

The Weather in Sheffield Fires Caused by the Frost

Whenever there is a severe frost there are numerous cases of water pipes bursting, but it is somewhat unusual to hear of serious fires being caused. Three such fires occurred in Sheffield this morning, each of which is attributable to the frost. In all the cases the heating apparatus was the cause. The fires were allowed to go out at night and the keen frost quickly froze the water in the pipes. When the fires were lighted this morning the water in the immediate vicinity of the furnaces quickly became heated, and the ice in the pipes some distance away not being melted there was no room for expansion and circulation, and the pipes burst. The furnaces were wrecked and the burning coal caused fires. In each case it was found necessary to call the Fire Brigade. The first call was received at a quarter-past eight, the heating apparatus at St. Matthias School, Napier Street, having exploded. Supt. Pound with several men proceeded to the school with the two-horse tender, and found a large quantity of wood and coke, stored in the cellar, where the furnace of the heating apparatus was fixed, had become ignited. The brigade speedily extinguished the flames, and very little damage was done. The firemen had only been in the station a minute when a second call was received from the offices of the Alliance Insurance Company, George Street. There the pipes used for heat the place had exploded, and the apparatus had been blown into the office and a plate-glass window smashed. A large quantity of stationery kept in an adjoining compartment was set on fire, and damage to a fairly large amount was done. The brigade soon put an end to the danger, and returned to the fire station. About half-an-hour later they were summoned to the Wicker Congregational Church, Burngreave Road, where the apparatus in the cellar, under the school, had exploded. Sergeant Crawford with the tender and several men went to the chapel and with the assistance of Inspector Lee and several constables from the Burngreave Road Police Station, the flames were quickly mastered, the damage was only slight.