

# FAMILY WAS FATED TO DIE

**Mrs. Altman Thought of Delaying Her Trip.**

**HER HUSBAND WAS ANXIOUS**

**DID NOT WANT TO WAIT TILL BESSIE HAD FINISHED SCHOOL.**

**Bon Ami Arrives From Houghton This Morning Bearing Bon Voyage's Crew.**

Fate decreed that the Altman family should find watery graves in Lake Superior. Friends and neighbors of the Altman's assert that all day Thursday they debated considerably as to whether to take passage on the Bon Voyage that night or wait until next week. The fact that Miss Bessie Altman, the sole survivor, who was to graduate from the Jackson school into the High School, was another thing that caused Mrs. Altman to consider a delay of the trip. At one time it was thought best to wait until she had finished with her school, but as Mr. Altman was anxious to be joined by his family at Laurium, Mich., his wife finally decided to yield to his desires, and late in the day active preparations for the start were made. When the fated little steamer pulled out from her dock that night she bore among her passengers the entire family with the exception of the husband and father, who was at Houghton awaiting the coming of the steamer.

The fact that women were the only ones who perished as a result of the fire has occasioned no end of remark on the part of many in Duluth. Some have gone so far as to blame the members of the crew for what they term a lack of gallantry and bravery, but until further details of the disaster can be ascertained these criticisms seem to be ill timed. To find oneself on a burning ship far out from shore in Lake Superior and compelled to jump into its icy waters at this time of the year, and in the dead of night is an experience that does not happen to the ordinary mortal often enough to enable him to become accustomed to it. The water of Lake Superior so early in the year is calculated to prove fatal in a very few moments and when the passengers and crew all found themselves struggling to keep themselves afloat until succor was at hand it is doubtful if there was any opportunity to aid one another, the only wonder being that more people did not perish.

It was expected that some of the crew would reach Duluth last evening, but none came, and consequently the full story of the disaster from those who had gone through it could not be ascertained.

Last reports from Houghton were to the effect that the body of little Annie Altman had not been recovered although a vigorous search has been kept up constantly since daybreak on the morning following the disaster. It is believed by some that if it has been impossible to secure the body by this time that it will never be recovered as the currents may have taken it far out into the lake.

Speculation is rife in marine circles as to what Capt. Singer will do in the way of replacing the burned steamer. It is said that he is already considering the purchase of another boat and will put her immediately into the service, but just how much truth there is in the report cannot be said until Captain Singer returns.

The steamer Bon Ami, of the White Line Transportation company, will arrive in Duluth this morning with the crew of the burned steamer Bon Voyage and will leave on the latter's regular time this evening at 8 o'clock. The boat left Houghton yesterday morning but she will make stops at Ontonagon, Ashland and Bayfield, and expects to make the 200 mile trip in the regular running time.

Captain Kidd, of this city left Duluth Saturday for the scene of the disaster and yesterday morning, together with Captain Singer made an investigation

of the burned steamer, the former on behalf of the underwriters. They expect to reach Duluth some time today, probably coming over the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic.