

CRYSTAL PALACE FIRE.

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ten million pound

The ~~great glass~~ Crystal Palace which has been a London landmark for more than eighty years has gone. Every fire brigade in London was called to Sydenham following a small outbreak starting in the early evening which soon encompassed the entire building and defied all ~~the~~ efforts to subdue it. Flames wrapped the glass and steel building from end to end, while the 280-foot towers stood out like tall ghosts, surveying the scene of destruction. ~~From one of those one Gaumont British News Cameraman was exposing his film --- risking his life while the base of the tower was burning.~~ Flying above the blaze the G Gaumont British News aerial cameraman was on the job ~~too~~ --- watch how he swooped down almost diving through the fire itself in a spectacular swoop along the giant building. Flames ripped and crackled ~~their~~ in their terrifying career of destruction as they wrecked the ancient scene of countless exhibitions. It seems miraculous that nobody was killed and even injuries were comparatively few. This was the last exhibition of the ~~the~~ Palace that was built for exhibition and was in itself an exhibition that had no equal. Millions of tons of water poured from a hundred hoses at every conceivable vantage point seemed to have no effect as the inferno roared on its appointed course towards complete extinction. At intervals the crash of white-hot metal shook the ground for miles around, and presently the great transept of the main roof hurtled to the ground... the Crystal Palace's greatest firework display. When day came the Palace grounds presented a gruesome ~~scene~~ sight. Everywhere lay masses of charred and twisted debris. Shattered glass ~~was~~ ~~everywhere~~ lay all round ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ the smouldering remains of London's glass cathedral, ~~greatest landmark~~. This is all that was left of the exhibition Palace whose name and fame were known throughout the world.

^{OTV} ~~From~~ one of these towers a G B News cameraman was ~~was~~ ~~risking his life~~ - taking the pictures while the tower was burning

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CRYSTAL PALACE CONT.

Fears at one time were felt for the world-famous Baird Television station in the South Tower, but fortunately this was saved. Priceless apparatus and valuable sets suffered very little damage. From this scene of desolation we turn back the years to 1854 when the Crystal Palace was built --- these were the foremen --- this is the surveyor --- and here is the state opening by Queen Victoria, accompanied by the Prince Consort ~~and the Prince of Wales~~, afterwards Edward VII.

The Crystal Palace has stood for eighty years; now its shows are over, its splendours tragically reduced to this.