

BUSH FIRES RAGING OUTBREAK AT CANBERRA

SYDNEY, Thursday.

A message from Canberra states that bush fires are raging on a five mile front beyond the Murrumbidgee. Half a gale was driving the fire towards the confluence of the Cotter and Murrumbidgee Rivers, and if it crosses the river the bush around the Cotter dam and the great pine plantations on Mt. Stromlo will be in danger.

The commission sent 60 men out yesterday to fight the flames.

Bush fires are still raging in Victoria. Thousands of acres have already been destroyed, and the homes of many settlers are threatened with destruction.

Terrific bush fires continue to rage in the Mendow Flat and Tarana districts and are sweeping the countryside at the rate of 40 miles an hour. Miles of fencing, crops and pastures have been destroyed. So far there has been no loss of life or stock reported. Hundreds of settlers are fighting the flames.

Later.—The fire has passed the Murrumbidgee River and is now approaching the north-west slopes of Mt. Stromlo and the great pine plantations. Men are being hastily gathered from all parts and rushed to Stromlo in an endeavour to save the plantations.
