ARENA FIRE-SWEPT, LOSS IS \$250,000 Boston Daily Globe (1872-1922); Dec 19, 1918; ProQuest Historical Newspapers Boston Globe (1872 - 1927)

## arena fire-swept, LOSS IS \$250,000

## Refrigeration Plant and Offices Are Saved

The Boston Arena, St Botolph st, just south of Massachusetts av. for vears used for athletic events, including icr skating, was practically destroved in fire about 5 a m yesterday. Thoush the building was largely firepool, the furnishings were of wood, while a new floor intended for roller skating adde-materially to the inflammability of the

The cause of the blaze was not ascertamed vesterilay, but it is thought that possibly a smoldering cigarette may have been responsible.

The five-story section at one end of the building, containing boiler rooms. the building, containing boiler rooms storerooms and refriseration plant, as well as the main entrance to the building and the offices, were largely savel by the persistent work of the irrener There are many cracks in the walls of the saved section, however. The loss it estimated at upward of \$250,000. The blaze was discovered by patroman Henry Hayes, who rang in the first alarm at 4:41 a m. Soon after the first alarms were sounded, the second tems apparatus arrived third and fourth alarms were sounded, the second temskipped. Before the firemen arrived the interior of the building appeared to be a mass of lames.

Showers of sparks flew far away from the scene, dropping on the roofs of near-by industrial plants and apartment

was scene, dropping on the roofs of near-by industrial plants and apartment houses, including the Elevated carbarns on-Columbus av, near Lenox st. Occupants of the dwelling block, to Il Gainsboro st, were instructed by the police to keep all windows closed and be be ready to vacate at a moment's notice Similar warnings were given in many places on the enst side of the railroad tracks. For a while there were fear for the safety of the Conservatory of Music and the Y. M. C. A. Building. The Providence Railroad escaped being blockaded by falling walls owing to the steel girders having drawn the walls in ward when they fell.

Charles A. Lombard, manager of the Arena, who was awakened at his howed by the fire apparatus, saved his auto which was stored in the rear of the Arena.

Some delay was caused Elevated passengers on the way to work by changes in the routes of cars on Huntington at and Massachusetts av. The fire has The fire has raised a serious question for the fir-men and policemen, both of whom wer to have held their annual balls ther this Winter.

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The Arena was opened in January, 1910. It was 559 feet long, 154 feet in width, covered more than 15,00 square feet and would seat 5000 persons.