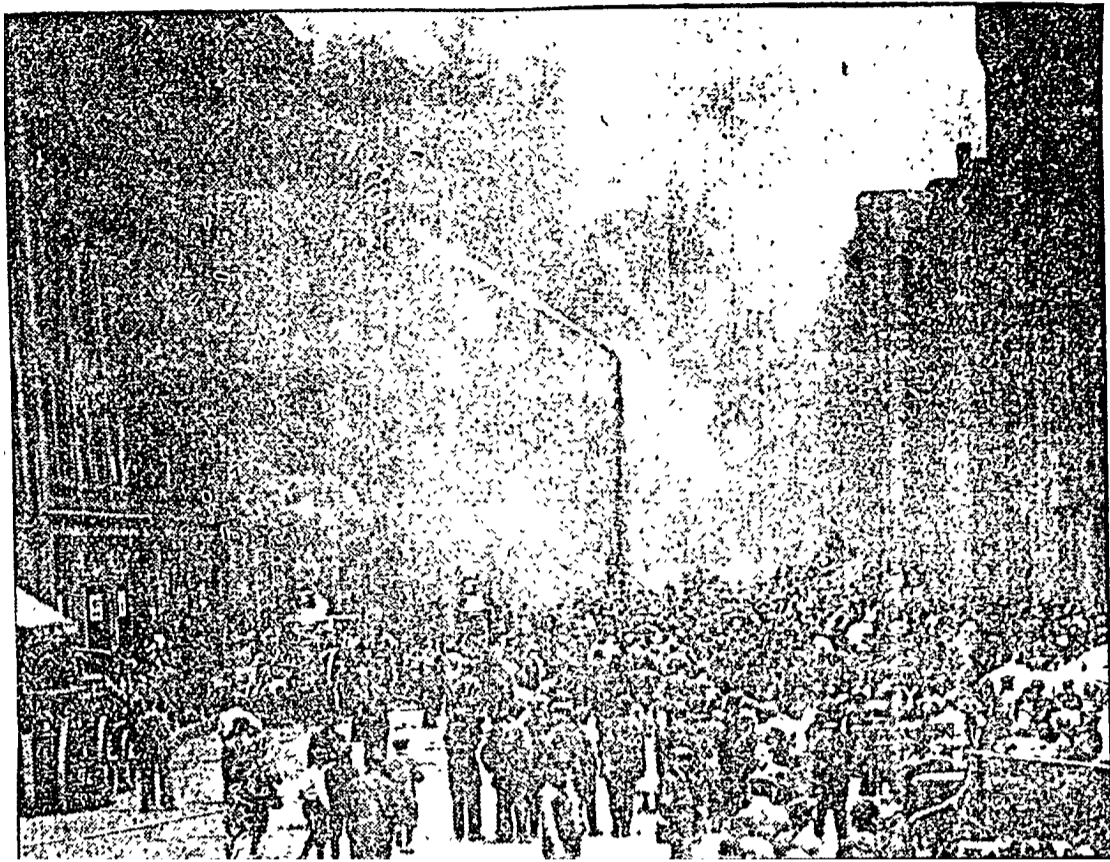


# THREE BIG FIRES CONQUERED AFTER NINE HOURS' FIGHT



BATTLING WITH CONGRESS-ST FIRE

## Engines Race From One to Another.

## Firemen Drop in Smoke at South Boston Warehouse.

## Charlestown Lumber Yard, B & M Hay and Cars Afire.

## Boy Held at Station 15 on Suspicion ---Grand Total of Losses \$120,000.

Three large fires, in less than eight hours, each requiring three alarms and causing a loss of many thousands of dollars, made yesterday the hardest day the Boston Fire Department has known in years.

One fire was in the wool district of South Boston, the other two were in Charlestown, and the third alarms called for virtually the same apparatus and men. The breaking out of one blaze followed close upon the conquest of its predecessor, so that for the firemen there was no rest.

Worn, weary, smoke-stifled, they were called from hours of battling with the smudge in the South Boston wool house to a fierce blaze in a Charlestown dryhouse, where burning lumber threatened an entire section. Hardly was that under control when they were again summoned to fight a hayshed fire a mile away, and again to face dense clouds of choking smoke.

Though exhausted, the men fought the last fire as keenly as the first. In each case they checked the flames and confined the loss to the property in which the fire was raging.

The total loss is set at \$120,000, of which \$60,000 is from the first, \$25,000 from the second and \$35,000 from the third.

The first fire, in the six-story brick building at 322-328 Congress st, South Boston, occupied largely as a wool storehouse, was in many respects the worst. The volume of black smoke from the burning wool made it almost impossible for the firemen to reach the heart of the blaze, and from the first alarm at 11:42 it took more than six hours before water from many lines of hose had flooded the fire out.

At 5:35 p m came the first alarm for the fire in a dryhouse of Palmer & Parker's lumber yard, 83-103 Medford st, Charlestown, and the third alarm was ordered a few minutes later.

Costly imported mahogany furnished the fuel, and it was a "clean" fire, with comparatively little smoke to impede the firemen. But there was constant danger of the flames spreading and several times small fires in neighboring buildings had to be put out. The all-out signal was given at 7:15.

Comparatively few engines had left the scene, however, and many were not ready to go when repeated alarms from box 463 called them to the Rutherford-av hayshed of the Boston & Maine Railroad, where a fire, starting in a freight car, had quickly spread to other cars and the building. This was almost as smoky as the South Boston fire and it was a hard fight for the weary men.

At 10 o'clock last night, George O'Connell, a newsboy, was arrested on suspicion of knowing something about the hay shed fire. He met officer Considine on Rutherford av and told him there was a fire in the hay shed.

His actions roused Considine's suspicions and the officer later decided to have him held pending investigation. O'Connell lives at Bunker Hill st, Charlestown.

All three fires were directed in person by Chief Mullen. Many firemen were overcome by smoke, but there were no serious accidents. It was a smoke-blackened and worn-out force of firemen that returned to their respective houses last night after the final "all out."

### WIDE AREA THREATENED.

Firemen Confine Blaze to Dryhouse  
---Tyrrells Move Goods Out of  
Home 15 Feet From Fire.

The Charlestown lumber yard fire started on the second floor of Palmer & Parker's dryhouse No 5 on Medford st and destroyed the building and its contents, comprising a large quantity of valuable mahogany imported from Africa, Mexico and South America. The damage was \$25,000, covered by insurance.

Three alarms from box 451 were given immediately after automatic alarms had been sounded by Herbert Townsend, who was in charge of the dryhouse, who discovered the fire, and by Henry J. Dorr, the night watchman.

The blaze spread with great rapidity. When Townsend and Dorr returned from sending in alarms the building and contents were burning furiously. Dist Chief Charles H. W. Pope quickly ordered two more alarms, realizing the danger to the storehouses, lumber piles and mill which closely adjoin the dryhouse.

The two-story dwelling house at 83 Medford st, scarcely 15 feet from the burning building, took fire several times. It is occupied by Eugene Tyrrell and his family, including James Tyrrell, submaster of the Lewis School, Roxbury. But the firemen saved the house and its furnishings. Mr Tyrrell, assisted by his daughter Jennie and young men who arrived early at the fire, carried as much of their belongings as they could handle to an empty tenement of a house directly opposite.

W. L. Richard, assistant foreman for Palmer & Parker, with a fire extinguisher, aided in putting out the fires on the dwelling.

The members of Engine 26, the first to reach the fire, fought the flames in the driveway beside the dryhouse in spite of the intense heat and stifling

smoke. It was largely their work that saved the storehouse close to the dryhouse. Sparks started flames there, but they put the fires out.

Capt Hayes with Engine Company 27 took post at the end of the dryhouse and were kept busy with fires in lumber piles on the wharf set by sparks.

Fireboats 31 and 47 steamed up to the wharf and did effective work on the blazing lumber piles.

William Cohen, an employe of the company, directed a large force of young men to aid the firemen in getting lines of hose where effective work could be performed. William I. Palm-

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# THREE BIG FIRES CONQUERED

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er, a member of the firm, estimated the damage at \$25,000. He said the dry-house contained a large amount of fancy figured mahogany, which had been sent from Africa and Mexico.

Townsend said the fire seemed to start on the side of the building and believes it was caused by defective wires.

The fire was put out after nearly two hours' hard work.

## STORAGE HOUSE BURNED.

**Furniture in Six-Story Congress-St Building Makes a Stubborn Blaze.**

Starting on the first floor and burning to the top, fire destroyed the contents of almost every floor of the six-story brick building at 322-328 Congress st yesterday afternoon and caused a loss estimated at \$60,000. The firemen met the severest ordeal they have faced in months.

Three alarms were sounded, the first about 11.42.

Most of the building is occupied by Prescott Brothers of Dock sq as a storage house. Other tenants are John T. Lodge & Co, dealers in wool, and F. Johnson, weaver. Joseph S. Williams of Jamaica Plain is the owner.

Just after Capt Estabrook of Hose 6 at Newton Upper Falls and others discovered the fire the flames burst through the front of the building and went rapidly toward the upper stories. A block beyond the burned building is the headquarters of Engines 38-39, the former a horseless machine, while around the corner on Pittsburg st is Ladder Company 18 and Tower 3.

Patrolman Coffey of the Broadway station notified Capt James J. Calne of the double company and he brought out both his companies. After one glance at the fire he ordered Box 148 pulled. Senior Deputy Chief Grady ordered the second and Chief Mullen the third.

The burlap, oilcloth and household furnishings of every description in the building burned rapidly and cast off dense fumes.

Congress st was black with smoke, which at times was impenetrable. The firemen groped their way up ladders to roofs and remained at their post until the smoke compelled them to quit.

Several firemen were overcome. Among them were Capts Edward J. Conners of Engine 2, City Point; Edward D. Locke of Ladder 6, South Boston, acting district chief, and Martin A. Kenealy of Engine 43, Andrews sq. The latter was standing on the platform of a water tower when the smoke got the best of him and he toppled over. "Nap" Boutillier of Truck 8 injured his leg, but remained on duty.

For more than six hours water was poured into the building, Chief Mullen directing the work until he was summoned to the Charlestown fire. The blaze was fought from four sides, streams being directed upon it even from the adjoining building. Water was thrown in torrents and Sleeper and Farnsworth sts and byways in the rear of the building were flooded, the water almost reaching to the hubs of vehicles. Tower 3, Lieut O'Brien, took post in front of the building and the three fireboats moored near Congress-st Bridge and were worked to the limit. Nine land engines rendered good service.

The hosemen were driven back time and again, being forced to drop their lines and run from the smoke.

Chief Mullen had Deputy Chief Grady, Dist Chiefs Byron, Sennott and Taber in the rear of the building and they directed an attack that prevented the fire reaching adjoining property. Deck guns on several hose wagons were worked to advantage.

It was almost five hours after the first alarm was sounded before a fireman was ordered to enter the building. Burlap, oilcloth and household furnishings of every description burned readily.

Thousands of persons were attracted to the fire, and a squad of police, under Sergt Smith of Division 6, held them in check. During the early stages the crowd moved around aimlessly in the smoke and even the apparatus had a difficult time finding hydrants.

Building Commissioner Everett, Fire Commissioner Cole and other officials remained until summoned to Charlestown.

## HAY MAKES HOT FIRE.

**Freight Cars and Shed Quickly Destroyed and One of Hood's Buildings Damaged.**

Though wearied from their exertions at two dangerous three-alarm fires, the firemen were called out to a third, when about 7:30 a first and third alarm were rung from box 468 for the hay-shed blaze in the Boston & Maine yards, Rutherford av.

They were still hard at work, for the most part, on the fire at the lumber yard when the first alarm came in.

Under the direction of Chief Mullen most of the companies shut off their streams, tumbled the hoses into the wagons, and hitching up, started toward the freight sheds.

They found shed No. 36 and several freight cars blazing. The shed was like a furnace, the flames fanned by a brisk wind. Thick smoke filled the streets.

A great crowd had scampered over from the lumber yard.

Capt Yeaton of Station 15 took charge of the situation and his men blocked all means of entrance to a considerable area around the fire.

How the fire started is not known, but the police think some small boy and a bunch of matches played an important part in it. The damage was estimated at \$35,000, the greater part of which represents the sheds and the burned freight cars.

Patrick Considine, night watchman at

H. P. Hood & Sons' milk station, which adjoins the Boston & Maine sheds, discovered the fire in a freight car.

Half a dozen freight cars were

burned and several others were dam-

aged. At Hood's the roof of the cream chest took fire and caved in, ruining \$1000 worth of cream. Another spark ignited a freight car laden with 8000 quarts of milk and destroyed it. The whole lower side of the milk station building caught fire. The fire was put out and the building was only charred.

In the hay shed the flames leaped along at a furious rate toward Rutherford av. On that thoroughfare and down Baldwin st a dozen fire engines were placed. Lines were run through the Boston & Maine yards and through Hood's yard, and the fire was fought from both sides.

Lantern in hand, Chief Mullen walked about directing his men, many of whom were led over to the milk station, where fresh milk awaited all who came. This was about the only food most of the men had had since before noon.

Part of the Somerville apparatus responded for the Rutherford-av fire.

No second alarm was sent in for the fire, Chief Mullen ordering a third as soon as he arrived. About 8:30 the chief announced that the fire was under control.

## AWAKENED BY SMOKE.

**Brighton Families Escape — Loss \$3000 on Brick and Cement House.**

Fire in the three-story brick and cement house at 26 Harvard st, Brighton, yesterday morning drove the occupants of the four apartments into the street in scanty attire and damaged the building to the extent of about \$3000. Mrs S. O. Shedd was awakened by the smoke. She awakened her husband and T. H. Bradley, who lives on the ground floor, and they aroused the other occupants. The cause of the fire is not known.

## ONE KILLED. TWO HURT.

**Cornice of Burning Building at Union, N Y, Falls Upon Three Firemen at Work on Ladder.**

BINGHAMTON, N Y, May 6—One man was killed and two were badly injured, in a fire which threatened the village of Union with destruction this afternoon.

An explosion dislodged the heavy brick cornice of a three-story building, sending it crashing down a ladder on which were three volunteer firemen. William Rodman was instantly killed, Edward Giles sustained probably fatal internal injuries and Frank Eldredge a broken arm and other injuries. The property damage amounted to \$10,000.