

1917.

the FORT ERIE FERRY;;; the Orleans March 22nd./1917
CAUGHT IN THE ICE--with BROKEN STEERING GEAR
ORLEANS NARROWLY ESCAPES.

Caught in the heavy ice driven from the lake by the high winds the Ferry Boat the Orleans, leaving Fort Erie on her Sat. afternoon trip at 5.30; was carried down the river within about 400 yards of the International Bridge. As the boat drew near the steel structure, it was able to fight it's way into a clear stretch of water by the Canadian shore. It steamed up this clear space, then struck out for the American shore; where there was another open patch. In crossing the rudder became disabled and the boat, was forced to put ashore at the foot of Auburn St. There was less then a dozen passangers on the boat at the time; but they all had a bad scare; for should the boat have reached the Bridge either the upperworks would have been ripped away; or the span would have given under the force of the boat and the ice.

Just what happened has not as yet been determined, and a trip to the dry dock may be necessary to find out. The Steamer the WELCOME with Capt, George Mc. Miln in Command will take over the schedule of the Orleans. She is a small boat and not suited to automobile traffic.

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MARCH 29th. 1917 ICE STOPS THE FERRY:::::

The Ferry WELCOME made no more trips this week becuse of heavy ice on the River. The one horse Jetneys that carry the people to the Race Track were dragged out of their winter storage so that the people of Fort Erie could be taken to Bridgeburg; that they might go to Buffalo on the G.T. international Dummy.

The Orleans comes out of Dry Dock in a few days and the Welcome will be laid up for repairs. The superintendent Albert J. Schow says that when the Welcome appears again it will be hard to recognize her. Her deck will be rearranged so that automobiles will be loaded endwise; and a new bottom will be put on her; which will make her speedier. It was last summer thst an auto. owned by J. BATT went off the Welcome into the river with his loss and that of his wife and mother-in-law. Placing the gangway at the bow and the stern; will facilitate the handling of autos. and remove any fears there maybe as to the safety of the boat for auto traffic.