

# BRAKE BROKE ON STEEP HILL.

## Combination 5's Horses on the Rampage.

## Exciting Runaway in Charlestown.

## Driver Leo Griffen Badly Injured.

## Four Other Persons Also Hurt.

## Three-Horse Hitch Created Panic in the Street.

## Smashed Into Couple of Electric Light Poles.

## Policemen Prevent People From Being Electrocuted.

Charlestown brought its celebration to a close with the unusual spectacle of a piece of fire apparatus running away and leaving destruction in its wake. As a result of the runaway one man is in the hospital and several others are nursing injuries. Those injured are:

Leo Griffen, driver of combination 5, residing at 8 Tufts st, Charlestown, left shoulder broken, four ribs in the back also broken. He is at the Massachusetts general hospital.

John F. Caldwell, 220 Main st, cut on cheek, lip split open and jaw injured.

E. L. Wing, 55 Marshall st, right shoulder injured.

Firemen Dennis Magee and Phil Tague, slight sprains and bruises.

Caldwell and Wing were able to go home, and the two firemen were not sufficiently injured to leave the fire-house.

### Down a Steep Hill.

Just a few minutes before 10, when many people were wending their way toward the city, an alarm was sounded from box 482 at the corner of Main and Chapman sts. Combination 5, which is housed on Monument st, had just returned from answering an alarm from box 424 and immediately started for the second fire.

Driver Leo Griffen headed his horses up toward the monument and turning into Green st from High started down the hill. It is one of the steepest streets in the district, and the driver had the brakes jammed on hard and was leaning back, holding his three horses with a close rein.

The wagon had scarcely begun to go down the hill when it lurched forward quickly, and Griffen knew by its momentum that the brake was broken. He began to pull with all his strength to check the horses that had jumped forward when the wagon struck their legs.

The weight of the wagon and the frightened horses striving to get away from the constant striking of the whiff-trees proved too much for the driver, and down the hill the apparatus tore, increasing its speed at every jump of the frightened horses.

Turning into Main st, the rear part of the wagon swerved, striking an elevated railway post, and driver Griffen was hurled into the air, landing between the forward and rear wheels. Before he had time to move the rear wheel passed over his shoulder and back.

### An Awful Ride

At the same moment a 30-foot ladder went flying through the air and landed a few feet from a party of men and women standing on the corner waiting for a car.

Driver Griffen was picked up by willing hands and taken into Dr Duff's office near by, where it was found his left shoulder was broken and four ribs in his back were also fractured. An ambulance was quickly summoned and he was taken to the Massachusetts general hospital.

Meanwhile the horses, feeling no restraining hand guiding them, kept on the jump, and then began for the other members of the fire company such a ride as they had never experienced before. Along Warren st the horses tore madly, and the people who were on that street had a slight chance to see what kind of stuff the Boston firemen are made of.

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On either side of the wagon were Dennis Magee and Phillip Tague. They knew something was wrong the moment the wagon began to tear down the hill, and when they saw Griffin thrown off both men climbed over the driver's seat down onto the shafts.

The wagon was swaying wildly, and each fireman made desperate efforts to reach the reins trailing along the ground and bring the horses to a stop. It was impossible, however. Magee managed to get hold of a short check rein and made a gallant but futile attempt to steer the frantic animals into a blind alley.

When the wagon was near Monument an electric car swung around the curve at Park and Warren sts. and Magee and Tague realizing a collision was inevitable, they both jumped. By so doing they undoubtedly saved their lives.

## Struck a Pole.

The next moment the wagon lurched to the right and struck an electric light pole and the arc lamp came down with a crash. It was here that Caldwell and Wing were injured, the falling lamp striking both of them.

At the corner of Winthrop st the apparatus swung over again to the right and, striking another electric light pole, this time tore away the entire light, snapping it off short close to the street. The falling glass and quick extinguishing of the light caused motorman Hodgdon to hold his car where it had stopped, at the corner of Warren, Park and Henley sts.

There was no chance to think or act before the on-rushing apparatus was beside the car. The horse on the left struck the dasher of the car and was thrown forcibly against the other two. The shock made them jump to one side and, their sharp shoes striking the car rails, two of them went down in a heap. This brought the runaway to an end, as before the animals could move, bystanders were at their heads, holding them in control.

Had the two firemen, Magee and Tague, stuck to their places on the shafts of the wagon they would have been under the hoofs of the frantic horses and been kicked to death before being released.

In the car that was struck were very few passengers. It was bound for Union sq in charge of conductor Sanford.

The electric arc light at Monument was struck the trolley wire when it fell and broke the wire off so that it trailed along the ground. Several policemen were quickly summoned to keep people from stepping upon it and getting electrocuted.

Traffic was delayed about half an hour by the broken wire.

The apparatus and horses that caused all the excitement and damage were not very badly damaged, all things considered. One wheel of the wagon was splintered and the rear axle sprung. The three horses were slightly scratched when they fell in a heap, but were able to draw the wagon to its quarters. The electric car was not injured either.