

Disastrous Fire at Dore Man Burned to Death

Early yesterday afternoon an alarming fire broke out in the stackyard of a farm at Dore, occupied by Mr. George Hague. A few minutes before the outbreak was discovered, a traction engine went by on the main road, which runs alongside the farm. There was a high wind blowing at the time, and as the flames were discovered almost as soon as the engine had passed, it was inferred that one of the stacks was set on fire through a spark being blown on to it from the chimney of the locomotive. A message was sent to the Sheffield fire station, and pending the arrival of Superintendent Pound, the occupier of the farm, with others, made strenuous efforts to stop the further progress of the flames. This, mainly owing to the wind, was anything but an easy task, and by the time the Fire Brigade appeared on the scene, three other stacks in close proximity to the others were on fire. A fairly good supply of water was obtained, and the firemen resolutely set to work to quench the flames, and save as much as possible of the contents of the yard. The greater portion of a corn stack was cut away and so saved, but the remaining stacks were more or less destroyed, and their contents rendered unfit for use. The brigade worked hard, but it was not until two o'clock this morning that the fire was put out, and all further danger declared to be at an end.

During the progress of the fire a melancholy incident transpired, resulting in the death of a file cutter named Joseph Bingham, who had been assisting to quench the flames. It would be just after five o'clock when he and another man named Joseph Robinson were standing together directly underneath the side of one of the burning stacks which was being played upon by firemen from the opposite side. Suddenly the top portion was seen to heel over, and a cry was issued that it was about to fall. The two men started as though they would run out of the way, but before they had time to advance more than a step or two the burning hay was upon them. Both were buried underneath it, although Robinson, who had stood further from the stack than his companion was extricated before much harm had befallen him. Bingham, however, was not so easily rescued. The burning mass completely covered him and he was altogether lost to site. Whilst some of the firemen poured water upon the hay the others hastily pulled from off the poor fellow with their hands, not daring to use forks for fear of maiming him. It was the opinion of all present that when taken out he would be quite dead, but marvellous to state such was not the case. However, the unfortunate man was unconscious and very badly burned. Nearly all the members of the Fire Brigade have received instructions at ambulance classes, and were thus enabled to induce artificial respiration, and do something towards diminishing the man's sufferings until such time as they could get him removed to the Devonshire Arms adjoining. Then Dr. Aldred was summoned, and a man was sent to Sheffield on horseback for the ambulance van. This arrived at Dore about eleven, and the sufferer, who by that time had had everything possible done for him, was placed in it and brought on to the Hospital. From the first but little hope was held out as to his chances of recovery, so fearful were the injuries he had received, and although every attention was paid him at that institution, he died a couple of hours after his admission. Bingham was about fifty years of age, and married; he leaves a wife and a large family. An inquest will be held.