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EARLY MORNING FIRE

Boy Thieves Blamed

£3000 DAMAGE AT TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Damage estimated at £3000 was done by a fire which broke out in the engineering and blacksmith shop of the Sunshine Technical School, Derby Road, Sunshine, at 5.15 a.m. today.

Incendiarism is suspected. The fire broke out in the office of the engineering instructor Mr. P. C. Carr, who it is thought, was probably ransacked by boys for money. No money was found in the office, which was robbed in the night last, and it is thought that the boys probably set fire to the office in revenge.

The engineering and blacksmith school is a wooden and iron structure adjoining the main technical school, which is of weatherboard. It is conducted by the Education Department, and the school opened today after the Christmas vacation.

There are 60 junior pupils attending the engineering and blacksmith shop during the day, and 40 senior pupils at night.

The school contains machinery which would cost £3000 to replace. Most of this was damaged by fire and saved, but was not destroyed.

NOTICED BY WATCHMAN

The fire was first noticed by a watchman in the town. He called the Sunshine Fire Brigade, which saved a section of the building after a hard fight.

Mr Carr said today that when the fire broke into his office in October last, they obtained 12 in silver. Since then he had left no money in the office. He thought that this had annoyed the thieves, who had deliberately set fire to the books and papers in his office.

Books worth £100, which were his own property and were not, and were destroyed by the fire. The caretaker Mr. J. F. Richards went to call the engineering and blacksmith shop yesterday at 9 a.m. and since that time he had been in the building, said Mr Carr.

Mr Richards had reported that there was then no sign of fire.

Mr Carr said that he intended to pass the matter in the hands of the police.

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