

Fire at Hailsham

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Fire at Hailsham. At about one o'clock on Sunday afternoon dense masses of smoke were noticed in the neighbourhood of the spinning walks and sheds in connection with the string and sail-cloth works of Messrs. Green Brothers, at Hailsham.

It was soon ascertained that a conflagration of a somewhat serious character had occurred, inasmuch as the various outbuildings contained materials of a very inflammable nature, consisting of jute, hemp and manila.

The fire seems to have originated in one of the buildings, and as there were about fifty barrels of tar in close proximity, the flames quickly spread the result being that three buildings were totally destroyed with their contents. Two of the buildings were used as dressing sheds and the other as a tarring house.

The Hailsham Fire Brigade quickly responded to the call and arrived on the scene with a fair complement of men under the command of Superintendent W.E. Gower. Their principle endeavours were concentrated in preventing the fire reaching the other buildings, and in this they proved successful, as all danger was considered over shortly after two o'clock.



Hailsham Fire Brigade, circa 1891

In addition to the three buildings destroyed, there were between 800 and 1,000 coal sacks ready for delivery, which have, by the action of the fire, become quite useless; about 50 barrels of tar, besides a quantity of oil were also consumed; and the massive capstan used in the string walk was completely destroyed.

The premises and contents were fully insured in the Phoenix Fire Office

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