

Serious Fire in Arundel Street Over £1,200 Damage

The fire which was discovered this morning in Arundel street turns out to be of a much more serious character than was at first thought. The premises destroyed were the property of Mr. J. W. Biggins, silver-plate manufacturer, and were occupied by Mr. Henry Barrett, bookbinder, and Mr. D. Robinson, draper and furniture dealer, They consisted of a long two-storied building, at the end of which was a small three-storied section. Mr. Barrett occupied the latter and the top floor of the other, Mr. Robinson being on the ground floor. Owing to the fact that the place is somewhat secluded the fire was not discovered until about two o'clock, when a man named Fred Tyler noticed the place in flames Several employees from the station turned up at about the same time, and they aroused the inmates of the Talbot Hotel, and sent a message by telephone to the Fire Brigade. Superintendent Pound promptly set off with the tender, arriving eight minutes after receiving the call. He found that the roof of the long building had fallen in, and that all attempts to save it or the contents would be unavailing. He therefore set to work to prevent the flames spreading to adjoining buildings, and this was a task of no little difficulty. The burning portion was connected by a wooden bridge with some other premises rented by Mr. Barrett and Mr. Robinson, and at one time it was feared that these, too, would become a prey to the flames. Superintendent Pound and his men worked gallantly, and at last, being able to keep the fire to its original proportions, extinguished it by about six o'clock. Although the building was somewhat small, the contents were most valuable, and Mr. Barrett's loss will be considerably over £1,000, whilst the damage done to Mr. Robinson's stock will amount to at least £200. Mr. Barrett had a large quantity of valuable machinery in the long room, and all this is spoilt. In addition he had a large amount of material and finished work, both in these and the three-storied building, and all this was destroyed. He is insured in the Equitable, the North British and Mercantile and the London, Liverpool, and Globe, but it is feared that his losses will not be covered. Mr. Robinson had the ground floor crammed with furniture, and also a number of furs valued at £50, which he had only just received. He is insured in the Equitable, and the property is also secured in the same Society. Both of the gentlemen are very much relieved at the flames being prevented from spreading across the bridge mentioned, as here Mr. Barrett had a quantity of finished goods, and Mr. Robinson a large room full of drapery, &c. The origin of the fire is not known, but it is supposed to have been caused by a defective flue.