

# FROM SANTA.

## Boston's Christmas Presents.

### Came in Form of Big Fires.

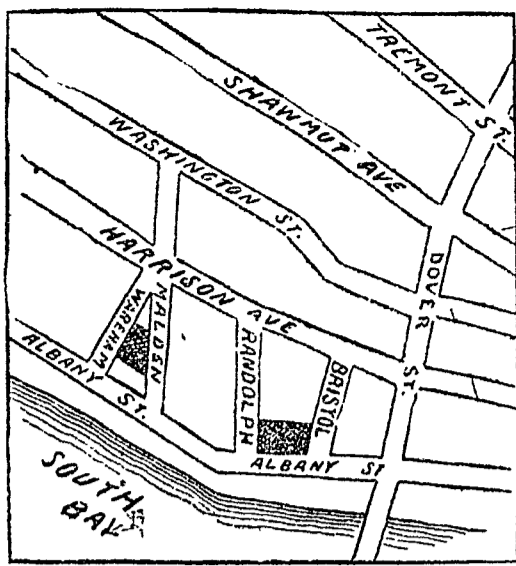
#### An Unknown Man Met His Death.

#### Loss in Paul's Block, \$40,000.

#### New England Piano Co. Loses \$150,000.

#### Forbush's Sausage Works Singed.

#### Two Firemen Injured by Falling Bricks.



THE BLACK SECTIONS INDICATE THE BURNED BUILDINGS.

would furnish fuel for a stupendous conflagration.

When the flames were bursting out of the windows and darting high into the air, throwing glowing sparks in all directions and seemingly into huge piles of inflammable lumber, engines 6, 4 and 1 were ordered to this spot, and lines were laid to reach the fire in the rear. At this point over 10 piles of lumber were piled to the height of 40 feet and almost touched the burning structure.

They were only a few feet from the Thayer st. block and were dried and seasoned, and would have started a huge conflagration on the Thayer st. side had not Chief Webber seen the danger and provided for it.

Twenty minutes after the first alarm was rung in, the chief ordered a second, which was followed three minutes later by a third alarm, which called almost all the entire available apparatus of the city to the scene.

The lumber in the rear was immediately deluged with water and the chemical mixture from the chemical engines, and in addition the firemen climbed to the top, and

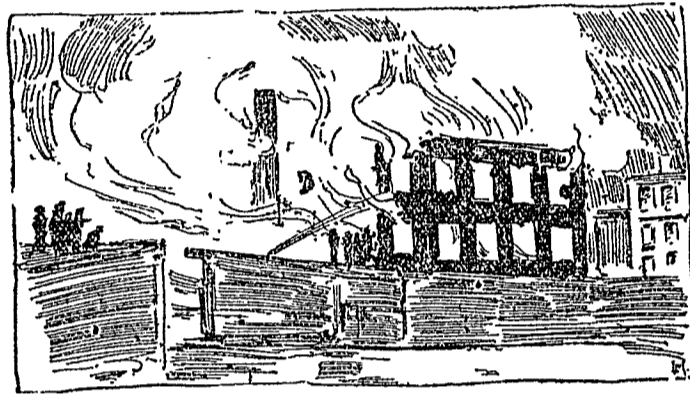
five 3 would respond to this alarm, but these pieces of apparatus being at the Bristol st. blaze, the "automatic" operator hastened to notify the fire headquarters.

By this time the flames on the organ building began to show themselves through the windows of the second and third stories and attracted the attention of Edward J. Murphy, who, being thoroughly drenched at the first fire was hurrying to his home in the neighborhood to get thawed out.

For a second he gazed at the flames and then dashing across the street pulled in an alarm from box 68, corner Wareham st. and Harrison av., thus anticipating the City Hall operator, who was about to sound the same box on the notification from the automatic company.

Box 68 was rung in at 8.34, and thanks to the location of the fire department repair shop, being opposite the Paul building on Bristol st., the watchman heard the blows on the fire gong located in the shops, and ran down into the street, where meeting Chief Engineer Webber he notified him of the new danger, which fact, due to the uproar in the streets, he would have been some time otherwise in learning.

The order to "get up and get" was obeyed with such alacrity that instead of eight minutes six pieces of apparatus from the first fire were in service at the Wareham st. blaze, where the big New England organ



NEW ENGLAND ORGAN COMPANY, FROM WALTHAM STREET.

A disastrous conflagration marks another holiday in Boston.

Last night the flames held full sway in the district bounded by Dover, Albany and Waltham sts. and Harrison av.

At 7.35 last night an alarm was rung in from box 69, for a fire in the basement of the building owned by the William M. Paul estate. Twenty minutes later a second alarm was sounded and this was followed, three minutes afterward, by a third alarm.

The fire was a fierce one but was confined to that portion of the block which fronts on Albany st. and burned back to the distance of 105 feet.

The total loss to the block and its occupants will reach \$40,000.

While this fire was in progress, another was discovered in the factory of the New England Piano and Organ Company, on Wareham st. Three alarms were sent out.

The building was a total loss. It was owned by J. J. McNutt. He will lose \$50,000; insured for \$20,000.

The New England Organ Company will lose \$150,000; insured for about two-thirds.

Both fires were in progress at the same time, but good service by the fire and protective departments prevented more serious conflagrations.

The body of an unknown man was taken from the ruins of the Paul building this morning. The appearances indicated that he had smothered, rather than burned to death.

#### BRISTOL STREET FIRE.

Details of the Conflagration in the Paul Building.

At 7.35 last night fire was discovered in the basement of the large block extending from Harrison av. to Albany st. and bounded on two sides by Bristol and Thayer sts. C. C. Wilson, watchman in the repair shop of the Boston fire department, while patrolling his rounds, saw a sheet of flame shoot out of the basement of the building which fronts on Albany st.

The basement was occupied by J. F. Paul & Co. as a dry kiln room for their mammoth planing mill.

The fire at first seemed to be of an insignificant character, but inside of one minute the flames seemed to have enveloped the whole of the ground floor.

From all the windows, which melted in the immediate intense heat, tongues of fire darted forth and spread in all directions.

Watchman Wilson rushed to the telephone connecting with the fire headquarters, but before he could notify them a citizen rang in an alarm from box 69, located at the corner of Albany st. and Harrison av.

When the department arrived the flames had forced their way to the street floor, and before a stream was turned on the entire block, which is over 280 feet long, and occupied exclusively by wood fashioning concerns, seemed doomed.

The piles of lumber, furniture in process of manufacture, heaps of sawdust and shavings in every nook and corner of the block, furnished ready fuel for the flames, and the sky was soon lighted up by a lurid glare.

There was no hope of saving the end of the building, and the efforts of the firemen were directed to preventing the spread of the flames toward Harrison av. The men were aided by a strong west wind, which blew the sparks toward the water, and it was an easy matter to prevent the fire enveloping the entire block.

The block, which is owned by J. F. Paul & Co., is four stories high, and is divided into four sections, each separated from the other by a party wall.

In each of the sections a number of firms are engaged in the wood planing business. The fire started in the first section, at the corner of Albany and Bristol sts., and was confined to it, the brick walls between the sections greatly aiding the firemen in preventing its spread to the adjoining apartments.

The blaze held full sway, however, in the first section, and the streams of water poured upon it seemed to have little effect.

In the rear of the block is a long, narrow alleyway which furnishes a back entrance to the factories fronting on Thayer st., the next street adjoining Bristol st. It also furnishes a rear entrance to the buildings on Bristol st., and it was here that the efficiency of the fire department was displayed in preventing the spread of the flames to a section which, once touched by the flames,

with long lines of hose directed numberless streams into the very heart of the fire.

The struggle between the element and human ingenuity was not very long. Scarcely a point of vantage was left uncovered. Stream after stream was directed into the mass of flames.

Adjoining the front of the burning building and separated by a narrow alleyway is a five-story brick building, also devoted to the same business. This building is connected with the Paul building by several gangways, and the firemen posted themselves on these platforms, and by running the hose up through this building were enabled to gain increased facilities to meet the flames and prevent their further spread.

When the fire seemed to have succumbed to the deluge of water the department was startled by the hoarse cries of several of the chiefs, as they sang out the dread intelligence that another alarm had just rung in from box 68.

There was an instant scamper. Chief Webber, usually calm in the face of almost any kind of a blaze, gave a start. Old box 68, always noted as the forerunner of a big fire, and located in a district teeming with

factory, a solidly constructed four-story mansard brick building, was ablaze from the first to the third stories.

The engines, reinforced by the remainder of the city's department brought on second and third alarms from box 68, went promptly to work, but for fully 15 minutes, due to the drain made upon the small street water mains in that neighborhood by the engines still at the Paul fire only three blocks away, no water of any account could be gotten on the fire and by the time the apparatus did begin to do good service the big factory together with the two-story drying room at the west end was in a blaze from top to bottom.

Once upon the scene the apparatus took the following position: On Wareham st. were engines 16 and 24, hose 7, ladders 3, 7 and 8, and protective 2. In the rear of the west end hose 4 took up a most trying place, for crouched down in a narrow space with a raging furnace above them, raining a storm of blazing sparks and half suffocated by smoke the men kept a steady stream for fully an hour upon the big boiler in the cellar, which, surrounded by a wall of flame, threatened to explode at any moment.

On the left of the two-story drying house were engine companies 17, 14, 4 and 2, while the remainder took their position in the vacant yard to the north of the building on Albany st. and on the adjoining



SCALING THE DRY HOUSE TO STREAM THE REAR OF THE WAREHAM STREET BUILDING.

factories filled with inflammable material, is a dreaded omen to the fire laddies.

Scarcely had the first round rung in from this box when a second alarm was sounded, and almost a panic ensued.

The firemen yelled, and orders were shouted and reshouted along the line. Chief Webber at once sent a portion of the apparatus to the Wareham st. fire, and on their arrival they found the four-story brick building, occupied by the New England Piano and Organ Company on Wareham st., a mass of flames.

The fire on Bristol st. in the meantime had spent itself, and the surplus apparatus proceeded to Wareham st., and with the combined forces the building of the New England Piano and Organ Company was the only one burned.

#### WAREHAM STREET FIRE.

Details of the Destruction of the New England Piano Company's Building.

At 8.31 o'clock, while the entire fire department of the city proper was hard at work pouring tons of water into the still burning Paul building, the register gong on the office of the Walkins automatic sounded 13, followed by two quick blows announcing a fire on the second floor of the New England Piano and Organ Company on Wareham st., near Albany st. Ordinarily jorgine 3, ladder 3 and protec-

building of McNutt's novelty woodwork company.

The big start given the fire by the delay in sounding the alarm and the lack of water ensured the destruction of the building, and after two hours' hard work, in which the fire obtained full possession of the big building, all that was left for the department to do was to save the adjoining property, such as the big works of the Everett Piano Company, which, being located immediately to the leeward of the New England company's factory, was constantly in cloud of burning brands and sparks.

In the drying room of the New England company the two-story building in the rear before mentioned was a more valuable stock of costly wood being seasoned, and when this ignited all haste to extinguish it was made with success, but the efforts were futile to save the contents, for later the falling walls of the factory completely wrecked it.

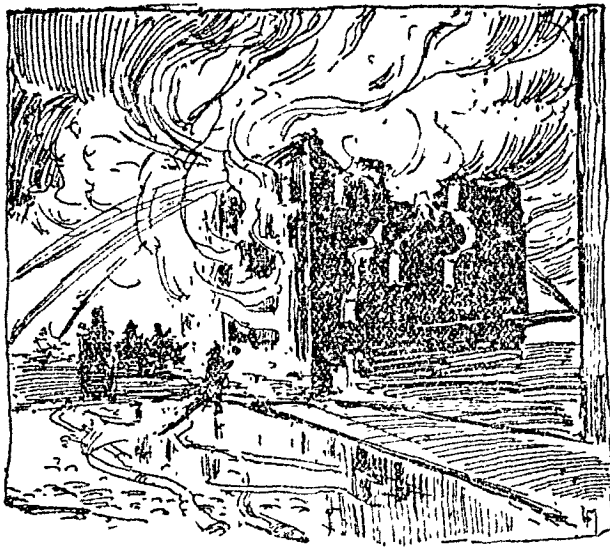
The flames, forcing their way through the roof, made a grand illumination, and attracted an army of spectators from all quarters of the city, who reinforced the army who had deserted the Paul fire; but in all that vast multitude none attracted such attention as the workmen employed in the burning factory, who, with dismay even to despair plainly written on their countenances, gazed upon what to them meant many idle days until the company could resume its business.

Besides the employees in such a trade as organ building are all skilled mechanics whose industry necessitates their possessing a valuable set of tools, which vary in value from \$40 to \$150.

In the factory were 200 men who lost all

Continued on the Eighth Page.

Continued from the First Page.



LOOKING UP WAREHAM STREET FROM EVERETT.

the big fire at the South End when the first alarm was rung in. The buildings burned have been occupied by the present proprietors for a number of years. Furbush & Co. have been doing a large business, which will be more or less interrupted.

Dreaded Alarm at Portland.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 24.—At 10 30 to-night an alarm was pulled in from the dreaded box 412, in the lumber district. It was for a fire in the Friel tenement on Fore st. The apparatus had a hard run, for the night was bitterly cold and a bad accident happened. The hook and ladder toppled over on the way to the fire and three firemen were tumbled off and, it is said, badly injured, though not seriously. The blaze was quickly subdued.

Happened Christmas Eve.

Capt. John Grady and his lieutenants of ladder 3 were the first men at the fire, owing to the close proximity of their house. They raised the first ladder and did excellent service. The new water tower did good work. It was located on Bristol st., near Albany, and poured a perfect deluge into the heart of the fire. The water froze on the pavements and a number of firemen and spectators fell, but none were seriously hurt. Commissioners Fitch, Murphy and Innes arrived early on the scene and rendered valuable assistance to the members of the department. Commissioner Murphy secured a launch for the firemen immediately after the Wareham st. fire had been subdued. Mayor Hart, accompanied by Private Secretary Ernst, came over from the Back Bay soon after the third alarm had been sounded, and kept in close quarters with the firemen during the progress of the fires. Senator James Donovan, Alderman Leary and Councilmen Lovy and Caddigan, too, were among the luminaries who witnessed "scorching flames."

The dense crowds which thronged the tons of all the buildings in the vicinity made a picturesque scene. Capt. Kenney of engine 2 had probably the most narrow escape of the evening. He had just jumped off a ladder when the rear wall of the New England factory gave way. Chief Abbott of the protective department directed his men at both fires. The covers were used to good advantage and a large loss on stock was averted.

At 9.15 o'clock there was a sudden brightening of the atmosphere which had been lurid and sombre. One long broad blaze flew out of the front of the building and drove the firemen down from their ladders. The blaze receded and burst out again with additional fury. There was an avalanche of smoke and flame and a shower of sparks and cinders in front of the building scampers down Wareham st., away from the intense heat and the scattering cinders.

Five minutes later the roof and the fourth and fifth floors had fallen in. The whole upper front of the building was an indistinguishable mass of waving, tossing fire. Nothing could be done in the front at all with the fire apparatus, although the first and second floors showed no light of fire behind the yet unbroken windows.

At 9.20 o'clock there was a loud report, and in a moment it was discovered that the third floor had fallen in. Then for a few moments the heat was intense, even at a distance of 60 feet, and the big leaping flames roared and crackled ominously. At 9.25 o'clock there was an explosion of some kind, that drove the crowd back in sudden dismay. The explosion was the bursting of the walls, and the top of the front of the building began to shake and crumble.

The second and first floors lit up then, and 10 minutes later the gable end of the building on Wareham in the direction of Albany st., fell in with a terrific crash. In the lumber yard beside the building, and off Harrison av., there were about 200 people gathered, and the firemen were deluging the side of the building in the rear. There was a low rumble that could be heard above the roar of the flames and the incessant throbbing of the engines.

Chief Webber stood close to the building waving a red flag. Half a hundred people were on the roof of the dry house that was within 25 feet of the burning walls. There came a crash and a roar. There were wild shrieks and yells as the side of the building fell down. It came down with a rattle, and for a few moments there was a big cloud of steam and dust to indicate where it had fallen.

Immediately after there was another crash; Chief Webber and his men fell back suddenly, and there was the sound of a terrific fall and rending and grinding of wood and stone. The rear of the building had fallen and had literally torn away half of the dry-house, on the roof of which there were 60 people.

Fortunately, miraculously, indeed, nobody was seriously injured. When the crash of the walls came, there was an excited rush, and everybody got out of the way behind the lumber piles and out on the street. At 10 o'clock the extreme rear of the building burst into flame, and five minutes later the rear wall fell on the roof of the dry house.

The front of the building by this time was completely destroyed and the flames were rapidly devouring the rear. The front walls were still standing. At 10.30 the firemen had got the fire under complete control. The building, it was very clear, would be absolutely destroyed.

WAS ASSESSED FOR \$50,000.

Mr. McNutt Describes the Building and Tolls of His Loss.

Mr. McNutt said to a GLOBE reporter: "The burned building was a five story brick structure, with a mansard roof. It was built about 1872 on the site of a similar structure, which only a short time before was entirely destroyed by fire. The building was built at a cost of \$50,000, was assessed for that amount, and, as nearly as I can remember, was insured for \$20,000. "The building had a frontage on Wareham st. of 143 feet. Its depth was 53 feet. Besides the main building there were four dryhouses, built of brick, each two stories high and measuring 40x40. Two of the latter were built only a year ago. "The main building, which has been occupied since its completion by the New England Organ and Piano Company, was connected by a 30-foot fire escape bridge with a three-story wooden building, occupied by the Novelty Wood Company, of which I am manager. These buildings, with the remaining territory, upon which is piled over 100,000 feet of spruce lumber, cover about seven acres. The burned building had a basement with a depth of about eight feet. All the machinery was situated here. "The only portions of the machinery that belonged to me were the engine, boiler and shafting. All the rest was the property of the New England company. The first floor was divided into two apartments. The northeast half was used as a packing room, while the southwest half was used for case making. The second floor was used entirely for the manufacture of the action, or mechanism of organs, while pianos were made exclusively on the third floor. The fourth floor was used for tuning purposes, while all the varnishing was done on the fifth or upper floor. Oils and varnishes were rarely kept in the building."

WATER DOES DAMAGE.

Driscoll & Reagan's Machinery Wet Down—Other Small Losses.

The five-story brick building, 377 Albany st., which closely adjoins the burned Bristol st. building, was saved from destruction by the herculean efforts of the firemen, but its occupants nevertheless suffer a heavy loss from smoke, a slight visitation of the flames and the deluge of water which was poured into it. When the Bristol st. fire was at its height this building was a great vantage point. It is connected with the burned building by bridges, and on these positions the firemen were enabled to run the hose and reach the fire. The fire slightly singed the third floor, occupied by Driscoll & Reagan, furniture manufacturers. This firm also occupies the top story, and their machinery and goods were considerably damaged by water. Their loss will be about \$1000, insured. The basement and first floor were occupied by J. L. Brown, wood turner. His loss was entirely by water, but the excellent services rendered by the Protective department prevented a heavy loss. He will suffer to the extent of \$200. J. F. Mahoney, wood turner, occupied the second floor, and he will lose \$200 by water.

BLOCK SEEMS FATED.

Fire Occasioned Heavy Loss to Occupants About a Year Ago.

The Bristol street block seems to be an ill-fated one. On Jan. 23, it was partly burned and a heavy loss was occasioned on account of the number of firms who suffered at the time. Last night the fire was confined to the first section which is 165 feet long, and 50 feet wide. It is owned by J. F. Paul. The basement is occupied by the latter firm as a drying-room and it was here that the fire started. The first floor and basement are occupied by Paul & Co., and the second and third floors by the Guild Piano Company. The fourth floor was occupied by Cole & Woodbury, organ manufacturers, and all these firms will suffer a complete loss of their stock.

SAUSAGES WENT UP IN SMOKE.

Damage to Factory of Furbush & Co. is Estimated at \$5000.

The alarms from box 463 and 463 at 10.15 o'clock last evening were for a fire in a 2½-story brick building, corner of Rutherford av. and Furbush ct., Charlestown. The premises were owned by the Furbush heirs and occupied by Furbush & Co., manufacturers of sausages and lard. The loss is between \$4000 and \$5000. The cause of the fire is not known. The premises cover a considerable ground and the fire burned rapidly. There was quite a large stock on hand, but the loss is fully covered by insurance. A number of pieces of apparatus were at

whether they were carrying amount sufficient to meet their losses.

In section 2 Mr. Paul's loss is nominal, and is included in the amount claimed for him above. The basement, which is used for lumber drying, is flooded, but the loss for the immense quantity in process of drying will be limited to the expense of removing the water and re-drying the lumber. Mr. Paul also occupies the first and second stories for wood turning and moulding for manufacturing purposes, but his loss will be slight, as most of the stock was covered up by the protective department.

W. P. Ross suffers about \$1000 damages by water on the third floor. He is a cabinet-maker and had a large stock of valuable woods on hand and many articles in process of manufacture, which are seriously damaged by water, or which will warp by reason of dampness. He is insured. Cole & Woodbury occupied the fourth floor. Their stock is damaged about \$1000 worth, covered by insurance.

The four-story brick building, numbered 379 Albany st., owned by the Paul heirs, and rented to woodworking firms, is damaged about \$1000 worth by water and broken sash and general upheaval. The building is in close proximity to that in which the fire originated and connected with the same by a bridge at the fourth story, and by several boxes or troughs through which power is communicated either by shafting or belts. From every window facing the burning building streams were directed, and in the general melee and bursting of loss considerable damage was caused to the occupants as well as to the structure.

The occupants, all of whom suffered slight damage by water, are: J. L. Brown, door manufacturer, first floor; J. F. Mahoney, wood turner, second floor; Driscoll & Ryan, wood workers, third floor; Cole & Woodbury's store room, fourth floor. Mr. Paul was on the ground throughout the evening. To a GLOBE reporter he said he is highly pleased at the manner in which the fire was handled, and considered it very fortunate that it did not spread beyond the first section. He stated that he should repair the damage to both buildings at once.

ORIGIN OF BLAZE UNKNOWN.

Difference of Opinion as to Starting Place of the Fire.

There is considerable difference of opinion as to the starting place of the fire. Those who first saw the blaze said it appeared shining through the windows in the third story at the west end of the structure, and this is corroborated by the watchman, whose first knowledge of the fire was through the ringing of the bell of the automatic alarm in the office on the first floor. He started to turn in an alarm, but was anticipated by a citizen. The automatic instrument, however, which is more certain, located the fire originally on the second floor, in the section known as the action room, where the delicate keyboard apparatus of the instruments is put into position and tested.

Only two theories regarding its origin are suggested, one that it was of the mysterious spontaneous nature, and the other that it was incendiary, which is held by some, due to its starting nearly on the same time and in the immediate vicinity of the Paul fire.

FEATURES OF THE FIRE.

Hardly Under Way When Another is Seen Growing Apace.

Capt. Grady of ladder 3 is reported to have said last night that while he was on the roof of the burning building on Bristol st., he saw the flames flash from the roof of the building in which the Wareham st. fire occurred. Before the alarm from box 68 had been rung in, the captain had started an engine on its way to the fire in the New England Organ Company's building. When the first alarm from box 68 was sounded the flames at the fire on Bristol st. were hardly under control. And even after the second and third alarms came in the fire on Bristol st. was raging fiercely.

There are a good many curious features about the Wareham st. fire. There isn't any doubt that the fire had been going on for some time before the alarm was sounded. The first outward indication of the fire was a large flame that burst somewhere from the northern corner of an upper story in the rear of the building. The watchman who claims to have discovered the fire and to have been on his way to the box when somebody else rang in the alarm, is a young man named Charles Watkins. He is a slight, boyish young fellow, and is employed in Badger's building on Wareham and Albany sts. This is the story that he tells, and he tells it in a picturesque, straightforward way.

"When I made my first round at about 7.50 o'clock, I came up Wareham from Albany st. "I noticed particularly the odor of smoke, such as very hard wood would make in burning. I went through all the buildings that I am hired to look after, but I discovered nothing wrong. When I got back out to the street the smell of smoke was much stronger. I felt that something was wrong, and I made another thorough investigation, as I could. It was then about 8.15 o'clock, I walked down till I got to Albany, at the corner of Wareham st., and then I turned around and looked back up Wareham st. The smell of smoke at that time was very strong, and I began to get seriously alarmed.

"When I looked back up Wareham st. the sky over the building of the New England Organ Company was lit up, it seemed to me, and I suddenly saw a long, thin tongue of flame dart out from some place in the rear of one of the top stories of the building. "Before I had time to recover from my astonishment there was a big sheet of flame in the building. "I started off on a run for the nearest alarm box, but before I got there I heard the engines coming. "City street cars were standing on the corner of Wareham and Albany sts. when this story was told, about 9 o'clock last night, and he said: "I smelled smoke such as the young man describes when I was riding up Washington st. about 8 o'clock. I wondered at the time if there was any fire in the vicinity, but I saw no smoke or flame, and didn't think any more about it."

Mayor Hart was at the fire with Mr. Paul. The first alarm of the fire that was sounded came through box 13 of the automatic fire alarm. This alarm was sounded at 8.31 o'clock, three minutes before the alarm from box 68 on the regular fire department system was sounded. A representative of the Automatic Fire-Alarm Company said last night that it had been definitely settled that the fire broke out on the second floor of the building. The arrangements of the company's system of automatic alarms are such that the floor on which the fire starts can be accurately determined. The alarm is sounded by the increased heat of the room. Although the fire broke out on the second floor it must have travelled rapidly through an elevator well or by some other means up to the top of the building. Indeed, there was apparently no fire below the third floor for almost an hour after the engines had got to work.

Twenty minutes after the alarm had been sounded it was evident that the building was doomed. The fire ate swiftly through the building from the front on Wareham st. to the rear. At 8.45 the rear of the building was a mass of leaping flame. At 9 o'clock the front broke out suddenly in an immense line of red fire. This was in the two upper stories. A ladder was run up the front and two big streams were played directly into the flames, which glowed and danced and swam behind the windows in which the glasses had been knocked out. But it did practically no good at all, and the flames ate away placidly.

The scene from Wareham st. at 9 o'clock suggested a sort of theatrical arrangement of picture flames behind a painted set of windows. One could look directly into the rooms and observe the work of the fire. It became very clear that nothing could save any part of the property in the burning building, and the only thing that remained for the firemen to do was to confine the flames to the building in which they were.

The fire ate through the top stories of the building as a mouse that has lots of leisure

their tools, the average value of which was \$25, making an important item in the general list, not less a sum than \$10,000, upon which there is not a cent of insurance. Also conspicuous in the crowds was Police Commissioner Osborn, who came gallantly to the rescue of young Mr. McNutt, whom a zealous policeman insisted on ejecting from the yard because he had no fire badge, despite his entreaties that he and his father owned the burning building, and consequently had more or less interest in its contents. The commissioner got into quite a flight of oratory on a man's right to witness his personal property burn down, and for the remainder of his stay Mr. McNutt and his father, J. J. McNutt, were treated with something akin to reverence by the assembled bluecoats. The elder Mr. McNutt, though he confessed that his loss would be great, took the matter most philosophically, congratulating himself that his own factory, the Novelty works, adjoining which were in such dangerous proximity to the New England company, were separated by a 10-foot alleyway. Mr. McNutt talked frankly about his misfortune. He said the building cost him between \$60,000 and \$70,000, and at present was assessed for \$50,000. After the last fire he had the mansard roof added, it being built immediately over the original tiled roof, which had not been removed, thus giving the building two roofs. In the mansard story was done all the work of this kind, and he considered the most dangerous portion of the building as far as fires were concerned, it was thought wise to have the old roof on, so if the top floor at any time had to be flooded the water would not penetrate to the floors beneath. In the present case, when the fire began down stairs, he was afraid that the double-tiled roofs only added fuel to the flames. His loss would be heavy, for, not anticipating a danger of this kind, he only carried \$30,000 insurance, which was divided up among a number of companies in small sums, so the fire was to him a poor Christmas box. His son was greatly exercised over the disaster. He had started to the first fire along with Mr. Paul, and was trying to console him over his loss when the fire in his factory was announced. As to the contents of the burned building it was most difficult to estimate its value. Mr. George T. McLaughlin is the real proprietor, although the firm is organized in the form of a corporation. He is at present at Sandwich, and alone knows the real value of his stock and the amount of his insurance. The foreman and watchman of the factory could simply say that business had been brisk of late, and on the first floor there were nearly 100 organs and pianos completed, or very nearly so, while the building throughout was well stocked. The insurance, on authority of Mr. McLaughlin's brother, who was early on the scene, was over two-thirds of the value of the contents. Most of the finished instruments were, of course, at the salesroom in the Continental block, Waltham and Washington sts. From estimates furnished by the employers the entire contents must have been valued at about \$150,000, which, along with the building, makes a grand total of \$200,000, upon which there is about \$100,000 insurance. The damage to the wrecked dry house, and the damage to its contents, remains as yet an unknown quantity, and may increase the total damage. The most exciting portion of the fire was when, at 9.20, the walls and roof, weakened by the flames, began to totter. By a marvellous dispensation the structure was so well built that the destruction of the shell began in sections. First the mansard roof sagged in, and giving way precipitated to the ground large pieces of blazing cornice. Then came a window or two, followed by a 30-foot section of the central north wall. This gave the firemen warning, and all the ladders and the men on them against the north side of the building were hastily ordered down. Capt. Kenny of engine No. 8 with his men were the last to come down from the ladders and they had scarcely reached safety when the whole centre wall from roof to the third story fell with a crash. In rapid succession the upper stories of the Wareham and Albany st. sides fell out with appalling crashes. The yard on the north side of the factory is somewhat hollowed out, and in here is an expanse of water a foot deep in places. When the massive walls fell a sheet of water was thrown to the height of several stories. At 9.15 came the climax, when the whole northern wall fell. Its insecurity had been long noticed, but just at a moment when the dense cloud of smoke and steam blown by the stormy wind, enveloped the entire structure, it fell. A warning rattle sent the firemen in the rear yard scurrying away to places of safety, but those of the three companies upon the roof of the dry house had no such opportunity, so they dropped their hose and fled to the opposite extremity of the roof just in time. Down came the tons of brick, and with a deafening crash the roof and south side of the dry house crashed to the ground. A cry of horror went up from the assembled multitude, and, hidden by the cloud of smoke and dust, the little band of firefighters on the roof were supposed to have been buried in the ruins. From all sides rushed their companions to the rescue, and loud was the sigh of relief when out of the smoke came the cheery voice of the district chief engineer: "We're all right! No one's hurt." Two members of engine company 5, the captain and a two-man who were in the yard below, were not so fortunate. They were out of the way of the falling wall, but a glancing brick struck both of them, making bad cuts. Their injuries were not serious and they were able to walk away and have their wounds dressed. At 11 o'clock the fire was practically out. Nothing remains of the big factory but the dry-house and its shattered and towering chimney and the west end of the main building. The remainder is flat into the ground, making a run so complete that its like has not been seen since the great Thanksgiving fire. It was daylight, however, before the engines ceased playing on the smouldering ruins. The firemen suffered greatly, for so cold was the air that the falling water and flying spray froze where it fell, and many of the men were frozen into their water-soaked clothing. Never was there a more grateful body of men when, late in the night, the kind residents of the neighborhood responded with hot coffee. Altogether it was a Christmas eve long to be remembered by the fire laddies.

UNKNOWN VICTIM.

Body of a Man Removed from the Paul Building.

Capt. Grady of ladder 3 found the body of an unknown man in the cellar of the Paul building on Bristol st., about 2 o'clock this morning. Its appearance indicated that he had been smothered. The body was removed to the repair shop, and subsequently taken to the City Hospital morgue. The man is not a member of the fire department. It is supposed that he was a tramp who went into the building, and possibly an incendiary.

LOSSES IN PAUL BUILDING.

Damage to Structure and Occupants Will Aggregate About \$40,000.

In the aggregate, the fire caused damage, as near as could be ascertained or estimated, amounting to about \$40,000. The building was a substantial brick structure, four stories high, with a flat gravel roof. It faces 60 feet on the southwest corner of Albany and Bristol sts., running westward along Bristol st. towards Harrison av. 420 feet. Open lumber yards face its southern and western walls, making it accessible on all sides to the attacks of the firemen. The building is owned by the estate of William M. Paul, and is valued at about \$80,000. It is divided into five sections by brick partition walls 12 inches thick. The blaze was confined to that portion of the building known as section 1, and the loss outside of this was entirely by water, and amounted to about \$3500. Section 1 of the building was damaged about \$8000 worth by fire. Water damage in section 2 swelled the loss on the structure to \$9000. W. M. Paul occupied the basement and first story of the first section; the former, where the fire broke out, as a kiln-drying establishment, and in the latter was located the office and salesroom, which contained a large amount of valuable moulding for both interior and exterior decoration. Their loss on stock estimated at about \$3000, and is fully covered by insurance, placed through Messrs. Bicknell & Robinson, as is the loss on the building. The Guild Piano Company, manufacturers of the upright piano which bears their name, occupied the second and third stories. They had a number of pianos in process which are valued at about \$5000, and will prove a total loss. The damage to their stock and tools will bring their loss up to \$10,000, which is covered by insurance placed through the agency of Hovey & Fenno. Cole & Woodbury occupied the top story as a church organ manufactory. They have one new organ valued at \$3000, two second-hand ones valued at \$1000 each, and one second-hand amounting at \$1000. Destruction of a large amount of organ pipe and other stock and tools sends their loss up to \$10,000. They are covered by insurance, but were unable to state last evening

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