

SERIOUS FIRE IN SHEFFIELD

Rawson's Brewery In Flames

Extensive Damage

This afternoon a fire that reached enormous proportions broke out at the brewery of Rawson Bros. Limited, Pond Street. The exact origin of the fire has not yet been ascertained, but about three o'clock flames were discovered in the stores department of the building. A telephone message was instantly despatched to the Fire Station, Rockingham Street, and the tender and an engine immediately turned out, and quickly arrived at the fire. The firemen at once knew that they had a very big job on hand as the flames were making rapid headway, shooting up from the roofs of the various buildings in several places. A second engine was at once sent for, and one was stationed at the brewery entrance in Pond Street, and the second took up its position in the lane which runs off Howard Street, along the back of the brewery. Several hose pipes were attached to street mains, and the engines pumped away. The engine in the lane secured a plentiful supply of water and with this at their command, the firemen played on the roof of the building, which at that point is only one storey high. For some time their efforts seemed to have very little effect, as the flames spread with great rapidity. Undoubtedly the fire was aided by the dryness of the contents of the building, and in the bottling department the barrels and boxes afforded a ready supply of fuel for the flames. The roof was soon burnt, and here and there the charred rafters fell with a crash, the flames meanwhile shooting up to a great height. At the Pond Street end of the brewery the firemen, although they worked with the greatest vigour and promptness were hampered by several difficulties, which rendered their work of little good for some time. At this place the building reaches to a considerable height, and the flames had obtained a good hold in the malting department, which was burning furiously. For some reason or other, although all the street mains in the immediate district were being tapped, the firemen working at this part were unable at times to get a good supply of water, the pressure at times being insufficient to carry the water into the burning building. By dint of climbing the men got within reach of the flames, and although the heat from the burning building was almost unbearable they stuck to their work pluckily, and did their best to prevent the flames spreading. At one time it seemed probable that the flames would spread throughout the whole of the building, but after an hour's work the firemen seemed to be getting a little mastery over the flames. Under any circumstances the damage will amount to a very heavy figure. The fire caused considerable excitement in the district, and the work of the fire brigade was watched with great interest. A large staff of police were at the place to keep order, and Mr. John Jackson, Chief-Constable, kept supervising the men. The fire was not overcome at the time of writing.

Superintendent Frost, who was in charge of the Fire Brigade, stationed the men so that the fire was attacked from as many points as possible. The fire, which is believed to have broken out in a room in the bottling department, as one fireman described it, literally walked along the building, and the roof was quickly blazing. The efforts of the firemen were devoted to keeping the fire within as narrow limits as possible, and in this they succeeded, keeping it away from the brewing portion of the premises, and confining it to the bottling section. The malt kiln, a high building, quickly took fire, and the flames made rapid progress. Considerable damage was done, and it appeared that the interior of the kiln was completely gutted, and in places the roof gave way. At one time the heat was so intense that the windows of a large, building opposite the rear of the brewery

were broken. The fire was still burning at half-past five o'clock, although it was apparent that the firemen had then obtained the upper hand. The Brigade went on with work, and continued playing on the smouldering beams and timber.

The fire which occurred on Saturday at the brewer of Thomas .Rawson and Co. (Ltd), Pond Street, resulted in very large amount of damage being done. Mr. Herbert Unwin the principal proprietor, came to Sheffield on Saturday night, and was at the brewery during Sunday, and yesterday. The fire has attracted large numbers of people, to the brewery, and the firemen barricaded the buildings to keep them away. The .premises have not been touched yet, in view of the inspection by the insurance companies. The work of the brewery, so far as brewing is concerned, has not been interfered with. The full extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained, but it is fully covered by insurance, the two principal offices concerned being the Sun Fire and Life Company and the Alliance.

As a result of further inquiries into the complaint made with regard to what appeared to be an insufficient supply of water at the fire at Rawson's Brewery. Mr. William Terrey, general manager of the water department, who was seen on the subject, states that there is an abundant number of plugs and hydrants available, and the apparent insufficient supply of water arose from the fact, that these were being drawn upon from the same service at one and the same moment, the effect being to diminish the pressure at the point of delivery, though the total quantity of water was sufficient for all purposes: As a matter of fact there was another plug available at the corner of Paternoster Row, a short distance away, which would have given an additional quantity of water under pressure, and from an entirely different service, had it been required.