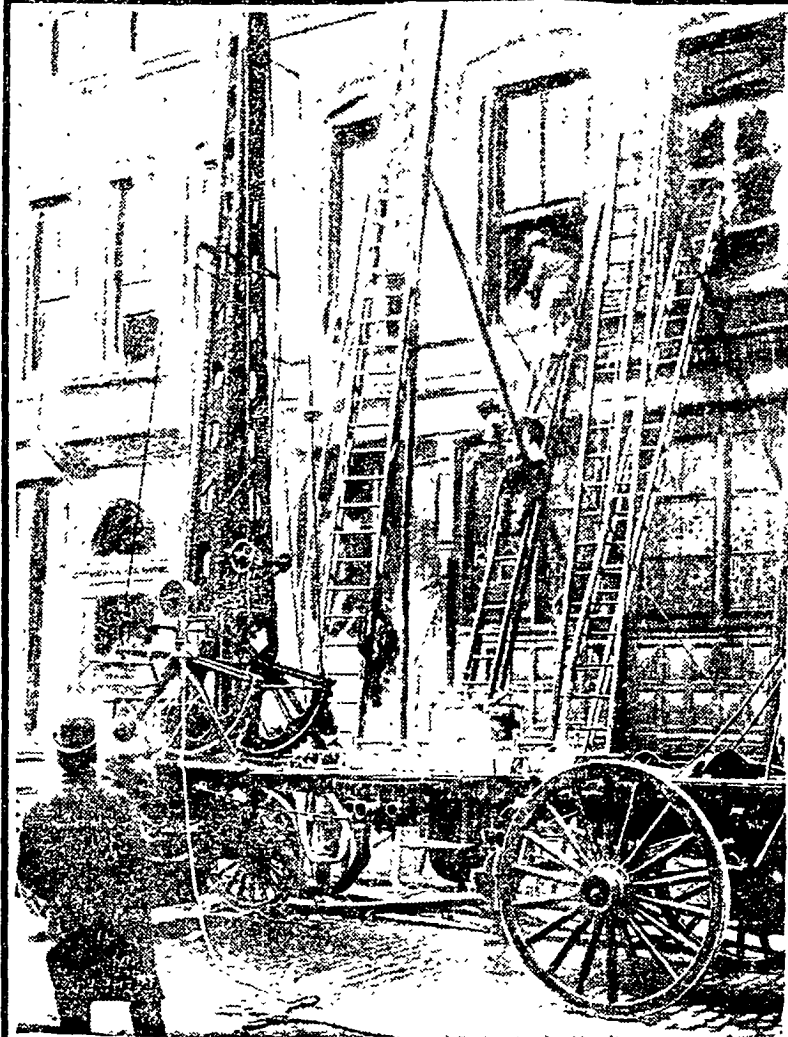


ELEVATOR MEN SAVE TENANTS IN FEDERAL ST FIRE

Panic in Annex of Equitable Building Caused By Smoke from Blaze in Basement.



FIGHTING THE FIRE ON FEDERAL ST.

One of the most exciting day-time fires which has occurred in the downtown business district broke out at 11 a m yesterday in the four-story brick annex of the Equitable building, numbered 15 on Federal st., practically cleaned out the annex, filled the basement of the Equitable building with water and the upper floors with smoke, and threw the tenants of both buildings into an approximately correct imitation of a panic.

It was a fire full of features, and two of them stand out preeminent among all the others. One was the bravery shown by three young men employed as elevator runners in the Equitable building. All the tenants of both the main building and the annex agreed, after the fire was over, that the elevator men are real heroes, and the firemen, policemen and spectators generally agreed with the tenants.

The names of the elevator men are James Sullivan, James Brennan and Theodore Stuart. The fire started in the basement of the annex and quickly filled both the annex and the upper floors of the Equitable building with thick, choking smoke, rendering escape by the stairways practically impossible to the tenants, and filling the elevator shafts as well.

Sullivan, Brennan and Stuart realized the danger to the tenants, and although with a lively appreciation of their own peril, kept running the elevators up and down through the stifling smoke, carrying people to the street floor and safety. After their first trip or two the hallways were so filled with smoke that the tenants were directed to the elevator wells only by the shouts of the young men running the cars. They stopped at each floor and held their cars there while, choking with smoke, they shouted directions as to how to reach the cars, and finally got everybody out in safety.

Telephone Operator Rescued.

When no more passengers appeared at any of the floors the young men wet handkerchiefs and placing them over their noses sent their cars up into the building again and then made a search of the different offices, groping about

with their faces close to the floor in search of any one who might have been overcome.

The only person they found who had been unable to reach the elevators was Miss Jane Harrington, a telephone operator employed in the building, who had almost reached a place of safety through her own efforts when a combination of smoke, fright and excitement caused her to faint. She was carried to an elevator and taken to the street, where she was attended by a doctor, and, quickly reviving, was able to go home alone on a car.

The second marked feature of the fire was the sight of men running wildly from the main building and the annex with big packages of money in their hands and arms. The Security safe deposit and trust company has its vaults and offices on the first floor and in the basement of the Equitable building, and there was a great rush on the part of people having deposits in the vaults, and who happened to be in there at the time, to get out into the open with their money and securities.

Within half an hour after the fire started, however, the safe deposit vaults were closed and were kept closed during the remainder of the day, causing considerable inconvenience to depositors who wanted to get at their valuables for purposes of business. It was said at the building last night that although a great deal of water got down around the vaults they had been contents in time to prevent injury to their contents, and that everything will be found intact when the vaults are again opened, which will, perhaps, be today.

The cause of the fire is not known, and may never be, but it started in some waste paper in the basement of the annex and was discovered by patrolman Lewey of division 2. Instead of sending in an alarm he went into the building to see what caused the smoke which he had seen coming up through the grating of the sidewalk. When he got in the woodwork about the basement windows was beginning to blaze, and Lewey started out to send an alarm. Patrolman Ferris of division 2 had arrived while Lewey was in the building and also seeing the smoke had sent an alarm from box 54. The fire looked so alarming when Chief Cheswell arrived that he sent two more alarms, and with all the apparatus which responded it was nearly an hour before the fire was considered under control. By that time it had eaten its way up through all the floors

of the annex and cleaned out practically every office in it.

During the fire a number of firemen were injured, none of them seriously. Capt Charles P. Smith of engine 15 had the bridge of his nose cut open by falling glass, and was treated in the street by an ambulance surgeon, after which he returned to duty. William P. Keough, engineer of engine 8, was jammed against his own engine by a horseless engine backing into him, and had his left leg bruised, but he remained on duty after an ambulance surgeon had attended him. Francis C. Wheeler of ladder 17 fell through a hole from the fourth to the third floor and sustained several contusions, but was able to resume his duty after a visit to the ambulance surgeon. Lieut Dunn of engine 26 had his face scraped by falling glass.

The firemen threw so much water into the building that the basements of both the main building and the annex were flooded, and last night gangs of laborers were working hand pumps to get the water out. The main building will be in pretty fair shape for business this morning, but the annex will not be tenatable for a number of weeks.

Estimates of the damage, running as high as \$150,000, were made yesterday, but one of about \$85,000 made last night is regarded as being nearer the correct figure.

All of the tenants in the annex suffered some damage, some of them practically losing all they had in their offices. The tenants in the annex, which was used for office purposes, were:

First floor, American lithographic company, American luxfer prism company, E. B. Fish, Dr John A. Lamson, Granite railway company, W. D. Bradley, the Spiers Fish company, Wilson A. Spiers, Mark B. Phillips; second floor, Clonbrook steam boiler company, George P. Fynn, E. S. Files, Fred P. Barnes, Stanley electric company, Youngstown iron sheet and tube company, William A. Hall, Thomas H. Blobber & Co., H. W. Bishop Jr. Sargent, Conant & Co., Hydraulic pressed brick company, Representative, third floor, J. Payne, Bennett, Dominion collection agency, O. E. Dunbar, Charles D. Baker, W. B. Belcher, John W. Richardson, E. Clifford Pattee Tisdale & Son, Alexander Heath, William H. Hodgkins, Charles Q. Pierce, Rogers & Hanchett, C. W. Hunt, F. C. Hyde, John J. Davies, Hinman & Co and A. D. S. Bell.