

# CATTLE BURN AT BRIGHTON

## Abattoir Plant Destroyed, Loss About \$500,000

### Steers Run Wild in Streets and Impede Work of Firemen.

#### Department Called From Dance to \$50,000 Blaze on Boylston St.

A fire, which wiped out the entire plant of the Brighton abattoir in Brighton, entailing a loss of more than \$500,000, and during the progress of which several hundred head of live stock were roasted in the stalls of the stock yards, broke out shortly after 2 this morning.

At 2:35 a. m. the fire had assumed such threatening proportions that a fourth alarm was sounded.

How the fire originated and where it started was not determined this morning, but it burst forth suddenly in a dozen different places in a mass of roaring flames which reached high in the air.

The alarm was sounded from box St. and it was quickly followed by a third alarm, the second being jumped to save time in getting all the available apparatus and men to the scene as quickly as possible. The firemen were unable to control the flames, which spread so rapidly that the fourth alarm was promptly sent in.

Police headquarters was at once notified of the seriousness of the fire and asked to request the Boston & Albany railroad officials to send shifting engines and crews of men to haul the freight cars and the long trains loaded with live stock out from the reach of the flames in the stock yards.

Some trains were removed and some cattle were saved. In spite of the efforts of the railroad men hundreds of cattle were roasted alive in the stock cars in the yards.

Big details of policemen and superior officers were sent to the scene from all the in-town and surrounding police stations to aid the firemen.

Large numbers of the cattle, which were released in the effort to drive them away from the burning stockyards, stampeded and ran wildly through the streets of the vicinity, bellowing madly and endangering the lives of the crowds of people in the streets watching the fire. Many of the terror-stricken cattle rushed madly into the flames and were roasted on the hoof.

The steers running around the fire endangered the lives of the firemen who were working desperately to extinguish the flames.

So fiercely and hot did the flames burn

that it was almost impossible for the firemen to approach within fighting distance of the burning buildings, the walls of which fell, sending great clouds of sparks, smoke and flames high into the air and placing in danger buildings and residences far away from the scene of the main fire.

Firemen and apparatus were kept constantly busy running about to extinguish these small fires.

The fire was burning fiercely and was in no manner under control at the time of going to press.

#### LEAVE DANCE TO FIGHT FIRE.

Two Alarms Disturb Ball at Mechanics Building—Three Overcome in \$50,000 Back Bay Blaze.

Capt John E. Madison and hosemen Griffin and Kenneally of engine 26, Madison st., were badly overcome by inhaling fumes of anesthetics and antiseptics early last evening during a fire in the basement and on the first floor of the five-story brick building, 75 and 77 Boylston st., which resulted in a damage of about \$50,000.

Two alarms were sounded for the fire, which was attended by sensational and interesting incidents, though at no time was the fire spectacular.

A number of the firemen and superiors were at the annual firemen's ball in Mechanics hall, just across the railroad yards in Huntington av. and a number in their best uniforms responded to the second alarm and assisted in extinguishing the fire.

The blaze started with a muc's pump as did the firemen's ball, for two explosions was the warning of the fire raging in the basement of the building.

The building is owned by the John V. Hayes estate, and the basement and street floors are occupied by the F. H. Thomas company, dealers in physicians, surgeons' and hospital supplies and sick room utensils and medicines. The fire originated in the rear of the basement, which backs up to public alley 41 and was caused by the spontaneous combustion of chemicals.

Herbert Bayley of 31 Cunard st., Cambridge, was passing the store at 7:45 and he stopped to look in the window

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As Bayley turned to walk away he was almost thrown off his feet by the shock of an explosion. Almost before he could pick himself up Bayley was startled again by a second explosion.

In his excitement Bayley ran to the corner of Exeter st and Commonwealth av and sounded an alarm from box 79. He should have gone to box 90 on Boylston, opposite Fairfield st, and though he did the best he knew the sounding of this remote box caused some delay in the arrival of the firemen and their apparatus.

Capt Walsh, acting district chief, saw that he had a serious fire and ordered a second alarm from box 79 at 7:55 p m. This brought Dist Chiefs Sennott, Fox, Ryder and Byington and about all of the firemen and superiors of the department along with many of the men in attendance at the firemen's ball.

Capt Lanegan of ladder 13 found that there were not enough firemen present to raise his big ladders and spectators assisted the firemen.

Patrolman Harrington of division 16 was one of the first on the scene. He rushed through the smoke and flame-filled hall at 727 and on the second floor, in the manicure and hair dressing parlors of Miss T. M. MacHugh, he found a canary gasping for breath. Patrolman Harrington carried the bird to the street.

Fire Commissioner Parker came over from the ball and found Ex-Com Wells handling dirty lines of hose, despite the fact that he was not dressed for such work. It was but a few minutes before the basement of the building was flooded with water which reached the armpits of the firemen who waded into it.

The great carboys of chemicals were broken and the chemicals ran with the water and the fumes were stifling. Dist Chief Fox was busy all this time directing the work of the firemen in the rear of the building in public alley 441.

Capt Madison and hosemen Griffin and Kenneally went into the basement at about 9:15 o'clock and were almost instantly overcome by the smoke and the deadly fumes of the chemicals.

Capt Madison fell in the water and was slightly revived. He caught hold of a counter and dragged himself upon it and cried for help. He was slowly being completely overcome when hosemen Griffin and Kenneally heard him and though they were barely able to stand they started to get him and carry him out of the basement when all three were overcome.

Hosemen Whalen and Goodfellow of engine 26 were sent in as a relief, when it was seen that Capt Madison and hosemen Griffin and Kenneally were inside a long time.

Whalen and Goodfellow found the three firemen and dragged them out to the street and they were carried into the drug store of Frank O. Guild, at the corner of Exeter and Boylston sts. Restoratives were applied and Griffin and Kenneally soon were able to return to their stations. Capt Madison was taken to the Relief hospital and treated and then sent to the Mason-st house.

Mr Thomas, who occupies the basement and the first floor, said his loss will reach fully \$35,000, as he was carrying a full stock of goods which are very expensive and were destroyed by the fire, smoke and water.

Henry H. Schwartz, who had a small boot and shotmakers' shop in the front of the basement, suffered a total loss. Other occupants of the building were Henry H. Pierce, a photographer, on the top floor, who had many valuable World's fair paintings and curios, such as the chair Jefferson Davis used; suffered considerable loss.

Clapp & Eastman, dealers in surgical instruments, occupied the third floor. Dr E. S. Young and Dr Sarah Stevens also have suites in the building on the third floor. Miss T. M. MacHugh's parlors also were damaged, so it is estimated that the total damage will reach fully \$50,000 by smoke, water and fire.

Some of the householders in the vicinity made hot coffee and served it to the firemen and policemen.