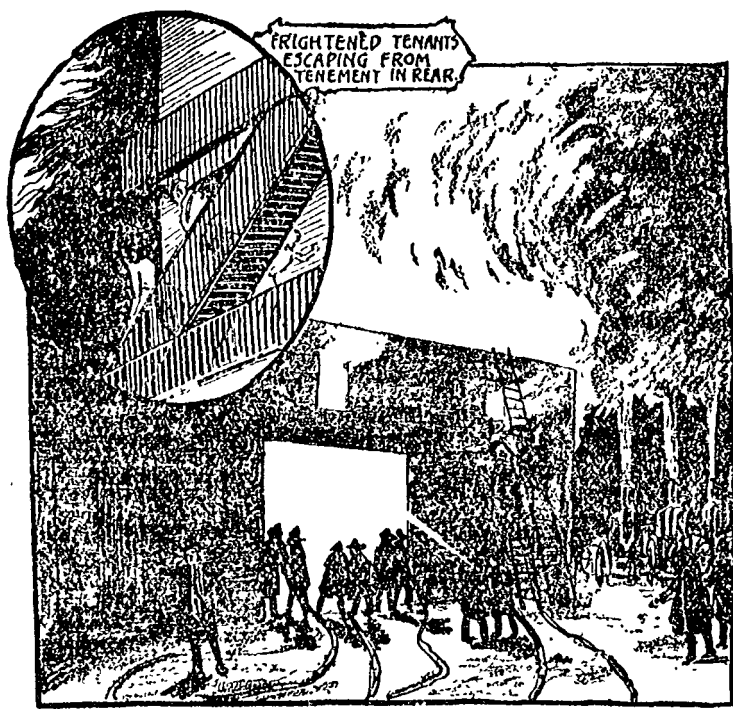


MORE LUMBER GONE

Fire in the Curtis Sons' Yard Caused \$30,000 Loss.

Lot of Excitement in the Crowded Tenement District.



SCENES AT THE CURTIS LUMBER YARD FIRE.

People Flee in Alarm From Their Homes After Throwing Household Goods to the Street—Capt Perkins May Lose the Sight of an Eye— One Woman Injured—Eustis St and Harrison Av the Scene.

Boston had another lumber fire early last evening, for which five alarms were sounded.

It was in the heart of a tenement section, the yard of the William Curtis Sons company, corner Eustis st and Harrison av, Roxbury, being the scene. The loss will not exceed \$30,000, Mr Curtis estimates. The property was almost completely destroyed.

So quickly did the flames spread that there was a panic in a big crowded tenement house in the rear on Harrison av, owned by John Norton. Many of the families threw their household goods of the most value from the windows into the street, and some made their way to the street by the fire escape.

The fire occasioned three alarms from box 231, one from box 211 and one from box 224.

The alarms were rung in within a period of 13 minutes, and during that time there was much excitement. At first it was feared the fire would make a clean sweep of the wooden structures in the vicinity, but the early discovery of the flames and the summoning of over 75 percent of the strength of the department, prevented a spread to other property.

The battle was a long and hard one, although the danger of the flames getting beyond the confines of the Curtis plant was past almost from the start.

From ladders, from surrounding roofs and from the archway entrances from the old graveyard, the firemen battled with the blaze, and slowly but surely drove it within the walls.

When the fire started in the storage building the flames shot through the roof and darted northward. They touched the roof of the tenement house 1111-1113 Harrison av, owned by John Norton, and the occupants immediately began to flee from their homes. An Italian woman, a widow, and her two children occupied the top floor of the house, and as the flames and smoke prevented them from going down the stairs they were forced to seek egress by the fire escape.

On the second floor resided Samuel Goodman, a baker, and his family, consisting of Israel, Minnie and Aris. They groped their way through the smoke and succeeded in getting out the door facing the alley, which separated the house from the burning building. Mr Murphy and his family of three children, who also lived on the second floor, escaped in the same way.

Michael J. Shea occupied the lower floor and was about to retire when he heard the engines tearing down the street. A number of young men warned him of the proximity of the flames, and he jumped out the front window with his family. His mother-in-law, Mrs Mary Bainbridge, 73 years old, was taken out through this window also. She fell from the window sill to the ground and received a severe shock.

When the people who reside on Harrison av and Eustis sts saw the flames mounting higher and higher, they began to remove their household effects, and continued doing so until the flames were checked by the firemen. The paint on their houses began to blister from the heat and streams were turned on them during the early part of the fire. The insulation on the wires blazed up and the wires were white with heat at times.

The only injury recorded, outside of that suffered by Mrs Bainbridge, was that of Capt D. A. Perkins of ladder 5 of South Boston, acting chief of division 6. He was hit by a brick in the eye and it is thought he will lose the use of it. He was conveyed to the city hospital, where he remained over night.

The first alarm was rung in at 9.03 from box 231, located on the house of chemical 10, which is very close to the burned building. Two minutes later box 211, at the corner of Williams st and Williams terrace, was rung in. A second alarm from box 231 followed a minute later, and at 9.07 the tapper sounded the

third alarm from that box. At 9.15 box 221, at the corner of Hunneman st and Harrison av, was pulled in by some individual, whose name could not be ascertained in the excitement which prevailed.

With the exception of a few business blocks the neighborhood is made up almost entirely of wooden tenement houses, and had the wind been stronger there is no telling what damage would have resulted. As it was, only the heavy brick wall and quick response of the department prevented a conflagration.

Between the burned storage building and the tenement house adjoining it on Harrison av is an alley. On Eustis st there was a storage house for lumber owned and occupied by the Curtis company. In the rear of the Curtis property was a large saw mill, owned and occupied by R. W. Davenport, and it was most fortunate that the flames did not reach these.

The building burned was erected less than two years ago. It was 160x90 and two stories high. The walls with the exception of those facing Harrison av and Eustis st, were of heavy fire brick and all the superstructure was of corrugated iron on iron frames. The roof was well protected also with corrugated iron sheets and a heavy coating of tarred paper and gravel.

It was not an easy fire to extinguish by any means, as it got well under the piles of lumber and the two brick walls prevented the firemen from getting at it as quickly as they desired. The corrugated iron sheets were torn off one after the other and through the apertures more streams were forced.

Lines of hose were carried through the cemetery at the corner of Eustis and Washington sts, and firemen stood back of the burning building and in front of the Davenport mills and deluged the building.

The tenement house at 111 and 113 Harrison av gave the department a good vantage ground to fight the flames and lines of hose were sent up through the hallways and hoisted to the roof, whence several streams were directed right into the heart of the flames.

The fire started in the northeast corner of the storage building on the Harrison av side. What the cause was could not be learned.

The total damage to the stock and building will not exceed \$30,000. The office was gutted, and it is thought the books and other property were destroyed.

The police arrived on the scene early, and three details under the command of Capt Wyman of station 9, Sergets Murphy and Daly of station 10 and Lavell of 5 kept the crowd back and gave the firemen ample opportunity to fight the blaze. Additional details from stations 1, 2, 3 and 4 were also present.