

BARGE HITS LOCK PILLAR

Beached With Large Hole in Port Side

Caught by a heavy squall, a barge towed by the s.s. Industry, hit one of the pillars of the "open" No. 5 Lock. The impact drove a large hole in the barge, which was beached on the Renmark side.

The s.s. Industry left Renmark wharf on Saturday afternoon with two loaded barges in tow. She had come from Lock 8 and was making for Goolwa, having loading of all descriptions for the barrage works there. The day was a boisterous one, with a high wind veering from South to west of south. The steamer and her barges, the Aurora and a smaller barge had little difficulty in passing the Paringa bridge. But the current was heavy and the wind far from steady.

A direct course was steered by the captain for the open space between the lock wall and the first pillar. There is ample room between the wall and the pillar. Half way down the reach a squall hit the steamer.

An eye-witness, an old sailor, describing the mishap, said "The captain of the Industry kept a straight course, but with great suddenness a heavy squall swept right across the river, blowing at 40 miles per hour as the steamer approached the lock. There was a great deal of spray. The steamer passed

There was a great deal of spray. The steamer passed through the opening all right but the barges were taken by the wind off their direct course and one, the Aurora, smashed against the first lock pillar. Then the tow line parted and the barges swung towards the lock wall. There were three men on the barge which struck the pillar.

"Captain L. Murrett did the right thing. He obeyed the Marine Board Act and made every endeavour to beach the holed barge as quickly as possible. No blame can be attached to the skipper."

Eventually the barges were beached on the Renmark side of the river. They have been unloaded. The Industry left again for Lock 8 for other barges and tackle required to salvage the material on the river bank.

The river during the last few weeks has been dangerous to navigators. Wind has been at times very high and the weather generally squally and out of season.
