

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE NEAR DEWSBURY.—DAMAGE £25,000.—At a late hour on Wednesday night a fire broke out in the drying room of Ravens Ing Mill, Ravensthorpe, the property of Messrs. Walker Brothers, woollen manufacturers, and it was not extinguished until the building adjoining—a mill of four storeys in height and 74 yards long—was completely gutted, and property destroyed estimated at from £22,000 to £25,000. Messrs. Walker had their premises partially inundated by the late flood in the Calder valley, and a quantity of woollen material was damaged by the water. This was placed in a room over the boiler-house, and it ignited about a quarter past nine o'clock on Wednesday night. There being no fire engine in Ravensthorpe, mounted messengers were sent to Dewsbury and adjoining places for assistance, but before any of the brigades arrived the fire got a firm hold of the mill and was raging furiously. The south gable and large portions of the east and west walls fell, and the fire gradually made its way through every floor in the entire building, and caused its complete destruction. The mill was fitted up with machinery for spinning and weaving, and had only been erected about six years. Fears were entertained lest the flames should spread to the warehouses and shed situated on each side of the building, but owing to there being only a gentle breeze blowing, and to the gallant efforts of the firemen, they were preserved. Brigades were present from Dewsbury, Heckmoudwike, Batley, Batley Carr, Gomersal, Mirfield, and Huddersfield. A considerable quantity of salvage was made out of the mill before the fire reached the north end. The destruction of the building was effected with great rapidity, and the fire burnt with unusual fierceness. The firm have policies of insurance in the Imperial and Phoenix fire offices, but it is doubtful whether their loss will be fully covered. The first-named office has about two-thirds of the damage to make good.