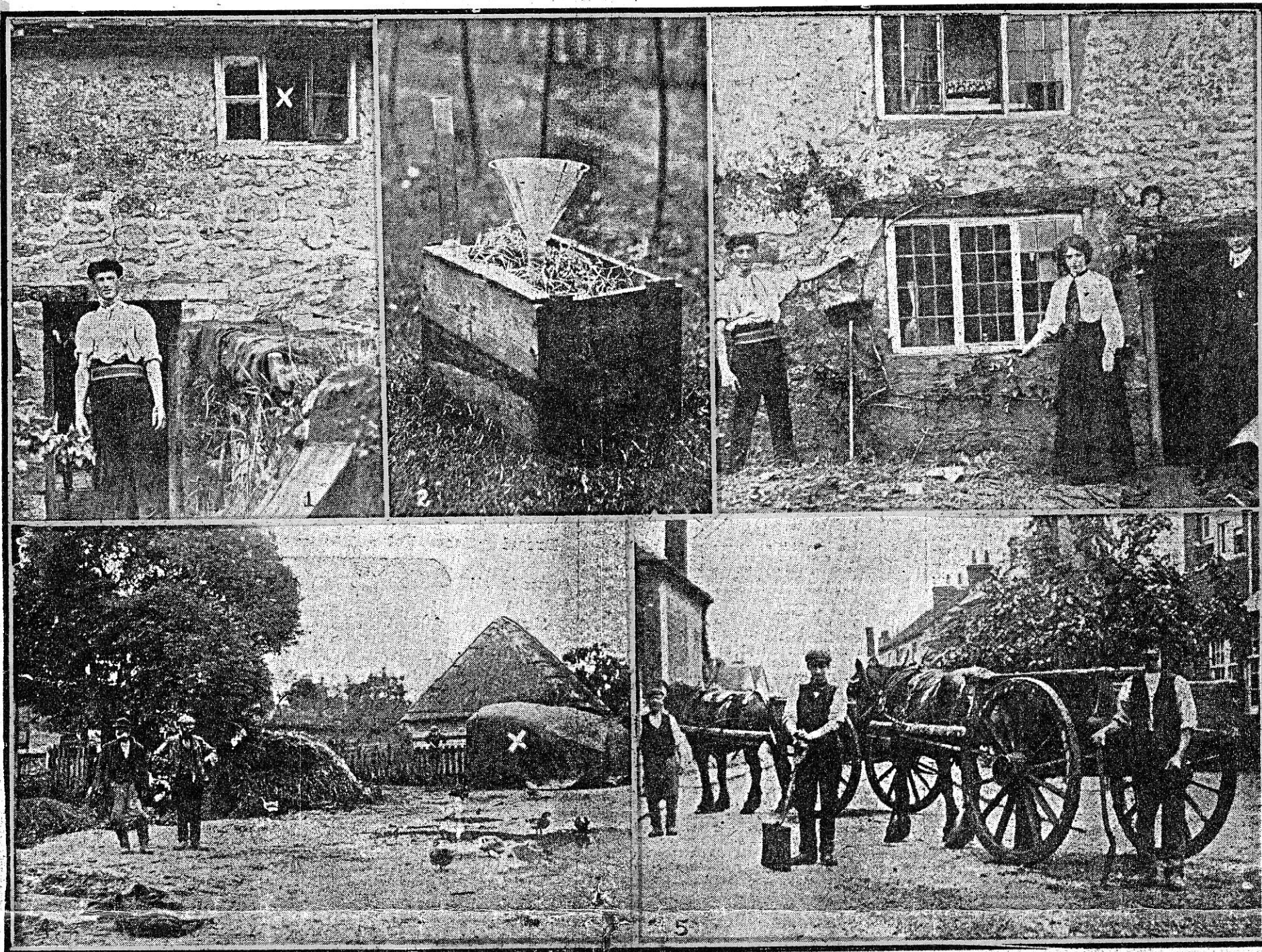


THURSDAY'S THUNDERSTORM: DELUGE OF RAIN AT WHEATLEY.



Wheatley, six miles east of Oxford, by reason of its situation at the foot of a crescent of hills, has suffered severely from storm-floods on several occasions in the past. Never before, however, has such havoc been wrought as on Thursday last, when a cloud-burst of record severity was experienced. From 12.40 p.m. to 1.40 p.m. over four inches of rain fell, the equivalent of over 400 tons to the acre, and the village for some time was at the mercy of a raging torrent. Hailstones of exceptional size stripped the foliage from the trees and shattered the garden plants, whilst the flood carried everything moveable before it. Unfortunately, through the flooding of the Post Office, Wheatley was isolated during the day, and our photographers were unable to reach the village before the waters had subsided. Some idea of the extent of the flood may, perhaps, be gauged from the above pictures, which show: 1.—A house in Crown-street in which the lower rooms were submerged to a depth of six feet. The cross shows the window through which Mrs. Harding escaped. 2.—Mr. Leyshon's gauge, which registered the phenomenal rainfall of 4.34 inches in one hour. This gauge stands quite in the open. 3.—A house in Crown-street. Mr. Harding (on the left) is pointing to the high water mark. The furniture in the sittingroom swirled round in the flood, and an harmonium was completely ruined. The water even entered a Dutch clock hanging near the ceiling. 4.—Mr. Robbins' farmyard, (x) being a rick, weighing nearly two tons, which was carried bodily by the flood from the site upon which the farm hands are standing. 5.—Replacing the road surface opposite the "Merry Bells." In several places the sand was deposited one and two feet thick, the roads resembling a sea-beach.—(O.J.I. Photographs).