

Motor Car Ablaze Alarming Outbreak in Sheffield Street

A peculiar accident which resulted in an alarming outbreak of fire occurred in Abbeydale Road, Sheffield, last evening.

A 20 h.p. four-seater Regal motor car owned by Messrs., H. Laughton and Co, motor engineers of Abbeydale Road was being driven by Thomas Henry Carroll of 22 Peveril Road, towards the city from Millhouses. When passing the end of Hale Street, Carroll saw a woman crossing the road, and in order to avoid her he applied his brakes. The suddenness of the action caused the car to spin round and collide with a tramcar.

This collision resulted in the fittings on the near side of the body of the motor car being smashed off whilst the wind screen and the near side front wheel was removed to the side of the road, and in order to examine the mechanism underneath the car the chauffer struck a match.

AS a result of the collision the petrol pipe had been broken off from the tank, so that the petrol was escaping and the effect of the lighted match on the fumes was to cause the whole car to be enveloped in flames, the fire getting a good hold, in spite of the efforts of those present to extinguish it with ashes and sand.

The Fire Brigade was summoned and turned out with two motor fire engines, under the supervision of Second Officer Hadwick. The extent of the blaze can be imagined from the fact that the men could see the illumination in the sky long before they arrived on the scene. The flames were soon extinguished, however, by means of a jet from the street main.

The whole of the woodwork on the body of the car was destroyed and the total damage is roughly estimated at £200.

Fortunately there was no personal injury.