

*The Star, Thursday, December 28, 1961*

## *Raging Fires Sweep Wood Mill and Canteen* 1,500 steel site workers have to make do with cold meals

Raging fires hit work at two Sheffield firms today and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage as the flames swept buildings and stocks.

One was at a city timber yard and 24 tons of valuable wood stocks were destroyed in the fierce blaze. The other fire burnt out the canteen used by 1,500 men on a big construction site.

Firemen were still watching the smouldering timber fire more than four hours after the alarm was raised by a passenger on a passing train. The first call to Sheffield Fire Brigade came from Rotherham fire headquarters.

### Spotted From Train

The passenger on a train running past the wood yard spotted flames leaping through the roof. When the train stopped at Rotherham he telephoned the local brigade.

At the height of the blaze flames shot high into the air through the roof of the old mill at the Queens Road premises of Chas. Black and Sons Ltd., timber merchants. A brigade spokesman said 400 square feet of roofing was badly damaged. "Plywood and hardboard - nearly 24 tons - were destroyed in the fire."

"Workmen had been dismantling an old saw in the mill. We think a spark could have ignited sawdust on the floor," he said.

A spokesman at the firm told the star he could not yet estimate the damage.