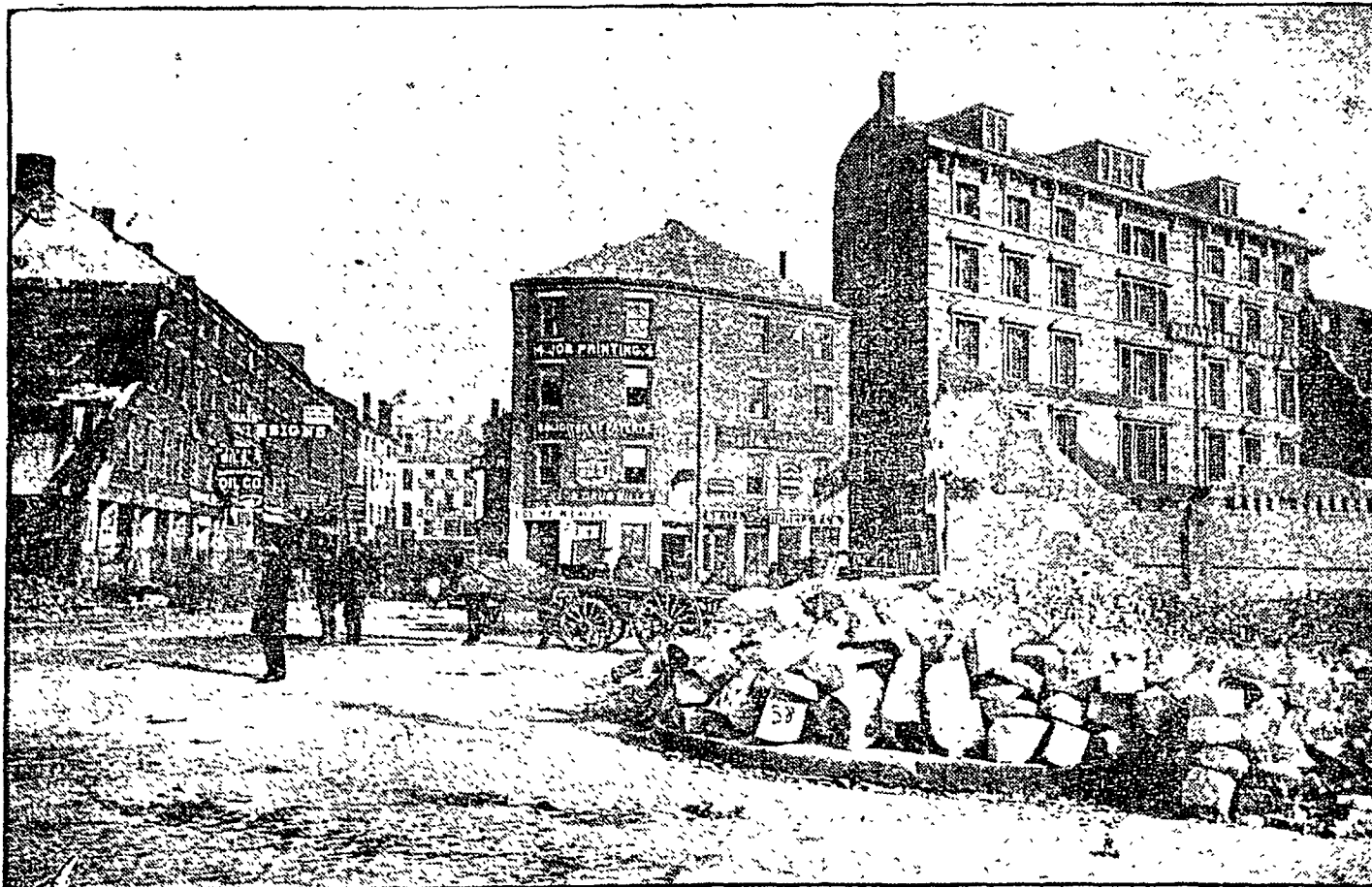


SPOT WHERE GREAT BOSTON FIRE WAS HALTED.

Boston Daily Globe (1872-1922); Apr 1, 1906;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Boston Globe (1872 - 1927)
pg. SM4

SPOT WHERE GREAT BOSTON FIRE WAS HALTED.



LIBERTY SQUARE, AFTER THE BOSTON FIRE OF 1872.

This photograph shows the spot where the great Boston fire of Nov 9 and 10, 1872, was arrested, after destroying property to the value of about \$100,000,000.

It is a view from the west side of Liberty sq, looking down Water st, toward Broad st. At the right are the ruins of the building that had occupied the site of the present Mason building, and towering above it is a big granite building that was a few years ago displaced by the present Exchange club. At the extreme left at the corner of

Kilby and Water sts, are the ruins of the building that was the last to go down before the fire in its progress to the north and east, which had been the direction it had followed from the time it started, about seven hours earlier, at the corner of Summer and Kingston sts.

On Water st, adjoining this corner ruin, which, by the way, also marked the site of the historic stamp office, and the consequent riots of prerevolutionary days, was the big kerosene oil establishment of Samuel Downer, the man whose name was once familiar in con-

nection with Downer's landing, a summer resort in Boston harbor.

In this store, which was uninjured by the fire, kerosene, or coal oil is said to have been first sold in Boston, from 50 to 60 years ago. Mr Downer first manufactured it from the oil he extracted from soft coal he brought from Nova Scotia, before the discovery of the American oil fields.

The party wall, seen at the left, above the ruins, was that of Mr Downer's establishment, F. K. Neal of Central st, who did active service as a member

of the National Lancers at the time of the big fire, says that for years afterward it was a standing joke that a conflagration that destroyed 76 buildings, covering 63 acres of territory, should have been halted by the wall of a kerosene oil warehouse, a building about 100 years old at that.

Of the buildings shown in the picture, only two or three on the left side of Water st, near the farther end, are still standing. The greater part of the others have been demolished, however, within less than 10 years.