

A BRIDGE ON FIRE

Early on Thursday morning a wooden railway bridge about fifty feet in length, spanning a creek between Deer Park and Bacchus Marsh, on the Bacchus Marsh line, was discovered to be in flames. The adjacent employees of the line and others set to work to extinguish the fire, but, despite all their efforts, the structure was so greatly damaged before the flames were got under. It was considered unsafe for traffic to pass over the bridge until it had been examined by a departmental engineer, and when the first train from Melbourne approached was stopped on the Deer Park side and the Adelaide express, Cook's Adelaide excursion train, and a school excursion train from Ballarat had to be pulled up on the Brookbank side. On receiving information about the fire and the condition of the bridge, the Commissioners arranged for the transfer of the passengers from the trains blocked on the Brookbank side to the trains on the other side, and to other special trains sent down to the scene, which is situate about seventeen miles from Melbourne. Word was also sent to Ballarat in time to stop a second school excursion train that was about to start for Melbourne via Bacchus Marsh, and it came round via Geelong. Mr Sims, one of the officers of the branch of the Engineer of Existing Lines, went down as early as possible and inspected the bridge, and shortly before noon telegraphed to the Commissioners that such temporary repairs could be immediately effected as would enable traffic to be restored by the evening. The origin of the fire is as yet unknown, but it is surmised that it was due to the carelessness of some swagmen who had camped under the bridge.