

FIVE-ALARM FIRE IN SOUTH BOSTON

Five Buildings Destroyed, Others Damaged

Waste Storehouse and Two Stables Burned—Loss \$85,000

Five alarms were sounded for a fire yesterday forenoon in the three-story wooden building of the T. C. Ashley & Co establishment, rear of 500 East 1st st, South 'Boston, and before the flames were under control five buildings, including two stables, two cotton waste storehouses and another building used for the manufacture of rubber substitutes, were destroyed. Many buildings within a radius of half a mile were ignited, causing dozens of families to remove their household belongings, and a damage estimated at \$85,000 was done. At a late hour yesterday firemen were still playing water upon the ruins.

The fire started on the third floor of the Ashley establishment and several explosions immediately followed.

The wind blew the flames to a three-story wooden building 50 feet away, occupied by Moulton & Holmes, teamsters, fronting on K st, and then 100 feet southward to the brick building of the International Waste Company, Inc.

Then the buildings fronting on K st, between East 1st st and the water, were consumed. These were the stables of the Boston Forwarding and Transportation Company and a smaller building of the International Waste Company.

Within 15 minutes of the start of the fire there were great chunks of burning waste and paper and even of wood sweeping through the air and landing on the roofs of buildings. Shoe factories in the neighborhood and other busy establishments were emptied of employes. Women in the neighborhood rushed into the street. Storekeepers moved their goods to safe distances. For many blocks in all directions there were incipient fires which were threatening to destroy the small buildings. Volunteer bucket brigades helped put out these fires.

When the fire was at its height and three or four of the buildings had been practically destroyed, the efforts of a gallant group of men from engines 4, 6, 8 and 10, in charge of Chief Cornelius O'Brien, were bending their efforts to put a dozen streams of water on the two-story brick building of the International Waste Company. The wall on the south side suddenly fell outward,

imperilling more than 20 of them, but they jumped to safety. Several were struck with flying bricks. Two men who were on a hose at the further end of the fire were bruised.