

The Fire at Timber Yard Another Outbreak - More Serious than the First

The fire which broke out on Thursday night at the Norfolk Saw Mills, Mowbray street, owned by John Swinscoe, was a much more serious affair than the one subdued a few hours previously. The first fire began at about six o'clock in the morning, and was not sufficiently quelled to allow of the firemen departing until four in the afternoon, when they left everything apparently safe. The saw mill was burned down, and a stack of timber adjoining was much damaged. At nine o'clock the same night Captain Pound received information that the flames had again broken out, He sent down four men with a hose pipe, but on subsequently learning that the fire had assumed alarming dimensions had the steamer ordered out, and he went down accompanied by another batch of firemen.

The flames had commenced in the great heap of alder planks already much damaged by that morning's fire. During the time the hosepipe was being attached, and the period occupied in sending for the engine, the fire spread to other great stacks of timber, and then to a brick building used for storage purposes. This building was threatened in the morning, but was kept clear of the fire by dint of much arduous labour on the part of the firemen. In the basement was stored a large quantity of box and other expensive woods. The other rooms were occupied by saws and machinery. Very soon after the flames had reached these premises all hope of saving them was abandoned. Water seemed to have little or no effect upon the burning mass, which for hour burnt away fiercely until there was nothing more to destroy, when with a crash the outer wall toppled over into the river Don.

In other parts of the yard the fire was even worse, The alder planks already alluded to and great quantities of birch and alder timber stored at that end of the premises, including two or three full cargoes of expensive wood, were burned completely away. The flames had such a complete hold upon the burning wood that it almost seemed like child's play to throw water upon them. Notwithstanding that the steam fire engine was at work for hours, it was not until timber to the value of thousands of pounds had been destroyed that the firemen obtained the upper hand of the flames. The full extent of the damage is seen this morning. Blackened walls and distorted machinery, hundreds of tons of burnt timber, and heaps of charcoal are all that remain. Not a single thing of value has been saved. The amount of the damage is estimated at various and widely different sums, but that the figures run into the tens of thousands, if not higher, is a certainty. Mr. Swinscoe is insured in the Atlas Office.