



Photo—J. S. Solly

Cst. L. Martin being ferried to safety after his long ordeal in the Alouette River flood.

Conditions were not improving as the day wore on. Numerous evacuations were carried out before the plight of residents had reached the critically dangerous stage. Just before noon a call came in reporting a situation which was to cause a long period of anxiety for all concerned.

The rising flood had been spreading south, and a watchful neighbor reported that a Mrs. Worianko and her nine-year-old daughter Kathleen were marooned in their house nearby. Mr. Bruce again volunteered his services, and setting out in his boat from the closest vantage point, he and Constables Millhouse and L. Martin struggled to move in close to the house. The pace of the rushing waters was now so great that it was impossible to manoeuvre to within less than 50 feet. Several lengths of rope had been brought along and the rescuers now put it to good use.

The roaring stream, filled with swirling logs, trees and other debris, posed a menace to the safety of the three men

in a small craft, and as they inched their way nearer the house, a life-line was strung to the trees which dotted the area. Moving in as close as the torrent would allow, a rope was thrown and caught by Mrs. Worianko, who was given shouted instructions to secure it round her daughter Kathleen. Kathleen was ordered to jump from the veranda, and was safely caught by Millhouse who had taken up a strategic position down-stream. The manoeuvre was repeated with her mother.

The tiny boat was now dangerously crowded, but it offered the only means of escape; feeling their way along the tenuous life-line, the three men sought to get into the safety of calmer water. This was a most difficult operation. A small rope attached to the life-line seemed to help, but a sudden surge whipped the craft around, the rope tangled around Millhouse's arm, and in a trice all five were tumbled into the turbulent stream.

In the next few awful seconds Martin took in as much as he could of what was