

THE STEAMER DESPATCH WRECKED.

The steamer *Despatch* went ashore near Cunninghame, about 20 miles from Melbourne, and became a total wreck.

It appears that the *Despatch* arrived outside the Cunninghame entrance on Thursday night, and was compelled to stand out to sea until daylight, on account of the heavy swell and perverse tides. At 7 o'clock yesterday morning signals at the Flagstaff being favourable, she attempted to enter; but owing to the heavy swell or some unaccountable reason, the stern struck the rocks at the end of the eastern pier. All attempts to beach the vessel proved futile. The heavy sea soon swept the steamer round at right angles with the pier. The stern quickly settled down, and at 10 o'clock the bow which is half-way across the entrance, and lies in about 60ft. of water, had disappeared. The whole of the crew and one lady passenger were safely landed. A local fishing company rendered good services in salvaging the deck cargo. Latest advices stated that the vessel has disappeared.

The *Despatch* was a well-known trader, and was owned by Messrs. Huddart, Parker and Company Proprietary, Ltd., She was an iron screw steamer of 237 tons, 151 feet long, 20 feet 1 inch in breadth, and with a depth of 10 feet 3 inches. She was built in Melbourne in 1869, and for a number of years was chartered from Huddart, Parker by the Victorian Government. When the *Lady Loch* was built she replaced the *Despatch*.