

Thrills at Sheffield Works Fire Lucky Escapes by Men and Girl Workers in Rockingham Street



THOUSANDS of people thronged the street, and traffic had to be diverted, in Rockingham Street, Sheffield, to-day, when fire broke out at the works of Messrs. A. H. Bisby and Co., Ltd., cutlery manufacturers.

The works are near the Fire Station, and the Sheffield Fire Brigade were on the spot within a few seconds of receiving the alarm.

Women and girls working at the rear of the building were stranded, but in no immediate danger. Firemen had to lead them, screaming, through the flames to safety. Some workmen, also in the back part of the building and on the top story, succeeded in escaping from the danger zone.

A whole window frame suddenly fell outwards into the yard, and some men had lucky escapes.

The firemen were in constant danger from masonry, which was frequently falling from the building.

Electric Shock

One fireman received a severe electric shock through his helmet, but was only temporarily incapacitated, and soon resumed his work. There was considerable danger to the firemen generally from electric shocks.

The portion of West Street which lies in the vicinity of Rockingham Street was covered with hoses, and tramcars were unable to pass, traffic having to be diverted.

Mounted police turned out to control the thousands of people who gathered.

This afternoon the whole of the three stories were in flames, and the roof collapsed.

The fire escape, towered over the building and. water was poured into the heart of the flames.

The fire apparently broke out in a warehouse on the first floor.

Dense Smoke And Fumes.

The building contained a considerable quantity of celluloid used for knife handles, and this was quickly blazing furiously, giving out large quantities of dense smoke and fumes.

Within a few minutes the upper stories or the premises were, a raging furnace, Flames were billowing from the windows across the street and the works yard.

Fire also obtained a hold on the top story of the works of Messrs. F. B. Bottomley and Co., adjoining. Windows were cracked and the window frames ignited.