

Fire at Braybrook Factory.

LARGE QUANTITY OF TALLOW ABLAZE.

Early on Saturday morning an outbreak of fire occurred at the bone-dust factory of G. W. Pennell, Burke-street, Braybrook, a building of one and two stories, with brick, wood and iron walls and iron roof. Owing to the inflammable character of the contents great difficulty was experienced by the brigade in extinguishing the fire, and the men were at work for nearly six hours before it was entirely extinguished. The flames spread to a two-stall stable, store-room and outbuildings at the rear of a four-roomed dwelling occupied by J. Kerr and owned by S. A. Stephens. The main building of the factory, a store shed 100 feet by 30 feet, and contents were severely damaged by the fire. The building was insured by the Chamber of Manufactures for £200, but the contents were not insured.

The country is very flat for miles around, and the fire could be plainly seen by the residents. About 100 tons of tallow, valued at £30 a ton, made a great blaze, and ran down to the Maribyrnong River in streams. About 900 tons of bones and bone dust, valued at £10 a ton, were also destroyed, together with about £500 worth of standard sacks, and a large quantity of raw materials. Brigades attended from Footscray, Yarraville and Newport, but the efforts of the firemen were severely handicapped by a dearth of hose and a poor water supply.

Mr. Pennell, who estimated the total damage at £16,000, said he was unable to account for the origin of the fire. From the fact that it broke out in the tallow store, which was not easy of access, he was inclined to think that it was wilfully caused.