

THE WESTERN EXPRESS.

DERAILMENT AT ALICE.

FULL DETAILS OF ACCIDENT.

TRAGIC DISASTER NARROWLY AVERTED.

DAME FORTUNE IN SMILING MOOD.

NO PANIC AMONG PASSENGERS.

(BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES).

In connection with the derailment of the mail train from Longreach to Rockhampton on Tuesday near Alice railway station, advice was received from Inspector Halvorsen late on Monday night that the last span of the bridge had subsided. The permanent way was somewhat badly damaged. He was arranging to put in a deviation of six chains in order that traffic might be resumed.

Yesterday the Railway Department was advised that the breakdown gang had cleared the line of all obstructions, that the derailed vehicles had been placed on the rails again, that the deviation had been completed, and that traffic would be resumed. This was at half-past 12 o'clock, so that very little time was lost.

The special train from Emerald duly arrived at the scene of the derailment, and the mails and passengers were successfully transhipped.

The Railway Department advised that an examination of the derailed carriages revealed that the damage was not so great as was first anticipated, and that all the coaches, with the exception of one, will be in commission again very shortly.

The special train which brought the passengers to Rockhampton did not arrive until after midnight. They were all thoroughly tired, but very thankful that they had come through such a nerve-racking ordeal without loss of life.

Three representatives of this paper journeyed out to meet the incoming train to interview passengers. They had to work under great disadvantages, but it is due to their efforts that we are able to present such a vivid account of one of the most exciting—and which could easily have been one of the most tragic—happenings in the railway history of Queensland.