

# SEVEN FIREMEN GO TO HOSPITAL

## Affected by Smoke at Blaze on High St.

## Fire in Premises Occupied by Kenney Bros & Wolkins.

## Engine 25 Has to Draw From Other Companies.

It is some time since the members of the Fire Department have suffered so much from smoke as they did last evening, when a fire broke out on the top floor of the four-story brick building at 224 Congress st, occupied by Kenney Brothers & Wolkins, dealers in school supplies. Seven firemen were so seriously affected that they were removed to the Haymarket-sq Relief Hospital under the direction of Dr John A. Foley and many others were treated at the scene of the fire.

Those taken to the hospital were District Chief Stephen J. Ryder of the Third District, who was acting deputy chief last evening owing to the absence of Deputy Chief Taber; Capt Allan J. MacDonald of Ladder 13, who was filling the post of district chief, and hosemen Michael J. Griffin, Edward J. Coveney, Arthur L. Johnson and John F. Hardy of Engine 25, Fort Hill sq, and senior ladderman Theodore P. Gallpeau of Ladder 8, Fort Hill sq. Hoseman Griffin, one of the first taken to the hospital, had a cut on the right wrist in addition to suffering from smoke.

Patrolman George Seavey of the Court-sq Station saw the smoke coming from the upper floor of the structure and gave the alarm from box 1423 at 9:40. At that time Chief McDonough and several pieces of apparatus were finishing an attack on a Cross-st fire and they made the run over to Congress st quickly and soon a second alarm was given from box 1422. This acted as a third alarm, as the "all out" had not been received for the Cross-st fire.

Chief McDonough learned quickly that the fire would be a hard and dangerous one to fight, inasmuch as there was a hanging floor, heavily weighted down with desks, above the fourth floor of the structure. As the flames were burning briskly around the roof he feared that the support of the hanging floor was likely to be burned away and in that case the floor would drop and the lives of any firemen in the building would be imperilled.

### Engine 25 Crew Suffers.

However, Capt James F. Ryan of Engine 25 and his crew rushed into the building before Chief McDonough arrived, and they cannot remember when they have fought a fire under such difficulties.

Out of the six men of Engine 25, including Capt Ryan, that entered the structure, the captain and hoseman David Martell were the only ones that did not have to go to the hospital. These two were weak from inhaling smoke, but it did not affect them as seriously as it did the others.

Engine 25's crew, until smoke wrecked its personnel, fought the fire from a stairway. Engines 7, 15 and 29 were also in front of the structure, along with Aerial Ladder 18 and Water Tower 1. The latter machine, in charge

**Continued on the Eighth Page.**

# SEVEN FIREMEN GO TO HOSPITAL

Continued From the First Page.

of Lieut Charles H. Long, did effective work.

From High st engine companies carried lines to the roof of an adjoining building and around on Gridley st. to the rear of the building that was afire.

Engine Companies 4 and 26 and Ladder Company 2's men took their hose lines over ladders that were raised against the rear of the structure, and from the roofs of buildings on the opposite side of Gridley st the crews of Ladder Trucks 13 and 17 directed streams. Tower 3 also worked from Gridley st.

The smoke was stifling in narrow Gridley st, and time and again the firemen were driven back. The flames were leaping over the edge of the roof, endangering the firemen. Dist Chief Coulter several times called his men back lest they might be injured.

The fire was in that part of the structure used as a finishing room and it was stocked heavily with desks. The firemen said that burning varnishes, shellacs and gas hampered them continually and the wonder of it all was that some of them did not collapse on the ladders.

## One Firm's Loss \$25,000.

Kennedy Bros & Wolkins occupy the three floors above the street. On the second floor are the offices and paper room, and the third floor the furniture room, and on the top the desk and finishing room. The members of the firm said they carried a heavy stock, as this is their busy season. They figured that the damage would amount to approximately \$25,000 and Chief McDonough thought likewise.

The first floor of the building is occupied by Charles F. Wheelock & Co, dealers in bookbinders materials. There the damage will be from water only, but it may be heavy as the water came through from the upper floors in torrents.

Firemen guarded adjoining structures, as in them was much inflammable material and the flames constantly threatened to spread. On the top floor of the building at 228 Congress st large quantities of wool were stored. A fire door separated this material from the finishing room in the adjoining building, which was afire.

Dr Foley of the Relief Hospital staff attended his first big fire officially last night, and he will remember it for a long time. He did not have an idle moment for two hours.

Engine Company 35 was hit so hard by losses from the smoke that Chief McDonough had to provide a special detail of men who will serve on it pending the recovery of the men who were taken to the hospital. Late last night Chiefs Ryder and MacDonald were able to leave the hospital.