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THE BUSHFIRE OF 1907.

- From the Moorabbin "News" of Saturday, December 28th, 1907.

"FIRE AT BEAUMARIS.

"The exceptionally hot weather of Saturday rekindled a fire in the scrub on the south side of Balcombe Hill, Black Rock, which was supposed to have been extinguished on the previous day. The hill mentioned is the first eminence on Balcombe Road, which there travels eastward from the coast towards Cheltenham. Between the starting point of the fire and Beach Road skirting the foreshore there is a large tract of land densely covered with ti-tree scrub. Included in it is the Ebden Estate, formerly the summer residence of Sir Henry Barkly, a former Governor of Victoria. The fire, driven by the north wind, took a course directly south, and leaving this area untouched licked up a wide extent of shorter scrub until it met the Beach Road on the Beaumaris side of Te Honga, a residence occupied by Mrs. Roe and family. Leaving her property unscathed, it travelled rapidly down the road, consuming everything in its course, towards Mrs. Lang's Estate, 300 yards farther on.

"About 10.30 a.m. the noise and glare of the conflagration gave the alarm to all the residents in the neighbourhood, and the men hurried to the scene of the fire to render assistance. The reticulated water supply does not go south of the central part of Sandringham, and therefore no water was available, but all that a force of 60 resourceful men could do in beating out the flames and cutting down the scrub in advance of the fire was done. Shortly after 11 o'clock the two Misses Lang, seeing the fire for the first time at the rear of the estate, went to the spot to investigate. They came running back as fast as they could, with the fire leaping after them, and they had to rush down to the beach under the cliffs to save their lives.