

Fire Menaces Cutlery Works Prompt Action by Caretaker and the Fire Brigade Checks Flames.

A record run by the Sheffield Fire Brigade and the presence of mind of ,a caretaker to-day resulted in' averting the consequences of a bigger blaze at a Sheffield cutlery works.

The caretaker and engine-minder, John Wright, of Bowler Street, told a "Star" reporter of his part in saving, the works of Messrs. Hammond, Creake, and Co., Ltd., silver and plated ware manufacturers, of 63, St. Mary's Road, Sheffield, by whom he is employed.



Firemen playing on the flames in the box-lining room

"I was carrying out my morning duties opening the works at about a quarter to eight this morning when I discovered the fire," he said.

"When I. opened the door of the box-lining shop I was met by a dense cloud of smoke and fumes, which burst into flame when the air got into the room.

"I quickly closed the door,' ran down the stairs, and summoned the fire brigade."

The fire brigade under Superintendent T. Breaks, arrived with' two engines in record time, but even then the roof of the works was fiercely burning.

The box-lining shop is about 60 feet long, and the heat was so intense that whilst the fire was burning at one end, over 40 feet away,, at the other end of the room, six sky-light windows were so badly cracked that they became dangerous, and had to be broken in.

Mr. Wright said that if the fire brigade had been two or three minutes later the whole works would have been burned to the ground, and over a hundred girls thrown out of employment.

It is thought that the material in the box-lining room had been smouldering all night.

The damage is estimated at over £200.