

[BY TELEGRAPH.]  
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

#### GREAT FLOOD AT TOOWOOMBA.

##### TOOWOOMBA, FRIDAY NIGHT.

A flood, altogether surpassing the record flood of Saturday last, occurred here this afternoon. It had been raining all day yesterday and last night, and there was a redoubled downpour to-day. The whole town soon assumed the guise of a red sea, water covering the streets, there being raging torrents in some places. The West Swamp quickly rose over Margaret and Russell streets. The bridges in the latter street are covered, the water being a foot higher than on Saturday. The current is so strong that the authorities stopped all traffic. Considerable damage has been done. The side of a house has been torn out. All the bridges are destroyed or rendered useless for traffic. The East Swamp is fully 4ft. higher than on Saturday. The water is nearly 2ft. over the Ruthven-street and Neil-street bridges. The fruit factory, Stirling's blacksmith works, M'Cook's stores, and other places are flooded. Great quantities of timber and coaks have been carried away.

##### QUEENTON, FRIDAY.

A grand concert was given here last evening in aid of the Flood Relief Fund. Austin Craven, the tenor, sang with success. A sum of £80 was realised.

##### ADELAIDE, FRIDAY.

To-day Councillor Robertson, secretary of the Queensland floods' relief fund, forwarded to the Mayor of Brisbane a cheque for £400, being the second donation from South Australia of this amount. About £100 of it was collected by the *South Australian Register*.

##### MUDGEES, FRIDAY.

A public meeting was held last night to express sympathy with and to raise funds in aid of the Queensland flood sufferers. Resolutions were passed expressing sympathy, and subscription lists were started. Upwards of £50 was collected.

## THE TOOWOOMBA FLOOD.

(From the Gazette of the 20th February.)

Yesterday it was hard to realise that Toowoomba had just suffered the greatest flood ever experienced. The fierce rivers which had a few hours previously overflowed so large an area were now shrunk to their insignificant channels, and bubbled along in puny rills. They had, however, left their handiwork in hundreds of places overhead, and the havoc wrought, more especially to municipal property, will take many thousands of pounds to make good.

With one or two remarkable exceptions every bridge in the district has been injured, many to a most serious extent. The brand new structure in Neil-street has collapsed hopelessly, and must be wholly rebuilt. The bridge in Herries-street East, that is the newer and larger portion of it, has been left standing in midstream, great chasms being gouged out on each side. The same process was repeated to a smaller extent in the James-street West Bridge. An extraordinary change in the stream has been effected here, a big sand bank taking the place of a large waterhole. Beyond some washing away of the banks little damage was done to either the Russell-street or the Ruthven-street Bridge, but that at Klein-street has completely disappeared, and nearly every other structure across the streams came out of the ordeal with more or less injury.

Every one of the Chinese gardens suffered seriously, on an average about two-thirds of their products being swept away without, in most cases, leaving the owners the advantage of a deposit of fertile mud. The inundated portions were either swept bare or burdened with a deposit of barren sand.

The damage to the railway line in every direction is very serious, although it is stated the landslips on the range are not likely to prove so obstructive as at first supposed. Great holes have been washed out of the bank at the "Fork Bridge," leaving some of the piles decidedly shaky looking. The injury along the western line cannot be so extensive as supposed, seeing that Mr. Stark intends taking a train along to, or rather towards, Dalby to-day. He expects by transshipping at the Jondaryan Bridge to be able to rail it the rest of the way.

A gentleman who came in from Cawdor on Saturday gives a lamentable account of the roads. The bridge at O'Brien's, about 4½ miles from Toowoomba, is rendered incapable, as is that at Cranley, in which vicinity also two culverts are washed away. Here too a large hole is scooped out right across the road. The approaches to the Wetalla Bridge are impassable, and almost as much may be said of the whole road.

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The force of the stream may be gauged from the fact that it wrenched all the water mains asunder where they cross the West Swamp in Stephens-street, and up till 8 o'clock last night the town water was out off. By indefatigable exertions all the pipes except those from Kearney's Springs were spliced and put in order again by 7 o'clock yesterday evening. It will be some time before the Kearney's Springs service can be restored.

We learn that Murphy's Creek attained a great height, and that many cattle were carried down the stream. Stories of slips from the range above the town are numerous. We hear of a huge slice of Picnic Point having moved on to lower quarters. Mr. Hoppermann's house, on the other side of Mr. Boyce's, was carried down about thirty yards and deposited with its roof on the ground. Mr. D. L. Brown's summer residence, which was partially displaced in 1890, is again threatened, huge cracks having opened around. In fact, cracks extend all along the eastern slope of the range for miles.

Fortunately the damage sustained by the Black Bridge is not so serious as was at first anticipated, and the majority of the piles have still a depth of about 15ft. in good hard clay. Still the waters were so powerful as to bend the bridge a trifle in the middle and to inflict such other damage as to render the utmost caution in crossing imperative.

The neighbouring bridge, known as the Fork Bridge, came nearer destruction than the other. The approaches on both sides were damaged considerably, but timely attention has decreased the danger of a collapse. Standing just above the western approach the most serious damage effected by the water is observable. For many feet the whole of the bank of the creek, always considered completely safe and firm, has been removed, and the first tier of piles left almost unsupported. A clean break in the embankment has taken place. A ravine has been washed out midway between the two bridges, extending from the culverts draining the street leading past the Christmas Estate and the creek, and to the assistance of the river that must have dashed down here is due the more extensive depredations effected on the Fork Bridge by the flood.

## STORM AT TOOWOOMBA.

A FLOOD IN THE TOWN.

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

BRISBANE, Sunday.

A heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by a strong westerly wind, passed over Toowoomba to-day, lasting about half an hour. It was succeeded by a heavy fall of hail, about the size of marbles. The hail greatly damaged trees and windows; 98 points being registered. All the creeks are running bankers. The water at Russell-street was 4ft 6in over the bridge, and extended from the railway entrance to the intersection of Russell and Ruthven streets. The railway yards were flooded, and the stocks of storekeepers in Russell-street were greatly damaged, the water entering several buildings to a depth of 4ft.

The following estimates of damage have been made:—McDonald and Quinn, saddlers, £500; J. P. Dowd, tailor, £500; P. Chrissen, Jeweller, £300; Dominion Milling Company, 200 bags of wheat damaged; W.L. Penfold, grocer, lost stock valued at £400; A. Winterbarn, tailor, £70.

The cellars of several hotels and other buildings were flooded. Numerous other premises were also affected by the flood waters, including several in Ruthven-street. Several Chinese gardens were washed down the creek. Hail was lying about the streets until a late hour, but the waters rapidly subsided.

Heavy falls of hail were experienced at Middle Ridge, close to Toowoomba, where the gardens were greatly damaged and the maize crop injured. The total extent of the damage there is not yet known.

## **TERRIFIC STORM IN TOO- WOOMBA.**

**HEAVY DAMAGE FROM HAIL AND  
FLOOD WATERS.**

**NARROW ESCAPE FROM  
DROWNING.**

**FRUIT CROP SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.**

**GOOD THUNDER SHOWERS IN  
OTHER PLACES.**

**TOOWOOMBA.** December 29.

About 6 o'clock to-night a storm of unprecedented severity swept over Toowoomba, causing damage amounting to several thousands of pounds. The storm came up very quickly, and was attended by vivid lightning and heavy peals of thunder. A heavy wind blew through-out, and hail, as large as pigeon's eggs, fell, causing havoc to the grape and other fruit crops in the suburbs of Toowoomba. The hail smashed the windows in nearly every house in the city and suburbs, and also in the shops, and in many cases pierced the roofs of shops and houses. The majority of the business places in town were more or less flooded, and damage caused which cannot be estimated until daylight. The heavy rain which fell soon had the creeks running bankers, and the water from the roofs caused the street channels to overflow very quickly. The water swept across the footpaths and streets, tearing up the metal and asphalt. The storekeepers near the intersection of the East and West Swamps had a trying time. At E. Latchford's store the water raced through the building and seriously damaged the bulk of the stock, which consisted chiefly of groceries. The hail also piled itself in the shop, and on the footpath in front it was over 2ft. deep. The two creeks meet near Latchford's, and the low-lying land near by was inundated. Latchford's cart horses were in a yard at the rear of the shop, and were up to their necks in the flood. The employees at his store worked in water over their waists to rescue groceries, and to keep the horses from being caught in the main stream and washed away. A few yards further down, at the junction of the two creeks, the stream of rushing water was fully 75 yards wide, and carried away fences, &c., in the neighbourhood. Some outbuildings near this spot were nearly under water, only the roofs being visible. The water coming down the West Swamp

water coming down the West Swamp completely submerged most of the street bridges, Margaret and Russell street bridges being chiefly affected. Margaret-street was about 3ft. under the flood waters, which extended for about 80 yards on either side of the swamp. At Russell-street several shops are erected on the bridge over the swamp, and the occupants had a very trying time, the water rising completely over the counters in all of them. The flood over this bridge was so deep that several persons who endeavoured to cross on horseback had to allow their horses to swim. The water extended to within 30 yards of the Ruthven-street intersection with Russell-street, and the police officers had a busy time preventing persons from venturing into the dangerous area. Dowd's drapery shop, which is situated next to the Russell-street bridge, was deluged, cases being washed out into the street. The water in this place was about 4ft. deep. The lower portions of the People's Palace and other buildings on both sides of Russell-street were also flooded out. In some of the buildings nearer Ruthven-street the water was only about 1ft. deep in the shops, but a little lower down, in the Criterion and National Hotels and other buildings, it rose right over the bars and counters. The lower portion of the Palace Building is let as shops, which are occupied by N. Green (chemist), A. Winterburn (tailor), and M. Smith (mercantile). These were all flooded, and the windows facing Russell-street, being unable to withstand the pressure of water coming through from the back of the shops, burst outward, and the goods from the windows and also from the interior of the buildings floated out into the street. On the north side of the thoroughfare business premises were similarly damaged, the windows being smashed in by the pressure of the water, and the goods being washed out into the street. They were carried away by the flood down the creek towards Gowrie. In one of these Russell-street shops there were two women, and the force of the water eventually caused the back portion of the building to collapse. The women, terror-stricken, rushed into the flooded street. A man from the National Hotel assisted them to a cab, which a plucky driver drove into the swirling waters. In another case a man endeavoured to cross the flood when it was at its highest. He succeeded in get-

endeavoured to cross the flood when it was at its highest. He succeeded in getting half way through, when he was overcome, and was dragged out in a half-drowned condition. Besides these incidents several of the spectators, in endeavours to push their way as far as possible to the edge of the flood, slipped into the water, but escaped with a wetting and a liberal application of slush. Fortunately no lives were lost. The damage in the business premises cannot be estimated to-night, although the stock of most of the places was ruined. At the General Hospital the windows on the south side, which was exposed to the storm, were smashed.

Heavy rain fell at Cambooya, but no hail was experienced. Rain was still falling here late to-night.