

Hermit of Algonquin Park Caught

January 24 - Nameless and alone, a curious creature known as the Hermit of Algonquin Park, was rounded up a few weeks ago, near Depot Harbour by J. Champagne, G.T.R. constable, and is now confined to the North Bay asylum. Half named, without boots or head covering of any kind, he was found wandering about in the snow and after no light tussle was captured and subdued. For fifteen years and more he has roamed the wild country in the park reserve and has lived in a hut just high enough for him to crawl into on all fours.

In all seasons and weather he had been exposed and no nearer approach in real life to the original Robinson Crusoe could be conjured up than the story of this half-wild creature, who is now, if not late, being gradually led back to the paths of reason and the way of civilization.

It is almost too much to hope, however, that his memory will be entirely restored, that he will be able to give his name, that thoughts of loved ones may have their softening influence, or that he may recall once more the time when he used the childhood prayer at his mother's knee. In all likelihood his identity will go down with him to the grave, a mystery, one of the tragic, but romantic, touched in the story of the subjugation of a new empire, the Great Clay Belt of Northern Ontario.

To the men of the Northland who wrest from its rich gifts of lumber and gold this is no new story. Visitors of the park have heard strange tales of this hermit who won his precarious living in a land not so prodigal of all round

comfort as the tropical island of Juan Fernandez. Driven by hunger and fortified by a viciousness born of his solitude in the wilds he began to trespass railway property at every opportunity. Emerging from his hiding place at the death of the night, he visited nearby stations and is suspected of breaking open and stealing from many cars. Summer cottages in the woods also show signs of the depredations.

The G.T.R. detective force resolved on a coup, Constable Champagne, early in December, got news of the nameless hermit and started on a chase. In the picture he is shown well armed, a repeating Colt in one hand and handcuffs in the other. He came upon his quarry quite unexpectedly by the latter, and quietly watched the wild man breaking wood across his knees to make a fire in the snow. It was, he remembered, that the thermometer took a drop below zero degrees Fahrenheit at this time, but without gloves, the nameless man did not appear to be suffering. His own long matted hair covers his head so completely that it might be thought from a picture that his head was covered with a fur cap, but such is not the case.

Hermit May Never Be Known

The struggle was sharp but brief. Constable Champagne soon had his man in custody, and he wanderings of the Hermit of Algonquin Park were over. Since his capture he has been quiet and subdued, but who can tell what is passing behind his restless roving eyes almost obscured by the heavy eyebrows, or what this man may feel behind the four walls of his prison after fifteen years of this almost unnatural freedom. ■

Long Drive With A Broken Leg

January 22 - Peter Binish, a resident of Wilno, arrived at the General Hospital in Pembroke on Tuesday evening after a journey by sleigh of about 95 miles with a fractured leg.

The unfortunate man was working in one of the McLaughlin Bros. camps on the Black River, about 75 miles from Waltham, and on Monday morning, while going down a hill skidding a log of wood, he fell and fractured his right leg below the knee. He was at once prepared for the long journey to Pembroke and made as comfortable as possible on a sleigh, which started about noon that day for the hospital there.

He arrived in Waltham at noon on Tuesday and reached Pembroke about eight o'clock that evening. He suffered terribly on the long journey and though every little jolt of the sleigh caused intense pain he bore it bravely and continually urged the driver to hurry the horses in order to reach here as quickly as possible. Immediately on his arrival local surgeons set the fracture and though the limb was in bad condition it is thought that he will come through the ordeal all right, for which we might all be surely thankful. ■

Amended excerpts taken from *Eganville Leader: Reflections of a Century*. The Eganville Leader Publishing Company: 2002.

Severely Burned but Will Recover

November 8 - Miss Martha Cybulski, house maid at Dr. Maloney's, was the victim of a distressing accident on Saturday night. She threw a cup of coal oil into the furnace, which was burning slowly and the result was a sudden burst of flames out of the door and its seizing on the apron of the girl. In a minute, she was aflame and with cries ran upstairs from the basement. Her mistress was at her side in a moment and with commendable presence of mind enveloped the unfortunate victim in a cloak and succeeded in subduing the flames. In the absence of Dr. Maloney, Drs. Galligan and Reeves were called in and they at once rendered every service to the suffering girl.

We are pleased to announce and we are sure it is gladsome intelligence to the community that the young girl who displayed courage and fortitude in her intense sufferings is rapidly recovering from the shock occasioned from her dreadful injuries. ■

Eganville Sawmill Destroyed by Fire

April 23 - The steam sawmill of Messrs. Schmeiling & Welk, located a short distance west of the Canadian Pacific Rail station, was burned on Thursday evening last. At 8:30 a lurid reflection in the sky caused the cry of fire to be raised, resulting in a hurried stampede to the scene. The fire brigade quickly responded to a call and with engine and hose prepared for the attack.

The flammable material of the mill itself and the surrounding refuse made a fire of great intensity, but gradually several streams of water... had the desired effect.

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The cause of the fire is unknown. It is the opinion that it did not start in the boiler room as this part of the building was not ablaze. The loss is estimated at over \$1,500.00 with no insurance. ■

Government Buys 1000 Ford Tractors

February 8 - The Dominion government has purchased a thousand Ford tractors at cost. They will be sold to Canadian farmers also at cost plus freight. Details of freight costs have not yet been worked out, but it is estimated that that the average cost to the farmer, including freight, will be about eight hundred dollars. In addition, the government has secured options on another thousand Ford tractors.

The tractor burns either kerosene or gasoline. It is designed as a two-plough machine. A fuel consumption of 2 1-2 gallons of kerosene per acre is regarded as a fair average. It is claimed for the tractor that it can plough an acreage of 8 acres in ten hours. ■

Wind Storm Felt Severely

October 1 - Not in many, many years has Pembroke been visited by such a severe wind storm as that experienced yesterday. It is estimated that the wind was travelling at least 80 miles an hour, and old rivermen say that only once or twice in their experience have they seen the river so rough.

Trees were uprooted all over town and lumber piles actually upset and the lumber blown all over. A large sheet of the tin roofing on the Roman Catholic Church was lifted and almost blown off... ■

Booth Stopping Workers In Bush

August 7 - Most of J. R. Booth's lumbermen working in the bush are being laid off. The uncertainty of the financial horizon because of the war situation is responsible for the bush operation being stopped. Only in areas where there have been recent bush fires are J.R. Booth's bushmen at work... ■

Recommended for the Victoria Cross

November 15 - While the intelligence will be received with salvos of approval, there will be no great surprise manifested when the official announcement comes today that a Barry's Bay soldier boy—John Billings, son of Mr. John Billings—has been recommended for the Victoria Cross for brave and humane acts performed under the fire of the enemy...

Winning the V.C. is winning the most coveted honour and distinction in the British ranks. ■

Spy Had Maps of Petawawa

September 18 - With maps of Petawawa camp and surrounding district in his possession, a German spy was arrested at Morrisburg and brought to Fort Henry this morning. He is regarded by military authorities as one of the most dangerous prisoners yet brought to Kingston...

He speaks four languages, and understands military codes. He was arrested as he was about to cross over to the American side. ■