

CROYDON

*(The Queenslander 28 May 1887)*

*(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)*

*April 22.*

Mr. Bibby's machine, about two and a half miles northward of the town, is situated on a fine waterhole on Belmore Creek, from which the town had to cart water during the dry time. There is a surveyed township called the Mountain Maid in the immediate neighbourhood and up the creek, and one can see when passing through that allotments have been pegged out and occupied mostly by residence in tents, but a few have attempted building, and a good many frames of houses are erected. It only requires the roads to become passable and loading to be cheaper for houses to spring up not only in Croydon but all over the field. Mr. Bibby has the frame of a fair-sized house erected, and is at present living in a tent. The machine has been standing idle for the past six weeks owing to some shoes not being sent on, but the ten head are now hard at work, and there is enough stone in the yard to keep them going for some time to come. The ten head average about 100 tons per week. Mr. Bibby informs me that he has five head on the road, and expects when they are fixed to average 150 tons per week.

A temporary embankment, or rather the foundation of one, is being laid and all but completed at the end of a fine waterhole about 600 yards long, that is expected to put 2ft. of water above the natural level when the creek ceases running. Mr. Bibby has arranged to run the tailings over the embankment, and hold as great a body of water as is possible; but before next wet season he expects to have erected a proper overshot dam, of the permanency of which there will be no question. There is a well sunk by the divisional board on Bibby's water right, between Mountain Maid township and the machines, that yielded during the drought 160 gallons per hour; and there is a well sunk in the machine-house 66ft. deep that yielded also 160 gallons of water per hour. There is also a Syphon leading from the well to the creek, so that should by any chance the creek run dry at the present depth opposite the machine of 17ft., which is a very unlikely circumstance, the water in the well could be utilized. The position is certainly an excellent one, and in the centre of a fine lot of reefs, there being at least 1000 tons raised in the vicinity apart from some 1200 tons stacked in the yard.

This would have been a grand site for the principal township, and everyone who has any notion of a dry clear site for health regrets that the town was not fixed here. In the town the water is still running in small streamlets through and around almost every house, while there is a fine elevation on the banks of a permanent waterhole, with if anything drier ground -rising in the back ground. The total crushings at this machine show a fraction below 3 oz. per ton. The stone stacked in the yard looks remarkably well, and the larger lots consist of Golden Gate p.c., 200 tons; Sunset p.c. 120 tons; Mountain Maid, No. 3, 90 tons; Banner of Freedom p.c., 140 tons; Margaret p.c., 90 tons; St. Patrick p.c., 60 tons; True Blue No. 1 south, 68 tons J Sir Walter p.c., 100 tons; Waterfall p.c., 90 tons; Rainbow, No.1 south, 100 tons; The Babe p.c. 60 tons; and sundry small lots about 200 tons, making in all 1298 tons. In the 200 tons of small lots a number of prospecting claims are represented, and it will be interesting to note the returns, especially from the prospecting areas.