

GREAT FIRE IN SHEFFIELD THIS MORNING - Damages £2000

A serious fire occurred at the Park Brewery belonging to Messrs. Hooson Brothers, this morning. The building, which is not very extensive, is situated at the corner of Cricket Inn road, in the form of a semi-circle. The centre part, which is three stories high, is the only portion of the building which has been ravaged by the fire, but it has been completely gutted. It contains six rooms, irrespective of the engine-house, on the ground floor, and all these rooms have been thoroughly wrecked. The fire, the cause of which is at present unknown,- originated, it is supposed, in the hop-store-room, immediately above the engine-room. It spread rapidly along the second story, into the mash-room, and malt mill, destroying all the brewing apparatus in this department, except two large beer pans, which were protected by masonry. The flames then mounted to the third story, where a large quantity of hops and malt was stored. The rooms on this story, three in number, were utterly demolished, and the fire, catching the roof, soon destroyed that also. Portions of the burning roof fell inside, and outside the building, and some of this ignited material fired the crane machinery, projecting from the walls of the brewery for the purpose of hoisting malt into the upper story. The roof, which has lately been repaired, fell with a tremendous crash shortly after five o'clock, and the noise awoke many of the people living in cottages adjacent. The fire had progressed to this extent before any alarm was given, but a messenger -was sent for the Fire Brigade about six o'clock. The firemen, under Superintendent Pound, arrived at the place shortly afterwards, but they at once found it was useless to attempt to save any of the central portion of the brewery, so they played on the fire with the sole intention of keeping it within the confines of that part of the building in which it had already made havoc. Their efforts were successful, and the flames were prevented from encroaching to the square-room on the right of the store-rooms on the left, but the barrel shed, adjacent to the engine-house, was considerably damaged. The fire was extinguished about seven o'clock. An immense quantity of malt and hops has been destroyed and rendered useless. The damage to property and stock will not be less than £2000.