



The scene after the fire at Collingbourne Kingston

## **Collingbourne Kingston Blaze**

### **Three Families Homeless**

#### **Cottages and Barn Destroyed**

Three families were rendered homeless by a disastrous fire which occurred at Collingbourne Kingston, on Saturday.

Two farm workers, Mr. James Stokes and Mr. Arthur Bush, were endeavouring to start up a petrol engine near a big barn at Parsonage Farm, the property of Mr. Crook, of Amesbury, which is used for pumping water into a reservoir, and for working a chaff-cutter, about 11.15 a.m. the engine backfired and ignited a quantity of rags soaked in petrol. Mr. James Stokes told a reported that after this "the flames leapt to the barn, which quickly caught fire, and was soon enveloped in flames and clouds of smoke. In ten to fifteen minutes the fire had spread to the cottages and we went to save what furniture we could." The barn, which was razed to the ground, was a large structure adjoining the main road, and contained 250 bags of wheat, a quantity of oats, and many farming implements, and machinery, all of which were completely destroyed.

#### **Burning Furiously**

The Andover Fire Brigade made a quick turn-out in charge of Mr. F. A. Beale (chief officer), and on arrival found the barn and three old thatched cottages, belonging to Mr. A. May, burning furiously. There being an acute shortage of water in the village, the brigade pumped dry a pond some hundred yards away from the fire, and were successful in preventing the fire from spreading, and saving from complete destruction some outbuildings, the thatched roofs of which were ablaze before they reached Collingbourne.

Villagers and the occupants worked heroically to save the bulk of all the furniture and effects in the cottages, and fortunately no one was injured.

The furniture saved was removed to the Parish Hall. All that remains of the dwellings are the walls and the chimneys. Those rendered homeless were Mrs. E. Taplin, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons and their six

children, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Taplin, and they have been given temporary shelter by Mr. A. Palmer and Mrs. E. Tuck, except Mrs. Taplin senior., who has gone to stay with a relative at Burbage, Mrs. Popejoy.

### **Just in Time**

Interviewed by a representative of this paper, Mr. E. Taplin said "We managed to save most of our furniture. I had to stop my salvage work when the roof fell in and I had a narrow escape. I was in the bedroom when I saw the roof was falling in and I just managed to get to the stairs in time. The damage is estimated at about £1,000.

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