

SUMMER ST HARD HIT BY EARLY MORNING FIRE

Four Alarms Bring Phalanx of Engines to Drown Flames at Nos. 40, 42 and 44---Damage \$75,000.



LOOKING DOWN THROUGH THE ROOF OF 40 AND 42 SUMMER ST AFTER THE FIRE.

In less than 15 minutes after an automatic fire alarm had come from the second floor of the five-story brick and stone-front building, 40, 42 and 44 Summer st, at 3 a m, yesterday, the flames had burst through the roof and were so menacing that Chief Mullen ultimately sent in four alarms.

Engines were banked at all nearby available points and in less than half an hour nearly 20 heavy streams were being poured into the burning mass. It was more than an hour after the fire had been discovered that Chief Mullen felt that he had the fire under control.

The total loss is estimated at about \$75,000 on the stocks and building. Three of the firms burned out were in the millinery supply trade and a fourth was engaged in the wholesale clothing, while other occupants were in the shoe and men's clothing business. The millinery supply houses were carrying large stocks in expectancy of the Easter rush.

The principal losers are the firms at 40 Summer st. The building is in the form of a letter L, with a wide front on Summer st, where there are two stores, one occupied by the Sheinwald Syndicate and the other by the Walton Lunch Company. The portion of the building over the lunch room is occupied entirely by Sullivan Bros, tailors.

Above the Sheinwald Syndicate is David Benash & Son, wholesale millinery; on the third the Eastern Millinery Supply Company; on the fourth the Boston Hat and Bonnet Company and on the fifth J. Falkson, wholesale clothing dealer. These firms are the principal losers.

Patrolman Gleason and Thomas Lough-

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SUMMER ST HAS \$75,000 BLAZE

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lin, a night watchman, also sent in a prompt regular bell alarm from box 49 on Summer st. It appears that since the strike of the garment workers the police have been more vigilant than ever to detect fires and have extra men on duty in the clothing section.

Gleason believed there was a fire in the vicinity and went searching for it. He was on the third floor of the building at 42 Summer st and was coming down the stairs, when he was nearly hurled to the floor below by an explosion on the second floor. Glass went crashing about his head and he had a narrow escape from being cut off by the smoke.

When the explosion came there was a burst of flame out of the front windows and then it surged to the rear of the building, and in a few minutes had burst through the windows opening into Bussey pl. a 15-foot passageway that runs in the rear of the building from Arch st

The automatic alarm had called Engine Company 26 and Ladder Company 17, and the firemen, with District Chief Grady, were getting their lines ready for action in Bussey pl, when there was another tremendous explosion, and a large wheel, a portion of the elevator apparatus, was hurled through a window and struck the building opposite.

Chief Grady shouted to his men and all managed to get out of the way of the flying metal, which dropped red hot in their midst. Then the apparatus began to arrive in response to the regular alarms.

The flames by this time had burst through the roof, sending showers of sparks high into the air and spreading them over a wide territory, burning embers being blown down into Post-office sq. The two buildings on Arch st. corner of Summer st and Bussy pl, were threatened, as the wind was blowing from the north and sweeping the flames over the roofs.

Water tower 1 from Bulfinch st, in charge of Lieut Long, was raised in front of the building on Summer st after the trolley wires had been cut. In falling these wires struck several persons in the crowd, who were thoroughly frightened but not injured, as the wires had been deadened, the current early having been turned off by the Elevated employees.

The fire caught on the upper floors of the five-story building, 39 to 33 Summer st, but it was quickly extinguished though there will be a considerable loss from water.

The fire worked its way around the area and caught on the rear of that portion of the building occupied by Sullivan Bros. The fire loss was comparatively small, but there will be a water damage of some proportions as the water worked down through the show rooms and work rooms.

There was also a smoke and water damage to George N. Talmev & Co on the second floor of No. 44 and in the Walton restaurant.

The Edison company maintains a transforming station in the basement, and the firemen were fearful of shocks, but nothing serious happened. It is believed that the apparatus was not materially damaged.

The building is owned by Mary F. Ferris at 42 Summer st and Mary E. Ferris and L. R. Ferris at 44 Summer st. The structure is known as the Ferris Building.