

Another Fire in Sheffield An Alarming Outbreak

A fire which at the time raged so furiously as to give cause for great alarm occurred in Sheffield late last night. The locale was the square block of buildings occupied by various forms - situated on a piece of land of which Charles street forms one boundary line, the other three sides being respectively confined by Union street, Union lane and Furnival street. In practically the very centre of these buildings were brick premises three stories in height and about 200 feet in length with a width of 80 feet. These were in the occupation of Messrs. Foxon and Robinson, timber merchants, coopers, and packing-case makers, who employed some 70 or 80 workpeople in their old-established, and extensive, business. A few minutes after eleven o'clock Police-constable (184) Haigh was passing along Union street, when he saw, smoke ascending over the roof of the shop in Union street occupied by Mr. Moses Neumann, glass dealer. Haigh gave the alarm by blowing his whistle, and he was speedily joined: by Inspector Stone, who was standing near the corner of Charles street, but a short distance away. Seeing that the outward signs of a big fire continued to increase, the Officers telephoned to the central fire station in Rockingham street. The men of the fire brigade, who were celebrating their annual reunion, were: roughly aroused from their festive gathering, and in a short time the tender, with Superintendent Pound in command, arrived on the scene. As it was at once seen that this was not sufficient to cope with the fire, the largest of the two steamers was summoned, and followed in a few minutes in charge of Sergeant Crawford. By this time the outbreak had attained very serious dimensions and as quickly as possible five lines of hose were - laid on from Charles street, Norfolk street, Union street where the engine was stationed - and adjacent hydrants, from all of which an excellent supply of water was obtained. While this was being done a man named James Dewsnap, a moulder, living at 14, Eyre lane, rushed into the stables connected with the burning premises and released three horses, which were brought out and taken to a place of safety. The firemen then laid their principal lines of hose from Charles street through the arched entrance to the premises, which lay about 30 or 40 yards back from this thoroughfare, and commenced playing on the flames, water being simultaneously poured from: the other pipes. To save that particular portion of the building wherein the fire broke out was an impossible task, as it was filled; with materials of a highly inflammable nature, such as casks, hoops, wood packing cases, timber, and several tons of wood wool used for packing purposes. The firemen, therefore, devoted themselves to prevent the blaze extending to the buildings which were on all sides surrounded the fire. These included North's public-house at the corner Charles and Union streets, Benson's Glass Works, and Wragg's Cutlery Works in Charles street, and a block of unoccupied buildings extending a considerable distance from Union lane, in which are also the premises of Mr. W. Jowsay, Tire and Steel Works, and Messrs. Pilkington Bros of the St Helen's Glass Company, while close by are the new premises of Messrs. Newton Chambers, and Co. The fire on the Union street side was bounded by buildings formerly occupied by Mr. Reuben Thompson, who a short time ago vacated them for new premises in Pinstone street, and shops respectively rented by Messrs. Taylor, cabinet makers; Green, carver and gilder; M. Neumann, glass dealer; J. Needham. fish dealer; C. Credland oil and colour dealer; George Albert Knowles, public-house valuer; M. and A. Kelly, dealers in second-

hand clothes; one side of North's public-house and several unoccupied shops. The ends of Messrs. Pilkington Bros., premises, and Mr. W. Jowsay's warehouse also fringe upon Union street. The majority of these places are occupied by tenants who sleep there, among whom there was considerable alarm, and as it was feared the fire would extend, many of the inhabitants prepared for flight. But the brigade men worked with a will, and though theirs was a difficult task, they eventually succeeded in mastering the flames, and shortly after one o'clock this morning all danger was at an end. Before this was done, however, the manufacturing department had been wrecked, and slight damage occasioned to the Union lane warehouse of Mr. Twigg, cutler. The premises saved included Messrs. Foxon and Robinson's offices, the saw mill and the machinery, though they were damaged by water. The firm estimate of their loss is about £3 000, which is covered by insurance in the Queen and Lancashire and Yorkshire Societies. The firemen did their work well, and received great assistance from the police, who were in the charge of Inspector Stone, Sergeant Pearson, and Sergeant Grannan. At two o'clock this morning the fire was almost completely extinguished.

Praise for the Brigade

A view by daylight of the scene of last night's fire shows how very easily there might have been an outbreak compared with which. Hovey's fire would have been but small. The flames were in the centre of a mass of old buildings difficult of access, and that matters were no worse was owing to the members of the Fire Brigade all being efficient. Superintendent Pound and his men worked with a will, and all danger was over just after one o'clock. As there has been considerable controversy of late with respect to the Brigade, it is worth giving the opinion of Mr. Foxon, one of the members of the firm, on the work done last night. He says that he is exceedingly pleased with the efforts, of the Brigade. It was marvellous the way they tackled the work and prevented flames spreading and doing many thousands of pounds more damage, in fact, it would have been impossible for them to do better. The origin of the outbreak has not yet been discovered. Messrs. Foxon and Robinson have made arrangements for their business to be carried on as usual at Messrs. Foxon, Robinson and Co. (Limited), Queen's road.