

## FIRE AT RINGWOOD.

THE CLUB HOTEL, FURNITURE, AND STOCK TOTALLY DESTROYED.

One of the largest conflagrations that has ever occurred in Ringwood took place on Monday night, when the Club Hotel, owned by Mr. H. C. Boyd, of Abbotsford, and leased by Mr. Lindsay, was totally destroyed by fire.

The fire originated in one of the rooms at the rear of the building, about 10.30, and spread with great rapidity from room to room. The outburst of the flames was so sudden that the inmates were almost panic-stricken, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that they were able to effect their escape in the clothes in which they stood up in.

As soon as Mr. Lindsay saw the flames he rushed into his bedroom where he had put his little girl, a child two years of age. Fortunately the child had been safely rescued a few minutes previously by Constable Lawless and some others, who had taken her out through a window. Mr. Lindsay was not aware of this, and believing that the child was in the cot, rushed into the burning room.

Mr. Quigley saw the danger he was in and rushed to his assistance, and as there was no time to be lost he caught hold of Lindsay (who was in a great state of excitement, and was looking about for the cot) and carried him out of the room. They had only just got outside when the roof fell in. One minute more and the two men would have been buried in the burning debris.

The fire had been burning for some time before Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay were aware of the fact that all their children, as well as themselves, had been saved.

Constable Lawless did all he could to preserve order and prevent people from rushing into danger, and it was some time before he knew that the family had been safely rescued.

The flames spread with such rapidity, that it was found impossible to save anything. Even the wearing apparel belonging to the children could not be got at, and Mr. Lindsay was so excited that he forgot all about the money in the till. The sum of five pounds in money and cheques to the value of forty pounds were destroyed.

The stock, furniture, etc., is valued at about £600, all of which was completely consumed, not a single vestige being saved.

The stock and furniture was insured in the Victoria Insurance Company for £200.

A large stack of firewood in the yard caught fire, but this was put out by a number of willing hands with buckets of water, carried from a deep hole close by.

When the fire had burnt itself out, and Mr. Lindsay had time for reflection, it was found that he was more severely burned than was at first imagined, while his little girl had one of her arms severely burned. All their clothes and wearing apparel were consumed. The neighbours were very kind, and rendered all the assistance in their power to the sufferers.