

FIRE WAS NOT UNMIXED EVIL

Will Greatly Reduce Cost of Clearing Land

A PART from the loss of life, the benefits from the bush fires of last summer will, in the opinion of some, prove greater than the injury. One man who lost everything he had in the way of buildings and movable property, with the exception of a team of horses, said he is really ahead as the result of the blaze. In his case the fire swept away a lot of almost useless timber, and left the land nearly fit for the plough. There are thousands upon thousands of acres, covered with dead timber before the burning, on which there is nothing but "branding" to do, that is, piling in heaps for burning the fragments left. The "branding" will take in stumps as well as branches, because the stumps are mere blackened skeletons, from which the roots have all been burned away. As one man expressed it, a couple of handy chaps can clean up the ground as fast as a third man with a team can plough it. Since it costs at least \$20 an acre to prepare for the plough land that is even lightly timbered, it will readily be understood that a fire which practically wholly removes from one hundred acres the dead and well-nigh useless timber is not wholly destructive, even if it does take twenty acres of crop and pioneer buildings along with it.