

GLOBE EXTRA

5 O'CLOCK.

NEARLY A SCORE OF FIREMEN HURT

Explosion of Hot Air in North-St Block.

Chief Mullen and Three District Chiefs Among Those Injured.

Byron the Worst Off--Three Alarms for Blaze This Morning--Loss \$40,000.

By a hot-air explosion in the six-story granite building at 90 North st at 3:30 this morning about 15 members of the Boston fire department, including Chief Mullen, District Chiefs Garrity, McDonough and Byron, were injured, and several others sustained injuries that necessitated their removal to the Relief station.

The building was occupied by Duparquet, Huot & Moneuse company, dealers in stoves and ranges. The first indication that there was fire in the building came from an automatic alarm, and this was quickly followed by an alarm from box 17, from the corner of Hanover and Endicott sts. By the sounding of this alarm the apparatus was turned considerably out of its way, and in consequence was somewhat delayed.

As soon as ladder 8 arrived two large ladders were swung up against the front of the building, and men went up and burst in two windows on the second floor. Instantly smoke belched forth and the firemen were enshrouded.

Chief Mullen, Acting Chief Byron and Dist Chief McDonough had arrived and were directing their forces from the front when, without warning, there was an explosion on the first floor that sent flying two large plate glass windows and also the glass in the front door. So great was the force that all the firemen on the street were knocked down and more or less injured. For a time it was thought that the men on the ladders had been knocked from their places, but as the smoke rolled away it was seen that they had succeeded in holding on to the ladders and had saved themselves from falling.

The hose wagon of engine company 4 was on the opposite side of the street, in front of the fire, and Chief Mullen was standing nearby. When the explosion occurred he was thrown to the ground and the horses reared, one of them in coming down put his hoof heavily on the chief's foot. Although lamed very badly, he continued at his post and refused to go to the hospital.

The first thought was to care for the injured. Chief Mullen's automobile, with chauffeur Shay, was brought into service, and District Chief McDonough and Acting District Chief Byron were hurried to the Relief hospital.

By this time the ambulance of station 1 had arrived and the other firemen who had been injured were picked up and also taken along.

The hot air explosion gave the flames inside a vent, and they broke out with great force in the rear of the building, where a narrow alleyway separates the North-st building from a big six-story building on Cross st. District Chief Grady and District Chief Garrity were assigned to look out for the fire in the rear, and it was a dangerous task.

Chief Mullen, as soon as the explosion occurred and the flames burst forth, sent in a third alarm, without waiting for a second, and with the arriving apparatus the fighting force got to work in the rear. Lines were carried up on to the small L in the rear, and it was at this point that Garrity was injured. He was in the thick of the fight and in falling narrowly escaped death. He sustained severe burns of the face and a badly cut hand. He was hurried to the relief hospital in the automobile of Chief Mullen.

The chief had a difficult proposition to face at this time, with three of his assistants out of the fight, but he still held his position. A water tower was brought

FIREMEN INJURED.

Acting Chief JOHN A. MULLEN, knocked down.
District Chief PETER T. McDONOUGH, burned on head and body and badly shaken up.
District Chief JOSEPH M. GARRITY, overcome by smoke, burned on face, hands cut.
Capt JOHN T. BYRON, acting district chief, both hands and feet burned; condition serious.
Capt WALTER McLEAN, engine company 8.
Lieut AVERY B. HOWARD, chemical 1, both hands and face burned.
Hoseman EDWARD COLBY, engine company 25, face burned.
Ladderman THOMAS L. DARCY, ladder 8, both hands burned.
Hoseman EDWARD COVENEY, engine company 25.
Hoseman F. T. DWYER, engine company 25, face burned.
Hoseman THOMAS W. DOWNEY, engine company 8, hands and face burned.
JOHN MURPHY, engine company 1, right hand burned.
DENNIS HURLEY, engine company 8, face burned.
MICHAEL O'BRIEN, engine company 25, overcome by smoke.
DONALD CALVEN, engineer company 8, leg injured; cuts.
Hoseman JAMES E. WOOD, engine company 6.
Ladderman CAVANAUGH, ladder 24, nail driven into foot.
WILLIAM F. BOWERS, protective 1, overcome by smoke.

into play on the front of the building, and a large aerial ladder was raised on the Cross-st side of the building adjoining the burning one, and lines were carried over the roof.

It did not take long with the additional lines of hose to master the situation and in less than half an hour the flames had been subdued and then the firemen went into the building and fought the fire at close reach.

How the fire started is not known. There is no watchman in the building. It is equipped with an automatic system of alarms and but for this the flames would probably have gained greater headway. As it was, there was every indication that the fire had been burning for a long time even before the automatic signal was sent out.

Upon the arrival of the first detachment of the firemen the building was then full of smoke and the fire was

eating its way up through. It made its way well up through the building, but the greatest damage resulted on the first and second floors. The loss above will be heavy. It is estimated that the loss will probably be about \$40,000.

Fire Commissioner Wells was on the ground and was well satisfied with the work of his men. District Chief Garrity, after having his injuries dressed, returned to the fire and pleaded to return to work, but Chief Mullen ordered him to quarters.

Of the injured who were treated at the relief station only Acting District Chief Byron, Capt McLean and Lieut Howard and fireman Thomas Downey remained there, the others going to their respective houses after treatment.

Fire Commissioner Wells called to see Chief Byron, who is probably the worst injured of the four, at 4:45 this morning and spent considerable time with him.