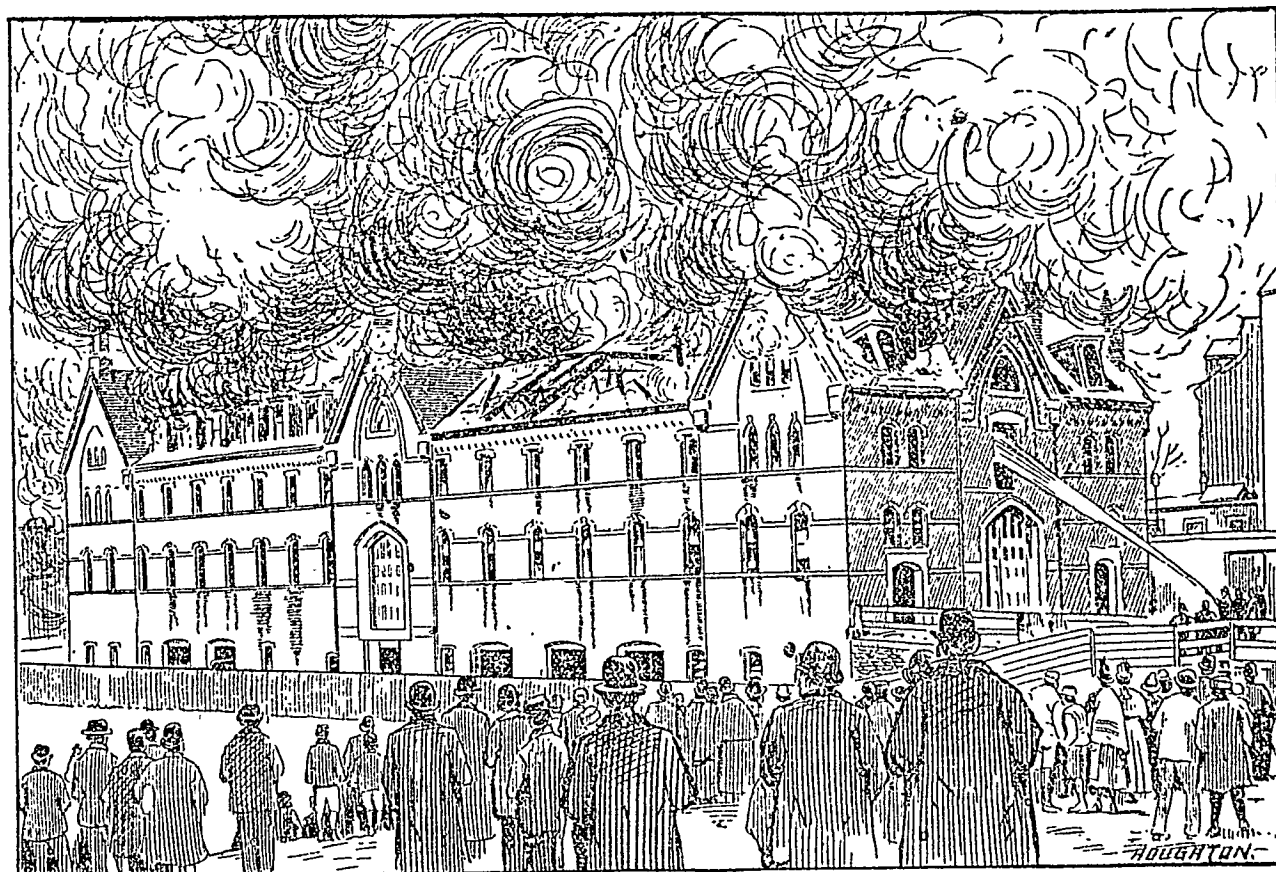


BURNING OF BOSTON CITY STABLES.



The large city stables in the rear of the Marcella Street Home, Roxbury, were yesterday the scene of the biggest fire which Boston has had for many weeks, and they were very badly gutted.

The building fronted on Highland street, a thoroughfare running from Centre street, near its junction with Pynchon, around to Dudley street in the vicinity of Elliot square, following in its course almost the figure of a quarter circle. It was entirely of brick, a modern style structure, having been built in 1874 at a cost of \$30,000, and was used by the paving and health departments. It was situated in the centre of a lot away from other buildings. This practically prevented any danger of the fire extending to other buildings.

The fire started in a hayloft on the west side of the building. As there was no one in the loft at the time, the fire is thought to have been occasioned by spontaneous combustion. There is said to have been considerable wet hay stored in the loft, where the fire started. It was also whispered about, though on what authority could not be learned, that the fire was started by a spark from the pipe of one of the stablemen.

There were between 60 and 80 tons of hay stored in the building, and about

10 000 bushels of grain. On the first floor 60 horses were stabled, 15 of which belonged to the paving department and 45 to the health department. By the promptness of the city employes all of these were saved.

All the harnesses were saved excepting two sets of double harness in the loft. Superintendent McDonald of the street department lost two buggies and three or four carts.

In the upper story of the building was stored a large quantity of furniture. Some of it belonged to the city, and was once used in the court house, while considerable of it was the property of individuals at present residing at Deer island. There were also many mattresses and bedsteads once used in the smallpox hospital. All the above was destroyed, and will be a total loss.

It is estimated that the total loss on the building, and the hay and grain stored therein, will be about \$40,000.

The Marcella Street Home, which estate joins that on which the city stables are situated, contained when the fire started about 500 small children, their teachers and several visitors. By the coolness of the teachers and officers a panic was prevented. The children were marched to the large yard of the institution, and divided into classes, where they remained during the progress of the fire in charge of the teachers.

At the home has long been kept a special fire apparatus to be used in case of emergency. After the home had been cleared of its occupants the superintendent of the

home and his assistants got out the fire apparatus. After playing upon the side of their building nearest the fire, and making sure that their structure was safe they proceeded to assist the members of the fire department, in, if possible, subduing the flames at the stable. The fire, however, had got too well started to be thus easily subdued. Owing to the inflammable nature of the contents of the burning building the fire spread rapidly.

The first alarm was rung in at 12:20 o'clock, but the firemen, seeing that with the apparatus at their control, the fire could not be extinguished, 10 minutes after the first alarm had been pulled in found it necessary to summon more apparatus, and a second alarm was pulled in at 12:30, and this was followed by a third at 12:52.

Great difficulty was experienced in fighting the flames, owing to there being no elevated point from which to attack them, and the lack of water pressure was also a serious drawback. When the streams from the hydrants were turned on some of the streams failed to go beyond the second story, while the greater part of the fire was in the upper story. Had the fire reached the Marcella Street Home, that building could not have been saved, owing to this want of pressure in the water supply.

The fire and smoke could be seen from a long distance, and thousands of people, including hundreds from Jamaica Plain, Brookline and the city proper, were attracted to the scene. It was a rare spectacle. The large brick building

which is about 400 feet in length and 75 feet in width, was all ablaze. The slated roof fell in by sections with loud crashes, throwing showers of sparks into the air, scattering in different directions. As the fire proceeded bricks fell by the hundreds from the different gable corners of the structure threatening the firemen with personal injury as they bravely

About 3 o'clock the fire had been subdued, and Dr. Heath, superintendent of the Marcella Street Home, furnished the tired firemen all the doughnuts and coffee they could get away with.

The firemen were in charge of District Chief Sawyer, District Chief Munroe was also present. He has charge of the adjoining fire district. Among the first to arrive at the scene were Fire Commissioners Fitch and Tobin.

The police arrangements comprised details from stations 5, 9 and 10, and were in charge of Captain Brown of the Roxbury Crossing police station, who performed his duty in his usual admirable manner, assisted by Sergeants Curry and Hitchcock of the tenth police.

The photograph from which THE GLOBE'S cut was made is by Partridge, 2832 Washington street, Boston Highlands.

Among the casualties at the fire were the following: Officer J. D. Driscoll of division 5, struck in the face with a ladder, which made a painful cut; Hoseman Frank G. Pratt of engine 15, Jamaica Plain, had his wrist badly cut by a piece of falling slate, and was taken to his home.