

Extensive Fire in Sheffield

Another extensive fire occurred in Sheffield yesterday morning, causing the partial destruction of the establishment of Mr. G. Mudford, Exchange street, and doing a considerable amount of damage to his stock. Mr. Mudford is a twine and cart cover manufacturer, and his shop is in what are known as the Exchange Buildings. Over his shop was a large warehouse or stock room, which extended from the Durham Ox on the one side to the establishment of Messrs. Wilkes Bros. on the other, and covered the shops, of Mr. Thomas Peel, cheese factor, and Messrs James and Elvidge, potato merchants. This room, at the time the fire occurred, contained a very large stock, which mainly consisted of rope, twine, cart covers, nets, and tents. There was also some oil, but, it is said, the quantity was not considerable. Behind the, stockroom was a small workshop. It was in the latter that the fire occurred, and the way it originated was this: A man named Linley, who is in the employ of Mr. Mudford, was in the lot of boiling some kind of composition, when by some means or other it caught fire, and the composition becoming upset, the burning mass flowed along the floor and then down the stairs leading into the shop beneath. It was, of course, utterly impossible to extinguish the flames, and Linley made the best of his way out of the building to call assistance. In an incredibly short time the fire reached the warehouse, and a few minutes afterwards flames shot through the roof and through several of the windows on the Durham Ox side, So fierce was the conflagration at this time that it threatened to be of a very destructive character, and considering the inflammable nature of Mr. Mudford's stock, it is almost wonderful that any of it was saved. The Royal Brigade; were the first to arrive, and there being fortunately full supply of water in the mains, they were able at once to direct their energies to stay the progress of the flames. The Alliance Brigade shortly afterwards came, and three engines were then set to work. The efforts of the two brigades, however, were powerless to prevent the flames from extending to all parts of the warehouse, and before the fire could be extinguished, the top part of Mr. Mudford's premises was reduced to ruins. Fortunately the fire did not make its way into the shop beneath. This was entirely Owing to the labours of the firemen, for when they arrived upon the scene the flames were at the top of the stairs and-were in somewhat close proximity to a large quantity of rope and a number of sacks. Had the fire made its way to these, there is but little doubt the whole of the contents of the shop would have been destroyed. The brigades succeeded in securing a good deal of salvage, but Mr. Mudford's loss will be considerable, and we-understand it will only be partially met by insurance. The shops of Mr. Peel and Messrs. James and Elvidge were not touched by the fire. Their stock, however, was damaged by the water from the engines, and whilst the fire was going on Mr. Peel succeeded in removing a large quantity of cheese. Messrs. James and Elvidge ate not insured, but Mr. Peel's loss will be fully covered.

Amongst the first to make their way to the fire were Detectives Wheatley and Hornsey and Police-constables Crowther, Mead, and Smelt. As there then seemed every probability that the fire would extend to the establishment of Messrs. Wilkes Brothers, the officers knocked up the inmates, removed them to a place of safety, and then met to work in getting out the books of the firm, some plate, pictures and other valuables.

The Chief Constable arrived upon the scene some time after the fire broke out, and a number of officers were present to render assistance. The fire lasted more than three hours.