

DISASTROUS FIRE NEAR CHELMSFORD.

£10,000 DAMAGES.

Early on Sunday morning Little Baddow Mill, the dwelling-house, with the outbuildings and contents, were completely destroyed by fire, and the loss cannot fall far short of £10,000. The mill was situated in a secluded spot on the river Chelmer, about five miles from Chelmsford, and was owned and occupied by Mr. E. H. Morgan, who has also offices in Seething Lane, London. Since it came into his possession he had considerably added to the premises, and within recent years it had been fitted up with new roller plant, and the stones were no longer used. The water-power, not at all times to be relied upon, was supplemented with steam machinery. On Saturday midnight, Mr. Morgan noticed a smell of burning, and saw smoke issuing from the foot of the mill. He at once gave the alarm indoors, and he had some difficulty in arousing the servants. His next efforts were directed to release the horses, which was only accomplished with great difficulty, on account of the dense volumes of smoke which by that time were pouring forth from the doomed structure. Being in such an isolated spot help was not readily forthcoming. At 2.30 a messenger reached the Shirehall, Chelmsford, and at his request the Essex and Suffolk fire engine was speedily despatched to the scene of the conflagration, but upon its arrival it was seen that no possible exertion could save the buildings, and it was not brought into play. The flames had before then spread from end to end of the buildings, including the house, granaries, stables, cart sheds, &c. Nothing could be saved beyond a few of the household effects and some articles of intrinsic value. Origin of fire unknown.