

THREE ALARMS!

Rung in Boston Last Night.

Bristol Street the Scene.

Paul's Big Wood-Working Mill Burned.

Loss Will Reach Nearly \$100,000.

Threatened the Entire District at One Time.

A citizen passing along Bristol street at 11.45 last evening discovered a fire in the basement of Paul's mammoth wood working establishment, Nos. 65 to 101 Bristol street. He rushed to ladder 3 house, on the corner of Bristol and Albany streets, only a few steps away and notified Capt. Grady.

He immediately pulled in an alarm from box 69, and his company and members of engine 3, located in the same building, were on the scene in a few minutes.

The fire had gained considerable headway, however, and a second alarm was rung in a few minutes later.

The fire started in the basement, which was filled with highly combustible material, and in an incredibly short time had spread along through the entire basement of the establishment, which extends from 65 to 101 Bristol street, and comprises five different sections divided by light partitions.

A third alarm was rung in a few minutes later.

The building is four stories high and extends almost from the corner of Harrison avenue to Albany street, and is used exclusively for wood-working business.

The entire four stories of Paul's establishment were filled with lumber of a very inflammable character, and proved to be an easy prey to the flames.

Prey to the Flames.

Besides this large quantities of oil, varnish and paints, used in the furniture business, added fuel to the devouring element.

The fire was not confined long in the basement, but rapidly spread to the upper stories, and soon the entire structure, some 300 feet in length, was enveloped in a mass of flames.

The firemen fought bravely, and stream after stream poured into the open windows seemed at first to offer no check.

Flames were shooting out of the windows, followed by dense clouds of smoke, which at times shut out from view many of the brave firemen on the ladders leaning against the building, and the spectators would stand anxiously expecting to see them fall to the ground.

In the two upper stories of the structure the lumber was piled almost to the roof, and there the firemen experienced their greatest difficulty in endeavoring to quench the flames.

The first and second floors were filled with loose lumber, shavings, sawdust and woodwork in the process of being finished, and it was in this spot that the fire raged the severest.

Raged the Severest.

Randolph street was in the rear of the burning building, and the firemen were enabled to reach it on both sides, thus preventing its spread to Reed's block, on the opposite side of Randolph street, which at one time was threatened.

The smoke was almost overpowering, and several firemen were rescued in a half-suffocated condition.

The distance from Bristol to Randolph street, to which the building extends, is about 40 feet, and the fire raged on both sides of the structure with equal fury.

It seemed at one time as though the entire section would be destroyed, but the immense amount of water served to check the flames and prevent their spread to adjacent property.

The establishment of Bradley, Cummins & Co. adjoins Paul's on the Albany street end, and although constant streams were poured upon the building it finally caught, although it did not suffer quite so bad as Paul's.

The building was only partly burned off when the firemen succeeded in cutting it off from the main fire.

The Other Inmates

of Paul's building were Cole & Woodbury, organ manufacturers, a concern employing about 20 men and doing a lucrative business. Their loss is large.

Guild, the piano manufacturers' establishment, is also here located and is badly damaged.

The Boston Sewing Machine Company's storehouse warerooms are located in the burnt area, but how much their machinery and stock is injured cannot be estimated at present. Their entrance was from No. 81, two flights front.

The rumor that the Whitman's Refrigerator Manufactory was also in the building is unfounded. The concern removed several months ago.

William H. Boardman, stair-builder, loses his total stock and tools valued at \$3000. He stated to a GLOBE representative that his insurance was not over \$500, placed in the Springfield Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Johnson Brothers' veneering shop is a total loss, with only a small insurance.

Henry T. Hogan, stair builder, who is the remaining tenant, has sustained heavy damage by fire and water.

All of the remaining space is occupied by the Pauls, whose lower floors, where heavy and expensive machinery is located, are uninjured except by water. All the office effects are saved.

Capt Grady and his men of ladder 3, who were the first to arrive, did heroic work in getting a stream at the very heart of the flames in the face of the

Blinding Smoke

that poured out of the windows. Although at the Thanksgiving fire two of his best men were killed, their companions were not deterred in the least by the remembrance of that awful calamity.

The police had great difficulty in keeping back the immense crowds gathered near the fire.

The police arrangements were in charge of Lieut. Lee of division 5, assisted by Sergeants Howe and Murphy, and a squad of officers. They placed ropes at both ends of the street and held the crowd back.

At 1.30 this morning a portion of the roof fell in with a loud crash. A rumor was quickly circulated that several firemen

were in the building at the time, but it was found to be false.

W. D. Kelley of hose 5 met with a serious accident while drawing a line of hose. He slipped and fell on the ice, reopening an

Old Wound

received in a former fire. He was taken to his house.

Owing to the location of the Paul building the fire department was placed at a disadvantage from the outset. The supply of water obtainable was small, due to the great distance it had to be forced by the engines.

Not until two streams from the fire tug were secured through 600 feet of hose was a sufficient amount of water thrown upon the flames to keep them from extending further on towards Harrison avenue.

At 2.30 the fire was under control.

LOSSES—INSURANCE.

Statement From Mr. Paul—Nearly \$100,000 Damage.

William F. Paul, the surviving member of the firm of J. F. Paul & Co., who owned the building first learned his loss through a GLOBE reporter, who aroused him at his residence, 32 East Chester park, about an hour after the fire started.

He stated that the building was assessed for \$70,000, and the stock, consisting of lumber in various stages of preparation for turning, was valued at between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

The total insurance on building and Mr. Paul's stock is \$30,000, distributed, as far as could be learned, in the following companies:

Fire Association.....	\$3,000
City of London.....	2,500
Niagara.....	2,500
Providence and Washington.....	2,000
Phoenix, New York.....	2,000
Orient.....	2,000
Atlas.....	1,050
Newark.....	1,050
Lancashire.....	1,500
Michigan.....	1,250

William Boardman, stair builder, loss on stock and machinery, \$3000; insured in Springfield for \$500.

Remaining estimated losses are as follows: George M. Guild, on stock and machinery, \$15,000; Cole & Woodberry church organs, damage by fire and water, \$10,000; Johnson, veneer, \$7,000; Hogan, stair-builder, \$3,000; W. Witman, ice coolers, \$5,000.

Boston Sewing Machine Company, at 81, establishment used for storage only, loss on stock \$3,000.

The only other occupants of the building are J. F. Paul & Co.

The total estimate of loss on building and stock is between \$75,000 and \$100,000; loss on building, \$25,000 to \$30,000 and on stock, \$50,000 to \$70,000.

HOW THE BUILDING WENT.

Occupants and Their Relative Positions on Different Floors.

The building was a substantial brick structure, four stories high, with a flat gravel roof. It faced 60 feet on the southwest corner of Albany and Bristol streets, running westward along Bristol street towards Harrison avenue for a depth of 420 feet. With the exception of an L structure built on the south side of that portion occupied by the piano factory, having an extra depth and breadth of 50 feet, the structure was of a uniform width of 60 feet through.

On the north side was Bristol street and on the east Albany while open yards faced its western and southern walls, making it accessible from all sides to the attacks of the firemen.

The whole building and adjacent land on the block belongs to the estate of William M. Paul, Nathaniel J. Bradlee and William J. Forsaith being the trustees. The building proper was divided into three sections by brick partition walls, which unfortunately on some of the floors were pierced by archways, and although closed by heavy iron-shoathed hard pine doors, the fire got through from the middle section, where it originated, into the first section facing on Albany street.

The occupants were as follows: George M. Gould & Co., church organ builder; Cole & Woodbury, piano manufacturers, on the first section; I. F. Paul & Co., saw mill and inside furnishing factory, in the second division, while Henry F. Hogan saw and stair builder with his saw mill occupied the third division.

The fire breaking out in the mill of J. F. Paul, entirely gutted the centre or second division, and favored by the brisk west wind, spread into the first section, gutting out the two upper stories, occupied as the machine shops of all those firms mentioned as occupants of section 1.

The lower portion of this division was so flooded with hot water that the effect will be practically a dead loss to its contents.