

Myamya.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

March 8.

Bush fires are occupying the whole attention in this locality at present, most people being unable to leave their homes during the day lest they should find one when they returned. The weather continues fearfully hot, the glass registering at half past ten this morning 103 deg in the shade though it fell to about 94 shortly after one o'clock, and 86 at half past three, with a downward tendency. In addition to the fires already reported, one started on the west side of the township and travelled quickly down through Mr. W. Ellis' paddock and through Messrs. John and William Treloar's. The township is situated at present between two fires, and the chances are that one or the other reaches it in a few days unless rains come.

Last night between eleven and 12 o'clock Mr. James Bannam's mill was nearly destroyed by fire, and certainly would have been only for the fortunate circumstance that the blaze was observed by some stonebreakers who were camped a couple of hundred yards distant. The fire must have originated from the ashes and coals of the engine fire which could not have been properly extinguished, though Mr. Bannam states that just before retiring to bed he had a look around as usual to see all was well and did not observe any fire. However, about the time mentioned it was observed, the alarm raised and soon all hands had turned out, and with a plentiful supply of water extinguished it, but not before an engine belt value £10 was burnt. Had Mr. Glare not so opportunely noticed the flames from his tent, the mill this morning would have been but a ruin, and Mr. Bannam would have suffered to the tune of about £6000. Mr. Bannam is very grateful for the timely warning and assistance given by the men.

A fire is also raging down near Homerton, among the properties of Messrs. K. and H. Price and others. Constables Knox and Crotty are actively endeavouring to find out the origin of these fires, and as they are fully capable of bringing their work to a successful issue it is possible that ere long some persons will have the privilege of interviewing Mr. Johns, P.M., whose views on the subject will doubtless be remembered

the subject will doubtless be remembered by them.