

3 ALARMS, ONE HURT

Damage Set at Nearly \$50,000

Hot Air Explosion in Summer-St Building

Blaze in Peabody Furniture Store

A hot-air explosion which shattered large plateglass windows on the second floor of the building at 34 Summer st, in the shopping district, at 7:15 last night gave the first warning of a serious fire, which had started from some cause not learned. Before the fire was extinguished three alarms were sounded and damage estimated at between \$35,000 and \$50,000 was caused.

Persons passing the building narrowly escaped injury from a shower of glass, which littered the sidewalk. Patrolman John Kearns of the City Hall-av Station, who was passing at the time of the explosion, sounded an alarm from box 1443 for the blaze. At the time this box was sounding the automatic fire alarm in the building registered.

The building from the second to the

Continued on the Eighth Page.

ONE INJURED AT THREE-ALARM FIRE

Continued From the First Page.

top floor is occupied by the Peabody Furniture Company, and this firm will bear the most of the loss. On the first floor is the Kennedy clothing store, and while the fire did not get into this store, some water damage was done. Mr Kennedy, head of the firm, said that besides the water damage, the damage from the smoke which filtered into the store would probably be heavy. He was unable last night to give any estimate of his loss from the smoke and water, but said the stock on hand in the store is valued at \$1,500,000.

Thousands Flock to Scene

Thousands of persons, on their way to the South Station and also bound for downtown theatres, were attracted by the fire and the police reserves from the City Hall-av and LaGrange-st stations were called upon to keep the crowd in check. The sounding of the three alarms resulted in a large part of the downtown apparatus being massed in Summer, Hawley and Arch sts.

While the first alarm from the fire was registered at 7:20 p m, the fire must have been smoldering in the building for some time before it gained enough intensity to cause the hot-air explosion, according to fire officials. This theory was based on the fact that a half-hour before the explosion occurred another automatic alarm had been received from the building 30 to 38 Summer st, with the box indicating that the fire was on the second floor. Firemen who responded on this automatic alarm were trying

to locate the blaze when the more drastic warning came in the way of the explosion.

Deputy Chief Powers was one of the first officials to respond when the bell alarm sounded. Because of the serious fire on the second floor, and as the building is not far from some of Boston's principal department stores, he ordered a second and a third alarm sounded.

Chief Sennott Takes Charge

Chief Sennott, responding, took charge of the blaze and ladders were placed against the front of the building and apparatus was placed in an areaway in the rear. It was necessary to break several large plate glass windows before the firemen could get into the second floor and engage the fire at close quarters.

Within a half-hour of the time the firemen got inside the building, the blaze was practically extinguished. It had done considerable damage on the second floor and had worked its way into one portion of the third floor. It was said by persons who witnessed the work of the firemen that only by the greatest effort was the fire kept in check and prevented from spreading and developing into a most serious blaze.

During the fire Stephen L. Sharp, a member of Protective Company 1, sustained a severe gash in the left side of the face, near the eye, when in working his way through the cellar of the building he came in contact with a point of a coat hanger. He was taken to the Relief Hospital for treatment and was able to go to his home.