

NEWCASTLE GUARDIAN

DISTRACTIVE FIRE AT SUNDERLAND.

On Tuesday morning, about eight o'clock, a destructive fire broke out in a warehouse of Messrs Pearman and Cordner, wholesale grocers, Princes Street, Bishopwearmouth. The premises were originally part of an old patent ropery, which had been built on to in the rear, and was surrounded by ale and porter stores, coach works, &c. The warehouse was locked up safe at seven on the preceding night, and no one had entered them until next morning, when the upper part of the rear of the premises was discovered to be in flames. The building was old and dry, and the wood work well saturated with tar. The fire spread with great rapidity, and before the arrival of the police hose barrow, which was within a few minutes, it had got complete possession of the whole building in which were a large stock of teas, sugar, and miscellaneous stock. An abundant supply of water was at hand, and the hose were played, but so strong a hold had the fire got, that it spread downwards in a very short time, and the whole interior was burning like a furnace. The books were rescued from the office, a building adjoining, but this was the only part of the Messrs Pearman and Cordner's possessions that were saved. The warehouse, three storeys in height, was gutted from top to bottom, except the cellars in which Mr W. Grimshaw had stored a quantity of ales. The stock was completely destroyed, but though the abundant supply of water and the exertions of the police, the adjoining property remained uninjured. As to the origin of the fire nothing can be said. At seven o'clock on the preceding night one of the partners closed the warehouse, extinguished the gas, and leaving all safe; but in the upper storey there had been a fire on, and probably this had emitted some sparks amongst the stock and it had smouldered during the night as, when first seen it had a good hold of the upper part of the building. The total damage will be about £5,000 or £6,000, of which Messrs Pearman and Cordner are insured £13,000. Mr Grimshaw the owner of the premises is only partly insured.