One of Ireland’s finest stores gutted

BIG FIRE AFTERMATH

Over £200,000 worth of damage caused

Limerick Leader was talking today about the disastrous fire—the fourth biggest in the city since 1948, when Roche's Stores was destroyed— which swept through Messrs. A. E. Godwin & Co. Ltd., William Street, last evening. The fire destroyed the whole premises from William Street to Thomas Street and Catherine Street was engulfed in flames in 10 minutes after the alarm was raised.

Damage estimated at £200,000 was caused when some of the most valuable goods, furnishings and jewellery were destroyed.

Hundreds of engineers, including door makers, window makers, etc., worked to try to save the buildings.

The story of the fire. An approximate 6.40 a.m. on Tuesday, the fire was discovered by a workman in William Street, and at 6.50 the fire alarm was given. All the stores were broken into, and the contents were removed.

The blaze was first noticed in the roof of the building, and spread to the upper floors. The fire engines were called, and the fire was under control in a short time.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Francis O'Dwyer, President of the Limerick Fire Brigade, was present at the scene, and was a member of the Fire Department.

The Mayor expressed his sympathy to the owners, Messrs. A. E. Godwin & Co. Ltd., and to the workmen who lost their employment.

The fire was caused by an electrical fault, and the cause is under investigation.

SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR A PROBLEM

The shortage of skilled labour in the building trade is a serious problem, Mr. P. J. O'Brien, Chairman of the Limerick Building Trade Council, said yesterday. He stated that the shortage was severe, and that it was causing delays in the construction of new buildings.

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