

Serious Fire in Mowbray Street Narrow Escape of Firemen

About six o'clock this morning a disastrous fire occurred at the Mowbray Inn, Mowbray street, a licensed house occupied by Mr. Albert Hartley, which resulted in considerable damage being done to the premises and contents. The fire originated through a beam in the best room becoming ignited, the flames thus caused afterwards spreading to other parts of the house. This beam runs along the ceiling of the best room and terminates in the chimney, where a few inches or more project through. At ten minutes to six flames were discovered issuing from this part of the room, and seeing that the case looked serious the fire brigade were sent for. By the time the brigade arrived the flames had got firm hold of the beams and rafters of the ceiling, and it was with considerable difficulty that they were got under by the firemen. During the progress of the fire several members of the brigade had a narrow escape of receiving serious injuries. Three or four of them were standing in the middle of the room, when one of the supporting beams at the top, which had been in flames for some time, collapsed and fell, a large portion of the surrounding walls falling at the same time. Luckily the firemen got out of the way, or the consequences would have been far different to what happily was the case. After considerable trouble the fire was put out, and all further danger declared at an end. That part of the house where it started is very much damaged, and the fixtures have not escaped. It is supposed that the beam which ended in the chimney had been smouldering for some time before bursting out into actual flames.