

## TWO SHOPS DAMAGED.

### South Brisbane and Valley Fires.

#### OCCUPANT HAS NARROW ESCAPE.

Asleep in the upstairs portion of his second-hand shop in Stanley-street, South Brisbane, last night, Samuel Paltie had a narrow escape. In order to evade the flames he climbed out over the balcony in his night attire and jumped from the awning in front of the premises to the roadway. The premises were gutted, and the adjoining office premises of Allan Trotter and Co., public accountants and land agents, were damaged by water.

**T**HE fire broke out in the shop on the street level near the foot of the stairs, among some old clothing, about 10.30 p.m. A man passing in a sulky noticed the fire and he drove up to Annerley-road and summoned the South Brisbane fire brigade from a street alarm.

Before the brigade, in charge of District Officer A. Lambert, arrived, a telegraph messenger also saw the blaze and ran into a cafe conducted by Mr. E. Paspal, next door, and told him of the fire. Paspall, knowing that Paltie slept on the premises, rushed out into the street, and calling out managed to awaken him.

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Paltie, on waking, found his room full of smoke, and although almost overcome by suffocation, managed to reach the top of the stairs leading to the shop. He was driven back by the flames, which were leaping up them, but staggered to the balcony, and climbing onto the awning, jumped to safety into Stanley-street.

The firemen quickly extinguished the outbreak, but not before the shop and a big portion of the living quarters were gutted.

The stock in the shop and contents of the living quarters were insured for £460.

The premises are owned by Mr. F. Goleby, of Ipswich.

The cause of the outbreak is not known, as when Paltie inspected the shop at 9.45 a.m. everything was then in order.

#### VALLEY BLAZE.

A shop occupied by Kimber Riley, boot repairer, of Chester-street, Valley, at the corner of Arthur and James streets, Valley, and owned by Mr. C. Parkerson, of Wynnum South, was badly damaged by fire early this morning.

The outbreak appeared to start under the counter, of the shop, and before firemen from the head station, in charge of Chief Officer Younger, quelled the flames, they had badly charred the walls and burnt through the ceiling.

A good save was effected by the fire-fighters, who prevented the flames reaching an adjoining cottage, occupied by Miss L. Blatchford, dress-

maker, in which she and others were sleeping.

When the alarm was raised Miss Blatchford and the occupants were quickly roused, and they hurried from the premises. Their fears for their belongings were soon allayed by the prompt manner in which the firemen extinguished the flames.

Riley's stock and fittings were insured for £100.