

FIRE AT ANCIENT INN AT APPLEBY MAGNA.

On Sunday last the landlord of the Black Horse inn, after opening the house, was told by an eye witness coming up the hill that the thatch was on fire. He immediately procured a ladder, and was aided by the neighbours, who turned out in numbers when the alarm was given, and handed up buckets of water from the surrounding pumps. It was soon seen that with the strong west wind blowing, it could not be quenched in this way. Telephone calls were at once sent from the Post Office, which stands on the opposite corner, to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Burton-on-Trent, and Swadlincote. The last, which is about eight miles away, was soon on the spot, and having placed the engine by the brook at the bottom of the hill, quickly ran out the hose and got to work with a good stream of water. In the meantime many willing hands helped the unfortunate family to carry out all the furniture to the neighbours' houses and sheds.

The Brigade had to strip off all the roof, which was destroyed, and all the rooms below were saturated with water. It was not until 8 p.m. that all was considered safe, and the Brigade were able to leave. They worked with commendable business-like method, and deserve great praise in subduing the outbreak and preventing it involving other thatched cottages in the vicinity.

It was a great mercy that no lives were lost and that it occurred in the day time. The house belongs to Marston, Thompson and Evershed, and had only recently been properly repaired. The cause of the outbreak was thought to be a spark from the chimney at the west-end of the building, and the prevailing strong west wind made the fire spread rapidly. The whole village turned out, and many on bicycles and in cars went to witness the fire and help if possible.

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