

2-PT-4851

-2-

BLACKPOOL BLAZE - Fire destroys big island site building in an hour.

Picture. This scorching furnace of iron and brick is in the centre of brilliant Blackpool, which most of us know as a place of colour and carnival. Beginning on the fourth storey, the blaze soon encompassed the whole building, and the chief work-

--of the fire brigades was to prevent the flames spreading to cataclysmic proportions. The second floor was a zoo, containing hundreds of birds and animals, and it was here that tragedy stalked amid the flames.

250 girls were working in the building, and many of these pluckily fought--

--the suffocating smoke and fumes in order to save the unfortunate live stock, but it could not be done without undue risk of human life, and over a hundred monkeys, parrots, and cockatoos perished by roasting--

--alive. Girls broke down and sobbed hysterically when--

--the screaming of birds and animals trapped in their cages was heard. P.C. Stockdale who attempted a late rescue was overcome by smoke and while--

--unconscious was himself rescued by firemen. The damage is over two hundred thousand pounds. A terrible and tragic affair.