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## LESLIE FLOATS BAVARIAN

Abandoned by her owners to the Underwriters and in turn by them, the Allia steamer Bavarian which ran on Wye Rock, thirty miles below Quebec, on November 3, 1905, was left on the rocks to be wrecked and torn by the waters of the St. Lawrence. Lloyds sent an expert to report on the vessel, who placed the cost of floating her at \$100,000, with an additional expenditure of \$500,000 to put her in a seaworthy condition. A German salvage firm turned down a proposition to float the steamer, but the North American Wrecking Co. made a proposal which was accepted. The company employed William Leslie, a Kingstonian, who said the steamer could be floated by the use of compressed air. He is a man of pick and courage and in the face of the expert opinion of British and American wreckers that the steamer could not be rescued, his friends feel he was undertaking a job that looked hopeless. But he had faith in his plans and he floated a company which has floated the ship. Mr. Leslie as a Canadian wrecker, is deserving of all the praise his countrymen can bestow upon him. For years he conducted the Collins Bay Rafting Co., and later he went into wrecking and on the great lakes and on the Gulf and Newfoundland coasts, he has done effective work. He is about sixty years of age and with all the vigor and enthusiasm of youth. While connected with the Collins Bay Wrecking Co. he was frequently in Collingwood, having raised a number of vessels in the upper lakes. Among others which he brought to the surface was the steamer City of Owen Sound which sunk at Clapperton Island in 1886 and which was brought here and rebuilt, leaving the dry dock as the Saturn, only to again find a resting place on the bottom of Lake Huron a couple of years after the rebuild.

Mr. Leslie in undertaking the work used compressed air. He set to work and platformed the ship over the holds in which there were holes. He imported air bags from New York and placed them under the platforms. As it took considerable time to carry on these operations the attempt to float the ship was postponed from one spring tide to the other. When these postponements occurred, the knowing ones shook their heads and said the Bavarian would never be floated except in the retail principle.

On Friday evening last, when the tide was unusually high and the efforts of three powerful steamers failed to pull the steamer off, the majority of shipping men came to the conclusion that she would remain on Wye Rock for another winter. They, however, were disappointed and to-day the steamer is at Quebec resting on the beach at Wolf's Cove for the winter.

The Dominion Government gave the contractor for floating the Bavarian all the aid in its power to get the ship afloat.