

Sawmills Blaze

Alarming Outbreak of Fire in Sheffield Brigade's Smart Work

And alarming outbreak of fire occurred at Mr. A. W. Cliff's Ponds Seagull shortly after breakfast-time this morning, but the commendable, smartness of the City Fire Brigade prevented what must otherwise have been a serious conflagration.

A telephone call was received at the Rockingham Street fire station at 8.45, and within three minutes, the brigade, in charge of Supt. Frost, were on the scene. The fire was found to have originated in the sawdust and shavings pit underneath the sawmill.

The work of the brigade was at first greatly hampered by dense volumes of smoke, but a plentiful supply of chemicals soon enabled them to locate the exact seat of the fire. Two lengths of hose were then utilised, but it was some time before their efforts met with success, as the flames had to be fought from above.

The fire, which is supposed to have been caused by, a fuse from the electric motor in the basement, was discovered by a workman named James Mann. He was working at a spout-making machine when his attention was attracted by smoke issuing through the flooring. This was almost immediately followed by an outburst of flames.

With great presence of mind Mann gave the alarm, first telephoning to the fire station and then to Mr. A. W. Cliff at his residence at Greenhill.

The damage was fortunately confined to the sawdust pit, but the woodwork in the machine shop, and a sawing machine and planing machine were considerably scorched.

The stock of timber on the premises was very large, and had the brigade arrived a few seconds later the whole place must have been gutted. As it is the damage will not amount to more than £200, and is covered by insurance.

The fire was completely extinguished, and the brigade enabled to return to the fire station after having been engaged an hour and a half.

Mr. Cliff has expressed his personal satisfaction at the smartness with which the brigade turned out and dealt with the outbreak.