

Great Fire in Sheffield

This Morning

Damages £5,000

A fire which proved to be one of the most serious and destructive nature broke out at an early hour this morning, on the premises of Messrs. Turner and Naylor, edge tool manufacturers, &c., the Northern Works, John-street, Highfields. The premises are very extensive, and the building is comparatively new, the works having been started within the past two years. The building which is three storeys high, forms two sides of a square, one side fronting Bramall-Lane and the other portion fronting John-street. The upper portion of the premises fronting John-street, was let off to Messrs. Blades and Witham, cutlery manufactures, and it was in this last named portion the fire was first discovered.

The discovery that a fire was raging on the premises appears to have been made shortly before 3 o'clock, by a man named Deane, who resides on the opposite side of the street. He at once raised the alarm, and lost no time in communicating with Police-sergeant Bestwick and police-constable Renshaw, two officers who were on duty in the neighbourhood. The officers at once despatched messengers to the fire station, in Barkers Pool, and with all possible despatch the engines were got ready.

In the meantime the fire which had been confined to a room on the first floor, when it was discovered, rapidly extended, and before the arrival of the engines the portion of the premises, comprising the first and second floors, were all but destroyed, and shortly afterwards the roof fell in with a tremendous crash.

Seeing the utter hopelessness of attempting to save this portion of the premises, the members of the fire brigade with Mr. Superintendent Pound at their head, directed their efforts to the other portion, which the fire had not reached at that time. Fortunately, the morning was exceedingly calm, and this circumstance favoured the efforts of the firemen. Some considerable time elapsed, however, before the flames could be got under control, and it was feared at one time that the whole building must be destroyed. The firemen, however, worked with a will; a number of persons who resided in the neighbourhood, and who had by this time congregated around the spot, lent their assistance, and after a lapse of about two hours, the flames appeared somewhat diminished.

While the fire was raging, several firemen succeeded in making their way to the offices, and rescuing the account books, and a number of valuable documents before the flames reached them. The fire continued to burn until the whole of the first floor had been destroyed, together with a portion of the lower storey. In the last named portion of the premises, a large quantity of engineers' tools were stored, and these although not destroyed by the fire were so seriously damaged by the water, that they will be rendered all but useless.

By seven o'clock, the fire was completely extinguished, and by this time the portion of the building fronting John-street, was completely gutted. The portion fronting Bramall-lane and the back of the premises, which, we understand, were occupied exclusively by Messrs. Turner and Naylor, were saved by the efforts of the members of the fire brigade.

The cause of the fire is at present unknown, but it is believed to have originated in one of the rooms connected with the warehouse, in which a number of women were usually employed wrapping up goods. The conflagration was one of very extensive character, when the roof fell in the flames shot up high in the air illuminating the heavens, and casting out a reflection, which could be seen from all parts of the town.

The building was the property of Messrs. Turner and Naylor, the occupiers of the greater portion of the works. As yet, it is impossible to form even a rough estimate as to the amount of damage, but it is well known that both Messrs. Turner and Naylor and Messrs. Blades and Whitham will be great sufferers. The last named firm it is stated had a large quantity of cutlery, and new tools stored on the premises, all of which are totally destroyed, and the engines and machinery which had been placed in the premises by Messrs. Turner and Naylor, were also destroyed.

It is believed that the total amount of damage consequent on the fire will not be less than £5,000, though it is impossible to say to any degree of accuracy, whether this amount will represent the loss sustained. The building was insured in the Scottish Provincial Fire Office, and the stock is also believed to be insured. By this unfortunate occurrence a considerable number of men, it is believed nearly two hundred will be temporarily thrown out of employment.