

REPORTS FROM LAIDLEY.
[BY TELEGRAPH FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

LAIDLEY, February 22.

A great amount of damage has been wrought in this district by the late flood. Nearly every culvert and bridge in the Laidley and Tarampa divisions has been carried away, and the boards intend to apply to the Government for a loan to effect necessary works and allow farmers access to the railway with their produce.

The flood-waters at Grantham were over the telegraph wires, and had never been known in the history of the district to have been within 15ft. of the late record.

P. Donaghue, a youth, was drowned at Gatton during the flood while crossing a swollen culvert.

No damage has been done in the Laidley township, but many farmers have suffered heavily.

There has been no Brisbane mail to hand since Thursday last, and the first train for five consecutive days ran yesterday from Ipswich to Murphy's Creek, where the passengers were compelled to walk nine miles to Spring Bluff station over the damaged portion of the line. Mr. Stanley, Chief Engineer, states that it will be quite two weeks before trains can run through to Toowoomba direct. The Chief Commissioner for Railways has just returned from an inspection of the line on the Main Range, and left this evening for Brisbane.

The weather is fine generally, but the creeks are still running, with strong and heavy freshes.

QUEENSLAND FLOODS. MANY HOMES ABANDONED.

Torrential Downpour Unabated.

BRISBANE, Feb. 5.—There is every likelihood of serious flooding in Queensland, as rains which have been falling heavily for the past ten days were unabated to-day. So serious has the position become that at 5 p.m. to-day a flood warning for Brisbane was issued, stating that a flood exceeding in height that of 1908 would be experienced. Acting on advice issued by the Harbourmaster this afternoon, the majority of the ships in the river made preparations for moving to safe anchorage at Pile Light.

Flooding occurred in the majority of the low-lying districts. The river at Murrumba was 40 feet over the bridge this morning, and was still rising three feet hourly. Crossbrook Creek reached its highest level since 1908, and houses were vacated. Moore reports the highest rise yet recorded.

Serious flooding is being experienced in the Kilcoy areas, and in the town itself the water has entered the main street. All trains are held up, and the township is isolated. The Stanley River reached its highest level for 23 years, and the water encroached on the railway station. A serious landslide occurred on the Marburg line at Caboolture, where 15 inches have fallen in the last 27 hours. Many families have abandoned their homes, and roads in places are 20 feet under water.

Buderim received the largest registration since 1803. The towns of Obiobi and Kenilworth are isolated, and several townships in the Canungra district are in the same predicament. The wildest night ever experienced at Montville was last night, when cyclonic winds lashed blinding rain, and eleven inches fell in 12 hours. The wharves at Bundaberg are submerged.

Thelma Oliver (4) was crossing a deep gully with her mother at Gingin last night, when she slipped and was washed away. Her body was recovered a mile downstream.

Appeal to Citizens.

The Minister for Labour and Industry (Mr. Sizer) to-night issued an appeal to the people of Brisbane to assist those who are in parlous positions by taking them temporarily into their homes. In Brisbane, one family escaped from their home at Swan Hill by making their exit through a fanlight. At Swan Hill the water is roof-high, and very few homes are tenanted. Two men, who attempted to swim to the rescue of a boat, narrowly escaped drowning, and three girls at a factory in

to the rescue of a boat, narrowly escaped drowning, and three girls at a factory in the vicinity had to be hurried to safety on improvised rafts. At Grantham, near Toowoomba, the flood waters have entered the main street, and the postmistress had to vacate the post office. Nambour is practically isolated, and many farmers have been rescued with difficulty. No trains will run in Brisbane after 10 o'clock to-night.

The flood waters at Maryborough are inches deep on the floor of the Grand Hotel. To-day's mail train for Sydney got through safely, but no train to Sydney via Kyogle will depart to-morrow. At Southport the water is running into shops, and communication with Brisbane is cut off.

TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Disorganisation in Brisbane.

BRISBANE, Feb. 5.—The tramway services in several routes in the city have been seriously disorganised to-day as a result of the flood waters, and trains to Pinkenba and Sandgate have been discontinued. An engine with a van attached overturned near Dakabin, 20 miles from Brisbane, this afternoon. Two passengers in the van escaped serious injury when the train toppled over a 12 foot embankment. The fireman had his right arm broken, but the driver escaped unhurt. Seventeen refugees from the Albion Flats in Brisbane are housed in the Exhibition Building, and goods and clothing are being supplied by a Brisbane firm under Government supervision. Many of these refugees have no hope of reaching their isolated homes and have only the clothes they are wearing.

Flood sweeps man to death *Hundreds in 10 centres flee homes*

A MAN was drowned yesterday, and hundreds of people were abandoning homes, in rising floodwaters at 10 South-east Queensland towns and cities last night.

By nightfall at least 250 flood refugees overflowed police stations, sheds, cane cutters' huts, and private homes within a 260-mile radius north and west of Brisbane.

Police and fishermen this morning will search for the body of Hugh Leonard, 22, of Sydney, who was swept to sea and drowned in the flood rapids of Currumundi Lake, near Caloundra, at 4.30 p.m. His small dinghy was whirled 200 yards across the bar into seas.

Leonard was swept from a rescuer's arms, 50 yards from the shore.

(Currumundi Lake is three miles north of Caloundra, 66 miles north of Brisbane.)

Leonard's two companions, Robert Reville, 19, of Caloundra, and Arthur Williams, 19, of Narrandera (N.S.W.), risked their lives in rescue attempts. Williams dragged non-swimmer Leonard from the boat as it swamped in the heavy seas but big waves washed Leonard from his grasp.

The immediate flood danger zone last night extended from Maryborough to Caloundra and west to Grantham.

Late last night the flood picture was:—

WEST

Grantham township, on the main Brisbane-Toowoomba highway, 66 miles west of Brisbane faced complete flooding from the swollen Sandy Creek.

Residents had moved belongings and abandoned their homes last night as water five feet deep flowed in the main street.

Properties of orchardists and

armers in places were two feet under water. The flood was reported to be the worst for 30 years.

At Ipswich (24 miles west of Brisbane, population 27,000), families in Marsden Parade vacated homes and withdrew their furniture.

Flooding of creeks and gullies in the Warwick district 159 miles south-west of Brisbane last night had closed most roads.

Twelve families were isolated at Killarney, more than 20 miles from Warwick.

NORTH

Flood waters from the Mary River at Gympie (106 miles north of Brisbane, population about 9000) last night inundated to a depth of five feet a block of business premises only 50 yards from the main street.

At 10 o'clock last night the wharves at Maryborough (167 miles north of Brisbane, population 15,000) were almost under flood.

Police sent squads of men to Granville, a suburban area, where 1000 people face flooding and isolation. Last night the city was isolated by road.

More than 100 people last night were billeted in cane barracks, sheds, and private homes between Maroochydore and Nambour.

May spill over dam. Page 3.