

Three Firms Suffer in Fire

Fire which caused damage to property occupied by three Sheffield firms was controlled by the city fire brigade in pouring rain last night.

Completely gutting the workshops of Ernest Grayson, silver finisher, of 102, West Street, the fire also caused damage to the cutting rooms of Mrs Eileen Ellis, tailoress, and the workshop used by Mr. John Dyson, a scissor manufacturer. The damage extended to three floors of a single block of buildings. Mrs Ellis told a "Sheffield Telegraph" reporter that half an hour before she was told of the fire she had returned home after a fortnight's holiday in Bridlington.

Most of the material in her cutting room belonged to customers who had left it to be made up into suits and dresses.

Publican Saw Smoke

Mr. W. Sanderson who has a sweets and tobacco shop at the back of West Street, said that he had been busy in his shop until 6 o'clock, but neither had he seen nor heard anything unusual.

The brigade were called 20 minutes later by Mr. T. Simmonite, proprietor of the Saddle Inn, who saw smoke swirling into the yard at the rear of his public house. A large iron stove which crashed through the ceiling on the first floor caused damage to the lower workshops. The brigade could not say what had caused the fire.

The property is owned by Messrs. Robert E. Shirtcliffe and Sons Ltd., pearl cutters, of West Street, and is rented out to three firms.