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## Big Fire at Braybrook

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A great bonfire blazing in a corner paddock was all that the firemen saw of the factory of Mr. William James Chinnery, furniture manufacturer and retailer, of Braybrook and Leeds street, Footscray, when they arrived at the corner of Ballarat road and Evans street, Braybrook, about 10 p.m. on Saturday. The building and its contents, a quantity of machinery, finished furniture, expensive woods and lorries were destroyed. The site of the factory is on the property of Mr. Chinnery, about 200 yards from the Ballarat road, and is an isolated position on the eastern side of Evans street.

The origin of the fire is not known but it is believed to have started in the polishing room, in the north-western corner of the building. The structure was of one story, constructed of weatherboard.

The glare from the outbreak was seen from North Melbourne fire station, and word was sent to Footscray and other stations in the district. Detachments of the brigades from Kensington, Ascot Vale, North Melbourne, Footscray and Newport were soon near the scene.

District Officer Cross spoke strongly of the need for better water supply in the district in which the fire occurred. There was only a small main running along Ballarat road, from which Sunshine, two miles further on, received its supply.

Pumping such a small stream of water over such a distance was an almost futile procedure, especially when fighting a blaze in a wooden building as old as the furniture factory. It was erected about 15 years ago, and

was erected about 15 years ago, and had been occupied by Mr. Chinnery as a factory for 12 years. Mr. Chinnery estimated the damage at £3500. Insurance on the building and contents is with the Northern Company, and amounts to £2175. Twelve men were employed in the factory.

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