

# HEAVY FIRE LOSS.

## Suffolk Building Partially Burned Last Night.

### Damage to the Block and Contents Placed at \$110,000.



SCENE AT THE FIRE LAST NIGHT AT THE CORNER OF PURCHASE AND CONGRESS STS.

## Blaze So Stubborn Three Alarms Were Necessary — Three Firemen Were Injured — Tenants Principally Engaged in the Paper, Printing and Engraving Trades.

Three alarms from box 51 preceded by an automatic from 417 at 9.38 last evening called the fighting strength of the fire department to the Suffolk building, 234 and 236 Congress st, corner of Purchase st, and gave the firemen of Boston the severest battle they have had for some time, and caused much uneasiness in the minds of the fire chiefs for several hours.

A perfect Niagara of water was poured into the building from all sides, but for one whole hour the fight was even and the flames seemed to lick everything before them from the fourth floor up through the fifth and sixth and through the roof, making the upper portion of the building look like a furnace.

Three firemen were slightly injured, and the wonder is that there were not more casualties, for the smoke was simply blinding as it poured forth in dense clouds from the many windows on both sides and filled the streets so that it was almost impossible to see, but through it all the firemen held their posts on the aerial and other ladders, and some of them even ventured on the roof until they were driven by the fierce flames back to the ladders and to places of safety.

#### The Building and Its Tenants.

The building is a comparatively new one—about 10 years old—and looms above the other buildings in the vicinity.

The five upper floors were occupied by printers, publishers, engravers and binders, each containing combustible material of such a nature and so situated that it was extremely difficult to get at.

The street floor is occupied by Smith & Thayer, heaters and pumping apparatus, and the Hadley marble and slate company.

On the second floor are the offices of the Suffolk engraving company and the offices and stock rooms of the J. R. Bradley publishing company.

The third and fourth floors are occupied by Carl H. Heintzemann, printer, one of the largest printing offices in the city proper.

The fifth and sixth floors were devoted to the electrotyping and engraving plants of the Suffolk engraving company.

The fire is supposed to have started on the fourth floor and quickly spread to the fifth and sixth. These three floors are practically gutted.

It was feared that the fire would spread to the neighboring buildings on both sides, which were filled with leather, wool, sheepskins, etc. The next building on Purchase st, 169, occupied by B. W. Jones, importer of sheepskins, was broken into and several lines of hose were taken through to the roof. This building suffered some by water.

The next building on Congress st, Nos. 226 and 220, occupied by Lock & Knox, leather, and E. B. Clark, wool, was also damaged by water and by reason of the fact that lines of hose were taken through to the roof.

Six lines of hose were taken into the building opposite on Purchase st and played from the windows into the burning building, and several lines of hose were played from the buildings opposite on Congress st.

There was not a single point of vantage but what was occupied by the fire department, and on every corner were massed the engines, which screamed

and whistled and roared for two or more hours and threw volumes of smoke and steam through the streets in the vicinity which, added to the immense volume from the building, made a cloud that swayed back and forth in blinding clouds and made the work of the firemen extremely difficult.

The fire gained great headway until two water towers were erected, one on Congress st and one on Purchase st, directly in front of the building. These towers, with the powerful stream from the horseless engine, made an impression on the blaze, but at the same time the flames seemed to burst out with renewed fury, especially about 10.20, when the firemen were warned to come from the ladders above the fourth floor, owing to flames which threatened to cut them off. Slowly but surely, however, the flames were subdued, while windows were smashed until it seemed as if every pane in the building was demolished.

The combustible printing material on the third floor seemed to cause the most trouble, and from this it also spread to the fourth floor, on which were eight large cylinder presses and a great amount of paper stock.

The entire building and contents were practically ruined with the exception of the street floor, but the water did much damage to the goods on that floor, also.

#### Estimate on the Losses.

The building, which is a six-story brick structure, is owned by the Boston real estate and trust company, and is assessed, with the land, for \$99,600. The building is leased by the Suffolk engraving company.

The loss, as near as could be figured last evening, was as follows: Smith & Thayer \$19,000, Carl H. Heintzemann \$40,000, A. I. Bradley \$15,000, Suffolk engraving company \$15,000 loss on building \$25,000, and loss by water in other buildings \$5000, making a total of \$110,000.

Mr Heintzemann says his place was covered with \$20,000 insurance. His loss, however, is wellnigh irreparable, as he had been for years accumulating a choice stock of foreign types and engravings, and he had a great number of rare drawings and printing in stock.

Mr Blanchard, the treasurer of the Suffolk engraving company, said their loss would probably figure about \$15,000.

Plimpton, the binder, was moving out of the building, and some of his stock, it is supposed, was also destroyed.

The firemen who were injured were hoseman Fred Young of engine 26, hand badly cut with glass in getting out of one of the nearby buildings; Charles Swan of engine 1, overcome by smoke, as was hoseman Armstrong.

The police service was in charge of Sergt Rufus Fessenden of station 2, who had the streets roped off about 10 o'clock.

Dr Galvin was present with two of his emergency hospital ambulances, but fortunately their services were not required.

The fire was practically subdued by 11.30, but great streams of water were poured into the building until long past midnight.

It was suggested by many last evening that a searchlight would be of considerable assistance at such a fire, when the atmosphere is so heavy that the smoke practically settles down in the streets.