

Great Fire at Kalgoorlie.

Shortly after 3 o'clock on Friday afternoon a serious fire, which was responsible for the destruction of several thousand pounds worth of property and goods, broke out in the Westralia block, Kamballie, wires the Kalgoorlie correspondent by the *Herald*. Fanned by a strong wind and unfettered by the scarcity of water, the flames spread rapidly and soon gutted four wood and iron shops and a brick hotel. The fire first started in premises occupied by Williams, a hairdresser and draper. Its origin is attributed to an explosion of a shaving lamp. Lashed by the wind the flames speedily enveloped the adjoining buildings on either side, tenanted by Mrs. Clark, a restaurant keeper, Scott's Hotel, and Newman and Fleming, general storekeepers. So quickly did the flames spread by the gale that it was found to all intents and purposes impossible to save anything from the premises involved. Wilkinson's Westralia Hotel, a two-storey stone building, which is separated by a small vacant allotment from Newman's stores, narrowly escaped being gutted. The whole sidewall of this building was at times licked by sheets of flame, but by intelligent direction and strenuous efforts on the part of volunteers, the progress of the flames in this direction was stayed. The following losses were sustained:—Scott's Hotel, £5300 (building insured for £500); Newman and Fleming, £700 (stock insured for £600); Williams, £700 (stock insured for £600); Mrs. Clark, £200 (stock uninsured). It has not yet been ascertained whether the buildings occupied by the three last-named sufferers are insured.