

Myamyn.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JANUARY 7.

On Sunday last a very extensive bush fire raged for miles around here, doing very considerable damage to the properties of the following holders, viz., Messrs. H. Rundell, Jacob Looker, Malseed, J. Cain, Satchell, Gray, Ellis, and Taylor. This fire, as is always the case with these much too common visitations, appears again to have started in that inevitable somewhere in the bush, and backed up by a terrific hot wind blowing from the northwest, travelled fast and furious, and by noon, and for the remainder of the day dwellers here had to bear with a thorough brickfielder, and smoke thrown in galore. Some very severe fire fighting is reported from the more outlying and timbered homesteads. Mr. Joseph Cain and family had much to do to save their dwelling house and its immediate surroundings; also a quantity of wattle bark ready for market narrowly escaped the flames. Showing how strong the devouring element was, Mr. H. Gray had the misfortune to have his bullock waggon and a load of posts completely burned, and another waggon escaped minus the pole. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Gray in his direct loss. Sad havoc has been committed amongst the wattle growth by the fire, Mr. John Malseed, junr., having suffered severely in this respect. The railway line required great attention from Ganger McKenzie and his men; the fire several times attacking the fence and also fired a bridge. Another fire below Milltown towards Homerton and round by South Condah gave householders great anxiety; Mr. W. Robertson's house taking fire several times. Mr. J. Hollis also had a narrow escape from losing his house and effects, a spark being blown in under the eaves caught the ceiling and would have made short work of the structure and its contents but that prompt measures were at hand. On the same day, is reported from the Condah swamp the burning of three navvie's tents and effects, bedding, etc., this fire was caused by a spark from one of the camp fires, also the unfortunate occurrence of a crop of 12 acres of potatoes being burned, the nature of the swamp ground, namely peat, lending itself very apt to the ravages of fire.

itself very apt to the ravages of fire. In connection with the above fires an object lesson was derived therefrom. I here refer to the phenomenal distances that pieces of burning bark or very live sparks must have been carried by the high wind during the day, as upwards of a mile away from any part of the main fire, fires sprang up spontaneous—like in many places.