

STORMS SWEEP TWO STATES
Thousands of Pounds Damage

BUILDINGS SHATTERED; CROPS RUINED

Several persons had narrow escapes, and damage totalling many thousands of pounds was caused by the severe storms which swept the Darling Downs, the coastal areas, and Northern New South Wales on Wednesday night.

INVALID'S HOME UNROOFED

Gatton Buildings Wrecked

HELPLESS IN RAIN

CHIMNEY FALLS ON BED

Toowoomba Couple's Escape

Roofs Torn Off At Wyreema

WILL DIRECT N.S.W. CONSERVATORIUM OFFER

MR. BAINTON ACCEPTS OFFER

TIME FOR STORMS

Flooding Not Likely

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BRISBANE SUBURBS

RAINING DAYS

BABY BORN IN AMBULANCE
Engine Stalled in Creek
FLOOD EPISODE

SOUTHPORT, January 4. A baby was born in an ambulance car which had stalled in a flooded creek crossing at Upper Tallaburgers during a heavy storm shortly before midnight last night.

Mrs. Killalee was attended by Beaser Frank Mitchell, of the Southport ambulance, who with Beaser Victor Dux, was transporting her to a hospital in Southport when the car struck a boulder in the flooded creek crossing and the engine stalled.

The ambulance car submerged, the baby was washed away by the flood waters, which were continuing to rise rapidly, the ambulance bearers secured some wire rope, and lashed the car to fencing posts on the creek bank.

During the night, the flood ropes prevented it from being washed away.

Owing to the floods the ambulance bearers were unable to get into telephonic communication with Southport until 6.30 a.m. to-day, when Superintendent P. Ruby and a nurse, Mrs. R. Bourke, left in another ambulance car for Upper Tallaburgers.

The woman and her new-born babe were wrapped in warm blankets on the ambulance stretcher, and the bearers, with the assistance of Mr. Killalee and Mr. E. Waters, who lives nearby, carried her through water up to her chest to the creek bank and thence to the residence of Mr. E. Waters, where she was made as comfortable as possible for the night.

Realising that the car was in grave danger of being washed away by the flood waters, which were continuing to rise rapidly, the ambulance bearers secured some wire rope, and lashed the car to fencing posts on the creek bank.

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WOOL UP AGAIN
5 P.C. Rise
SYDNEY SALE

SYDNEY, January 4. The wool market continued to show improved prices to-day, there being a further general advance of 5 per cent.

The collection was good, comprising 10,048 bales, and 937 bales were sold at auction, in addition to 1263 privately.

The demand was strong from all sections, with Yorkshire predominating.

The average price of wool in Sydney during the first two days this week was £23.1/4 per bale, or 19d. per lb.

PRICES WILL GO HIGHER

The general feeling among the buyers in Sydney is that notwithstanding the relatively high prices ruling at present a higher level will be reached before the close of the season.

ALIEN TO SPIRIT OF GAME

Mass Barracking

LONDON, January 4. The "Daily Telegraph," in a leading article, says that the defence of barracking will not persuade us that it is desirable.

M.C.C. TOUR Receipts £100,000

LONDON, January 3. The "Daily Mail" discloses that the Marylebone Cricket Club's balance sheet, which will be published in April, shows that the receipts from the Australian tour last year totalled £100,000.

TREASON ISSUE CAUSES RACIAL CLASH

LONDON, January 3. The Brussels correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says that in order to be present when the Cabinet decides to renege on the Government's promise to those who were convicted of treason during the war, he will be reinstated.

COUNCIL COMEDY AT MACKAY

MACKAY, January 4. The cleverest of the Mackay Council factions reached a crisis to-night, with a comical turn.

BRADMAN AS LOCHNESS MONSTER

LONDON, January 3. Cumberworth, the "New-Chronicle" cartoonist, has drawn Bradman as the Loch Ness monster swallowing a bowler.

RAILWAY OFFICIALS CHARGED

PARIS, January 4. As a sequel to the Legny railway disaster, on Christmas Eve, charges of imprudence, inefficiency, negligence, and non-observance of the regulations, involving loss of life, have been preferred against M. Merlin (chief engineer), Marielot (assistant engineer), Montagnon (workshop foreman), Mougou (workshop foreman), Piemont (assistant foreman), and Caron (inspecting mechanic), while the driver and fireman of the Strasbourg express, which crashed into the stationary Nancy express, have been charged with culpable negligence.

SEQUEL TO FRENCH DISASTER

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ALDERMEN FAIL TO ATTEND

MACKAY, January 4. The cleverest of the Mackay Council factions reached a crisis to-night, with a comical turn.

NAME EXPLOITED

LONDON, January 3. The "Daily Mail" says that Adelle Suzanne Lengien, the famous French tennis player, is annoyed at the exploitation of her name by manufacturers, and has registered it as a trade mark to prevent misrepresentation.

Dollar and Franc

LONDON, January 4. The United States dollar is quoted at 4.10 to 4.10 1/2 sterling, compared with 4.06 1/2 yesterday.

Another special meeting has been called for to-morrow night.

INQUIRY INTO TEA PRICE
Federal Threat To Reimpose Duties
IS PUBLIC BEING EXPLOITED?

CANBERRA, January 4. The Federal Government is continuing its inquiry into the price of tea. If the investigation produces evidence of exploitation of the public immediate action will be taken to reimpose the 10 per cent primage duty on tea, and the 4d a pound duty, which was reduced to 3d in the Budget.

In making this announcement to-day the Controller-General of Customs (Mr. Abbott) stated that he hopes to present a report to the Minister (Mr. T. W. White) within a month.

The Government is disappointed that its remission in primage duty, amounting to a loss of revenue of £330,000, have not cheapened the retail price of tea. It is determined to ascertain why no reduction has been made and why, in some cases, an actual increase has taken place in the last few weeks.

As a result of preliminary investigations it has been decided to widen the scope of the inquiry to include an examination of the quantities and prices of the various grades of tea imported by each large merchant during the past three years. It is hoped to ascertain whether any effect of the recent limitation of exports by tea-producing countries has caused a firming of prices.

The Government is satisfied that this may affect some change in trade conditions but not to the extent of justifying the retention, or an increase, of the old price.

The position has been complicated by the fact that importers use a large number of different brands and grades of tea in building up popular brands. The investigation is being conducted independently in each State by an officer under the direct supervision of the State Controller of Customs.

When the results of the inquiry are completed its findings will be forwarded to Canberra and will form a comprehensive report which will be handed to the Government. This probably will be done at the end of this month.

Retailers Warned

The increase of 1d. per lb. in the price of first quality proprietary lines

MISSION BOAT WRECKED

When the Yarrabah mission launch, Elam, sprang a leak and sank in a storm off Cape Grafton, out from Cairns, the crew was stranded on a mile through a wild and shark infested sea to reach the shore.

Black Crew Swim Mile To Shore

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States on the Dole

ADELAIDE, January 4. With the object of securing unity among the smaller States for a determination to be made at the conference of Premiers in Melbourne next month, the Chief Secretary of Tasmania (Mr. C. James) is in Adelaide conferring with South Australian Ministers.

Financial Relations Must Be Reviewed

Mr. James said to-day that the time had come for a complete review of the financial relations between the Commonwealth and the States. They must hammer away for a return to nothing less than the original conditions of Federation, as the States are the Commonwealth from direct taxation, and the other fields which it had invaded in contravention of the intentions of the framers of the Constitution.

Loan Conversions

MELBOURNE, January 4. It is the intention of the Victorian representatives to the Premiers' Conference next month to protest vigorously against the conversion of loans of other states in the preference of overseas loans. Their case will indicate that Victoria has secured an annual benefit of only £100,000 as a result of a reduction of £230,000 that was first promised.

Victorian Premier's Criticism

The Premier (Sir Stanley Argyle) said he intended to protest strongly against the conversion of the Commonwealth in allowing preference being given to another State at the last conference. Victoria was suffering from great injustice through the action of the Loan Council. The Commonwealth now had control of the finances of the States, which was never contemplated at Federation and was dictating to the States on financial matters.

Life Only on Earth

LONDON, January 1. The earth is the only living member in the majestic eternal march, lasting millions of years of the ghostly world round the sun. Sir James Jeans told children at a Christmas Lecture.

Scientist's Opinion

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TREASURES INSURED FOR £2,500,000

LONDON, January 3. The British art exhibition of pictures, tapestries and jewellery, at which his Majesty the King is the biggest exhibitor, will open at the Royal Academy on January 6. The exhibits are insured for £2,500,000.

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