The Argus

THE ARGUS AND AUSTRALASIAN LIMITED

Registered Office: 365 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.1. Postal Address: Box 366B, G.P.O. Melbourne, C.1. Telephones F0411 (20 lines)

Branch Offices.—Melbourne: 143 Collins Street, C.1. Sydney: "Sydney Morning Herald" Building 66 Pitt Street. London: 23-28 Fleet Street.

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POSTAGE RATES (To-day's Issue).—Australasia and New Zealand, 1d.; United Kingdom, (overland), 2d.; (all-sea route), 1d.; other British Possessions, 2d.; U.S.A. and other Foreign Countries, 3d. To ensure transmission at these rates postage must be prepaid.

Any subscriber experiencing irregular or late delivery of "The Argus" is requested to communicate with the Circulation Manager, "The Argus," 365 Elizabeth street, Melbourne, C.1. Telephone F0411.

ANZACS FOR TASMANIA

A contingent of 465 men will be sent to Tasmania by the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs for the Anzac Day celebrations this year.

This is the first of a series of annual tours which the legion intends to arrange to keep alive the spirit of Anzac. It is hoped to send a large contingent to New Zealand for the 1940 celebrations.

The party will leave for Tasmania on April 22, and return on April 27. Reduced fares will be charged.

WAGES INCREASED

An increase of 2/- a week for all adult males, with proportionate increases for juniors and piece-workers, is prescribed by the amended determination of the Hairdressers' Wages Board, which will become effective on Saturday.

Provision has been made in the determination for juvenile workers receiving the same rate of wage as improvers to assist hand-spinners. Double time is to be paid for all work done on Sundays and holidays, and the working week has been reduced from 48 to 46 hours for the preparation of any kind of hair other than body hair.

Celebrate the victory with Pimm's—the perfect drink for all occasions.

PIMMS No. 1 CUP

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED EST'D 1837

Where banking facilities are transformed into specific, individual services.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Branches throughout Australia and New Zealand

Full of Beans at 53

IT would do your heart good to meet this man. You can tell by his smile that he's a man who really enjoys every minute of his life.

As he says himself, it's because he's so "full of beans," and at 53 actually feels fitter than when he was a youngster! How does he do it? He tells you here in his own words.

"I have never enjoyed life more or worked harder than I do now," he writes. "I am 53 years of age, and I say without fear of contradiction that I owe my fitness to Kruschen. I was never better in my life—no pains or stiffness—full of beans—outlook good — business good — feel good — why? Because I am on a winner—Kruschen—and I don't change horses when I'm riding a winner. Don't thank me for this, I owe it to you."

—C. F. K.

You, too, can have this JOY IN LIFE!

You, too, can be like that man, even if at present you *are* handicapped by aches and tiredness! Start by tipping a pinch of Kruschen first thing every morning into your tea or a glass of hot water. Within a week or two you'll find that a new driving power inside you makes you tackle your work and your play with such keenness and vigour that all your friends are envious of you. Fatigue, "nerves," and all those symptoms of middle-age have no more terrors for you.

The various mineral salts in Kruschen penetrate to every cell, every organ in your body, feed and nourish the blood, awaken the liver, kidneys and intestines to new activity. Poisons go. Sluggishness goes. In fact, you have that Kruschen Feeling. Get a 2/6 bottle to-day—it will last you three months. (Smaller size 1/6.)

"It's the Little Daily Dose that does it"

After taking Kruschen for a week. You are cheery, energetic, self-reliant. Take just a pinch of Kruschen—no more, no less—in a cup of hot water, or tea, every morning. It is not the big dose but the little daily dose that does it.

"Fortune is in her."

Learn the secret of KRUSCHEN

ON OTHER FRONTS

Minister Aids Fighters

BAIRNSDALE.—The Minister for Lands and Forests (Mr. Lind) worked with 50 men all Saturday night fighting a fire burning on 1,000 acres over Mounts Taylor and Alfred at North Bairnsdale. Mr. Lind's property was burned, but the extent of the damage is not yet known.

Fires are still burning, and should the wind change to the north-west several homes, including that of Mr. Lind, will be endangered. Several other fires have broken out in the district.

Tatong Danger

BENALLA. — Shortly after midday a fire started on the property of Mr. Coghill, at Tatong. With humid conditions and a strong west wind blowing, the fire headed for the township and soon threatened the local store. A large body of fire-fighters with buckets and other apparatus, however, prevented the store from being burnt.

Twice the township was threatened with destruction, but, with the arrival of volunteers from Benalla, Warrenbayne, and other parts, the flames were checked.

After the fire was out a meeting was held at the Tatong Hall to discuss the big fire which has been raging in the hilly country beyond Tatong for some weeks. It was decided to light the trail made on Monday to link up with the train made by members of the Bolyullah brigade from Upper Ryan's Creek to Fern Hills.

House Destroyed

DROUIN.—After fighting their way through a mile of fire, members of the Drouin brigade were helpless to save the house of Mr. Val Kuglemann, at Athole, where he and his sister live. Fire destroyed the house and contents and domestic animals succumbed to the heat. Damage is estimated at £750. There was no insurance on the property.

The brigade saved buildings on Mr. J. Walshe's property on the Weebar road this afternoon, and later valuable stacks and the home on Hoggan's farm at Longwarry. First-constable Stewart, aided by men from the Country Roads Board camp and others, saved the Drouin South hall and school. Other fires have broken out in the district.

Mills Endangered

ERICA.—Fire sweeping up Mount Baw Baw, driven by west and south-westerly winds—the worst winds which could blow when bush fires are burning there—isolated eight sawmills from Erica.

A tractor went up the mountain during the morning to bring the people to the town, but they refused to leave the mills. The change of wind to south-west cut off the tractors retreat, and it could not be brought back.

The telephone wires to Ingram Bros.' mill were brought down early in the afternoon.

More than 1,000,000 super-feet of timber, stacked by Horner and Monett's mill, has been destroyed, and another 3,000,000 super-feet, stacked by other mills, may be burnt.

People at the mills have taken to the dug-outs and some to the river to escape the fury of the heat and, in some cases, the flames.

So strong was the west wind during the morning that pieces of bark were blown, still burning, as far as seven miles, and began new fires. One piece fell, smouldering, outside the forestry office door in Erica, where the officer in charge spent the whole morning taking telephoned reports of new fires from all parts of the district. Thousands of acres of forest country blazed fiercely all day.

Lights at Midday

HEYFIELD.—Lights had to be lit in houses at lunch time, so thick was the pall of smoke from fires. A change in the wind drove flames from the property of Mr. A. Aubrey, which was threatened, toward that of Mr. Peter Ferguson, but the brigade and residents prevented damage.

Later word came that a big fire was raging north in the hills of Licola, and was so strong that, despite the efforts of a large number of workers, little headway was made in checking it. So serious did the menace become at one stage that at Gay's, Medowra, the inhabitants decided to pack and move out. However, a change in the wind made this action unnecessary.

Moe Encircled

MOE.—Many fires burnt all round Moe One to the south of the town, which had died down, was fanned by a strong west wind and returned over country which had been partly traversed by fire a few weeks ago, and again homes were endangered. The local fire brigade was aided by residents at Moe and Moe South, and saved these houses.

Yesterday afternoon serious damage was averted by fire-fighters who brought an outbreak under control at Moe East and Gould. Trunk lines and electricity services were interrupted. Many telephone poles have been destroyed. The change to a south wind forced most of the fires back on burnt country and they died down.

Powelltown Isolated

POWELLTOWN. — Powelltown was telephonically isolated last night. The town was threatened by a tongue from the main fire, but it was blown past the town on the north side. The spread of flames in the district was accelerated with choppy winds from a general westerly direction.

The smoke was so thick that the fire itself could not be seen nor located with accuracy, making it unusually dangerous to fight. It was hoped that the main fire would meet an old "burn" to the east of the town and burn itself out there in the cool of the night.

Race for Life

TOOLANGI. — Five men—two named Biggs, the others Mitchell, Monk, and Shipp—had to run for their lives through seven miles of fires to reach Toolangi and safety. When they arrived there they found Toolangi encircled by fires, fortunately not blazing fiercely. Although the flames were within 30 yards of the post-office, and some outbuildings of houses were burned, the town was safe last night. Its continued safety depends on the wind to-day.

The Healesville fire brigade was assisted by more than 100 volunteers from that town and by 30 Scotch College boys camped at Chum Creek. Part of the tramline of the Bindi mill was burned, and 10 men were forced to take a circuitous route through Narbethong to reach the town. The big fire three miles north of Toolangi, which has been burning for a fortnight, was increased by the winds yesterday.

ALEXANDRA. — The Acheron Valley, from Buxton to Taggerty, has been burnt out. Only one small fire was seen by the patrol aeroplane at 11.30 a.m., and no explanation for the abnormal spread can be found. Thousands of acres of forest and grass land has been almost razed. Nearly 150 men left Alexandra to fight the fire.

APOLLO BAY.—Two fires burning in the Otway Ranges have been alight since last Monday. The wind in the morning spread them, and they are still burning. Only one mill—Borch and Horner's—a mile and a half from Apollo Bay, may be endangered.

BRIGHT, Sunday.—Most of the bush-fires which have been raging in the district have burnt themselves out during the last few days, but yesterday another serious blaze broke out at Simmond's Gap, near Harrietville. Stockyards owned by Lawler Bros., of Harrietville, and many cattlemen's huts were destroyed. The fire is not being fought because it is now heading toward the alpine regions, and is expected to burn itself out. Another outbreak near Freeburgh to-night was carried by a strong wind, but there is no immediate danger.

BRUTHEN.—All day 20 men fought a disastrous bush fire at Collin's sawmill at Mount Elizabeth, where a large bridge and a considerable length of tram track were destroyed before help came from Bruthen. Mr. Hazelwinkle, an employee, with the aid of the womenfolk, just managed to keep the fire away from the homes at the mill. To prevent the children being suffocated by smoke they confined them to one room all day. The wind dropped later, and the air became cooler.

FORREST.—Severe fires are blazing on the Otway Ranges. The scrub is so dense that it impedes fire-fighters, who are almost helpless against the flames. Two fires have burnt 1,000 acres of dense forest, one five miles east of Forrest and another 10 miles west. It is hoped to get them under control on Monday.

FOSTER.—Fanned into activity by the north wind, fires threatened the homes of Messrs. E. Connelly and P. Lehan. Calls for assistance were quickly answered, but the dairy sheds on both properties had been destroyed before the volunteers arrived. Mr. Connelly also lost some pigs, new milking plant, and valuable utensils and machinery. The fate of the dairy herds of the two men is not yet known. Mr. Connelly's furniture was removed, and the house saved, although it caught alight several times. A change of wind relieved the danger to both houses.

HEALESVILLE. — Granton's sawmill—the "Bindi" mill—was deserted yesterday while all the men fought a fire at the "landing." The fire did not approach the mill. About 100 yards of telephone lines were burned between here and Marysville.

LORNE.—A small fire is burning in the forest several miles inland. No anxiety is felt.

OLINDA.—A fire started in the morning in Shank's road, endangering the property of Mr. J. Dodd, one of the oldest pioneers in the district. His house was saved, but the fire swept toward the property of the late Professor Gibson. Late last night it was increasing in intensity, and working toward a thickly populated area.

NEERIM SOUTH. — One of the worst fires since 1932 was raging here to-day. With the northerly wind, the fire in the Powelltown area came through to link up with small fires in this district. With the change of wind at noon, the fire burning at Gembrook connected with the others, and the whole countryside is now ablaze. The Noojee school and dwellings are in danger, and all residents are ready to leave. The Federal and Goodwood timber mills are also in danger. Fire-fighters are being brought in exhausted, but there has been no loss of life. Rain is the only factor which will quell the outbreak.

SASSAFRAS.—Fanned by a strong north-westerly wind, a fire which had been burning for several days menaced a number of homes along Hilton road, Sassafras, this morning. A large number of men burned breaks, and kept the flames away from the houses. A change to the west about 1 p.m. averted further danger at Sassafras, and diverted the fire towards The Basin.

SALE.—The town was enveloped in a haze caused by bush fires in the Heyfield and Licola districts. A north wind wafted burnt gum leaves as far as Sale.

TRENTHAM.—Men were fighting extensive fires between Green Hills and Green Dale during the afternoon.

THE BASIN.—There were two serious outbreaks at the Basin. The first started on Saturday afternoon in the wooded hills near the Mountain Highway, south of the township, and was brought under control. On two occasions—on Saturday night and on Sunday morning—it again broke out. This afternoon a fire started in the hills east of the township, and spread rapidly with the wind behind it.

TOORA.—A scrub and bush fire east of Toora was fought for several hours to-day by a large gang of men. Several properties were saved, but Mr. C. Schmidt lost some valuable timber and fencing, and the home of Mrs. McDonald was menaced for a time.

WALHALLA.—A big fire burned on all the hills surrounding Walhalla, but the town, which is deep in a valley, was not affected.

WANGARATTA.—Unceasing watch is being kept on the fire in the Toombullup forest to prevent its getting down on the settled areas. On Friday night the fire came down over the Fifteen Mile Creek in Langland's property, but was controlled after two acres had been burned. A fire is also burning at the head of the Bogey Creek, and there is a danger that the fire, which had burned 50 square miles, will cross into Whitlands and thence travel to Cheshunt.

In view of the rapid fall of the Ovens River gangs of men are working to-day in an effort to have the first of the new bores in operation by Tuesday. So heavy is the draw that when the pumps were stopped for a few minutes yesterday for a change over, portion of the town was out of water. One gang is working to clean out one bore that has been in operation for some time, the flow having dropped from 6,000 to 2,000 gallons an hour.

WARRANDYTE. — Brigades from Warrandyte and Kangaroo Ground extinguished a fire in dense scrub half-way between those towns. Fortunately, the fire was noticed as soon as it started.

TRAGIC FIRES OF PAST

February Outbreaks

Victoria's most disastrous bush fires of the past have occurred during the month of February, and in the State's worst outbreaks the death roll was 40.

On "Black Thursday" (February 6, 1851) Victoria's first huge fire ravaged the State. Because the land was not settled closely there were few deaths compared with the enormous damage to property and stock.

A settler at Diamond Creek was the greatest sufferer. He lost his wife and five children, as well as his possessions. About four other people were killed, and several more died later from shock.

Hundreds of farming families fled for their lives after gallant efforts to save the selections which they had cleared during years of privation and hard labour.

Far more serious, although less widespread than this fire, was the outbreak on February 14, 1926, when 31 persons were killed. Fourteen people at Gilderoy were trapped in the scrub.

Some settlers lost their entire families. A whole family was wiped out at Noojee. More than 80 children were left homeless. The suffering moved public opinion so deeply that nearly £180,000 was raised for relief.

In February, 1928, serious fires included an outbreak which caused £150,000 damage in the Wangaratta district.

On February 5, 1932, nine persons died as the result of bush fires in Victoria. Six died at Erica. A father and son were burned together at Warragul. Many others were injured.

FEW GRASS FIRES

In spite of the severe heat yesterday, suburban fire brigades received only 11 calls to grass fires during the week-end. The most serious outbreak was at the Meadway golf links, Omar street, Maidstone, yesterday morning. About 10 acres of grass was burnt and 50 fencing posts were damaged. In land owned by the Defence Department at Hampstead road, Maribyrnong, near the munition works, three acres of grass was burnt, but the blaze was extinguished with beaters and buckets of water before it became dangerous.

At a grass fire at Bulleen road, North Balwyn, on Saturday evening, Mary Barker, aged 35 years, was slightly burned on the face and hands. She was treated by firemen.

POWER STATION DANGER

The State Electricity Commission's Rubicon power station was in danger from a fire which raged, out of the control of the forest officers, volunteers, and men from the commission's undertaking, to within a mile and a half of the building.

Caused by lightning during an electrical storm on Saturday, the fire was brought quickly under control and confined to an area of one acre. This, however, was on a steep hill, and cinders rolled down and burnt the bush before they could be extinguished.

The power lines leading from the Rubicon station were close to the eastern edge of the fire, and the change of wind from north-east to south-west did not decrease the danger to them. Unless the fire is brought under control eight sawmills in the district may be burnt.

POWER SITUATION

All electric supply to places beyond Dromana was cut off by the Dromana blaze the State Electricity Commission announced last night. To a late hour no actual damage had been done to the Rubicon transmission system, it added. Fires in Gippsland did not damage the commissions' property.

CLOTHING NEEDED

Several urgent appeals from families burnt out in recent bush fires have been received by the State Relief Committee. Wearing apparel for adults, boys and girls, and household articles are urgently required. Persons wishing to assist are asked to telephone M1214, and a motor-truck will collect goods, or to write the Secretary, State Relief Committee, corner King and Bourke streets, Melbourne.

WHEY QUELLS FLAMES

DROUIN, Sunday. — When fire-fighters at Longwarry had exhausted their water supply yesterday they pumped whey from a dairy factory on to the flames.

The fire did considerable damage to two large stacks of hay and chaff respectively, machinery, and sheds on the property of Gardner Bros.

The Drouin fire brigade had to call the Warragul brigade to its assistance. About 35 tons of hay were saved. The firemen spent a considerable time clearing the pumping apparatus of whey.

Dromana Blaze (Continued from Page One.)

REMARKABLE ESCAPES

People Flee to Shore

Vivid accounts of the fire's devouring march were given by eye-witnesses at Dromana yesterday. There were remarkable escapes from death and injury.

Mr. C. J. Lenne, of Camberwell, who was on holiday at Dromana, said that it was a miracle that no lives were lost. As the wall of flames descended upon the homes, residents made frantic efforts to fight them, but had to retreat and leave their houses to destruction.

Several invalids were carried out to cars which were driven along streets in which houses were already blazing, and women who had fainted from shock and the intense heat were carried by men to the beach.

A remarkable escape was that of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Kennedy, who live at the corner of Latrobe parade and Grant street. Because of the heat earlier in the morning, they had drawn their window blinds. They were having luncheon about midday when Mrs. Kennedy happened to raise one of the blinds. She was astounded to see that a wall of flame was descending upon their home.

While the adjoining house, owned by Mr. M. Owen, was burning, Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy bundled clothes from their wardrobes into suitcases and ran to their car. On returning to the car with a second load of suitcases, Mrs. Kennedy found that the car had caught fire.

Mrs. Kennedy dropped the cases and obtained a bucket of water, with which she extinguished the flames. When Mr. Kennedy joined her a few moments later he found that two bags inside the car were ablaze.

He returned to his house and fought the flames for a few minutes, but was forced to retreat by the heat and smoke. The house, which is of cement blocks, was saved, but a workshop and engineering equipment valued at more than £300 were destroyed.

Chased by Flames

Councillor J. L. Ryan, of Heidelberg, said that there was indescribable panic as the fire, roaring before a strong wind, swept from house to house. Hundreds of people, carrying what belongings they had been able to rescue from the flames, ran to the foreshore, pursued by the flames, which crossed roads and streets and even burnt tea-tree on the water's edge.

"I was on the beach when I noticed the fire," Councillor Ryan said. "I went to the house at which I was staying, but in the time it took me to get there from the beach the fire had swept down toward it. The house caught fire, but the blaze was extinguished. On either side, however, the homes had become an inferno.

An heroic defence of their home was made by Mr. and Mrs. W. Evans, jun., in Park grove. Refusing to join other residents in their flight to the beach, Mr. and Mrs. Evans stayed and fought the flames, saving not only their own home, but also that of a neighbour after outbuildings and fences had been destroyed.

Knowing that the Evans's house had been surrounded by flames, and that they had refused to leave, fire fighters, at their earliest opportunity, ran the gauntlet of blazing ruins, and found that the building had been saved. Mr. and Mrs. Evans later gave their uneaten lunch to a number of persons who had been left homeless.

The destruction of six high-tension poles on the road to Sorrento cut off the electricity supply for the town, but a repair gang from the State Electricity Commission was promptly on the scene, and it was expected that the supply would be restored late last night. So much damage was done to other lines, however, that there was no hope of restoring the electricity supply to parts of Dromana.

Mr. J. E. Oliquist, of Grant street, was in church when the firebell was rung. He tried to return to his home, at which he had left his wife and granddaughter, Nancy Saranen, but was restrained because of the danger. In the meantime a motorist, noticing the plight of the two women, took them to safety. Mr. Oliquist later made his way to his home, to find the house ablaze. He tried to drag some of his property from the burning building, but bystanders held him back as the roof was in danger of collapsing.

Mrs. W. Adair, who was occupying the house of Dr. Black, opposite the nurses' home in Clarendon street, said that she remained at the house until the nurses' home caught fire. With members of her family she ran to the beach, but even on the water's edge the heat and smoke were stifling. She and other people who had taken shelter there had to cover their faces with towels soaked in sea water.

The Rev. T. C. Rentoul, who was staying in a house in Layard street, promptly answered the call for fire-fighters, and while he was helping to save a number of houses his own was destroyed, and with it most of his clothing. Property belonging to the family of Mr. R. W. Chenoweth, Commissioner of Taxes, which had been placed on the verandah of the house for safety, was destroyed.

In Clarendon street the fire destroyed the large buildings used as a nurses' rest home, and 12 other homes. In Grant street, eight homes and two camps were burned. Properties in Latrobe parade, Park grove, and McArthur, Stawell, Layard, and Beard streets were destroyed.

Councillor E. Rudduck, the shire president, said last night that the disastrous fire indicated that the provision of an adequate water supply for the municipality was of great urgency. Plans for a project to cost £175,000 had been prepared, and the construction of a reservoir begun, but some of the pipes for the reticulation had been taken for the Bendigo supply project.

List of Houses

The following is a list of properties destroyed:—

CLARENDO STREET.—Nurses' rest home, and homes of Messrs. Mewton, McLeish, Jennings, G. Vaughan, Hart, Henry, Thornton, Ingram, Mrs. Hinds, and Sister Rogerson; and stables and outbuildings of Mr. Hazeldine. J. Matthews's house was partly burned.

GRANT STREET.—Houses of A. V. Vaughan, Allan, Jones, J. Cliff, Womanhaiers' camp, Ascot camp, W. Mills, M. Owen, J. Oliquist, and Mairs.

LATROBE PARADE.—Houses of Messrs. W. Mairs, Salter, Walker, Jose, Turner, Mairs, W. Moorehead, S. Greig, J. Craig, and Ehrke.

PARK GROVE.—Houses of Mrs. Weir and Bellingham.

McARTHUR STREET.—Houses of Messrs. J. Vial and B. Mihieson.

LAYARD STREET.—Houses of Rev. T. C. Rentoul and Messrs. Barker, Tilt, and J. Daly.

BEARD STREET.—House of Mr. Gamble.

MEASURES FOR RELIEF

Meeting This Week

The president of the Flinders Shire (Councillor E. Rudduck) said last night that a meeting would be held early this week to arrange for the relief of distress caused by the disastrous fire yesterday.

Moved by the plight of residents whose homes had been destroyed, Mr. Spencer Jackson, of Dromana, last night forwarded £5/5/- to "The Argus" as the nucleus of a relief fund.

A further donation of £5/5/- was given by a party of Old Xaverians, who always hold a holiday camp at Rosebud.

MAN HELD UP

HOBART, Sunday.—Accosted by two men, one of whom had a scarf round his face, Victor Henry Stingle, aged 20 years, of Catley street, Burnie, was ordered at the point of a gun to hand over his money when he was returning to his home from Upper Burnie early on Saturday morning. Stingle's hands were tied behind his back and his pockets searched. The men left him lying on the ground.

MORE PORT TRAINS

A substantial improvement in the train service on the Port Melbourne line will be introduced on Monday next. Instead of a 12-minute service at peak periods and a 20-minute service at other times on week-days and Saturdays, trains will run in each direction between Flinders street and Port Melbourne at 10-minute intervals throughout the day.

The train service on Sundays will not be altered.

KYNETON WANTS DUKE

KYNETON, Sunday. — The Kyneton Agricultural Society has decided to invite the Duke and Duchess of Kent to visit the town in November to open the agricultural show.

YOUNG MEN BURNED

Fall Among Flames

GARFIELD, Sunday.—Two young men were seriously burned and a large house was destroyed by a fire which raged near the Prince's Highway at North Garfield yesterday.

Mr. Arthur Towt's two sons—Roy, aged 26 years, and Ivan, aged 23 years—were working on their orchard on the Prince's Highway when they saw dense clouds of smoke in the direction of their father's property at North Garfield.

They dashed toward their home on a motor-cycle, but the fire was burning on both sides of the North Garfield road, and they were blinded by smoke. Unable to see their way they crashed into a fence and fell to the ground.

Their clothes were ignited by flaring branches and both were severely burned on the face and arms. Roy Towt also suffered abrasions from the fall. Another brother, Earl Towt, came to their assistance and rescued the motor-cycle. The two young men reached their home with his help.

Doctor's Dash

Dr. J. Paterson, of Garfield, was called, and he made a dramatic dash by car through the smoke-enshrouded road to reach the Towt homestead. He treated the two men, and then they were admitted to a Bunyip private hospital. Both were in a serious condition.

The fire began in Bullock's lane, on the north side of the highway, about 10 a.m., and spread rapidly to Mr. H. Payne's property. A valuable stack of wood was destroyed, and volunteers who were fighting the fire had great difficulty in preventing it from crossing the highway. If the fire had spread in that direction the whole township of Garfield would have been in danger.

The wind changed to the south-west and carried the fire before it to Mr. McIntyre's land, where a dozen men fought strenuously to save his home. In the whole district about 50 men were fighting the fire throughout the day.

Although the fire was controlled there, a fresh outbreak occurred a mile away on Mount Cannibal, near the country home of Mr. A. Bassed, of Melbourne. The path of the fire was turned away from the house, but the flames raged on over the mountain and through long grass in Mr. J. Payne's orchard.

House Destroyed

In a moment the whole orchard was in flames, and it was impossible to save Mr. Payne's home, which was in the centre of the fruit trees. The large nine-roomed weatherboard house was destroyed with all its contents, and the only property which Mr. and Mrs. Payne were able to save was a motor-truck and a car, which were driven on to a ploughed paddock. The home was insured for £300 and the furniture for £250.

Driven on by the fierce wind, the flames spread to the properties of Mr. Dobinson and Mr. Theo Gray. Mr. Dobinson's orchard was destroyed and the fences were burned around Mr. Gray's home. Both houses, however, were saved after stern struggles.

Last night the fire was still burning near Mount Cannibal, but it was in timbered country, and no houses were in danger. Unless a strong wind rekindled it it was believed to be under control.

MAN BURNED AT YEA

YEA, Sunday. — After having walked two miles after he had been burned in a fire, Frank Gillan, a young man, was assisted to the Yea Hospital, where he was admitted with burns to the face, chest, and arms.

A fire is burning on a 10-mile front from Glenburn to Mount Slide. Trees have fallen, blocking the main Yea to Melbourne road.

16 INCHES OF RAIN IN NORTH

BRISBANE, Sunday. — Tropical downpours yielding as much as 16 inches at some points, have fallen along a narrow coastal strip in the Far North, but thousands of square miles inland in dire need of rain continue to be dry, with no sign of a break in the drought. Heavy rain had fallen continuously for 48 hours at Innisfail and Babinda until late last night, when there were no signs of a cessation.

YALLOURN FIRE (Contd.)

Leaping the Latrobe River, the flames roared up a gully toward that settlement. Such was the demand upon the water supply in the lower lying areas that on the crest of the hill, where the settlement is situated, hardly any water was available.

Sparks and blazing leaves lodged under the eaves of a weatherboard house owned by Mr. E. Gribble, a retired prospector, and his family. The occupants had time to remove only a fraction of their furniture before the roof fell in. The siren called additional fire-fighters to the scene, too late.

Tourists returning from Gippsland holiday resorts in the morning were blocked by the flames at Haunted Hills. At one stage more than 200 cars were waiting for a lull to dash through.

Three cars caught fire. An elderly woman passenger in one was overcome by smoke, and was taken to Morwell for medical assistance.

As a precautionary measure volunteers, equipped with chemical fire extinguishers, sprayed the cars with chemicals.

It was not until after 6 p.m. that the road was passable, and even then burning branches and tree-trunks had to be removed from parts of the roadway.

Late last night fires were still burning at many parts of the district, but the threat to the settlement had passed.

KANSAS COCKTAIL!

"The Argus" Independent Cable Service

KANSAS CITY (U.S.), Sunday.

Deprived of liquor and locked in a house by his wife, a man drank bay rum shampoo, ammonia, rubbing alcohol, and hair oil, ate 100 aspirins, and then drank hair dye.

When he was admitted to hospital his skin was a deep purple. After he had been treated the colour faded. He will recover.

ONE DEAD, ONE INJURED

Explosion on Farm

ECHUCA, Sunday.—After an explosion in a shed on the property of Mr. William Beeson, farmer, of Bamawm, William Lockhead, aged 45 years, employed on the farm, died in the Echuca District Hospital this afternoon.

Mr. Beeson suffered serious injury, and his condition is critical.

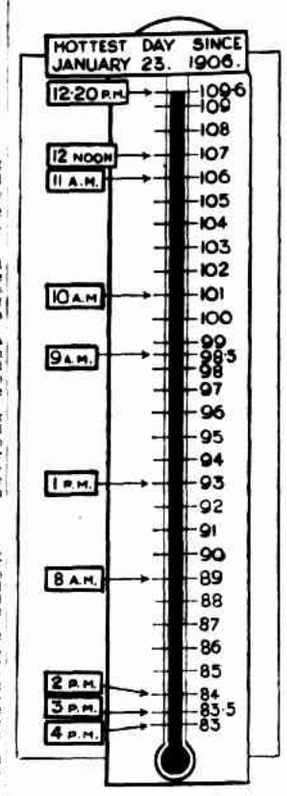
The men were treating oranges with a plant used for colouring, and it is believed that carbide used in a cylinder exploded. The shed was wrecked.

BITTEN BY SNAKES

ECHUCA, Sunday.—Andrew Adam, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Adam, of Bandon Park, was bitten by a black snake when swimming in a pool near his home yesterday. His mother scarified the bite with a knife, and the boy was taken to hospital, where he recovered.

COBRAM, Sunday.—Mrs. McGifford, wife of Mr. J. A. McGifford, farmer, of Cobram, was bitten by a snake in a shed on the property. She is in a Cobram private hospital, and her condition is satisfactory.

PHEW!



Yesterday was the hottest day since January 23, 1906. The highest temperature was 109.6 degrees, recorded at the Weather Bureau at 12.20. The thermometer shows how the mercury fell when the wind changed to the south.

BIG BLAZE AT FRANKSTON

Houses Abandoned

FRANKSTON, Sunday.—Firemen and volunteers battled all day to-day against one of the most devastating outbreaks of fire in the history of Frankston. The town was covered with a thick pall of smoke, and the alarm bell tolled almost continuously throughout the day.

Caused, it is believed, by sparks from an incinerator in the vicinity of the former jamboree site, the flames spread rapidly toward the town. To the south-east the fire jumped Yuille street, and swept through dense scrub and tea-tree. Houses and week-end shacks were hurriedly abandoned.

Despite the efforts of fire-fighters, two small weatherboard houses, belonging to Miss A. Charlton and Mr. S. Solomon, were destroyed.

Burning back against a strong wind into dense dry scrub in the vicinity of Woodlands grove, the flames menaced scores of other houses. Battle after battle was fought to save each one as the flames reached them.

In Woodlands grove three weatherboard houses owned by Mr. J. Carter, Mr. P. Norling, and Mr. M. O'Connor, were destroyed. A bungalow owned by Mr. T. Woods was burnt to the ground.

Using heaters and portable sprinklers, the Frankston, Chelsea, and Dandenong fire brigades and the Mount Eliza Bush Fire Brigade fought to prevent the fire from getting completely out of control. They were assisted by scores of holiday-makers and volunteers.

Occupants of houses in the danger zone stored their furniture and valuables on the roadways.

The fire burnt over an area of about five square miles, and in many cases fences and hedges were ignited before the flames were beaten out. Only when the wind dropped at 5.30 p.m. was control of the fire definitely established.

CAR THEFT CHARGE

GEELONG, Sunday.—Two hours after a motor-car had been reported stolen from outside the 40 Club in Melbourne on Friday night, and before the theft had been reported to the Geelong police, the car was recovered and three men were arrested by the Geelong police.

At the city court watchhouse yesterday morning Clarence Kenneth Rickhuss, aged 27 years, labourer, of Mountain street, South Melbourne; Royce Alexander, aged 25 years, labourer, of Coventry street, South Melbourne; and Victor James Mitchell, aged 26 years, labourer, of Moray street, South Melbourne, were charged with having stolen a motor-car and with having illegally used a motor-car. They were remanded to appear at the city court on Friday.

SMASH-AND-GRAB THEFT

BRISBANE, Sunday. — A smash and grab raid on S. B. Heiser's jewellery shop, in Penny's Arcade, Adelaide street, early yesterday morning, brought the total of such raids to four in the last seven weeks. More than £400 worth of watches, rings, and other jewellery has been stolen in the four thefts, and so far none of the jewellery has been traced. It is believed that the four offences have been committed by the one thief.

WAS IT INSURED?

We read from time to time of serious losses by Fire, Burglary, Accident, and Shipwreck, and wonder if the sufferers had the foresight to protect themselves with THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON LTD., 19 Queen st. (M1806.) G. Beresford Cairnes, Manager. The oldest British colonial company operating here. Low rates. Liberal cover. Over 3500 Victorian claims paid last year to satisfied claimants. Agents wanted.—[Advt.]

READINGS BY THE HOUR

Normal Again To-day

Hourly temperature readings at the Weather Bureau yesterday tell the story of the heat wave. They were:—

5 a.m.—64.7 deg. (min.).	1 p.m.—93 deg.
6 a.m.—68 deg.	2 p.m.—94 deg.
7 a.m.—75 deg.	3 p.m.—83.5 deg.
8 a.m.—89 deg.	4 p.m.—83 deg.
9 a.m.—98.5 deg.	5 p.m.—77 deg.
10 a.m.—101 deg.	6 p.m.—75 deg.
11 a.m.—106 deg.	7 p.m.—72 deg.
Noon.—107 deg.	8 p.m.—70 deg.
12.20 p.m.—109.6 deg. (max.).	9 p.m.—67 deg.

Average temperatures for January are:—Minimum, 56.7 deg.; 9 a.m., 68 deg.; noon, 71.3 deg.; 3 p.m., 74.6 deg.; maximum, 78 deg.

Yesterday was only the second day of the year on which the temperature was higher than 90 degrees. Last January there were five days of 90 degrees or more, but in the heat wave of 1908 the temperature reached 90 degrees 13 times, the record for January in