

Relief For Nicholls Family

**PUBLIC APPEAL TO BE MADE
AT MEETING NEXT MONDAY**

The president of the Shire of Braybrook (Cr. A. Lowe) has called a public meeting for Monday night next to organise an appeal for the relief of the Nicholls family, whose home in Duke Street, Braybrook, was destroyed by fire on Saturday last and the infant son of the occupants burnt to death. All residents are invited and urged to give their support to this deserving case.

A fund to aid the unfortunate family has been opened, and donations may be left at the Town Hall or The Advocate office, when they will be acknowledged.

Cr. A. G. Pennell brought the matter before the meeting. He said the family were in necessitous circumstances. The people at Braybrook had expressed a desire to organise a relief fund, and he thought it was a matter in which the council could give a lead.

Cr. Dempster said it was a most unfortunate occurrence. The owner of the house, Mr J. Middleton, had been unemployed for the greater part of the depression years and had resolutely refused to go on the sustenance. For a long time, also, the house was tenanted by people who hardly paid a penny rent, and M.

hardly paid a penny rent, and M. Nicholls was the first one who had paid.

NEIGHBOR'S BRAVERY RECOGNISED

Special reference was made to the bravery of Mr James Rockett, who had entered the burning house at the risk of his own life in order to rescue Mrs Nicholls. The council decided to send a letter of appreciation to Mr Rockett for his brave act.

When the fire occurred Mrs Nicholls was away from the house. A passer-by had told her that another son, aged nine years, was fishing in the Maribyrnong River and was in danger of being drowned. When she returned to the house it was in flames.

Three times Mrs Nicholls endeavored to enter the burning building to rescue her baby, but each time was driven back by smoke and flames. In her third attempt she collapsed and would have been suffocated had it not been for Mr James Rockett who at great risk managed to get her to safety. Two other small children were also in great danger, as they had been left at the house during Mrs Nicholls' temporary absence.

Sunshine fire brigade responded quickly to the alarm, but the house was almost completely destroyed when they arrived. Mr Froude, the station keeper, said later that a building of that description would not last five minutes in a fire. The water supply was too far away to

water supply was too far away to enable any effort being made to quell the flames.

The child's body was found in a corner of what had been the kitchen.
