

## Roof Collapses in Fierce Sheffield Works Blaze



SMOKE wreathes from the shattered windows of a works premises in Furnival Road, Sheffield today, as firemen carry out damping-down operations. Several thousand pounds worth of damage was caused by the blaze.

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of damage was caused by a fierce blaze at the Sheffield works of George Turton Platts and Co Ltd. today.

As firemen fought the flames at the factory, in Furnival Road, the roof collapsed and the police sealed off the area.

Four appliances including the 100ft. turntable escape ladder were used to fight the flames which swept through the works.

The blaze destroyed the joiner's shop, canteen and caused serious damage to plant.

### Alarm

Assistant Divisional Officer Robert Dixon of Sheffield Fire Brigade, who was in charge of the operation, said the fire was discovered almost simultaneously by the brigade and men on the night shift at the works.

A machine was returning to the fire station after extinguishing a blaze in Smile Street when the crew noticed burning embers falling around them in The Wicker.

They quickly discovered the blaze, and, at the same time, men on the night shift at the works were ringing for the brigade.

By the time the main body of firefighters arrived, the building was well alight.

Police sealed off the area because of the danger of the roof collapsing and shortly after they had done so, it fell into the heart of the blaze, sending up great showers of sparks and burning debris.



Within an hour of receiving the call the flames were, however, under control, but firemen are expected to be on duty throughout the day damping down.

## Probe

Mr. Dixon said that, to prevent any danger from further collapse, a demolition contractor had been called in to pull down the facing wall of the building.

He said the outbreak would be investigated but it appeared to have started in the area of the joiners' shop or canteen. It spread rapidly, and the collapse of the roof damaged crane installation and other plant in the burnt out portion of the works,

The firm make buffers, springs, drop forgings and railway fastenings.

Mr. J. L. Hewitt, managing director, said nobody would be put of work because of the daze. They would try to overcome the difficulties by introducing a three-shift system of working in one of the plants at present working single or double shifts.