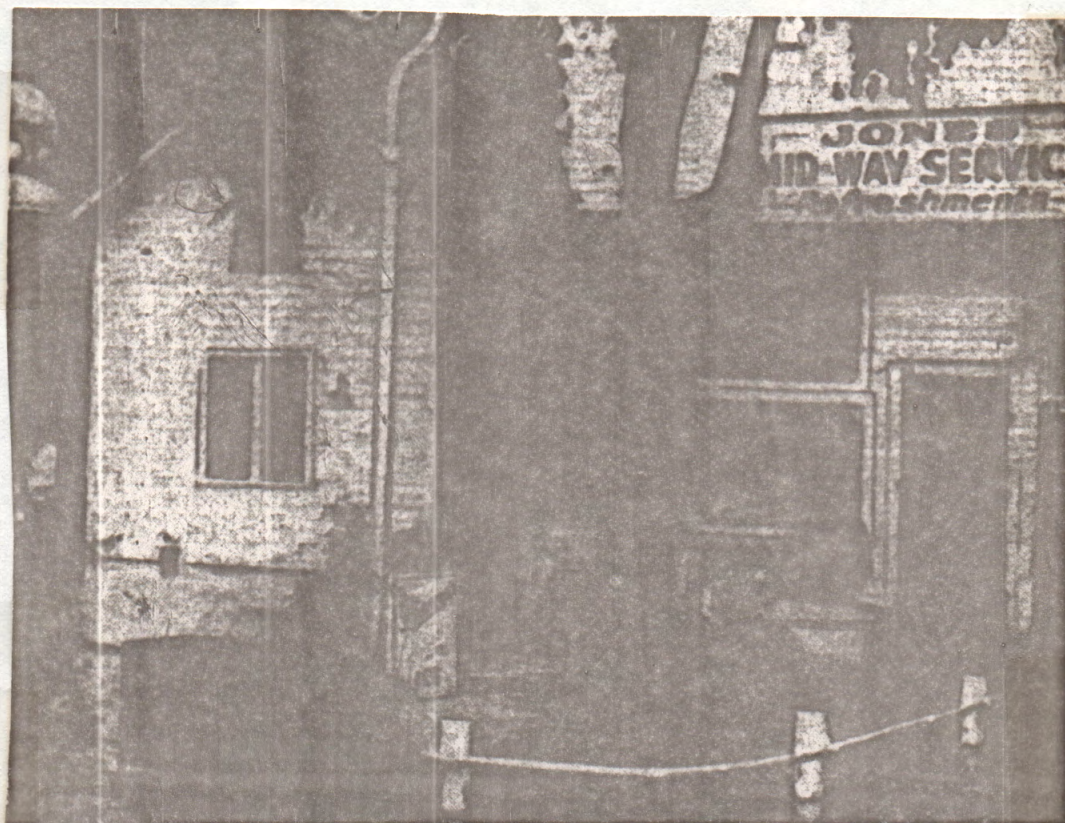
Tunnels were cut through the wall to allow the water to drain out of its own volition into the drain, aiding the pumping process. Fred Pilkey had been on the job for 48 hours without a rest and was planning on getting his first night's sleep tonight.

The banks of the Pike drainage works gave way in three places at least. One gap was almost bridged with sheet piling yesterday when added weight of flood waters from other sections carried it away, and work was started afresh on the project.

Men, women and boys have been working for almost 48 hours without rest in an effort to drain the water from land as soon as possible. Little hope is held of salvaging any of the crops in either Kent or Essex which are still under water. In Dover Township hydro towers are down over a wide area, with as many as six in a row flattened in some sectors. Telephone lines are down over a large portion of the same section. Officials of the two services today moved caterpillar mechanized equipment into the district to handle heavy work.

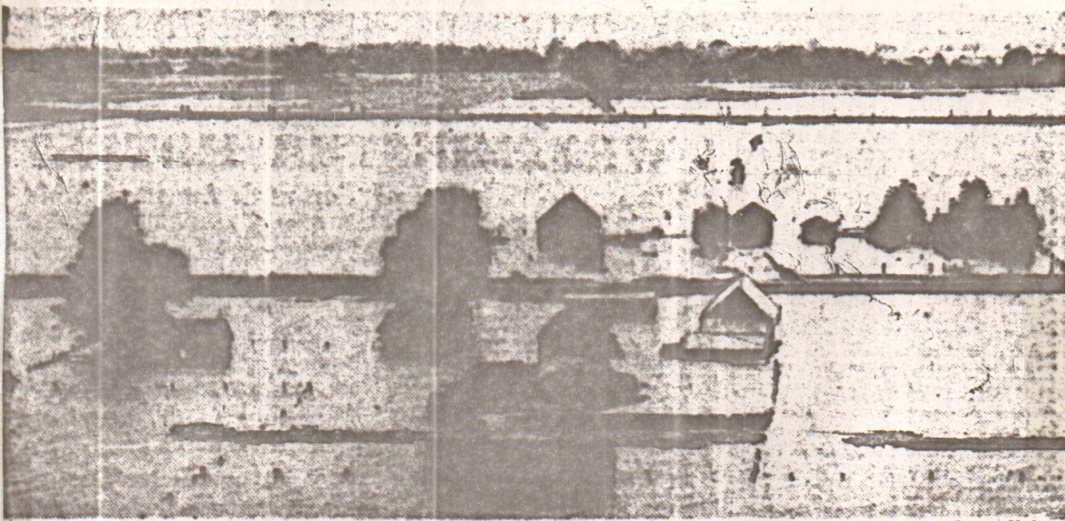
George Parry, MPP for West Kent, claimed any crop which had been inundated or in saturated land for over two days would be of little value. White beans, he said, would be wiped out entirely.

Throughout Raleigh and Dover Townships and in the Eriean district, where drainage schemes are maintained, farmers were out today with rowboats attempting to rescue livestock. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Srokosz at Eriean, a bride and bridegroom, gathered their personal belongings from their water-surrounded home with a boat after spending four days in their new home.



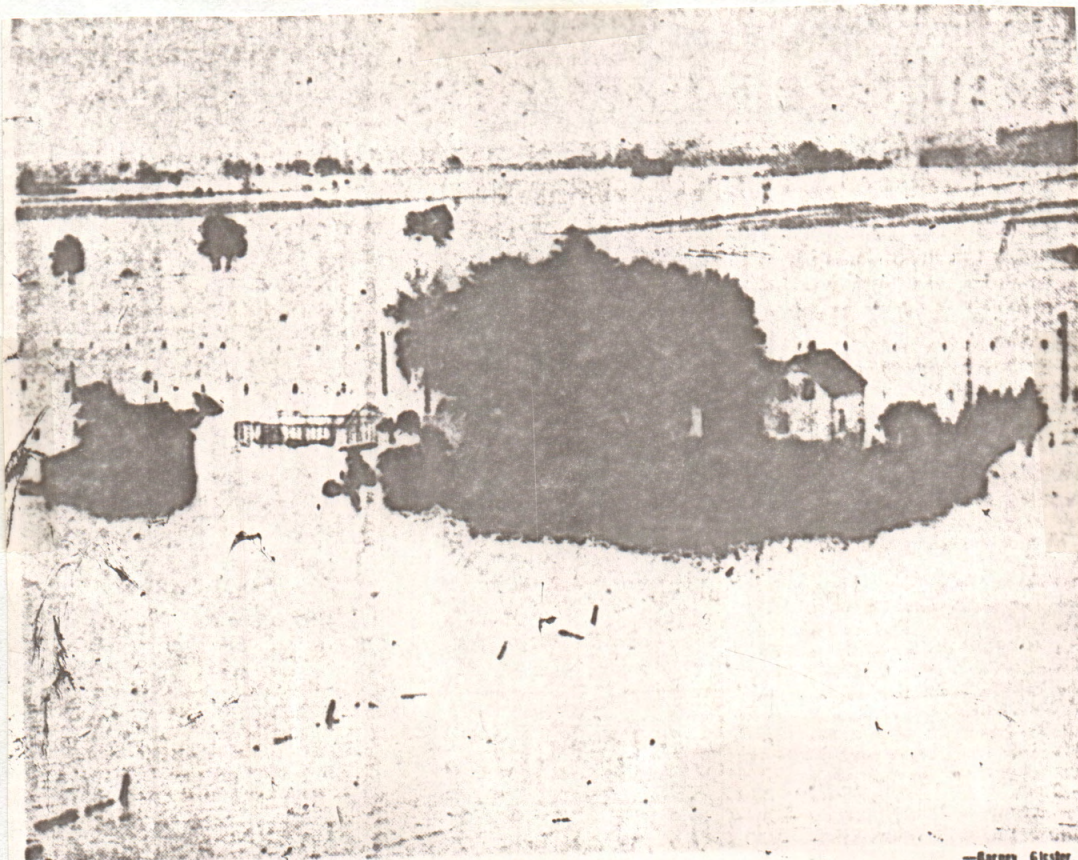
Globe & Mail.

This was a common scene in Western Ontario yesterday as mounting flood waters inundated hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile farm lands. Herman Jones' refreshment stand and service station on No. 2 Highway, west of Tilbury, presented this picture. Theodor, is using a fuel container as a punt.



—Garry Clark.

From the air, there is a widespread vista of farms which have become lakes. This one is near Mitchell's Bay, northwest of Chatham.



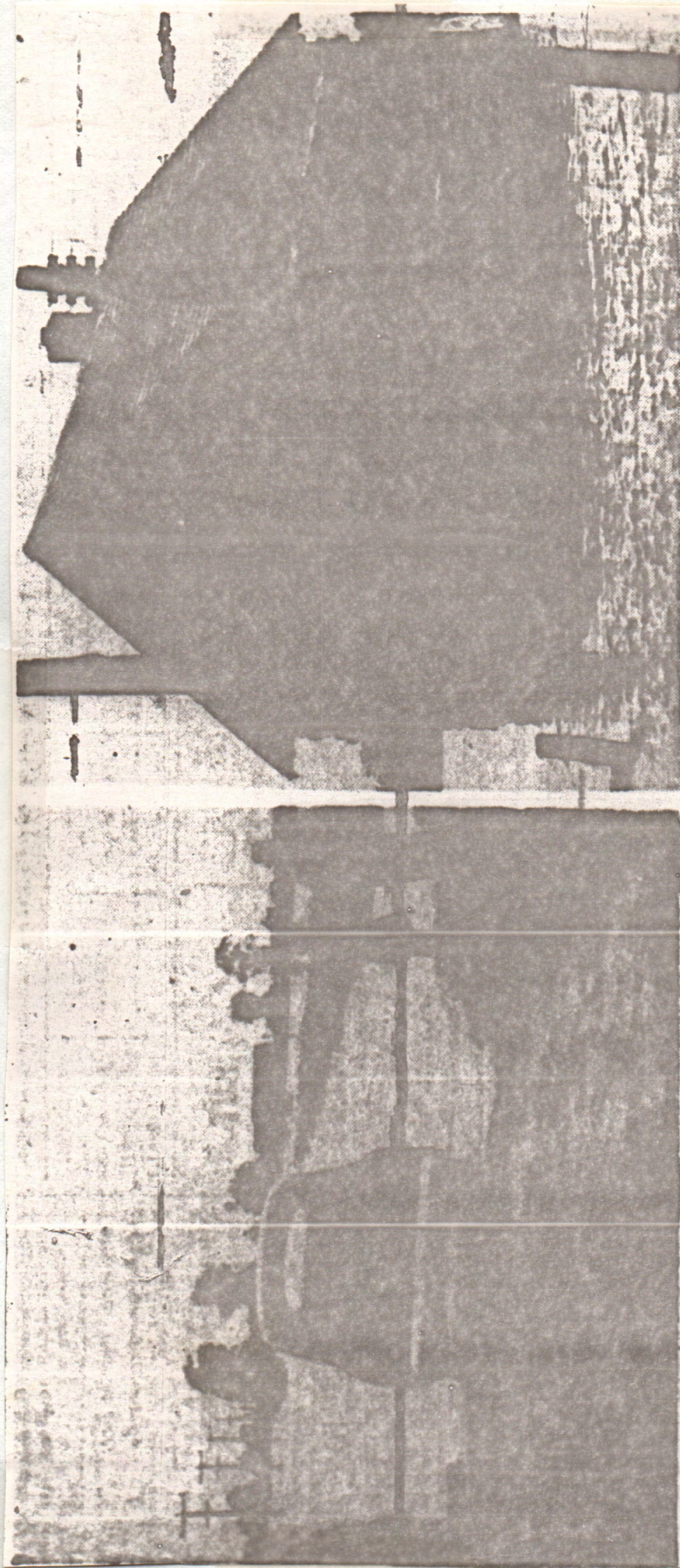
—Barney Gleser

Farm houses situated on slightly higher ground appear to be on little islands in a shallow lake. This was typical of low-lying countryside east of Lake St. Clair in the Mitchell Bay section of northwestern Kent.



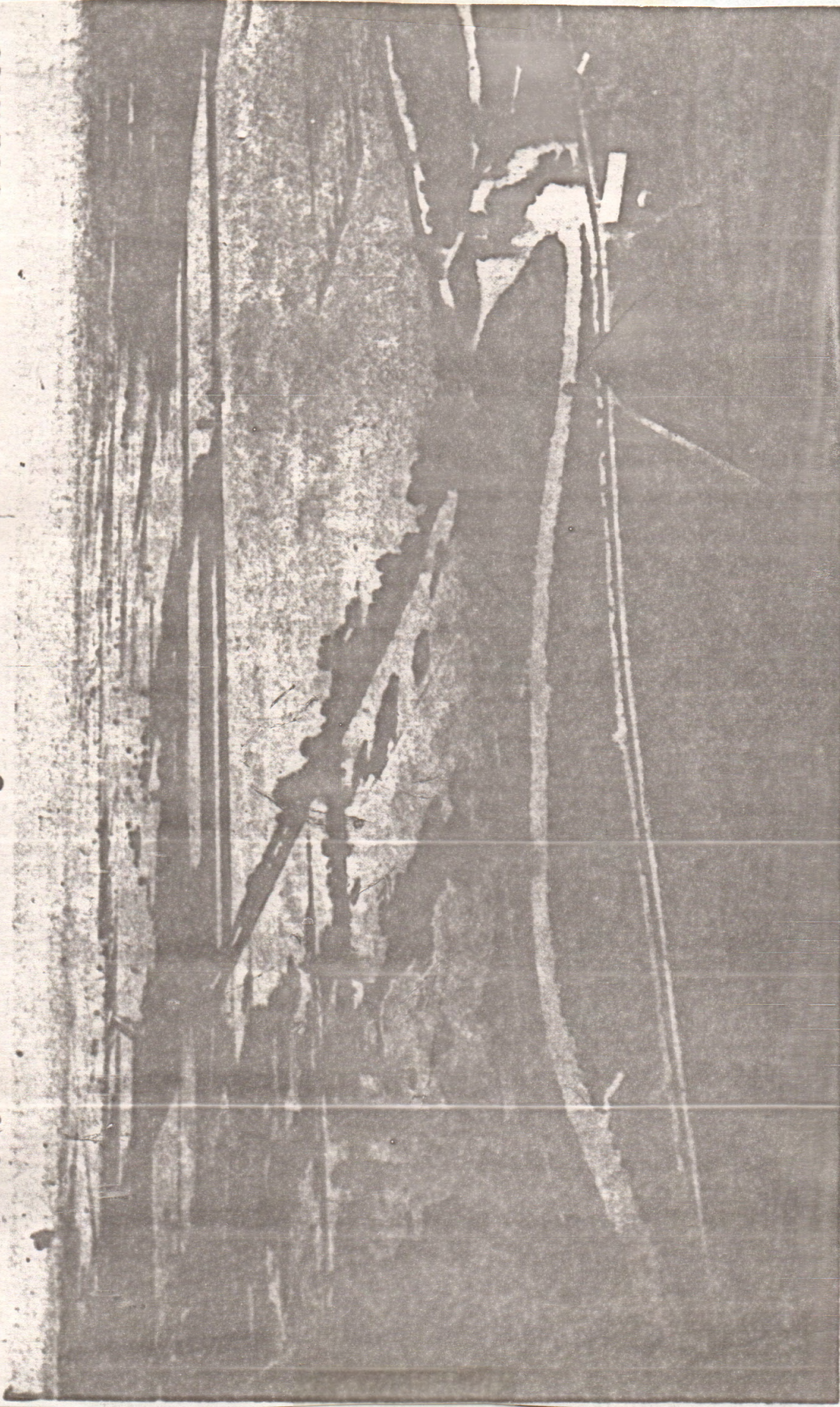
Globe & Mail

Ladders were used to rescue residents of this inundated farmhouse on the road to Mitchell's Bay in the western section of Kent County. This area was particularly hard hit by floods.



The end of the road. This car isn't going any further. No. 2 Highway, six miles west of Chatham, comes to a watery end (left) and for several miles is covered up to a depth of six feet. Waiting for the rescue squad, John Keating looks out second-story window of his log house in Raleigh Twp. (right).

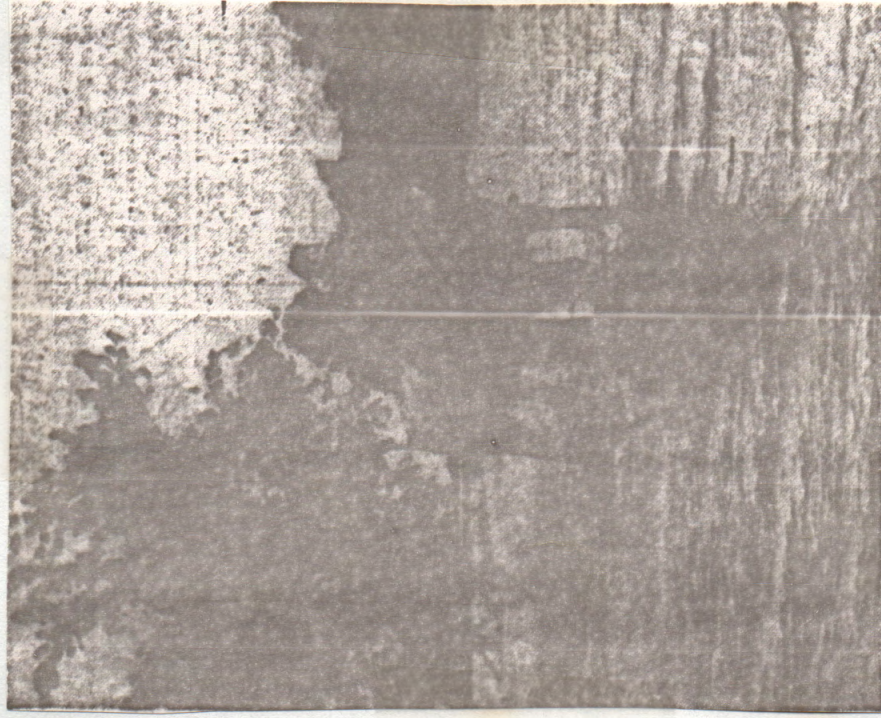
Floods Multiply Tornado Damage in Stricken Kent and Essex Counties



As far as eye can see, flood waters cover the flat farmlands of Western Kent County as shown in this air view over Jeannettes Creek.

near the mouth of the Thames River. Highways and roads are flooded for miles, farms isolated, crops damaged to the extent of many millions.

—Barry Carter.



Where cars can't go, horses can navigate without any trouble. Raleigh Township farmer rides horses from flooded barn to neighbor's farm.

STORM DATE:

More Kent, Essex Rain Impedes Crop Salvage

CHATHAM, June 20 (Special).—Farmers throughout Kent and Essex Counties who have been husbanding a ray of hope that some of their inundated crops might be saved if they could get the water off them within the next 12 hours, received another jolt

late this afternoon when a thunder and rain storm hit the district. Strange as it seems, farmers in the two counties whose crops have been under water since last Sunday, want more rain. But they don't want it until present flood waters have receded from their lands.

A light, cleansing rain at the right time, might be the means of salvaging some of the corn and other crops with the exception of white beans, agriculturists claim. It was pointed out that wheat and corn have been known to withstand as much as 48 hours immersion in water as long as sufficient stalk protruded above water to allow the plant to "breathe."

Farmers claim a light rain is needed to wash muck and dust from the plants to allow them to breathe more easily.

Some Floods Abate

This morning a light rain blanketed some areas, and farmers were hopeful the rain would prove the salvation of part of the crops. This afternoon's deluge, however, caused them considerable anxiety.

Ald. Reg Myers, a Chatham barrister, who has a large farm in Raleigh, claims that some of the wheat, oat and corn crop may be saved if the present rain doesn't last too long. He said farmers in that area had been hopeful of getting some of the land cleared within the next 12 hours.

At Prairie Siding farmers claimed that flood waters has started to recede and that they expected to start pumping operations tonight. They expect to have the land free of surface water by Monday providing there is no more rain. No. 2 Highway, between Chatham and Blenheim, is still blocked six miles west of Chatham.

Lumber Scarce

Farmers throughout the storm-swept area who had their barns flattened and the roofs of barns and houses ripped up, faced a new problem today when they sought lumber and shingles for repairing and rebuilding.

Lumber supply houses have little to offer in the way of shingles sufficient to meet the demand. Nor is enough heavy timber and lumber available. Some hope is held that sufficient material can be salvaged to aid in rebuilding the barns.

At Erieau pumps are still working the clock around manned by shift-working farmers. They claim there is a possibility that part of the crop may be salvaged if they can get the water off within the next 12 hours. Pumping equipment is handling some 140,000 gallons per minute.

Farmers are planning on installing bigger tiling in their farms. Those who had the larger size tiles escaped with a minimum of damage. Roadway drains are also slated for larger tiling.

Inch of Rain Falls

More than an inch of rain fell in the St. Thomas district in about 10 minutes' time early this evening. The water fell literally in torrents, flooding sections of streets level with the curbs. The Ross St. subway was flooded for a period and impassable to motor traffic. Although the water in Kettle Creek is the highest of the season, there was no serious flooding of the low areas west and north of the city.