

## TOONGABBIE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Friday, 20th February, will be long remembered in this township—being about one of the worst and hottest days experienced this summer. During the week, several parties of men—township residents and others—have been out in the hills, day after day, combating the bush fires, and making every effort to check them before the fire could reach the flat country.

About mid-day on Friday, a strong north wind sprung up, and the fire travelled at a great pace from that direction down through Mr. Walter Scott's paddocks, crossed the Cowwarr road, and into the properties of A. Ries, W. Andrews, R. Williamson and J. W. Gales, where it was stopped. Another fire then started, and came down the Walhalla road, through Mr. J. Buttler's property, and into Ben Venue, Mr. Gadd's estate, where it was also checked. Other sufferers are Messrs. Burnie, Ferguson, N. Gales and B. Humphrey.

Grass and fencing was the only damage done. Homesteads, stacks and outbuildings were saved, after severe fighting with the flames by the owners and others who had arrived in the nick of time. Mr. Williamson's homestead had a very narrow escape from being burnt, the building catching alight in several places, and it was only by the strenuous efforts of Mr. R. Williamson and others from the township that the fire was kept under.

Driver Oxley, in charge of the goods train from Maffra, also rendered praiseworthy assistance. He pulled up his train opposite the house, which is close to the railway line, and supplied the fire-fighters with water from the engine.

A. M'Lean and Co's. cattle and sheep sale was in progress in Hodde's new yards when the fire alarm was given, and buyers and sellers left the yards and hurried away to assist in beating out the flames, which were only about half a mile distant from the township.

No further outbreaks have occurred since Friday.

An eye witness, describing the fires at Toongabbie, writes: "On Friday morning the fire bells were rung, and all hands got out on foot horse, bike, etc. The ladies also went out, and worked like Amazons, also providing refreshments. The scene at night was very grand—the heat during the day terrible. The fire has well cleared the bush at the rear of the township, and there will not be another serious fire for some time.

## GLENGARRY.

### AN HEROIC DEED.

Our Glengarry correspondent writes:—

On Sunday evening last, 15th inst., a bush fire broke out in Mr. R. Gibson's property. The fire originated outside in a paddock in which Mr. Gibson recently had a good deal of scrub cut. Efforts were made to try and block the fire from catching the scrub, but without success. A fire break was then burnt between the properties of Messrs. Cook and Gibson, on Monday evening, the fire travelling in a westerly direction through the scrubby back paddocks of Mr. Ewart.

Several neighbors tried to keep the fire back, but were unable to do so, and it then crossed into Mr. Jepson's paddock, and threatened Mr. S. Christensen's homestead, which is on the opposite side of a one chain road. A break was burnt to meet the approaching fire and was only completed when the main body of fire came down. The fire crossed the road, and it looked as if Mr. Christensen's house and stacks were doomed. The fire fighters, who were nearly all exhausted, ran for the stacks, and burnt a break around them and the house, turning the fire through a stubble paddock, owned by Mr. Waltham.

Shouts and sounds of screaming were heard from Mr. Cook's house, and Mr. Gordon Cone and Mr. Joe. Mattinson bravely volunteered to ride through the burning timber to render assistance. Before starting the perilous ride buckets of water were poured over the horses and their riders. It can be imagined how intense the heat from the fires was, as their clothes were perfectly dry when they got safely through the flames and found Mr. Cook and his son bravely fighting to save their home. The fire was steadily gaining upon them, and in their exhausted condition they were unable to hold out much longer. It must have been a great relief when the two young men arrived, and with their assistance, put out the desperate fire, and saved the home.

On Wednesday the wind changed, and drove the fire through Mr. Buntin's paddock, but it was stopped at Rintoull's creek.

Mr. Harry Whittle did valuable service in putting out trees and stumps with the shire water cart. Everything is now fairly safe, but a good fall of rain is badly needed.

## JEERALANG.

Terrible bush fires have been raging in the Jeeralang district for the past fortnight. The country is completely charred, and most of the settlers are left without a blade of grass for their stock. The worst of all, water is running out. Every energy that was available, was brought but to fight the flames. Only those who have been in the midst of the ferocious element to save property and life, know what it is to fight the flames. However, the awful grandness becomes apparent at night, when, in the darkness, the burning giant trees are now telling the terrible tale of destruction, which they wrought during the day just past, and which they intend to do for the day to come, by sending forth their mops of terror—sparks—into the neighboring property. All Jeeralang North is burnt out, and Jumbuk and Jeeralang West have also suffered heavily. Among the heavy losers in Jeeralang North are Messrs. M'Nair, Elston, Owens Jacjung, Edwards (whose house was only saved after strenuous efforts), Walker, A. Jacjung, and Alloid. What damage is done to the east is not yet known, but judging from the appearance of the country, it is undergoing a hot spell. There is no doubt the hill people have a hard time before them if rain does not set in soon.

## TRARALGON SOUTH.

The Traralgon South residents describe the fires in that district as the worst they have experienced for years. The losses consist of grass and fencing, though unfortunately, Mr. Richies' home further up the creek, near Mr. M'Gartland's, was demolished, all efforts to save the building being futile. The fire made a clean sweep of practically the whole of the property. Mr. Riches, we understand, held an insurance policy of £120, so that his losses will be partly covered. At the back of Toner's a couple of culverts have been burned, and the road way is blocked with fallen timber. Many of those at the sports meeting on Thursday arrived home to find their places invaded by the flames.

The following are losers of grass and fencing:—

Messrs. T. Powell, G. Pentland, T. A. Downie, G. Redpath, A. Fournier, Hepburn Bros., J. Bottino, Alloid, T. M'Gartland, C. Lade, W. Ikin, J. Bleakley, S. Thompson, J. Holden, and Mesdames P. Power and J. Toner.

## UPPER FLYNN'S CREEK.

The fire has taken its toll in this district; in fact a belt of country between Loy Yang and Traralgon has been ravaged. Miles of fencing have been wiped out, and sheep and cattle are at present hopelessly mired up. A fire, which had previously started at Faulkner's, Traralgon South, travelled through the properties of Messrs. Holden, A. Beaton, A. Thompson, W. Widdis, W. Handley and L. Maher, and ended up on Saturday at the Flynn's Creek State school, where it finally burnt itself out. A very lively time was experienced here, and a contingent of fire fighters from Traralgon hurriedly left to render assistance. The fires were then gradually threatening the homes of Messrs Maher and W. Handley and the State school building, but by dint of hard fighting the buildings were saved, as also were three stacks of hay belonging to Mr. W. Handley, which were at one time in great danger. All those mentioned are very considerable losers in grass and fencing, to which the damage was principally confined.