

RICHARD BURGESS

Burgess prisoner number 4533, was been released from St Helena Island a prison in Moreton Bay on 30 November 1898, where he had served a term of imprisonment for a violent assault.

He was 36 years of age, a native of America of very powerful and athletic mould.

His prison description gave his height as 5ft 6¼ in, and his weight at 11st 10lbs.

Formerly a sailor, he had a long criminal record in the Australian colonies.

Some said he certainly seemed taller, and his weight must be fully 12st.

His beard was brownish, inclined to be sandy; his eyes grey, deep-set, and restless, his nose slightly out of shape, his forehead fairly high, and the top of his head almost entirely bald.

Just above the forehead there is a light tuft of hair. He was at times a very nervous person, and the sardonic smile so often spoken of is an involuntary twitching of the muscles at the left corner of the mouth.

His voice was low, and with a peculiar treble quality.

In court he was dressed in clothing supplied to him, but afterwards he was given his own clothes to wear for identification.



9/01/1899

News has been received here that the man Burgess has been charged at Dalby with being concerned in the Gatton tragedy.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER. GATTON, Saturday, 3 p.m.

The information published in the "Courier" this morning concerning the arrest at the Bunya Mountains was received by the Commissioner of Police last night, and Sub-Inspector Durham left for Dalby to-day to take charge of the case. The person arrested is, I learn, named Burgess, who was concerned in an assault on an elderly woman at Leyburn early in last year, and who has recently been discharged from prison, where he served a sentence in connection with the matter.

Burgess, it may be remembered, was fired at by a son of the woman assaulted, and wounded in the arm. To-day I learn that Burgess was charged before Major Fanning. P.M. at the Dalby Police Court, with being concerned in the Gatton tragedy.

Perhaps it is possible to attach too much importance to the arrest, but the police considered that the conduct of Burgess was sufficiently serious to warrant his detention.

9/01/1899

Received January 8, at 5 p.m. Brisbane, January 8. Richard Burgess, aged 60, has been arrested at Dalby on a charge of complicity in the Gatton murders. He was remanded for

eight days. He offered a desperate resistance, and it took four policemen to secure him. He was making across country, and refused to give an account of himself during the Christmas holidays.

10/01/1899

Sergeant Tom King takes a constable and tracker, with a roving commission. Burgess was tramping from Brisbane with a tent and an ordinary swag. He is about 5ft. 6in. in height, a thick-set man, a native of America, and aged about 35 years.

10/01/1899

Gatton is full of strangers visiting the scene of the tragedy.

A mild sensation was caused at Dalby yesterday, when it became known that a man had been arrested in the vicinity of Bunya Mountains on suspicion of being connected with the murders.

The police first proceeded on information obtained through a selector living in the locality.

Constable Gillies and the accused came through the bush together from the direction of Crows' Nest. Accused spoke a good deal about the murders.

He said the eldest girl Murphy was a great flirt, and it was time she was put off the road. He refused to give the constable his name or to answer any questions.

Accused made a desperate fight, and would have disabled the constable had not assistance arrived.

The man was lodged in the lockup last night, and brought up this morning and remanded for eight days.

He gave the name of Richard Burgess.

It is not known what evidence the police have, but outsiders do not attach much importance to the arrest.

The present arrest and the news of the Oxley tragedy are leading people to hope that the perpetrators of both murders are strangers to the district, and not local men.

On all sides willingness is now expressed to assist the police with men and horses.

A house-to-house inquiry has been in progress for some days past. McNeill, the brother-in-law of the victims, left for Toowoomba on Thursday and returned to Gatton yesterday afternoon.

Later.

It is intended by the police to confront Burgess with the persons who were spoken to by a man at Moran's slip-panel on the night of the murder.

The police to-day arrested a swagman at Bundaberg.

A number of cartridges were found in his possession, which fitted a revolver found under a tank. He admitted that the weapon was his.

11/01/1899

Prisoner Burgess was brought up yesterday before the local bench.

Inspector Durham, who took charge of the case, formally withdrew the charge.

The prisoner was escorted to Toowoomba last night, and was rearrested on a charge of

stealing a saddle. The police here still think there is a possibility of the accused being connected with the Gatton crime. It is affirmed that he was within twenty miles of the scene of the murder on the following day, 27th December. Dr. Fullerton, at the request of Inspector Durham, examined the prisoner's body, but found no scratches or bruises which would lead to the supposition that the accused had taken part in the Gatton outrage. Mounted-constable Gillies, of Dalby, who arrested Burgess, proceeded to Gatton yesterday with horses to assist the police in the search.

12/01/1899

This morning a gang of men are searching under a large culvert near the scene of the tragedy, with a view to ascertaining if firearms or clothing are there. It was at this culvert that sounds were heard about 2 o'clock on the morning following the murders. The water has now evaporated, leaving mud, which is being carefully turned over with shovels. The local searching continues meanwhile, and every endeavour is being made to ascertain whether Burgess was here on the day of the tragedy. One girl at a hotel in Gatton believes she can identify the portrait in the "Observer" as that of a man who was here on Boxing Day.

The police were busy yesterday and to-day making inquiries respecting the movements of Burgess in the district. Two persons in the neighbourhood of Helidon have identified his photograph as that of a man whom they saw on the 28th December, and who was travelling by the back tracks. At one house he called and asked for food, which was supplied him, and his movements generally were suspicious.

Too much importance should not, however, be attached to the preference of Burgess to travel quietly and alone. He is a peculiar man. Some one has described him as a "hatter." From what I can gather there will not be much difficulty in placing his whereabouts on Boxing Day and on the day following the murder.

So far, however, as is known, there is absolutely nothing to connect him with the crime. He may merely be the creature of unfounded suspicion.

LATEST BY WIRE. GATTON, 9.30 p.m.

Portraits of Burgess have been shown in town by the police, and Miss Molloy, at Gilbert's Hotel, thinks she recognises the portrait as that of a swagsman who, with a companion, was treated in the hotel on Boxing Night, about 7 o'clock, by a young man named Bert Johnson, formerly yardman at Gaul's Hotel, but now employed by Mr. Waugh, a grazier, near Grantham.

The swagsmen said they had come a long way, and the man whose portrait is believed to have been recognised said he had not had a drink for a long time. I saw Miss Molloy to-night, and she says she believes she could recognise the man if she saw him again.

12/01/1899

A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR.

BRISBANE, January 11.

The police are busy making inquiries about Burgess. At present there is nothing to connect him with the murder.

Several people express the opinion that the portrait of Burgess is that of a man who was in Gatton on Boxing Day. Burgess stated to the police that if he had been armed he

would have made a more desperate resistance at the time of his arrest.

13/01/1899

It is stated now that Burgess can be identified as having been seen in Gatton on 10th December.

13/01/1899

The police are busy this morning taking down the statements of the townspeople who saw a man resembling Burgess, shown in the photographs, at Christmas time. The photographs arrived from Toowoomba last night. Several persons can identify him as being here.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER.

GATTON, Thursday, 5 p.m.

I have this afternoon been shown a letter from Ipswich from a well-known resident there, who states that the photographs of Burgess were identified by Ipswich police as those of a man who had been hanging about that town. The letter states that two Ipswich residents also identified the photographs as of a man they had seen in Gatton on 10th December. If Burgess was here on 10th December, he cannot, of course, be in any way suspected of connection with the Oxley tragedy. These statements are important, and no doubt will be fully investigated.

THE BURGESS CASE. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)

DALBY, January 12.

Since the removal of Burgess interest has somewhat abated in the Gatton tragedy, although the revelations in connection with the other crimes have given rise to considerable unrest and alarm, especially in the outlying districts.

The people here, while recognising the suspicious circumstances in connection with the Burgess case, do not consider him concerned in the Gatton affair.

The majority hold the belief that the murder was the act of persons acquainted with the locality, who bore the Murphy's' ill will. It is understood that the prisoner when arrested carried cartridges of the same calibre as those found at Gatton, but no weapon.

The public are asking why the prisoner was discharged when there were suspicious circumstances strong against him.

14/01/1899

Brisbane, 13th January. A settler at Toowoomba states that Richard Burgess, the man recently arrested at Dalby on suspicion of being concerned in the Gatton murder, came to his house for food and told him that two women and a man had been murdered, and that the man was shot. This statement was made before it was known to other persons that the murders had been committed.

14/01/1899

Mr. Okeden is expected to return here to-day, when probably Burgess will be brought down.

Photographs of Lee have arrived here, and inquiries are being made to ascertain if he was known in Gatton. Miss Molloy, at Gilbert's Hotel has seen the photographs of Burgess taken since his arrest. She does not believe that they are those of either of the men who

were there on Boxing Night.

BURGESS'S MOVEMENTS TRACED

HELIDON, January 13.

Inquiries in this neighbourhood settle the question that the man Burgess was within three miles of Helidon on the 29th December. He called at Hamlyn's Place and got food, as previously reported, and also called at the house of a farmer named Berg. One of the members of Berg's household recognises the photograph of Burgess as that of a man who called there on the Thursday following the tragedy and said, concerning the murder, that Michael Murphy had been shot through the head. This was before the exhumation and post-mortem examination by Drs. Wray and Von Lossberg, when the bullet was found in Murphy's head.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER.

GATTON, Friday, 5 pm.

Mr. Parry-Okeden, Commissioner of Police, returned to Gatton this morning, as I have already advised by wire.

The Commissioner has gone carefully into the recent developments in the case, and on the whole regards the situation as hopeful. The police out Tent Hill way, here, and at Helidon seem to be focussing their energies on the movements of Burgess, and his possible connection with the article discovered at the culvert on the Tent Hill road, near Moran's sliprails. In this latter work the utmost energy is shown, and the inquiries being made are thoroughly searching.

This discovery in a spot, which was indicated as being the scene of an incident probably, connected with the tragedy has been the subject of universal discussion here. It is somewhat remarkable that the search in the locality was not made thorough at the outset.

To-day I visited the Helidon district, as indicated in my telegram of this afternoon, riding up by bicycle along the Grantham route. There is really very little to add to my wire, but the wire shows that there is pretty fair proof that Burgess is the man who spread the report there, before the exhumation, that Michael Murphy was shot through the head. If Burgess was out of Gatton when the bodies were found, and had no opportunity of hearing details, the statement is obviously important; but it is only fair to say that the suspicion that poor Michael was shot as well as clubbed was pretty freely discussed here on the day of the funeral, if not on the day the murders were discovered. Too much importance should not be attached to the matter, in the light of present information. Yet the woman to whom the statement was made, a member of the household of a farmer residing about three miles from Helidon, had no difficulty in identifying the photographs of Burgess as those of the man who mentioned the circumstance to her. Burgess is no stranger in the Helidon district. He worked for some time for a Mr. Crotty, a farmer; about two miles from the Railway station, and had some local reputation as a draughts player.

Young Mr. Crotty, on seeing the photograph of Burgess, at once recognised it as that of the man who had worked for his father. Burgess was known by another name, and his association with Helidon was before he was sent to gaol over the Leyburn case.

In a former letter I mentioned that the movements of Burgess in the Helidon district recently were, to say the least, peculiar. There is not much to add on that point. After getting food at Hamlyn's he went away as though towards Gatton, but then doubled back,

and away up Flagstone Creek, after putting a respectable distance between himself and the house where he was so kindly treated. The place where Burgess camped on that night has been found, but nothing was discovered to associate him with Gatton.

LATEST BY WIRE.

GATTON, January 13, 9.29 p.m.

Concerning the Dalby rumour that Burgess had cartridges in his possession when arrested, the police here say they have not been advised of it, and are inclined to doubt the report.

14/01/1899

Burgess was undoubtedly within three miles of Helidon on December 29. He called at Hamlyn's place and got food. He also called at the house of a farmer named Berg. One of the members of Berg's household recognised a photograph of Burgess as that of a man who called there on the Thursday following the tragedy.

He said Michael Murphy had been shot through the head. This was before the exhumation and the post mortem examination by Drs. Wray and Von Lossberg, when the bullet was found in Murphy's head.

16/01/1899

Brisbane; January 14. Burgess has admitted to the police that he camped on the night of the murder close to the water-hole where the discovery was made. His movements up to the time of his arrest are being traced.

16/01/1899

There was some report that Burgess, now in custody at Toowoomba on a charge of larceny of a saddle, had gone back from Gatton towards Laidley between Christmas and New Year, but the police have not been able to find any foundation for the report so far. It is, however, probable, seeing the remarkable way in which he has doubled on his tracks, that Burgess, after leaving the vicinity of Gatton, went towards Laidley and then up Helidon way by the back tracks, and then followed Flagstone Creek up and crossed the range.

16/01/1899

Brisbane Jan. 15. The police have evidence that Burgess worked in Gatton district a couple of years ago. (Received Jan. 16, 9.35 a.m.)

17/01/1899

No new developments are reported in connection with the Oxley murder. The man Burgess is to be brought up at the Police Court, Toowoomba, to-day, and again remanded.

It is stated that Burgess made a sturdy resistance when arrested at the Bunya Mountains.

17/01/1899

The police, upon making inquiries, find that Burgess is identical with a man named Burke, who, prior to the Leyburn incident, was charged with indecent assault and burglary at Kilkivan, and discharged. It is stated that Burgess was at the Ipswich railway platform on 31st December. The police in Ipswich yesterday made a house-to-house visit,

inquiring for firearms.

Endeavours were also made to trace certain purchases, which probably Burgess made there.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER. GATTON, Monday, 5 p.m.

The man Burgess will be brought up at Toowoomba again to-morrow and remanded. So far it is very uncertain when he will be brought to Gatton; probably not until the police are prepared to go on with a more serious charge against him, whenever that may be. The Burgess record is altogether bad, and he has been known to the police for a long time as a dangerous man.

The searching inquiries made in Ipswich regarding Burgess may arise from the fact that a well-known resident of this town saw a man whom he believes to be Burgess on the Ipswich railway platform on the night of the 31st December, and was talking to him. Burgess certainly was at Helidon on the 29th December, but there is no lesson why he should not have travelled to Ipswich and back by goods train.

Concerning the charge brought against the man Burke at Kilkivan, prior to his assault on the old lady at Leyburn, the police have no difficulty in fixing the defendant in that case as Burgess. Whether he was connected with the Gatton tragedy remains to be seen, but there is no doubt that he is a fellow with an inclination to molest women. His resistance when Constable Gillies went to arrest him at the Bunya Mountains stamps Burgess, or Burke, as a pretty desperate character. He had filled his "Billy" with stones, and with them and a stout stick he bailed up and made a sturdy fight. Constable Gillies did not want to injure his man, and getting the assistance of two other persons managed to take Burgess in the rear. Mr. Walker, who was first with the constable, getting behind him and seizing him. The prisoner, it is said, lamented the circumstance that he had no firearms. He assured the constable that if he was otherwise armed he would not be taken very easily. From what I hear a very mild account was given of the encounter in the first instance. When he was overcome Burgess obstinately refused to give any account of himself.

To-day a lad, aged about 18 or 19 years, reported to the police that he had seen a strange man answering somewhat to the description of Burgess at Deep Gully on Saturday, 31st December. The man asked for a "fill" of tobacco, and was smoking a rather remarkable pipe. He was going to the farm of a Mr. Neindorff, and said that he was looking for a job.

A middle aged man also had an interview with the police. He works at clearing and other bush occupations, and was at a Gatton hotel to-day, and said that he could tell something of the murder if he liked to speak. He was promptly introduced to Inspector Urquhart, but the result of the meeting I have not been able to gather at the time of writing.

Inquiries lead to the belief that the person who stated that he saw a man like Burgess at the Ipswich Railway Station on the 31st December was mistaken. A young fellow, too, who was questioned this afternoon, says that the man whom he saw had a felt hat with a strap round it, while Burgess, wore a hat with the ordinary narrow band.

THE BURGESS CASE A FALSE RUMOUR. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)
DALBY. January 16

In connection with the rumour about cartridges being found on Burgess, though it came from good authority in the first instance, the police here state that none were found. The

revelations from the Kilkivan district call to mind the scare occasioned among German settlers in the Blenheim district, Laidley, about the beginning of last year, when a man entered the bed rooms of two or three houses and took to the scrub in the daytime. He was caught by the residents, and subsequently let go. It was reported here on Friday night by the passengers on the midnight train that five arrests in connection with the Gatton tragedy had taken place.

BURGESS AT KILKIVAN PREVIOUS CHARGES AND ACQUITTALS. ("Gympie Times," Saturday.)

A rather surprising revelation awaited a number of Gympie readers of this week's "Queenslander," in which the photograph appears of the man Burgess, who was arrested recently at Dalby, and whose movements are being inquired into by the police. The photo represents a man of identical appearance with a prisoner who appeared before the Gympie District Court, held by Judge Miller, on 8th March last, under the name of Patrick Burke, on two charges of indecent assault at Kilkivan on 11th February, on one Annie Jane Ray, a widow, and the other of housebreaking at the same place on the same night. During the hearing of the first charge, Mrs. Ray gave evidence to the effect that she was in bed at her home in Kilkivan at about midnight on 11th February, when she heard some one about the house. She called out, but got no answer, and later on saw the door open, little by little, and saw something on the floor, which crawled along. When it got to the bedside it rose up, and Mrs. Ray saw it was a man. She asked who it was, and he replied "Whilst, it's me." The man then seized the witness by the two wrists, and got into her bed. Witness was screaming, and called out "Willie," and the man immediately jumped out of the bed and went out of the room.

She swore the prisoner was the man, though she had never seen him before. She further stated she could not be mistaken in his identity, because his face was so close to hers. The prisoner, however, was found not guilty on this charge. On the second-of-housebreaking-the arresting constable gave evidence of having heard the prisoner say, while he was on a public-house veranda, that Queensland was a big colony with a small population, and it was surely able to keep a pauper or two, and if people would not give to him he would take it from them. He also said, "You cannot blame me, can you?"

The constable had had him under surveillance for about four hours that night, on account of his suspicious movements. At the close of the case for the prosecution his Honour the Judge pointed out that no intention to commit a felony or entry had been proved. He therefore instructed the jury to bring in a formal verdict of "not guilty," which was accordingly done, and the prisoner discharged. Burke's arrest caused considerable excitement at Kilkivan at the time. A correspondent, writing at the period stated - "A baker's dozen of burglarious entrances in one night is not a bad record for a small township of Kilkivan's pretensions, yet such was the number of attempts more or less successfully perpetrated on the night of Friday last (11th February) Early on Saturday morning the residents were all astir relating their various adventures to one another, with the result that after carefully searching any likely hiding places in and around the town, Constable McLaughlin proceeded to take a more lengthened patrol, and was successful in running the culprit to earth. The description given by all persons who had been able to either see or feel the marauder left no doubt but that what he was a stranger who had walked into town that afternoon. From some of his actions it would appear that robbery alone was not his motive, and he appears to have made a most cowardly and dastardly

assault upon more than one of the female occupants of the houses he visited. In small townships like Kilkivan, and on various settlements scattered far and wide throughout the Australian bush, it is often a matter of necessity that many of the women are left unprotected by their bread winners, and a wretch who would attempt to interfere with them in their loneliness, as seems to have been done in this instance, deserves the severest punishment."

Another correspondent wrote that Burke was very violent and refractory, and the constable had to get two employees from Woolooga station to assist him to convey his man to the Kilkivan lockup.

Burke was in Gympie for a few days about the time of the February flood, and carried about with him a bag containing tinkers' instruments. At that period, however, as at the time of his trial at the District Court, he was clean shaven with the exception of his moustache, while in the "Queenslander" photograph Burgess has a beard. Burke subsequently journeyed from Gympie to Kilkivan.

17/01/1899

The Gatton police have found that Burgess is identical with Burke, who prior to the Leyburn incident was charged with indecent assault at Kilkivan and was discharged. It is reported that five arrests were made on Friday in connection with the Gatton murders. Burgess will be brought before the Toowoomba Police Court to-morrow and further remanded.

It appears that the police began inquiries concerning him in consequence of a resident of Gatton saying that he had seen him at Ipswich on December 31.

18/01/1899

Brisbane, January 16. — The police have a good reason to believe that both crimes, the murders of Hill and the Murphy's were the work of the same person or persons.

Brisbane, January 17,— Burgess complains that the police are endeavouring by unfair means to weave a web of most incriminating evidence round him.

His clothes are being chemically examined and his boots used to see if they correspond with the tracks found in the vicinity of the murder.

The Gatton people are being kept in a simmer of excitement.

18/01/1899

During the investigations into the movements of Burgess and a possible companion the police frequently heard of a man with a dog. He was found at Murphy's Creek yesterday, and was brought to town to-day by Sergeant Geary, but he gave a satisfactory account of himself.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER. GATTON, Tuesday, 5 p.m.

There was a misunderstanding, I believe, as to the date on which Burgess should be again brought up at Toowoomba, for the term of his remand only extends until to-morrow. A further remand will then probably be asked for.

When may we expect Burgess in Gatton for a possible identification? That is a question also which is agitating the public mind here, and it is urged that the longer he is kept away the less chance of identification there will be. That is quite right, but, as I have

always urged, the public must be patient. There are insurmountable difficulties in the way of bringing Burgess here just at present. I pressed to know what the difficulties were, but Inspector Urquhart was immovable.

THE BURGESS CASE. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)

TOOWOOMBA, January 17.

The Police Court this morning was crowded in expectation that Burgess would be brought up, but it appears that the remand will not expire until to-morrow, when he will reappear before the bench.

Owing to instructions from headquarters Burgess will not be brought up until to-morrow. In his cell he is cool and collected. He eats heartily and sleeps soundly.

19/01/1899

BURGESS AT TOOWOOMBA. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent)

TOOWOOMBA, January 18.

At the police court, at half-past 9 o'clock this morning, Richard Burgess, on remand, appeared before Messrs. F. W. Galloway and A. Munro, justices of the peace, charged with the larceny of a saddle. The prisoner was brought up half-an-hour earlier than the usual court time, so as to have the proceedings as quiet as possible. The only other persons present were the officers of the court, the Press representatives, and Mr. J. V. Herbert, solicitor. Immediately the case was called Mr. Herbert rose and said he appeared for the prisoner, and made application to be permitted to converse with him for a few minutes. Mr. Galloway asked by whose authority Mr. Herbert appeared, and who instructed him, which questions Mr. Herbert strongly resented, characterising them as savouring of impertinence. Sub Inspector Durham, who conducted the prosecution, interpolated an application for a further remand of eight days. Mr. Herbert, after further argument with the bench, was allowed to talk to the prisoner, and a few sentences were exchanged between them. Mr. Herbert then demanded that the information and previous proceedings be read, including the evidence already taken. He was then informed that no evidence had been taken yet, whereupon he contended that at the very least the evidence of arrest should have been tendered, and he strongly opposed the application for a remand. The information was then read, which was to the effect that Burgess was charged with unlawfully stealing one riding-saddle, in Toowoomba, on 22nd December, the property of one Patrick M'Namara.

The bench inquired of Inspector Durham whether Burgess would be brought up under the eight days if possible, and he replied that the authorities would do their best. Mr. Herbert still contended that the evidence of arrest should be tendered, but the bench replied that Burgess had been arrested by warrant, on a sworn declaration, which, in their opinion, was sufficient. They further remanded the prisoner for eight days. Inspector Durham then ordered Burgess to be removed from the dock and taken back to the cell. At this juncture Burgess said, "I ask you one favour, your worships. I ask for a remand to Brisbane "Mr. Galloway:" We cannot do that, as the offence is alleged to have been committed at Toowoomba." Burgess seemed surprised at this information, when, in fact, so was every one in court outside the authorities, as it had previously been understood that the saddle was supposed to have been stolen in Brisbane, and that Burgess was not anywhere about Toowoomba on that date. Burgess was then removed, passing out of the court with a smile upon his countenance. He was attired in canvas trousers and blue striped shirt, open

at the neck, giving the appearance of a typical bushman.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER.

GATTON, Wednesday, 5 p.m.

We have news here of the appearance of Burgess before the bench at Toowoomba, on a charge of stealing a saddle, and his further remand for eight days. It is an open secret that after his removal from Toowoomba, Burgess's clothes were taken from him and sent to Brisbane for analytical and microscopical examination.

This, it is said, was resented, and Burgess for some time-like our Irish friend O'Brien, M.P. refused to wear the raiment supplied at the prison. However, wiser counsel prevailed. The work of examining the clothing worn by Burgess is very important if he is to be associated with the Gatton tragedy. The analytical work was sent to Mr. Henderson, the Government Analyst, and the microscopic work was intrusted to Dr. Orr, of Brisbane. What the result, of the investigations may be has not been allowed to transpire in Gatton; Indeed, it is not likely to be made public at all unless Burgess is charged with the murders of the three Murphy's.

The absence of his clothes in Brisbane may explain why Burgess has not been brought here for identification by those who saw the mysterious man at Moran's sliprails on the night of the tragedy.

Will Burgess be again charged with the crimes? That depends upon the information, which the police have been able to gather.

He was charged in the first instance, and the charge was withdrawn, but there is nothing to preclude further action if the police consider they have a case sufficiently strong to go to a jury. For my part, I do not believe that the police will go on unless they have a pretty good prima facie case.

It is doubtful whether, in the event of proceedings being again taken against him, he will be brought up at the Gatton Court. Really there is no accommodation for the hearing of such a serious case in the small room, which does duty as court-house in Gatton. The police and reporters alone would fill the room, and there is no dock or other methods of keeping a prisoner clear from the public. Toowoomba would no doubt be a better place for the purpose, and the Government would not be at any great expense in sending witnesses up there. Probably before the eight days of remand have passed we may hear of some decision in the matter. Burgess wishes to go to Brisbane for the preliminary hearing, but it may be found more convenient to leave him where he at present is. Of course in the event of there being a magisterial inquiry into the murders he will be brought here and called as a witness; but I am not quite sure that there will be a magisterial inquiry. It is really not a necessary procedure pro forma. Yet it would be a good idea to put Mr. Burgess in a position where he would have to account for his movements or decline to answer questions for fear of incriminating himself.

From Toowoomba I hear that a man whom it was surmised might be an associate of Burgess, and for whom the police have been inquiring about for some time, has been seen in town. The man is pretty well known as a thief, but it is considered would not be likely to chum in with anyone, concerned in such a crime as that which has so moved all Australia. In a recent letter I referred to the presence in Gatton of several undesirable persons, one of whom had come to the town with the idea of earning the reward of £1000

offered by the Government for evidence leading to the conviction of the murderer or murderers. The stay of this gentleman was very brief, but he was here long enough to make up a yarn to the police when he got back to Brisbane. His fame had, however, preceded him to headquarters, and he received a hint there, which led to his speedy departure from the precincts of the Treasury Buildings.

It has been decided to bring Burgess down to Gatton when his clothes are returned from Brisbane. The persons who saw the man at the sliprails at Moran's paddock on the night of the tragedy will be called on to say whether Burgess is that man. If they cannot identify him, I fail to see how the police can hope to complete a chain of circumstantial evidence. It is probable, in the light of this later information, that a magisterial inquiry will be held. Mr. Parry-Okeden has not yet returned from Brisbane, and we may not see him for a day or two yet.

LATEST BY WIRE. GATTON, 18th January, 11.17 p.m.

I have made diligent inquiry, and find that no person of the name given resided near the scene of the tragedy. The only person of that name left the district three years ago. The report caused a quiet sensation here.

Local inquiries, with a view to tracing the movements of Burgess, continue.

20/01/1899

Persistent reports come from Toowoomba that Burgess made a statement tending to implicate others in the Gatton crime. These reports may have gained currency from the fact that Burgess is making representations to the Department of Justice as to his treatment in this case. It is understood that the gaol authorities at Toowoomba have been instructed not to allow any one to see Burgess without an order in the usual form, solicitors even included, unless Burgess requests to see one. There is no development here this morning.

21/01/1899

Mr. Herbert, the solicitor for Burgess, stated at Toowoomba to-day that he was convinced that Burgess was able to prove that he was not near the scene of the Gatton murders.

It is persistently reported from Toowoomba that the man Burgess has made a statement implicating others in the Gatton murder.

21/01/1899

I have interviewed Mr Herbert, solicitor, respecting the report that Burgess had made a statement to him about the Gatton tragedy.

Mr. Herbert says there is no foundation whatever for the report.

He merely appeared, he says, for Burgess in connection with the charge of stealing a saddle, and is at present in no way instructed respecting any possible charge which may be brought against Burgess in connection with the Gatton tragedy.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER.

GATTON, Friday, 6 pm.

I spent this afternoon at Toowoomba inquiring into the report that Burgess had made a statement with regard to the Gatton murders.

The only person to whom any such statement was likely to have been made was Mr. Herbert, who appeared for Burgess on Wednesday on the charge of stealing a saddle. Mr Herbert distinctly informed me that he had received no statement from Burgess, and has not been retained to act for him in the event of a prosecution on a more serious charge than that of larceny.

Mr. Herbert states that he is instructed in the latter case, but declined to say by whom. Speaking of the connection of Burgess's name with the Gatton crime, Mr. Herbert said that probably Burgess would, if called upon, be able to prove that he was not at the scene of the murder on Boxing Night.

I may say that at Toowoomba there is a strong impression that Burgess has no connection with the Gatton crimes.

The Toowoomba folk hold to the local theory, and will not be persuaded that the tragedy could have been the work of one man.

In Toowoomba also I heard that the analytical and microscopical examination of the clothes Burgess had in his possession at the time of his arrest proved them to have been blood-stained.

The report is probably true, especially when it is remembered that the clothing examined was that worn by Burgess when he was shot through the arm in that little Leyburn experience of his.

As a matter of fact, there is nothing authoritative to be said in connection with the elimination, and anything said otherwise may be taken with the axiomatic grain of salt. The examination is really not concluded yet.

Another Toowoomba report is that the Dalby photographs of Burgess, taken after his arrest at the Bunya Mountains, are not at all like the man. Discussing that subject with Mr. Ruthning the well-known hardware merchant, of Woolloongabba and Toowoomba.

I showed him one of the photos of Burgess standing with his hat in his hand.

Mr. Ruthning at once said, "Why, that is a man who came to me early in December to look for a job tinkering. I told him I had no work." Mr. Ruthning said that it was a good likeness; he could not mistake the man, though the whiskers of the original are more inclined to be sandy than is represented in the picture.

With Mr. Ruthning's permission, I mentioned the matter to Inspector Urquhart this afternoon, and the chance meeting and identification of the photograph may serve to fill a gap in the movements of Burgess which the police have been working hard to account for.

Inspector Durham left Helidon last night for Dalby, taking men and horses with him. The object of his trip is to make special inquiries into the movements of Burgess in that district.

FURTHER POLICE INVESTIGATION. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)
DALBY, January 20.

There was some activity among the police here to-day.

Inspector Durham, Constable Wilson, of Toowoomba, and a black tracker, Norman, arrived in town last night, and have gone out to-day in the direction of the Bunya Mountains, evidently with the intention of going over Burgess's tracks to gain

information from residents, and endeavour to gather incriminating evidence.

The police here have already tracked Burgess almost as far back as Crow's Nest, and evidently think to do it more thoroughly with the assistance of an experienced tracker.

There is a rumour that another suspicious character had been seen in the vicinity the Bunya Ranges, but the police say there it nothing in it.

23/01/1899

Witnesses will leave Gatton for Toowoomba to see if Burgess was the man seen in the slip-rails on the night of the tragedy.

An excited feeling prevails in the district. The police are taking precautions against a public demonstration on Burgess's arrival on Tuesday.

23/01/1899

The "Toowoomba Chronicle" states that two men identify Burgess by the photograph as the man they saw at Spring Bluff on Boxing Day. One, it says, gave him sixpence and some tobacco.

Mr. Herbert, solicitor, of Toowoomba, has received a letter from Mr. W. H. Ryder, Under Secretary to the Home Secretary's Department, stating that he will be permitted to interview Burgess when he is next brought up on the charge of larceny of a saddle, and any adjournment that is required will be granted to enable him to prepare a defence.

By the mail train this morning Sub inspector White was a passenger for Toowoomba. I believe that the sub-inspector takes on with him from Brisbane the clothes belonging to Burgess, which have been undergoing microscopic examination and analysis in Brisbane.

To-morrow, it is understood, the persons who saw the mysterious man at the sliprails of Moran's paddock on the night of the murder will go to Toowoomba with the view of ascertaining whether Burgess is that man or not. They will return tomorrow evening, when it is understood Burgess will also be brought down.

LATEST BY WIRE. GATTON, January, 22, 9 p.m.

Five witnesses are to go to Toowoomba to-morrow to see if Burgess was the man who was seen at the sliprails on the night of the Gatton tragedy. They will return to-morrow night. Burgess is coming down also on Tuesday for the magisterial inquiry, and other witnesses have been summoned for identification purposes.

24/01/1899

A Gatton telegram states that the witnesses who proceeded to Toowoomba to-day, returned subsequently to Gatton, all having identified Burgess as the man seen at Moran's sliprails on the night the Gatton murders were committed. Florence Lowe, the young woman who was accosted by a man at the sliprails, says that she is positive that Burgess is the same individual. The police are now satisfied that his identification is complete.

Miss Beatrice Heliss and her brother Frank, well-known residents of Gatton, have reported that their house was visited by a strange man on the night of the tragedy. To-day they picked out Burgess as the man.

A man named Cushing reported to the police lately that he had seen a stranger in the district, whose description coincided with that of Burgess, at Oxley, on December 9th,

and Redbank, a few miles nearer Ipswich, on the 11th. He also to-day selected Burgess.

The police are satisfied with identification proving that Burgess was in the Oxley district the day before and the day following the tragedy there, and that he was also at the slip-rails at Gatton, through which the Murphy's passed on the night on which they were killed. Excitement is increasing, and the hope is expressed that the stigma resting on the district will be cleared. Every precaution is being taken to ensure the safety of Burgess.

24/01/1899

Burgess has been summoned as a witness in the magisterial inquiry to be held to-morrow. Mr. MacFarlane, P.M., of Ipswich, will probably conduct the Inquiry.

Several witnesses left here for Toowoomba this morning to see if they can identify Burgess as the man who was at Moran's sliprail on the night of the Gatton tragedy. A representative of the "Toowoomba Chronicle" has interviewed Mr. Weiver, one of the men who says he saw a man answering the description of Burgess at Spring Bluff on Boxing Day. Weiver was first shown the photograph of Burgess with his hat on. He did not recognise it, and was then shown one in which Burgess was standing without his hat. He said, "Yes, that's the man I saw. He was sitting down with his hat off, wiping his brow. He was bald, with a little tuft of hair just above the forehead. The man said he was looking for work." Much interest is felt here as to whether the witnesses will be able to say whether Burgess was the man at the sliprails on the night of the tragedy. On this much of the future of the case depends.

IDENTIFICATION OF BURGESS

RETURN OF WITNESSES.

GATTON, 23rd January, 11.15 p.m.

The Gatton residents who went to Toowoomba to-day with the view of ascertaining whether Burgess was the man seen at Moran's sliprails, returned to-night by the mail train. Miss Florence Lowe and Thomas Drew, who passed the sliprails at different hours on the night of the tragedy, picked Burgess out as the man they had seen there. Miss Lowe, when I interviewed her a fortnight ago, said that she was not quite sure of being able to identify the man, but she had no hesitation to-day in selecting him. She is confident that he is the man, and says that she could not possibly be mistaken.

Miss Beatrice Hallas and her brother Frank, who are well-known residents here, had reported to the police some time ago that on the evening of the tragedy their house had been visited by a strange man.

This was at half-past 6 o'clock. They gave a description of the man, which corresponded with that of Burgess, and to-day they also picked him out as the man who called at their place.

Another person who went to Toowoomba was Mr. Cushing, of Oxley. He had seen a stranger in that district, whose description tallied with that of Burgess, at Oxley on the 9th, and at Redbank on the 1st December. He had no hesitation to-day in selecting Burgess as the man.

The police seem to be thoroughly satisfied with the identifications, as proving that Burgess was about the Oxley district on the day before and the day following the tragedy there, and was in Gatton at half past 6 o'clock on the evening of the tragedy here, and was at the sliprails through which the Murphy's passed to their doom.

A large number of persons assembled at the railway station as the Toowoomba train came in. The news quickly spread, and even at this hour the subject is being discussed by groups in the streets. There is a growing excitement, and deep interest will be taken in to-morrow's proceedings.

People here seem to be confident that the district will be cleared of any participation in the horrible crime, and on every hand there are expressions of intense thankfulness. The police have, so far, not arrested Burgess on the criminal charge, and he is being brought down to-night by the goods train to be called as a witness at the magisterial inquiry. Despite the fact that no capital charge has been made, Burgess is a prisoner on remand on the charge of stealing a saddle, and special precautions are being taken to insure his safety. The lockup cell will be lighted, and a special watch put on it.

At the magisterial inquiry it is understood that representatives of the Press will be admitted, but not the general public.

Mr. Shand, of Ipswich, will arrive to-morrow morning to hold the inquiry. Inspector Urquhart and Mr. Morris have been holding a long consultation to-night, and probably after the magisterial inquiry has been closed Burgess will be arrested charged with the murder of the boy Hill at Oxley, and of the Murphy's here.

A persistent report here states that several girls, who were at a picnic at Oxley on the 10th December, saw a man there, and on being shown Burgess's photograph, they recognised it as that of the man whom they had seen.

Mr. Shand, who is acting police magistrate in the absence of Mr. MacFarlane, will take the evidence at the magisterial inquiry to-morrow.

BURGESS AT GATTON. (By Telegraph from Our Special Reporter.)

TUESDAY, 1.12 a.m.

Burgess arrived here at 12.30 p.m. by goods train, in custody of Sergeant Arrell and Constables M'Inernay and Handle. Burgess was taken to the Toowoomba Station without attracting any attention, and on arriving here there were about twenty persons on the platform. He alighted from the train at the station, and, handcuffed, walked to the police quarters, followed by the spectators. At the cells he was locked up. His conduct was very quiet; but he pressed to be allowed to keep his bundle of clothes. He asked for a blanket, which was supplied, and after having a drink he said to the police, "Well, you fellows can go," and made himself as comfortable as he could on the cell floor.

There was no demonstration of any kind.

THE IDENTIFICATION AT TOOWOOMBA

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEEDINGS. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)

TOOWOOMBA, January 23. Between 2 and 3 p.m. to-day.

Richard Burgess was identified as a man who had been seen in the neighbourhood of Oxley on the very day that young Hill was murdered—seen there before and after that time; as the man who was seen in the neighbourhood of Gatton at different times during Boxing Day, and above all, as the mysterious "man at the sliprails" on the very night of the murder of the Murphy's.

Whether this identification is infallible is another matter; but it is sufficient to say that the authorities consider it fairly conclusive on the points mentioned.

On Sunday Sub-Inspector White came up to Toowoomba, bringing with him the clothes which Burgess wore at the time of his arrest, and which it will be remembered were taken from him over a week ago for the purpose of being sent to Brisbane for microscopical examination by experts.

Before 11 o'clock this morning several witnesses had left Gatton for Toowoomba for the purpose of identifying Burgess. These included Mrs. Veitch, of Cleveland, Mr. Cushing, of Oxley, and Miss Florrie Lowe, Mrs. Hallen, her son and daughter, Mr. T. Drew, and Mrs. Connolly from the Gatton neighbourhood. They were accompanied by Detective Head, and on arrival at Toowoomba were met at the railway station by Sub-Inspector White, and driven to the Gladstone Hotel. After lunch they were taken to the police station, where Richard Burgess is confined, and at 2.15 p.m. the test commenced under the direction of Sub-inspector White. Very complete preparations had been made for the test. Seven men resembling the prisoner in height and build as near as possible, and clad in their ordinary working garb, had been called in. Burgess made the eighth. He was told that he could place himself whenever he wished for identification purposes, and he took up the fourth position on the flank, being attired in the clothes, which he wore at the time of his arrest. The result was that he was identified by the witness from Cleveland, the witness from Oxley, and three out of the five witnesses from Gatton. Mrs. Veitch, the lady from Cleveland, it appears, first identified Burgess from his photograph as that of a man she saw at Cleveland between the 30th of November (the date of Burgess's release from gaol) and the 10th December, the date of the Oxley murder. To-day she identified Burgess immediately she heard him speak, and even before she had opportunity of closely inspecting him, stating that she recognised his voice as that of the man she saw at Cleveland at the time mentioned. Mrs. Veitch's testimony when the proper time comes will be exceedingly interesting. More important than this was the identification of Burgess by Mr. Cushing, an old resident of Oxley, who identified him as the man whom he saw in that neighbourhood on the 10th of December. Mr. Cushing saw him on two occasions-namely, a few hours before the murder could have occurred, and after it happened-that is, after the time it is supposed to have happened. On the latter occasion Mr. Cushing states that he saw Burgess moving in the direction of Wolston, and he is confident he doubled on his tracks. His appearance, when last seen by him, was, he says, by no means inviting, and in the case of very nervous persons might be calculated to inspire apprehension. Mr. Cushing is positive that Burgess is the man he saw near Oxley on Separation Day. Another most important identification of Burgess was that by Miss Florrie Lowe, who positively identified him as "the man at the sliprails" at Moran's paddock on the night of the Gatton tragedy. To-day Miss Lowe was positive that Richard Burgess was the man whom she saw that night.

Another important witness who identified Burgess was the boy who was driving with Mrs. Carroll on the night of the tragedy. Mrs. Carroll, it will be remembered, was returning from the Mount Sylvia races when she and her son saw a man in the vicinity of the sliprails. She did not get a good look at him, as he drew back in the shadows suddenly; but the boy did, and to-day he identified Richard Burgess as "resembling the man."

Another witness identified Burgess as having been in the neighbourhood of Gatton at an earlier hour during Boxing Day, and two others failed to identify him. During the identification test Burgess changed his position from fourth place to second place, but it

made no difference in the result.

Burgess was then removed back to his cell, the other men dismissed with thanks, and the witnesses escorted back by Detective Head to the Gladstone Hotel.

Burgess expressed a desire to have a conversation with Sub-inspector White, which desire was immediately gratified, and a long talk ensued. An incident during identification deserves recording. While waiting for one of the witnesses, Burgess snatched the hat off the man alongside of him, but Sub-inspector White ordered him to keep his own hat, and put back the other. Burgess left Toowoomba at 9 o'clock-, to-night by goods train for Gatton, under a strong -escort. He was taken the back way, via the goods-shed, so as to avoid publicity. Mr. Herbert, solicitor, applied for permission to see him on the larceny charge, but was refused.

25/01/1899

Early on Monday afternoon six persons from the Gatton district, and one from Oxley, and a woman who resides at Cleveland, were given an opportunity of identifying Burgess. Seven men resembling the prisoner in height and build as nearly as possible, and all clad in ordinary working garb, were placed with Burgess in a yard.

The prisoner was told that he was at liberty to place himself wherever he wished.

Three out of the five witnesses from Gatton identified him, also the person from Cleveland. An Oxley resident, and Mrs. Veitch, from Cleveland, identified him as the man seen there between November 30th and December 9th immediately they heard him speak, and before they inspected him. Cushing, an old resident of Oxley, says he is positive that Burgess is the man he saw on two occasions, namely, before the murder of the boy Hill, and after the data on which it is supposed to have been committed. On the latter occasion he saw Burgess moving towards Wolston. Another important identification was made by a son of Mrs. Carroll, who, on returning with his mother from the Mt. Sylvia races on the night of the murder, saw a man resembling Burgess and another man near the sliprails. Whilst the identification was proceeding Burgess changed his place, but the next person brought forward fixed upon him. Burgess then expressed a desire to have a conversation with Inspector White. His application was granted, but with what result has not transpired. Mr. Herbert, a solicitor, has been refused permission to speak to Burgess.

Burgess was put into the witness-box, and examined by Inspector Urquhart. He said it was very likely that he had been known by other names than Burgess. He could not tell what they were, for he never cared to mention names. He had never been in the Ipswich hospital, but he had been at Kilkivan. He had quite forgotten the name he used there.

Inspector Urquhart. You were in trouble a little while ago? Burgess, I'm always in trouble. I am never known to be out of it. Continuing, witness said he was released on November 30. He took any work offering After leaving gaol he went straight from Brisbane and took work with a farmer named O'Brien, who lived about ten miles from Ipswich. He then went to the Gap.

25/01/1899

It appears that Mr. Cushing, of Oxley, saw Burgess on the 10th December at Oxley. Cushing is employed at the bacon factory there, and when he saw Burgess he was driving with his wife and child in a dog- cart.

25/01/1899

EXAMINATION OF RICHARD BURGESS.

On Burgess coming into court the people outside crowded round the windows. Burgess was dressed in a striped cotton shirt and dark trousers, and carried a broad-brimmed black felt hat. He looked about the court smilingly, but seemed to resent the curiosity of the people outside. Burgess described himself as a labourer.

Inspector Urquhart: Have you ever been known by any other name than Burgess?

Witness: Very likely. I go by any name you like.

Inspector Urquhart: Could you tell us a few of them? Witness: No; I never mention names.

Inspector Urquhart: Forgotten? Witness. Forgotten. Witness then stated that he had never been in the Ipswich Hospital; he had been at Kilkivan (this with a smile), but he had forgotten what names he had used there.

Inspector. You were in trouble a while ago, were you not, Burgess? Witness. I am always in trouble; I never know when I am out if it. Witness said that he had been released from gaol on the 3^{0th} November. He worked at anything he could get, but shearing was his best line. After leaving gaol he came straight away from Brisbane, and did a couple of days' work for a farmer named O'Brien, about ten miles from Toowong. From there he went over a gap in the range. It took a week or two to get from O'Brien's place to the gap. He did not stay, because the wages were too low. He walked all the way to the gap, but did not get any wages between there and O'Brien's. He did not pass through Gatton, but through Mount Walker. He got tucker where he could. If he did not get work he could get tucker. He could not say who the people were. He went over the divide at the gap, and got hack from Allora to Helidon before he pulled up. The police pulled him up at Dalby. He only knew a few people at Helidon by eyesight. He did not know Peter Healy. He got to Helidon about 29th December. Was not in the town, but about a mile or two out. He did not go to the Salvation Army Home, but stayed at Toowong. He believed that the Salvation Army captain said he stayed at the home, but he was mistaken. O'Brien's farm was on the old Ipswich road from Toowong, on the other side of the river from Gatton. When he left O'Brien's the first place he struck was the quarries. He was in North Ipswich. Did not pick up a mate. Was by himself, all the time. Asked for a job at any place he thought he could get employment. At North Ipswich did not get anything to do, and saw no one he knew. He made no purchases there, "no silk pocket-handkerchiefs or anything else." He was not hard-up for clothes. He had not to buy any more. It was no use trying to buy, as he had no capital. He had a few "bob" when he came out.

He left O'Brien without notice. "I left him that little bit of capital to himself," said witness. He got a new shirt when he left St. Helena. With the exception of that he had only his old clothes.

Inspector Urquhart: About the boots. What were they like? Witness: Elastic-sides. They were right enough.

Inspector Urquhart: They do not stand very well. Witness: They wore out with me.

Inspector Urquhart: And you had to get more. Did you get another pair of elastic sides? Witness: No.

Inspector Urquhart: Did you get them at The Gap or North Ipswich? Witness: At neither place. I got them at Killarney before Christmas. I do not know the name of the owner of the store. It was a big store.

Inspector Urquhart: I suppose you threw the old boots away? Witness: I suppose they are planted there.

Inspector Urquhart: How far away did you plant them? Witness: I cannot say. Some other swagman must have picked them up. They are a mystery, anyway.

Inspector Urquhart: Were they quite worn out? Witness: They were done.

Inspector Urquhart: What did you pay for the new ones?

Witness: About 7 shillings. Inspector Urquhart: Where did you get the money?

Witness: I earned it.

Inspector Urquhart: Do you remember where? Witness: I earned it through going out prospecting with the schoolmaster at Killarney, Mr. Mattingley. Witness, resuming, said that they went prospecting just before Christmas; a long time before he came to Helidon. He wore the elastic-side boots before he got into gaol. He had nothing else to help them out. He spent Christmas Day partly at a selector's place, but did not stop for dinner.

He had breakfast there. Did not know the Selector's name. The place was about fourteen miles outside Allora, about a mile from a main road.

Inspector Urquhart: Did he ask your name? Witness: No, he was not so inquisitive as all that.

Inspector Urquhart: When did you get to the selector's place? Witness: The night before Christmas Day.

Inspector Urquhart: And camped there? Witness: Yes. Inspector Urquhart: Did you turn up to breakfast? Witness: Yes. Witness said that after leaving that selector's place he started for Clifton, but did not arrive there. He camped on the road. That was Christmas night. The selector said he had a daughter a barmaid at Allora. Did not remember where he was on the night before Christmas Eve. On Boxing Day he went on towards Toowoomba, travelling all day across country.

Could not tell where he was that night.

Could not tell much until three days after Christmas. There was a gap between Christmas and the 29th, which he could not account for; he camped out every night.

He was never in Gatton before, but had been out on the Laidley-road. Never called in the town, as the people were no good to him. Did not know what was the first public holiday after he left St. Helena. He had been travelling four or five days before getting to North Ipswich, including the two days at O'Brien's.

He did not go back again; kept straight on. Knew a man named Crotty outside Helidon, but never worked for him. It was a good bit ago that he first made his acquaintance, three or four years. Crotty did not know him except by eyesight.

He never made acquaintances. He had no friends, and never looked for them; but had plenty of enemies. Could not say if he had ever been at Tent Hill; or he did not know the place by that name. Knew Flagstone Creek, and came down that way from the Range.

Inspector Urquhart: It will save a lot of trouble, Burgess, if you tell me where you were on the 26th December. Witness: I can only say what I told you: that I called at a selector's place outside Clifton.

Inspector Urquhart: Was that the place you ran away from when you saw a man riding up? Witness: No; I didn't do that caper that I remember. Witness, resuming, said that the man whose place he called at near Clifton had a "stammer" in his speech. Did not ask for tucker.

Inspector Urquhart: You do that sometimes? Witness: Either do that or steal, and it's better to ask for it. Witness, resuming, said he could give anyone who knew the place directions to find it, and he could go straight there himself. That was the 26th. On the morning of the 27th he got something to eat from a woman four or five miles from there. He had accounted for the 25th, 26th, or 27th; 25th was a Sunday. Some instinct told him that. He was not quite sure, as his head was not altogether an almanac. He had spoken of the Gatton murders.

He first heard of them near Helidon. He heard from a man who was leading a stallion.

Could not say what day it was-about the 29th. He saw in the papers that the murder took place on the 26th. He had seen half a-dozen papers. Believed he would know the man with the stallion again. Witness was not riding at the time. The man with the stallion said, "Did you hear anything of a murder in Gatton?" Witness said, "No." The other man then said that a brother and two sisters named Murphy were murdered. He did not say how. Did not think the man knew much about it. Witness then went along the road about 200 yards, and got more information until he saw the papers. Remembered the day the policeman went after him near Dalby. Rounded on him because he did not know his duty. The policeman was dressed as a civilian, and did not say why he wished to arrest witness.

Inspector Urquhart: That's all I wish to ask the witness, your worship.

At this stage, on the application of Inspector Urquhart, the inquiry was adjourned until a date of which notice would be given. Burgess was taken from the court to the cell.

25/01/1899

Brisbane, January 24

Several persons, without hesitation, picked out Burgess from fifteen others as the man who was seen at the slip rails of Moran's paddock on the night of the murder. They also clearly identified him as the man seen in the locality about the date of the tragedy.

Received January 24, at midnight.

Brisbane, January 24. The magisterial inquiry into the Gatton tragedy has commenced. The evidence so far disclosed nothing new.

Received January 25, 1 10 am. Brisbane, January 24. Burgess, under examination, denied that he was near Gatton at the time of the tragedy. He detailed his movements, though he was unable to say where he was on Christmas and Boxing Days. He preserved a calm demeanour till witness Doylan identified him as the man who told him that Michael Murphy had been shot, even before such was suspected, Burgess thereupon became furious, and slashed at the witness, shouting, "I'll dig you in the neck." The police seized him, and prevented violence.

25/01/1899

BURGESS CALLED AS A WITNESS

Inspector Urquhart. -Call Richard Burgess.

On Burgess coming into the court the people outside crowded round the windows, Burgess was dressed in a striped cotton shirt, with dark trousers and carried a broad brimmed felt hat. He looked about the court smilingly, but seemed to resent the curiosity of the people outside. He described himself as a labourer.

Inspector Urquhart. -Have you been known by any other name than Burgess?

Witness. -Very likely. I go by any name you like.

Inspector Urquhart. -Could you tell us a few of them? Witness. -I never mention names.

Inspector Urquhart. -Forgotten them? Witness then stated that he had never been in the Ipswich Hospital. He had been at Kilkivan, but he had forgotten what name he used there.

Inspector Urquhart. -You were in trouble a while ago, were you not? Witness. -I am always in trouble. I never know when I am out of it. He had been released from goal on November 30, and worked at anything he could get, but shearing was his best line. After leaving goal he came straight away to Brisbane, and did two days' work for a farmer named O'Brien about 10 miles out of Toowong. From there he went over the Gap in the ranges. He took a week or two to get from O'Brien's to the Gap. He did not stay because the wages were low. He walked all the way to the Gap. He did not pass through Gatton, but through Mount Walker. He got tucker where he could. He went over the divide at the Gap, and got back from Allora to Helidon before he was pulled up. The police pulled him up at Dalby. He only knew a few people at Helidon by sight. He got to Helidon on 28th December, and was not in the town, but about a mile out. He had called at North Ipswich. He did not pick up a mate. He was by himself all the time. He asked for grub at any place he thought he might get it. He thought he could get employment at North Ipswich but failed. He saw no one that he knew. He made a purchase there of a new silk pocket-handkerchief, but nothing else. He was not hard up for clothes and did not buy any more. He got a new shirt when he left goal. With the exception of that he had only his old clothes.

Inspector Urquhart. -About your boots? What were they like? Witness. -Elastic side.

They were right enough. Inspector Urquhart. -They do not stand very well.

Witness. -They wore out with me.

Inspector Urquhart. -And you had to get more. Did you get another pair of elastic sides?

Witness. -No.

Inspector Urquhart. -Did you get them at the Gap or at North Ipswich?

Witness -Neither place I got them at Killarney before Christmas. I do not know the name of the owner of the store. It was a big store.

Inspector Urquhart. -I suppose you through your old boots away? Witness. -I suppose they are planted there.

Inspector Urquhart. -How far away did you plant them? Witness. - I can't say. Some other swagman must have picked them up. They are a mystery anyway.

Inspector Urquhart. -Were they quite worn out? Witness. -They were done.

Inspector Urquhart. -What did you pay for the new ones? Witness. -Seven shillings.

Inspector Urquhart. -Where did you get the money? Witness-Earned it.

Inspector Urquhart. -Do you remember where? Witness. - I earned it through going out prospecting with a schoolmaster at Killarney and Mattingley.

Witness, resuming said that they went prospecting before Christmas. It was a long time before he came to Helidon. He wore elastic side boots before he got into goal. He spent Christmas Day partly at a selector's place, but he did not stop for dinner. He had breakfast there. He did not know the selector's name. The place was about 14 miles outside Allora, and about a mile from the main road.

Inspector Urquhart. -Did he ask your name? Witness. -No. He was not so inquisitive about that.

Inspector Urquhart. -When did you get to the selector's place? Witness. -The night before Christmas.

Inspector Urquhart. -And camped there? Witness. -Yes.

Inspector Urquhart. -Did you turn up to breakfast? Witness. -Yes. After leaving that selector's place he started for Clifton, but did not arrive there. He camped on the road that was on Christmas night. The selector said he had a daughter a barmaid at Allora. He did not remember where he was the night before Christmas Eve. On Boxing Day he went towards Toowoomba, travelling all day across country. He could not tell where he was that night. He could not tell much until three days after Christmas. There was a gap between Christmas and the 29th, which he could not account for. He camped out every night. He was never in Gatton before, but had been out on the Laidley road. He never called in the town, as the people were not good to him. He did not know what was the first public holiday after he left St. Helena. He had been travelling four or five days before getting to North Ipswich, including the two days at O'Brien's. He did not go back again. He kept straight on. He knew a man named Crotty outside Helidon, but he never worked for him. It was a good bit ago that he first made his acquaintance, three or four years, perhaps. Crotty did not know him, except by sight. He never made acquaintances. He had no friends, and never looked for them, but had plenty of enemies. He could not say if he had ever been at Tent Hill, or he did not know the place by that name, He knew I Flagstone creek, and came down that way from the range.

Inspector Urquhart. -It will save a lot of trouble, Burgess if you tell me where you were on the 26th of December. Witness. -I can only say what I have told you, that I called at a selector's place outside Clifton.

Inspector Urquhart. -Was that the place you ran away from when you saw a man riding up? Witness-No, I did not do that caper that I remember.

Witness, (resuming) said that the man whose place he called at, near Clifton had a stammer in his speech. He did not ask for tucker.

Inspector Urquhart. -You do that some times? Witness. -Either that or steal. It's better to ask. He could give anyone who knew the place directions to find it. He could go straight there himself. That was the 26th of December. On the morning of the 27th he got something to eat from a woman, four or five miles from there. That accounted for the

25th, 26th, or 27th. The 25th was a Sunday. Some instinct told him that. He was not quite sure, as his head is not altogether an almanac. He had spoken of the Gatton murders. He first heard of them near Helidon. He heard from a man who was leading a stallion. He could not say what day, but it was about the 29th. He saw in the papers that the murders took place on the 26th. He had seen half a dozen papers. He believed he would know the man with the stallion again. Witness was not riding at the time. The man with the stallion said, "Did you hear anything about the murders at Gatton?" Witness said "No." The man then said that a brother and two sisters named Murphy had been murdered. He did not say how. He did not think the man knew much about it. Witness went along the road. He remembered the day the policeman went after him near Dalby, and he rounded on him because he did not know his duty.

The policeman was dressed as a civilian, and he did not say why he wished to arrest witness.

Inspector Urquhart. -That's all I wish to ask this witness, your worship, at this stage.

On the application of Inspector Urquhart, the inquiry was adjourned until a date of which due notice will be given Burgess was taken from the court to his cell.

FUTURE WORK OF THE POLICE

A long consultation took place to-night between the police and their legal advisor with reference to the future course of action. Before anything further is done some of the statements made by Burgess to-day must be investigated.

Burgess, in giving an account of himself, left nothing traceable regarding his whereabouts during the Christmas holidays. His evidence to-day is entirely at variance with that of the persons who identified him yesterday. To-day seven out of ten new people again identified him as having been seen in various parts of the district about Christmas time. The system of identification to-day was the same as that employed at Toowoomba yesterday. Seven strangers -working men- were placed with him. Burgess was very excited, and several times changed places, whilst strong language passed between the prisoner and one of the witnesses. Burgess's own statements to-day prove that the man who saw him near Toowoomba on Boxing Day made a mistake.

26/01/1899

Two more persons yesterday identified Burgess as being at Tent Hill just before Christmas, while three others are positive that he is the man who was at Moran's sliprails on the night of the tragedy.

Burgess was taken to Toowoomba to-day, and will probably be charged with the larceny of a saddle to-morrow. The police on being questioned refused to give any information as to the course to be followed to-morrow if the saddle stealing charge is disposed of. If Burgess's statement that he was at Allora on Christmas night be true, all the people who say he was seen at the sliprails on the night of the tragedy must be wrong. The police ought to have no difficulty in clearing this point up. Burgess is 5ft. 6in. in height, and 12st. in weight. He is 36 years of age; powerfully built, and at times gets very nervous and excited.

The police to-day decided to take immediate steps to test Burgess's statements.

26/01/1899

Two persons yesterday identified Burgess as being at Tent Hill just before Christmas. Three others of the batch were positive that he was the man at Moran's sliprails on the night of the tragedy. Burgess will be taken to Toowoomba by train this morning. The present idea is to charge him with the larceny of a saddle tomorrow. The police are taking immediate steps to test his statement as to his whereabouts on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The identifications yesterday were considered to be very satisfactory, Burgess being placed with seven others, mostly strangers, and some railway gang men, who gave their services in that respect to help the police.

LAST EVENING'S LETTER.

GATTON, Wednesday.

Richard Burgess has been identified as the mysterious man who was at Moran's sliprails on the night of the tragedy, other witnesses say that they saw him in Gatton early on the evening of the murder, and others again recognise him as a man who was at Tent Hill about Christmas-time. Another witness picked Burgess out as a person whom he had seen at Oxley on the day of the murder there. The witnesses making these identifications are confident of their man. Burgess, when placed with other men, tried to puzzle the witnesses, but seven persons at least have definitely placed him. The question is whether these witnesses are mistaken. Burgess at the inquiry yesterday said that at Christmas-time he was in the neighbourhood of Allora and Clifton, getting back to Helidon on the 29th December. It should not be difficult to prove him correct or otherwise. If he is correct, all the witnesses who have picked him out as being about Gatton and Tent Hill, and the Oxley witness too, are mistaken. Strange mistakes have been made at times.

Yesterday and to-day I had a good opportunity of studying Burgess. His prison description gives his height as 5ft 6¼ in, and his weight at 11st 10lbs. He certainly seems taller, and I should say that his weight must be fully 12st. He is a man 36 years of age, of very powerful and athletic mould. His beard is brownish, inclined to be sandy; his eyes grey, deep-set, and restless, his nose slightly out of shape, his forehead fairly high, and the top of his head almost entirely bald. Just above the forehead there is a light tuft of hair. He is at times very nervous, and the sardonic smile so often spoken of is an involuntary twitching of the muscles at the left corner of the mouth. His voice is low, and with a peculiar treble quality. In court yesterday he was dressed in clothing supplied to him, but afterwards he was given his own clothes to wear for identification.

The conduct of Burgess in his cell is not bad. He is nervous at times, but fairly composed generally. Yesterday, after the identification proceedings, he did not relish the idea of giving up his clothes again, but after some patient remonstrance from Sub Inspector White he consented to change. At one time it seemed that violence would have to be resorted to get his old clothes off him.

This morning Burgess was marched, handcuffed, to the railway station, and taken to Toowoomba by the mail train. He wore no coat or waistcoat, and took no notice of anyone, and there was no demonstration on the part of the few people who were on the station. The police to-day have moved with the idea of testing the statements of Burgess as to his whereabouts at Christmas-time. Last night the whole position was fully discussed, but the plan for the future has not been divulged, even if it has been matured. Some development is looked for at Toowoomba to-morrow, when Burgess will be again brought up on the charge of larceny of a saddle.

26/01/1899

Brisbane, Jan 25.

Two persons from Oxley picked Burgess from a number of others as the man seen in the district about the time of Hill's murder.

While the police were absent, Burgess changed his position in the line and snatched a hat from the next man's head.

27/01/1899

BURGESS'S WANDERINGS.

BRISBANE, January 26.

A correspondent at Killarney, near Warwick, writes to-day stating that three days before Christmas time, during the holidays, Mattingly, the local schoolmaster, decided to do some prospecting near Elbow Valley, and engaged a man named Burgess for two days. Before going out Burgess suggested taking a rifle to shoot any game they might see, but Mattingly objected. The party were out two days. The first night they slept in the same apartment.

Burgess once asked his companion if he was asleep, and received a reply in the negative. Mattingly was unable to compose himself. On the second day Burgess complained to Mattingly that he was working too close to him. Mattingly accordingly went and sunk a hole some little distance off.

The search for minerals was unsuccessful. Mattingly on his return to town paid Burgess 10 shillings, with which he purchased a pair of blucher boots. At Gatton the police are directing the investigation into Burgess' wanderings.

BURGESS SENT TO GAOL.

TOOWOOMBA, January 26.

A large number of people attended the police court to-day, in anticipation of the appearance of Richard Burgess on a charge of stealing a saddle.

Shortly before 10.

Burgess had an interview of six minutes with his solicitor (Mr. Herbert) at the court. Sub-inspector Durham announced that the police intended to abandon the charge of larceny, substituting the charge of having no lawful means of support. Mr. Herbert asked for the discharge of Burgess, on the ground that nothing criminal had been proved against him. Defendant was merely travelling the country, looking for work. Burgess deposed that he was looking for work when he was arrested. Mr. Herbert again demanded his discharge, saying that the prosecution was absurd. They did not know what object the police had in making it. The police opposed the dismissal on the ground of the extraordinary circumstances connected with Burgess. Burgess was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in Brisbane gaol.

28/01/1899

GATTON, Friday, 4 p.m.

The police here have received confirmation of the statement that Burgess was working with Mr. Mattingley, schoolmaster at Killarney, for two days. Inquiry is being made into the statement, which comes from Clifton, which seems to bear out Burgess's statement that he was at a selector's house near that place on Boxing Night last. If necessary, the

selector will be called on to say if Burgess is the man to whom he gave a drink of water, and will go to Toowoomba for the purpose of identification. I may say that the police here do not appear to attach much importance to the Clifton report, though it is to be thoroughly sifted. In connection with the local search, I believed that it was abandoned for pretty good reasons. What the police have in hand in the matter of discoveries in the paddock where the murders took place I cannot even venture a guess, 'but that they have some important evidence in that way may be accepted as a fact.

TOOWOOMBA, January 27.

The report from Clifton, stating that Burgess was at a selector's house in that district on Boxing Night, has strengthened the prevailing impression in Toowoomba that the police are on the wrong track, and that Burgess is badly used in being sentenced to two months in gaol. This feeling is emphasised by a telegram from Mr. Mattingley; stating that Burgess called at his house on the 13th December, and was engaged for prospecting work on the 15th.

The feeling here is that the Gatton tragedy will be found to have been the work of local people; but those who hold that theory are necessarily in ignorance of some of the information obtained by the police. A sub-inspector has been in the ranges about Allora since Tuesday night, and inquiring into the Clifton statements. Witnesses from Killarney, Allora, and Clifton are to be brought here, probably to-morrow, for the purpose of identifying Burgess.

The police were aware, before the recent magisterial inquiry, that Burgess was on Christmas Eve at the house of a selector, named Spreckman, or Sparckman, twelve miles from Allora, and breakfasted there on Christmas morning.

SEARCH AT BUNYA MOUNTAIN. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)

DALBY, January 27.

Sergeant Tomkins and Constable Gilles (who arrested Burgess) and a black tracker arrived here by train to-day, and have proceeded to the Bunya Mountain, evidently intending to follow Burgess's tracks in the hope of picking up something.

28/01/1899

The police are making searching inquiries at Toowoomba respecting the tragedy. The search is expected to have an important bearing on the case. It is believed that valuable evidence is in hand.

A special correspondent at Toowoomba reports that a short, thick-set man called at a selector's place near that town on Boxing Night. This has strengthened the conviction that the police are on the wrong track and Burgess has been badly used.

This feeling is emphasised through a telegram received confirmatory of Burgess's prospecting story.

Mr. Cushing, from Oxley, has identified Burgess as the man he saw at Oxley on December 10. The question now is did Burgess travel thence to Oxley in the intervening time? The feeling here is that the tragedy will be found to be the work of local people. The police are visiting Allora district for the purpose of inquiring into Burgess's statement. The Allora and Clifton witnesses will reach Toowoomba to-morrow and will be confronted with Burgess. Hundreds of people express the opinion that the Clifton statements will prove an alibi.

The police were aware before the magisterial inquiry that Burgess was at the house of a selector at Sprickman, 12 miles from Allora, on Christmas Eve, and that he breakfasted there on the morning of Christmas Day. The distance thence to Gatton is 35 miles.

30/01/1899

Mr. Mattingley, schoolmaster at Killarney, has been interviewed. He said Burgess first called at his place on the 13th December. He thinks he came from Dugandan way, thence to White Swamp, and over the Gap to Killarney. White Swamp is fourteen miles from Killarney, then another fourteen miles to Dugandan. Mr. Mattingley says Burgess could have been at Oxley on the 10th and 11th, and at Killarney on the 13th. He could easily have walked the distance. Brisbane could be reached in two days' walking. Burgess hid his swag all the time he was at Mattingley's. When he went for his swag he rode a mare of Mattingley's. Burgess, he says, asked for an advance of money to buy a pair of blucher boots and tobacco. Mr. Mattingley says he was wearing elastic-side boots, which were in fair order. These are the boots, which Burgess states he planted, but would not say where. He went by the name of Joseph Ryan at Killarney. The following statement has been made by Burgess to Mr. Herbert, his solicitor: -"On the morning of the 25th December I had breakfast at a farmer's, about fourteen miles from Allora, near the Range. At about 9 o'clock I left there, and about 10 or 10.30 passed along by a station due west. I came to a house. A man resided there who stuttered in his speech. I got a drink of water there. That was about 8 o'clock in the evening, and I then went five or six miles towards Greenmount. I camped about 10 o'clock that night on a fringe of timber. Coming from the place where I got a drink of water, I met a man wearing a white helmet, and driving a sulky, about four miles from the house. I had dinner on the 26th with a Danish woman about five miles from the last camp, due north. I stopped there about an hour, and afterwards called at several places. I got a drink of water at one place, and spoke to a boy at another for about half-an-hour. I then went 200 yards on to get something to eat at a place where they have a stallion, four miles from Nobby. I camped on Boxing Night in front of a big house, about two miles from Greenmount Railway Station. I left that camp next day (27th December). Leaving my swag at the camp, I went back to Bell's Hotel, at Greenmount, and asked several people for work. Among others, I asked the Archers, who own a thrashing plant. I then went to Allan's farm, and got breakfast from Mrs. Allan, Mr. Allan being away at the dairy with milk. I then spoke to the wife of one of Allan's employees at a house between Allan's and Bell's Hotel. I then went to the camp; got my swag, dressed in a light, or white, felt hat, and grey tweed suit. Burgess also gave his solicitor a rough sketch of the places where he visited during these days, giving a good deal of detail. He even described where boys were playing cricket on Boxing Day. Several witnesses will be brought here today to see if they can identify him. The Clifton woman says Burgess called at their place either on the 25th or 26th of December. Burgess, it is supposed, travelled by train from Killarney to Warwick on the 17th December. He was shaved, wearing only a moustache, at Killarney. Burgess's statement will be thoroughly tested. According to his account, he must have put in about eight days about Clifton. These have to be accounted for. So far, Sparksman is the only person who identifies Burgess. This is the man at whose house Burgess had breakfasted on Christmas Day. The police had information that this was correct before the inquiry was hold. Mr. Mattingley, of Killarney, does not recognise Burgess by the photograph, but with other witnesses will be hero this afternoon. Burgess says that his hat was nearly white and his

clothes light, but once the police have had them he hardly recognises them.

LAST NIGHT'S LETTER.

TOOWOOMBA, Sunday, 5 p.m.

There is very little to add to my telegram of yesterday. So far very little has been done in the way of identifying Burgess. The persons expected from Clifton district did not arrive, but Mr. Mattingley, of Killarney, and Mr. Sparksmann, of near Allora, came in. Mr. Mattingley identifies Burgess as the man whom he saw at Killarney on the 13th instant, and who was prospecting for gold with him for two days. Mr. Sparksmann said that Burgess was the man who called at his house, about twelve miles from Allora on Christmas Eve, slept there, and had breakfast next morning. It was thought that Mrs. Allen, of Greenmount, the farmer near Clifton who "stuttered in his speech." the Archers, and others would have been brought to Toowoomba as early as possible to see if they could support the story told by Burgess of his movements at about Christmas time, but on yesterday evening Burgess was removed from the lockup and taken down to Brisbane to undergo his sentence of two months' imprisonment in Brisbane Gaol for vagrancy. What the programme is for the identification of the man by the people whom he says he saw on Christmas and Boxing Day and the following day far from the scene of the Gatton tragedy, I cannot say. Perhaps the identification may, on inquiry, be found unnecessary.

Yesterday afternoon Sub-inspector Durham, Detective Toomey (who returned in the morning train from Gatton), Constable Wilson, who knows the country well, and several other police, with horses, from Gatton, and a tracker left Toowoomba for the Clifton and Greenmount districts.

Their mission is to follow the track, which Burgess says he took, and to test his statements. It is also desired to find out what he was doing between the 1^{7th} December, when he left Killarney, and the 2^{5th} December, when he arrived at Sparksmann's house. It is anticipated that these inquiries will take about three days. Upon the result will depend the whole of the future operations of the police.

The police kept the matter of the removal of Burgess to Brisbane very quiet, but there were a large number of people on the platform when the train left for Brisbane. The news of the departure of the man whose name has been so prominent of late soon spread, and the crowd became a considerable one. People pressed forward to see Burgess, but as soon as possible the police got him into the carriage, and the venetian shutters were drawn.

BURGESS'S SKETCH PLAN OF HIS MOVEMENTS.

The "Toowoomba Chronicle" of Saturday says: -Yesterday morning Burgess drew a rough plan showing his route on the 25th and 26th of December, which he gave to his solicitor, Mr. Herbert, who courteously handed to the local Press for inspection. This plan, which is before us as we write, is indeed a notable one. It is drawn in pencil on a piece of blotting paper measuring 23 in. x 17 in. The plan indicates a remarkable knowledge of the locality, as well as very fair draftsman's skill, showing that the drawer is at any rate a perfect bushman. On the top right hand corner he marked the words, "The Dividing Range," represented by a mass of figures of eight, while not far away are the words, "Station here," which is presumably Pilton. Then he draws a road due west, on which are the words, "This road bearing west, I went along to the turn." The characteristics of the country on this road he describes such as "ploughed ground," "hawthorn hedge," "cross road," "road going mountain," and in one place he remarked

these words, "Big house like a wool-shed," on the other side of which he writes, "I was here on the night of the 25th." Not far from the turn of the road he marks, "House," opposite which on the road he writes, "Met man in sulky." This road he traces along, showing his camps on the 26th, and the characteristics of the country. Further on, where the road going to Greenmount takes a bend, he marks "humpy, called here on the morning of the 26th." "At this bend he marks where he diverged from the roads to a well, near which he marks, "Creek, willows growing here." Running up this creek, he marks "Big bank," "a lot of reeds," and crossing it he traces his route to a house, which he inscribes, "This is where I got something to eat from the Mrs. of the place the day of the 26th." In front of this house he marks a cross road, and shows another house further along, which he says he also called at. He then traces his route to a place which he words, "I was talking to this woman; her husband was ploughing; he spoke to me; also the day, 26th." Crossing country towards Greenmount, he marks a spot, which he passed as "Here they were playing cricket when I went by." Approaching Greenmount, he shows several tracks and places, one of which he marks, "I was here, got a drink of water." Several houses are marked, also the place where they had a stallion. He then traces his route by what he calls, "big mountain." He then shows the Greenmount platform, the railway line. Bell's hotel, and a spot not far away which he marks, "Camped here night of 26th, pretty late." Crude as it is in some respects, the plan is a remarkable one, and, drawn from memory as it is, evinces an excellent general knowledge of the locality.

30/01/1899

The man Burgess, who is suspected of being concerned in the Gatton tragedy, made a long statement to Mr. Herbert, his solicitor, yesterday. He gave a mass of easily tested details in connection with his alleged whereabouts and doings from November 24 to December 7. The police intend sifting the matter to the bottom.

31/01/1899

Much excitement is being caused in the Gatton district because of the possibility of Burgess proving an alibi. The police are seeking to trace Burgess's doings in the locality of Mt. Walker. The police were informed by Mr. O'Brien, of Moggill, that he saw Burgess with a revolver. It, however, transpires that Burgess had a serious row with O'Brien. Mr. W. Sibenhausen, a farmer, living nine miles from Clifton, whom Burgess describes as a man suffering from an impediment in his speech, is prepared to swear that Burgess obtained drink at his house on Christmas Day.

31/01/1899

Received January 30th, 9.10 a.m. Brisbane, January 30. Burgess made a statement to his solicitor covering his movements on Christmas and Boxing Days.

This shows that on those days he was some distance from Gatton.

Received January 30th, midnight.

A farmer has identified Burgess as the man who stayed at his farm, twenty-five miles from Gatton, on the night prior to the murder.

This verifies Burgess' statement as to his whereabouts.

The police are consequently nonplussed.

31/01/1899

This district is much excited over the possibility of Burgess proving an alibi.

The police are continuing to make a thorough investigation into the matter. Mr. O'Brien, of Moggill, where Burgess worked for two days, states that Burgess had, when there, a nickel-plated revolver. Inspector Urquhart returned this morning. Police have been sent out from Laidley to endeavour to trace Burgess in the locality of Mount Walker, thence to Killarney. Sergeant Tom King has gone to Dalby to continue inquiries there. The police, being informed by O'Brien, of Moggill, that he saw Burgess with a revolver there, are making fresh efforts to trace where he got it, and where he disposed of it. The distance from Sparksman's, where Burgess breakfasted on Christmas morning, to Gatton is twenty-six miles over a good track. The result of the inquiries at Clifton and Greenmount is looked for here with intense interest. It transpires that Burgess had a serious row with O'Brien at Moggill, and in the encounter, which took place, the latter, being an old man, was worsted. The police are making a search for a man named Burke, who is said to be very like Burgess, but darker.

REPORT FROM TOOWOOMBA. (By Telegraph from Our Special Reporter.)

GATTON, January 30.

The "Darling Downs Gazette" reports that on Saturday night a man called at the house of a settler named Anderson, near Gowrie Little Plain School, and asked for food. Anderson replied, "Call in the morning, and I will give you plenty." The man said, "Give it now, or down you go." Mr. Anderson then gave him bread and meat. The police have been informed. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)

TOOWOOMBA, January 30. The only thing fresh in connection with the Gatton tragedy is that W. H. Siebenhausen, who lives nine miles from Clifton and whom Burgess describes as a "stammerer," is prepared to swear that he gave Burgess a drink of water on Christmas Day, 25th December.

LAST NIGHT'S LETTER.

REVIEW OF THE SITUATION. Monday, -5 p.m.

Five weeks to-night since the Gatton tragedy, a crime which has made the name of the town familiar throughout Australia, and yet we are all in suspense, wondering what each hour may bring forth. The impression here in police and general circles is that the crime was carried out by one person. Circumstances for a time seemed to favour the guilty party or parties, but the police have got together links in the chain, which are considered of great value.

In the commission of the terrible deeds, which surround the tragedy, certain traces were left right at the scene, which may prove strong corroboration to other evidence, which the police have in hand. The authorities prefer to keep from publicity at present what these traces were, but this may be said: they are likely to make conclusive testimony, which might be doubtful, either through prejudice or error. And, besides these traces actually on the scene of the crime, a discovery was made in the paddock where the tragedy took place, which is also considered of great value. What this discovery was has not transpired, but

I believe, though it was not a firearm, that its possession by the police very considerably modified the necessity for further local search. In the paddock also were found two old letters addressed to John Lunney, formerly of Gatton, and who died in the Ipswich

Hospital about January last year.

The work of tracing these letters from the Ipswich Hospital to Moran's paddock is a task of vast difficulty, but there is no reason to despair of its being accomplished. While on this point, it may be remarked that Lunney was on more than one occasion in the Ipswich Hospital. Then outside the paddock, in the bed of a muddy watercourse, which is spanned by a culvert, another article was found to which the police attach a good deal of importance.

Tracing its ownership is a hard piece of work, and still goes on. Then the analyst and the microscopist have been at work, and if they are able to help the police their evidence will be very important, for there were certain circumstances connected with the tragedy which renders the forging of a link of evidence through scientific investigation not at all improbable. These points

I have referred to are probably not all the evidence that the police have which may be said to come into close association with the crime, but they are all I have been able to discern during a month's work on the spot. Then there is another important matter which will probably help in the vindication of the law-the almost absolute certainty that the Gatton and Oxley tragedy were perpetrated by the same person or persons. In briefly reviewing these matters I have not dealt with the direct evidence of the persons who undertook to identify Richard Burgess, now in gaol as a vagrant, as the man who was at Moran's sliprails on the night of the crimes. To-day people will talk of nothing but the chance of Burgess clearing himself from the suspicion surrounding him. In the light of recent events it may be interesting to review the movements of Burgess since he left prison on 30th November, so far as they can be traced, and on Burgess's own statements.

He says that after leaving the steamer, which brought him to Brisbane, he went out as far as Toowong, and camped for the night. He had a few shillings on leaving St. Helena-really 7s. 6d-and walked from Toowong to the farm of Mr. John O'Brien, at Moggill. Mr. O'Brien is well known in the Moggill district, and has a grown-up family, the eldest son being about 46 years of age. Some of the sons live at home, but are frequently absent droving and taking stock to the saleyards

In Brisbane. Mr. O'Brien gave Burgess a job, but after two days a serious quarrel took place, and Burgess left. Mr. O'Brien, after the magisterial inquiry at Gatton on Tuesday last, was visited-by Detective Johnson, who received an account from him somewhat similar to that given by Burgess of the stay there. Mr. O'Brien said that he saw a nickel-plated revolver in Burgess's possession. The next we hear of Burgess comes from Mr. Cushing, of the Oxley Bacon Factory, who says that he saw the man at Oxley on the 1^{0th} December, and at Wolston on the 11th December. Burgess, in his statement, made no reference to crossing the river at all. The next place-so far as the public know-that he was heard of was at North Ipswich, which place he says he visited, and then he travelled by way of Mount Walker to Killarney. He was at Killarney on the 13th December. To those who do not know the country this statement seems hardly consistent with Mr. Cushing's, but Mr. Mattingley, the State schoolmaster at Killarney, who gives his first interview with Burgess as the 13th December, says that Killarney is within two days' walking distance of Brisbane. In his statement Burgess said that he had worked for two days with Mr. Mattingley at Killarney, prospecting for gold, had received 10s. as payment, and had bought a pair of blucher-boots at Killarney for 7s. These statements have been verified.

Burgess gives no account of his movements-except in a general way-from the 16th to the 25th December. It is believed that he took train from Killarney to Warwick, but at the time of writing we are without verification of the story. On the evening of the 25th December, Christmas Eve, he arrived at the farm of Mr. Sparksman, a selector who lives just below the Range, about twelve or fourteen miles from Allora. Here he slept and breakfasted on Christmas Day, and said that he was going to Allora, but was seen taking the track towards Gatton, which is twenty-six miles from Sparksman's, over a fair track. From this point out statements are conflicting. Burgess says that on the evening of the 25th, at 8 o'clock, he got a drink of water at the house of a selector who stuttered, and he then went five or six miles towards Greenmount, and camped at about 10 p.m. On the 26th, Boxing Day, the day of the Gatton tragedy, he had dinner at the house of a Danish woman, and at night camped about two miles from Greenmount Railway Station. On the 27th he visited several places in the locality of Greenmount, which he names, and gives details of the persons he saw, and of the country he passed through. The next we hear of him in his own statement is on the 29th December, when he says he was at Helidon, having come back across the Range, and he has been fully identified as a man who called at several places in the vicinity of Helidon. Thence he went up Flagstone Creek, over the Range to Highfields, and away to the Bunya Mountains where he states he was told a man was wanted at a sawmill. From the 29th to the day of his arrest at Bunya Mountains on the 6th instant, there is no question as to his movements. The movements of Burgess after leaving Sparksman's on the morning of Christmas Day, as related by himself, are directly at variance with the statements made in Tent Hill and Gatton district. Several persons picked him out from others as a man who was seen at Tent Hill at Christmas time. Two others, Master and Miss Hellas, state that he called at their house at Gatton at about half-past 6 o'clock on Boxing night.

Mrs. Carroll and her son, and Miss Florence Lowe, selected him as the man whom they saw at Moran's slip-rails, where the Murphy's gig entered to go to the scene of the tragedy. Some of those witnesses state that there is no possibility of mistake in their identification; but Miss Hellas says that she could not recognise him except by his coat, which was patched under the right arm, and the patch partly torn away. It must be borne in mind, in considering all these statements, that photographs of Burgess had been seen by these persons prior to their being called on to identify him; but in each case, we are informed by the police, a description of the man seen was asked for before the photographs were shown.

Miss Hellas's testimony is somewhat remarkable, as she described the patch on Burgess's coat before seeing his photograph at all, and when inquiries were made concerning any strangers who might have been in Gatton on the night of the tragedy. Miss Lowe, too, picked Burgess out by his voice during the identification proceedings, as the man who had accosted her at Moran's sliprails. So far these circumstances are regarded by the police as weighing strongly against Burgess; but if his statements as to his movements on the 26th December are found correct-and they are being thoroughly investigated-there can be no question that some one else was mistaken for him. Of course, there are many details connected with the history of the movements of Burgess, which are peculiar, but the real point at issue is whether he was at Gatton on the night of the tragedy, or camped within two miles of Greenmount Railway Station. With the statement Burgess made at Toowoomba, and with the rough sketch of the country he has given, the police should

have no difficulty in testing the story. On Saturday afternoon, at a parade of the Gatton Mounted Infantry, the following memorandum was read in the company orders: -"The commanding officer desires to place on record his acute sense of regret at the serious loss sustained by the death of the late Sergeant Michael Murphy.

Efficient and energetic in the discharge of his duties, well liked and respected by his comrades, he was one of the mainstays of the company. His untimely death at the hands of a murderer causes a loss that will be hard to replace."

Captain Fowles, commanding officer, gave instructions that a copy of the order should be sent to the parents of the late Sergeant Murphy. Our Clifton correspondent, writing under yesterday's date, says: -The selector who gave the drink to the man out from Clifton was in here on Saturday. He says he is positive it was Burgess, with whom he had a conversation at 7 o'clock on Sunday night, the 25th December.

1/02/1899

It has transpired that the man with the impediment in his speech, at whose house Burgess called on the night of the 25th December, is Mr. W. H. Siebenhauser. It is said that he identifies the photograph of Burgess as that of the man to whom he gave a drink of water on Christmas night. No information has been obtained from Sub-Inspector Durham yet. The police consider it possible that Siebenhauser made a mistake in his man or the date, but if he is correct they hold that it does not clear Burgess of being here on Boxing Night.

GATTON, 4 p.m.

The police here have received no information at the time of writing from Greenmount or Clifton. The heavy rain of yesterday has no doubt retarded the sub-inspector in his work. Information has been received here unofficially that after leaving Mr. O'Brien's farm at Moggill, Burgess crossed the river at the Moggill Ferry, and went in the direction of Riverview. It is understood that the police have traced him on the 12th December, and it is considered that he may have travelled from Ipswich to Dugandan by train, and walked thence to Killarney.

The police are continuing their inquiries locally, but their drift is by no means plain. Sub-inspector Galbraith is working in the Tent Hill district with a staff of mounted men. In Gatton the whole feeling seems to centre in the settlement of the truth or otherwise of Burgess's statement as to his whereabouts on Boxing Day and Night.

MORE ABOUT BURGESS. (By Telegraph from Our Correspondent.)

BUNDABERG, January 31.

Several employees at Windermere having been shown the photograph of Burgess declare that he is identical with a gardener named Bartlett, who threw a pair of shears at Fred. Motts' little boy about two years ago. Bartlett was at Windermere only a few months. After the boy's death Bartlett was tried on a charge of manslaughter, but was acquitted. Another man from Knockroe has identified the photograph as that of a man who broke into the supper-room there one night during the season of 1897, but was caught by some of the men working on the night shift.

3/02/1899

BURGESS AT MOGGILL.

The "Queensland Times" supplies an interesting account of an interview with Mr. C. O'Brien, sen., of Pullen Vale, near Moggill, where Burgess was at work early in

December:

MR. O'BRIEN'S STORY.

Mr. O'Brien is, it is said, at least 90 years old. He is one of the hardy pioneers to whom the colony is indebted for the work of settlement done in the early days. He still works on the farm, and does odd jobs on the road. He told me the story of Burgess's few days' engagement with him without the slightest hesitation. It appears that Burgess arrived there about mid-day on Thursday, 1st December. He came up to the house, as many' tramps frequently do, and spoke to Mrs. O'Brien, who was at the time on the veranda. After a few words Mrs. O'Brien asked him to come in and have some dinner, and he accepted the invitation. Mr. O'Brien then got into conversation with him, and eventually it was agreed to give him some work to do. The pair set to on Thursday afternoon, Burgess, if I remember rightly, doing the shovelling part, and Mr. O'Brien the wheeling. The latter states that Burgess is a very strong man, and a fine worker when he chooses to do his best. Mr. O'Brien is a very sociable man, and seems to have' questioned Burgess pretty freely. Burgess stated that he came from the Esk district, and that he had previously been in New South Wales. (It is a curious coincidence that the man Burke who was admitted into the Ipswich Hospital in January, 1896, and is believed by some to be identical with Burgess, also stated that he came from Esk.) The Information volunteered by Burgess that he had been in New South Wales eventually led to trouble. Mr. O'Brien had been in that colony, and he was naturally anxious to know if he had been in the same parts as Burgess. The latter had mentioned Bathurst as one of the places he had visited. Mr. O'Brien naturally became eager for information about Bathurst. On Saturday, after knocking-off work, and while sitting on the veranda, Mr. O'Brien appears to have been plying his visitor with questions that the latter apparently did not want to answer.

The answers, especially regarding Bathurst, do not seem to have been satisfactory to the questioner, and evidently he broadly hinted so much. It is said that he even intimated to Burgess that he (Burgess) looked like a man who had not long come from gaol, but I have not that statement from Mr. O'Brien himself. Be that as it may, Burgess took Mr. O'Brien by the shoulders and unceremoniously tumbled him off the veranda, under an orange-tree that grew in the garden. As a parting shot at Mr. O'Brien, he told the old gentleman on leaving never to ask questions from tramps, or they would be sure to tell him lies." "This," said Mr. O'Brien, laughingly, "was the truest word he spoke while he was here." Mr. O'Brien, it may be said, does not bear Burgess any ill-will for the rough treatment of him, and laughs heartily at the misadventure of the tumble under the orange-tree. Burgess was almost clean shaven when he came to Mr. O'Brien's place. It has been stated in the Press that Mr O'Brien was positive that Burgess had a revolver with him during the time that he worked for him. If Mr. O'Brien ever made such a statement he very considerably modifies it now. After Burgess's bit of resentment of the queries put to him by Mr. O'Brien he proceeded to the detached portion of the house, where he had slept, and commenced to put up his swag. Mr. O'Brien went into the house and asked his wife to get the money ready that was due to Burgess.

He then went out to where Burgess was, and saw him putting up his swag. As it was being carefully rolled up Mr. O'Brien says that he saw something "shiny" in it, but he is not at all prepared to swear that it was a revolver. He readily admits that his testimony on this point is practically of no value, as he really did not see sufficient of the article,

whatever it may have been, to identify it. Burgess seems to have been very careful of his swag, and did not expose it while at Mr. O'Brien's place.

6/02/1899

Nothing definite can be gathered from the police as to the result of Detective Toomey's investigations at Clifton. The matter is, however, very eagerly discussed, and whether founded or not on facts-the prevailing impression is that Burgess's statements about his movements at Christmas time in the vicinity of Allora, Clifton, and Greenmount are largely corroborated, and it is further persistently stated that Mr. Seibenhause and wife are positive they gave Burgess a drink of water on the evening of the 26th December about 8 o'clock. In reference to the distance from Mr. Sparksman's place, where Burgess is said to have breakfasted on Christmas morning, to Gatton, it is fully forty miles, and not twenty-six as stated previously. Another topic of general comment is that some at least of the Gatton folk who are said to have identified Burgess were not so positive of identification as the published reports of the inquiry gave them credit for. Under these conflicting statements the opinion is fast gaining ground that Burgess was not in the Gatton tragedy; indeed, many assert that he is not treated with the justice so characteristic of British law. Inspector Urquhart is still here, and I understand Sub-Inspector Galbraith left for Brisbane by the afternoon train. The police are still actively engaged in the investigation, and further developments are anxiously awaited.

PRESS INVESTIGATIONS ON THE DOWNS. (Abridged from the "D. D. Gazette" of Saturday.)

Our special proceeded to Greenmount and took up the story of Burgess's movements, as related by himself, at a Mrs. Pierson's. Previous to this, however, an interview with the Rev. Smiley, of Allora, proved that it was this reverend gentleman who passed Burgess on the evening of Christmas Day. Mr. Smiley was wearing a white helmet, as Burgess stated. It was about 8 o'clock on that evening that Mr. Smiley met the tramp, and he remembers the fact because the horse he was driving shied at the traveller. Mr. Smiley was going towards Allora, and Burgess was coming from the direction of Allora, as already stated by him. This was about six miles on the, Allora side of Greenmount. Mr. Smiley states he would not be able to identify the man, it being dark at the time he met him. Burgess's next statement was that he camped Christmas Night, and next day proceeded here and there looking for work until dinner-time, when he had dinner at a Danish woman's place, remaining half-an hour. This we have verified, as the following by our special will show :-I called at Mrs. Pierson's, a Danish woman, and she stated the police had warned her not to make any statement, so I had difficulty in getting anything from her. I learned that a man wearing tweed pants and coat, and an old straw hat and blue striped cotton shirt, called at her house at about half-past 1. He carried a swag, without a pint or billy. He had dinner, and asked for work. She was alone at the time.

He remarked he had come five or six miles, and had camped in the mountains the night before. He said he saw a big building in the distance from his camp. He asked for work, and she told him there was a threshing plant working near Nobby. Mrs. Pierson was indisposed at this time. Burgess inquired what the symptoms were, and named a medicine that would cure her. She forgets what the name was. He stayed about half-an-hour, and left in the direction of Irvine's, about half-a-mile distant. Mrs. Pierson believes she could identify the man. . . . Regarding our special's visit to Mr. Irvine's, we received the following wire from Mr. Irvine yesterday evening: "I object to you publishing any

information received from my wife."

We are unable therefore to publish particulars. In the map Burgess drew he showed a spot where he passed some men playing cricket on Boxing Day. I have verified this. Calling at Mr. Forsyth's, whose house is about two miles from Irvine's, I learned that on Boxing Day a cricket match was played in his paddock. The ladies on looking state they saw a swagman going through the paddock at a distance of about 400 yards. He was walking in the direction of Fallow's and Beck's. This was about half-past 4 Burgess next says "he stopped talking to a boy for an hour at another place." I verified this. A farmer named Fallon resides on the property adjoining Beck's. I called here, and learned that his son, Michael Fallon, 16 years of age, was speaking to a man at about milking time on Boxing Day. The boy was chopping at an ironbark log when the man came up, and the latter was carrying a small swag. The man started a conversation, and it continued for somewhere about half-an-hour. He asked if there were any threshers about. He further remarked that he supposed there would be some boozing at Nobby that night, as it was a holiday, and "if a man went over and threw a few of them out and broke their necks a man might get a job in their place." The man also remarked that he never went by road, but he always crossed paddocks and farms. He further remarked that he had just seen a lot of men playing cricket. Mr. Fallon called the boy away to proceed with his work, and the man, picking up his swag, left in the direction of Beck's. Burgess's next statement was that he called at a place where a stallion was kept, and got some food. At Mr. Beck's a stallion is kept. I learn from Fallon that a man passed by Mr. Beck's on the same evening (Boxing Day), at dusk.

He placed his swag at some distance from the house, and went up and asked for food. He was supplied with food, and complained of feeling unwell, and expressed the opinion that he would go into Nobby to the hotel and get some brandy and port wine, and left in the direction of Nobby. Burgess then states that he next passed the Greenmount Railway Station and camped that night (Boxing Night) about a mile or two off. The next time I can take up his tracks is on the morning of the 27th. Burgess states that on this morning he left his swag in the camp and sallied out in search of work, passing round the Wheatsheaf Hotel. This, I think, is verified. I called on Mrs. Nightingale, who resides just off the main Toowoomba-road, about three miles from Greenmount station, and from where Burgess is supposed to have camped he could have passed the Wheatsheaf Hotel. She informs me that on the 27th (the day after Boxing Day) at about a-quarter to 8 in the morning a man called and asked for work. He had no swag. He had about a couple of days growth of beard on. In reply to a question, Mrs. Nightingale said he appeared very tired and worn out. I also learned that Mrs. Nightingale, and who is evidently the employee of Mr. Allen referred to by Burgess, informed a neighbour that when the man sat down he appeared to doze off and be very sleepy. The warning by the police prevented me learning more from Mrs. Nightingale. I may state here that the distance from here to Gatton direct is given by residents as eighteen miles.

The account by the "Gazette's" special goes on to detail traces of a man supposed to be Burgess, who called at several places in this district on the 27th-namely, at Archer's, half-a-mile from Nightingale's; at Woodlawn, and at Collins's, about a mile from Greenmount station, on the Toowoomba-road; but at the last-named place he did not approach within 400 yards.

Nothing definite can be gathered from the police concerning their inquiries at Clifton, but it is believed that Burgess's statements as to his movements, at Christmas especially, have been corroborated. It is also asserted that some Gatton people who identified Burgess are now not so positive.

One of the Toowoomba papers sent a special reporter to make inquiries in the Allora, Clifton, and Greenmount Districts for the purpose of testing the truth of Burgess's statements.

The reporter found that all the incidents detailed by Burgess at the official inquiry had actually happened

10/02/1899

Burgess, who was sentenced in Toowoomba to two months' in Brisbane Gaol for vagrancy, was brought to Brisbane by train on the 28th January, and safely lodged in Boggo Road Gaol.

The public were not aware of the intention to bring him down, consequently there was no demonstration.

10/02/1899

In connection with the man Burke, alias Blake, arrested at Grafton, the Queensland Times states that from inquiries it was found that a man named Bound and a man named Burke were in Ipswich Hospital on January 9. An endeavour was made to connect Burgess with the Ipswich Hospital during the time that a patient named Lunney was there. It is said that a man named Burke, who was previously in the Ipswich district, was very like Burgess, but of darker complexion. It is generally reported that Burns, whom the man arrested at Grafton is said to resemble sailed for New Zealand in May last. It will be remembered that two letters were found near the scene of the murders addressed to a patient named Lunney in the Ipswich Hospital. It was hoped that these letters would assist in tracing the murderers. The man Lunney died in the hospital some two years since. Shortly before the time of his death a man named Burke was also an indoor patient of the hospital, and the two men became very intimate. Several of Lunney's letters were missed after his decease. These are letters found in Moran's paddock after the discovery of the murders, and since that time the police have been anxiously endeavouring to trace the identity and movements of the man Burke, but so far without success. One theory is that Burke was really Burgess under another name, but that idea appears to have been discredited.

10/02/1899

Concerning the man John Burke, alias Blake, who has been arrested at Woolgoola (New South Wales), and taken to Grafton, the interest of the Queensland police in him arises probably from the circumstance that a man of the same name is said to have been in the Ipswich Hospital in January last year, when a patient named John Lunney died, and that letters addressed to Lunney were found in Moran's paddock on the day of the Gatton tragedy. As a matter of fact there have been some eight patients in the Ipswich Hospital named Burke.

The "Queensland Times" made inquiries on the subject some time ago, and found that a man named Burke was in the hospital in January 1896, suffering from a broken rib and a

bad leg. Subsequently this man was in the employ of Mr. M'Donald, of the Royal Hotel, Esk, and died from heat apoplexy In January of this year. It will be remembered that Richard Burgess, now serving a sentence in Brisbane Gaol for vagrancy, has actually passed under the name of Patrick Burke, and an endeavour has been made to connect him with the Ipswich Hospital during the time Lunney was there. It is said that a man named Burke, who was formerly in the Ipswich district, was very like Burgess, but darker in complexion. Our Sydney telegram says that the man now detained at Grafton very nearly answers the description of Frank Burns, or Byrnes, who was released from St. Helena at about the same time as Burgess.

Burns, or Byrnes, is about 5ft. 6in. in height, of light build, about 35 years of age, and when discharged from prison wore a sandy moustache, his beard being shaved. He served a sentence for a well-known jewellery robbery at Warwick, and, it is supposed, was in the Toowoomba district after his release.

A report on very good authority is to the effect that Burns, or Byrnes, was last seen in Sydney, and had sailed for New Zealand.

It may be mentioned that John Lunney was well known in the Gatton district, and that the letters found near the scene of the tragedy in Moran's paddock were from his wife and son, and had some reference to an expected legacy.

The police have ever since the discovery of the letters on the day following the tragedy, been working hard to run their history back to the date when they left the Ipswich Hospital. If when Lunney died Burke was an inmate of the Ipswich Hospital that is probably why the police wished to find him. Whether the man arrested in New South Wales is the identical Burke is a question of considerable interest just at present.

15/02/1899

The police authorities have adopted a somewhat novel course with respect to Richard Burgess, who was recently sentenced to two months' imprisonment for vagrancy, and who was originally arrested on the 6th January, and charged with being concerned in the Gatton tragedy. Burgess has been removed from the Brisbane Gaol and, under police escort, with Sub inspector White in charge, is being taken to various places where he states that he called after leaving the prison at St. Helena on the 30th November last. Burgess, at the magisterial inquiry into the deaths of Michael, Norah, and Ellen Murphy, said that after he left the steamer which brought him from the penal establishment, he went straight out to Toowong, and thence to Moggill, where he worked for a couple of days with Mr. O'Brien, and that he then went by way of the Quarries to North Ipswich, and thence by Mount Walker to Killarney. The police idea is that Burgess was in the neighbourhood of Oxley on the 11th December, and Mr. Cashing, of the Oxley Bacon Factory, picked Burgess out from seven others at Toowoomba as a man whom he saw at Oxley on that day. After going to places in these localities, which will probably enable Burgess to prove his story true-if it be true-the prisoner will, it is understood, be taken to the Clifton and Greenmount districts, to test his statements as to his whereabouts on the 25th, 26th, and 27th December last.

It will be remembered that the 26th December was the night of the Gatton tragedy, and while Burgess states that he was in the Clifton district on that night and his statement is in a measure supported-other people say that he was in Gatton.

These matters the public will be glad to learn are at length to be cleared up. Should the

result be unfavourable to Burgess, he will probably be again charged at the Police Court with being concerned in the Gatton crimes. The police as usual are moving very quietly in this matter, and seem particularly anxious that their route with Burgess should not be known.

15/02/1899

The police intend taking Burgess to the place where he alleges he was on the night of the murder with a view to testing the truth of his story as to his whereabouts on that occasion.

16/02/1899

Brisbane, February 15th. — The police have disproved the statements of the man who said he camped near the scene of the Gatton tragedy on the night of the murder.

They are conveying Burgess over the route he alleged he travelled at the time of the Gatton and Oxley murders, with a view to testing his statements.

27/02/1899

The police are now engaged in escorting Burgess over the Allora and Clifton districts with the view of testing the statements made by him at the Gatton inquiry regarding his whereabouts at Christmas tide. The investigation has been conducted with the utmost care, but the result of the inquiry has so far been withheld.

3/03/1899

In reference to the Gatton murders, it is generally believed that Burgess, who is being detained in gaol, will successfully establish an alibi.

25/04/1899

Early in their inquiries the suspicions of the police fell upon a man named Richard Burgess, who has a most unenviable criminal record, including no fewer than 13 convictions for assaults on women. The police, however, for reasons known only to themselves, had doubts about Burgess's complicity in the crime, and though they have been severely censured for what has been described as their "French" method of treating him, they really took the steps they did to enable him, if possible, to prove his innocence. He was culled as a witness at the inquest, and still hesitated a little about his doings during Christmas week; but at last they obtained from him a statement of his movements, which showed that he was not within miles of Gatton when the murders were committed. They tested his story in every way, even taking him out under escort, and making him show the exact route he followed, and after he had done so the police were satisfied that he could have had no hand in the crime, and they had to look elsewhere for the murderer.

26/04/1899

Inspector Urquhart is still conducting investigations at Gatton. He came to Brisbane yesterday, and had a long interview with the Commissioner of Police, subsequently returning to Gatton.

The police are quite satisfied that Burgess had no connection with the crime.

The man is understood to have left the colony, but the police are cognisant of his movements.

28/06/1900

The shocking tragedy at Gatton, Queensland, has been recalled by an arrest made at Trentham, Victoria.

About 3 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, 10th inst., there was a desperate encounter with a stranger, who was caught in the residence of Mr John Brooks by himself and his two sons.

The man was held until the arrival of Constable Toole, when a fierce struggle followed. He proved most desperate, and it took the constable and four other men to handcuff and lock him up.

He made use of the vilest expressions and threats, and said frequently, "I am the Gatton murderer."

He also said that he had shot a policeman in Queensland, and would shoot more.

In court next day the man admitted that he was Richard Burgess, -who had been arrested and was kept in custody for some time on suspicion of having committed the Gatton murders.

He was sent to gaol one month for using obscene language, and is to be charged on the 25th with having assaulted a married woman in her own house prior to breaking into Mr Brooks's house.

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