

ONE FIREMAN KILLED AND THREE INJURED

Wall of Burning North St Building Fell Sunday Morning.



DEATH OF HOSEMAN PATRICK J. MCCARTHY AT FIRE AT 209 NORTH ST.

P. J. McCarthy, Engine 8, Never Recovered Consciousness; Curran of 9 Seriously Injured; Galloway of 15 and Lieut McLean of 8 Fearfully Bruised—Patrolman Nickerson Saves a Half Suffocated Woman at Blaze at Corner of Franklin and Battery Sts.

KILLED—Patrick J. McCarthy, hoseman, attached to Engine 8.

SERIOUSLY INJURED—Hoseman Christopher Curran of Engine 9.

FEARFULLY BRUISED—Lieut Walter M. McLean of Engine 8 and Hoseman William J. Galloway of Engine 15.

These were the casualties at the early morning fire at 209 North st yesterday.

The first alarm came from box 15 at 4.20, the second at 4.35, and the third at 4.50.

The building, five stories high, runs back about 75 feet from North st, and then at right angles to Langdon pl, a narrow courtway, running east from 215 North st. It was in the rear of the building that the fire was first seen.

When engine 8 arrived flames and smoke were pouring out the windows fronting on Langdon pl.

The door was broken in and a line quickly run up the narrow stairs. The men from engine 8 on Salem st manned the line, and carried it up to the second floor. The stairs are very narrow, and it was impossible for two men to stand abreast on them.

Up the third flight went the men, Lieut McLean, in command and leading.

At the head of the stairs they were stopped by boards laid over the head of the stairs. They attacked them with axes, but only after hard work did they succeed in breaking through sufficiently to get a small stream inside. They could see nothing, nor could they tell whether the stream struck the blaze or not.

Finding it impossible to get at the fire in this direction, the lieutenant ordered the line to be taken back to the outside to a better position. He reached the sidewalk just as a ladder 55 feet long had been put up against the side of the building, and sent his men up on it with their line of hose.

In the meantime other engines had arrived in response to the second and third alarms. The occupants of the

tenement houses in Langdon pl had been roused from their sleep and hurried out into the street.

Mission Women Aroused.

On the west of the burning building stands the North End mission, a refuge for women. There are some 30 persons living under its roof, who were roused from sleep and told to be ready to leave the building should it become necessary.

As fast as the engines arrived they were stationed along North, Richmond and Fulton sts, and a chemical engine was brought by a back way from Fulton st into Langdon pl, and located at the end furthest from North st. Ladders were run up on both the North st and Langdon pl sides of the building, and streams were trained on the fire from the roofs of the adjoining houses.

Notwithstanding the immense quantities of water poured onto the fire it seemed to gain headway, and a fierce

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blaze ran up from the third to the fourth story, and from there to the fifth.

The contents of the lower floors were of a nature to feed the fire. The third floor, where the fire is said to have been discovered, was occupied by B. R. Hill as a carpenter shop, and was stored with finished stock and dried lumber on which the fire fed ravenously.

On the fourth floor was stored refrigerators and store fixtures of wood, owned by the W. G. Bell Co, who also occupied the first and second floors. The top floor was used as a printing shop by Peck Bros. They had on hand a large quantity of paper stock which burned rapidly.

For a couple of hours the fire burned on the upper floors despite all efforts to subdue it. From the paper stock on the top floor the roof timbers caught. It was from here that the accidental caving in brought desaster to the firemen.

The hosemen of engine 8 were still at work on the ladder in Langdon pl. The work was severe, and the cold wind cut through the thickest clothing. The men had not waited for gloves when they started in to fight the fire in the first place, and Lieut McLean sent Hosemen McCarthy and Gallivan to relieve those on the ladder. They climbed the frail support, and changed places with the half frozen men at the top. The lieutenant remained at the foot of the ladder, where he could direct their work. The two men kept the nozzle pointed at the flames.

Death of McCarthy.

Up to this point there had been no accident, and every eye in the vicinity was fixed on the two hosemen on their narrow perch 55 feet in the air. It is agreed that hoseman McCarthy started to come down the ladder. Some say he had got within 20 feet of the ground when the roof lurched with a loud crash, and the brickwork of the upper front of the building fell, sweeping him from the ladder.

Lieut McLean tells a different story. He says that the hoseman came down to where he was standing at the foot of the ladder, and said to him that he could do better work if he could take the hose into one of the buildings on the opposite side of Langdon pl. The lieutenant agreed with him, but said he would see Chief Cheswell, and ask him about it.

He left McCarthy standing at the foot of the ladder and sought out Chief Cheswell, to whom he explained the situation. The chief said that as soon as he had seen to another line of hose that he was looking after he would come down and see what was best to be done. Lieut McLean then returned to the foot of the ladder, where he found hoseman McCarthy waiting for him. He asked the lieutenant what the chief had said, and before he could return an answer to the question the shout was raised to look out for the falling wall.

The men both hurriedly looked toward the top of the building and took in the danger at once. McCarthy, with characteristic thoughtfulness, tried to hasten his lieutenant out of the way by pushing him ahead, but they had not taken more than a couple of steps when they were both stricken down by the falling bricks.

Others Escaped Narrowly.

There were a number of others near the spot, but they all escaped serious injury, although several were hit about the body and head by the bricks. One fireman was hit on the brim of his fire hat as he shrank up against the wall, the brick breaking the heavy leather brim as if it were only paper, and glancing off without doing further injury.

Those on the ground hurried up or down Langdon pl, as it seemed to them the surest way to get out of danger. When it was evident that there was no more of the wall coming down they rushed back to see if any one had been hurt.

Lieut McLean was striving to raise himself from the icy ground, and was assisted to a neighboring doorway where he sat writhing in pain. When he was asked if he was badly hurt, he asked with difficulty for two of his hosemen who had been standing near him at the foot of the ladder, nor would he answer about his own sufferings until assured that they were not hurt.

When those who had dug out the apparently lifeless body of hoseman McCarthy from the bricks passed the doorway in which the lieutenant sat, he in-

quired who it was, and, forgetting his own pain, asked if he was badly injured. He was told "no," although those who answered feared they were not truthful. "Poor Mac," he said, "I hope he is not."

The body of the insensible fireman was carried to the further side of North st and wrapped in blankets. A quick examination was made for signs of life, but none were discovered.

A physician was sent for, but the man was certainly dead when he arrived. The falling bricks had struck him in the head, and were showered about his body as he lay felled to the roadway, bruising it severely.

His face was cut in several places, but not otherwise much disfigured.

The body was removed to Tinkham's undertaking rooms on Howard st to await the necessary visit from the medical examiner. Later it was taken to his home in Charlestown.

Curran and Galloway Hurt.

On a ladder set on the roof of one of the two-and-a-half story tenements in the angle of the building were hosemen Curran and Galloway. Their ladder reached to the cornice of the building, and when the roof fell it flung the ladder aside and threw the two firemen to the roof beneath, a distance of 30 feet. They were badly injured, Curran, it was thought, fatally.

They were carried to the street and placed in the ambulance with Lieut McLean, and taken to the Massachusetts general hospital.



LIEUT WALTER M. McLEAN, Engine 8.

Curran was found to have sustained serious injuries to his back. Further than that the examining physicians could not tell, although they said they hoped that he was not injured internally and would recover. Galloway was bruised, and suffered from contusions. Later in the day he was sent to his home at 61 P st, South Boston.

The fire continued to burn until 7.55 a. m. when the "all out" was sent in, and the firemen, with the exception of those connected with the chemical, were sent to their respective stations.

The building is owned by Frank M. Howes, and is damaged about \$3000. The loss to the occupants will not exceed \$12,000.

The origin of the fire is a mystery as yet. There were stoves in the building, but they showed no signs of overheating. The tenements in the shadow of the building were not damaged even to the extent of a drop of water.

The early hour kept a large crowd away from the fire, and those who did come to see it were held at a safe distance by the police of station 1.

Hoseman McCarthy was a brother to Hon J. J. McCarthy, the surveyor of the port of Boston.

GLOOM AT ENGINE 8 QUARTERS.

Hoseman McCarthy Was a Strong Favorite With the Men—His Daughter Learns of His Sad Death.

The death of hoseman McCarthy and the injury to Lieut McLean has cast a deep gloom over the usually cheerful quarters of the men of engine 8, on Salem st. McCarthy was a favorite with the men of the station, and his loss is deeply felt by all.

Capt Ritchie has been sick for nearly a week, and, by order of his physician, was to remain in the house for a week at least. The news of the accident that deprived him of one of his best men and disabled his lieutenant was brought him at his home in East Boston, and in spite of the possible consequences he left his bed and came at once to the fire station, where he took charge.

Not long after he arrived there Jere-

miah J. McCarthy, surveyor of the port, brother of the dead hoseman, came to learn how the accident happened. He had not been long gone when the eldest daughter of the deceased came in, and asked where her father was. It was a difficult moment for Capt Ritchie, but he finally mustered up courage to say to her that the father was badly injured. Half suspecting the full truth, the weeping daughter asked where he was, so that she might go to him and see how badly he was injured. Then, in the most delicate manner possible, the captain broke the truth to her and advised her to carry the news herself to her mother and seven brothers and sisters, who were at that moment waiting for the father to come to his home. Miss McCarthy returned home with her sorrowful news that husband and father would no more come to them in life.

Hoseman McCarthy was between 40 and 45 years of age. He was born in Charlestown, where he had lived all his life. Since he joined the fire department he had an excellent record as a sober man, attentive to duty and obedient to all the demands of the department regulations. In his own company he stood high in the estimation of the captain and lieutenant and of all the men.

CURRAN'S UNUSUAL DUTIES.

Work as a Harness Maker at the Fire Department Headquarters.

Hoseman Christopher F. Curran of engine 9 of East Boston has been located in that district since 1885, and prior to that time he was attached to engine 25. He is a married man with a family of four or five children and resides on Summer st in East Boston. He is very popular in East Boston, both with the firemen and among the citizens generally, and is looked upon as an able and valuable member of the department.

His duties are somewhat unusual. During the day he works at the fire department headquarters as a harness maker and only leaves that work to respond to a second alarm.

In consideration of this unusual work, for which he receives no extra remuneration, he is allowed the evening for his own pleasure, but he is obliged to report at the quarters of engine 9 in East Boston at 10 p m and to sleep there.

He responds to all alarms which call that piece of apparatus during the night. He also is given each Sunday for his own use, with the restriction that he must report at quarters at 10 p m.

POLICEMAN'S DARING RESCUE.

Nickerson of 2 Carries a Half-Suffocated Woman from the Burning Building Corner Franklin and Battery-march Sts.

A blaze which caused \$25,000 or \$35,000 damage to the several printing and other firms in the big building corner of Franklin and Battery-march sts, and which at first looked decidedly dangerous, occupied the attention of the fire department at 7 last night.

Two alarms were rung from box 47, and the firemen had more than an hour's hard work.

The two upper floors of the building were gutted and the roof burned off.

In the adjoining building on Battery-march st, No. 61, William B. Frost, quite an aged man, conducts a carpenter business, and occupies apartments on the third floor as a dwelling. Mrs Annie Norton, 35, is his housekeeper. She was rescued and carried from her room to the street by patrolman E. L. Nickerson of division 2.

Mrs Norton was in the kitchen getting supper when Mr Frost heard the coming apparatus. He suggested to her to go down and see where the fire was. She told him to never mind, and that she was busy anyway.

Then Mr Frost himself went downstairs, and to satisfy his own curiosity went out by the rear entrance in a narrow alley leading to Franklin st.

An instant later, when he attempted to go back to warn Mrs Norton, he found his way blocked, and, thoroughly frightened, he rushed about telling persons of the woman's danger.

A bystander informed officer Nickerson, and he attempted to gain an entrance by the usual passage. This was blocked, so he broke in from Battery-march st, through the store on the ground floor of the front of the building, and made his way upstairs to the dwelling.

After some search in the blinding smoke he found Mrs Norton. The smoke had closed in on her in dense volumes, when it finally poured into the house, and, alarmed, she rushed to the door. The way was impassable. She then went to her room, and finally threw herself face downward upon her bed to protect herself as best she could.

Here patrolman Nickerson found her, quite badly overcome with fright and smoke. He carried her down to the street and to the protective department house close by, where she was resuscitated.

The Franklin Press, McIndoe Bros, and the E. I. Drisko company, all printing establishments, occupied the two upper floors, where the fire started.

Smith & Wallace, electrical railroad supplies, occupied a portion of the second floor, while Harrington, Robinson & Co, and the Garratt-Ford company, both iron and steel concerns, occupied the ground floor and basement.

The loss to these latter will be by water. The building, a four-story brick, is owned by the estate of D. Webster King. The damage to the structure is about \$4000.

The fire was discovered by Lieut Fox of engine 25 who sounded the first alarm. The fire then seemed small, but the quick catch was a lucky one, as

flames spread rapid headway, and had burst from the windows at the corner by the time the first alarm apparatus was on hand. A second alarm was rung instantly.

The smoke from the blaze was extremely dense, being carried in every direction and enveloping the street and vicinity, while the strong northerly wind fanned the blaze and swept it across the street.

The water from the lines formed a coating of ice on street, ladders and hose the instant it fell, adding a dangerous feature to the firemen's work.

TWO FIRES IN CAMBRIDGE.

One in Ward 3, the Other in the "Dangerous District"—Total Loss Will Probably Reach \$4000.

Cambridge had two alarms from box 9 yesterday afternoon for a fire in East Cambridge, and one from box 26 for one in the "dangerous district" in Cambridgeport. The aggregate loss of both fires will probably reach about \$4000.

The first alarm from box 9 was sent in at 2.20. The man who sent it in left the box open. Several boys saw it at 2.50 and sent in another alarm. The "all out" signal followed a few moments later, but this did not save the additional pieces of apparatus, which were well on their way to the scene by that time.

The fire, was in the building known as the Ferguson hotel, situated directly opposite the new registry of deeds building on Cambridge st. It is a six-family apartment house. The street floor is occupied by two stores, in one of which is a Chinese laundry, owned by Wah Lee, and in the other a cobbler shop.

The second story was occupied by James Taylor and his family. A front room is rented by Miss Bessie McCowan, a dressmaker. The third floor is vacant, and the top floor is occupied by Terence Kelley.

The fire started in Miss McGowan's room, a lace curtain being blown on top of a small stove. A lambrequin on a mantel next caught. Miss McGowan discovered the blaze and attempted to extinguish it. She was badly burned about the face and ran from the room calling for help. By the time the alarm was sent in the fire had spread all over the floor above and into the partitions.

After some difficulty it was finally extinguished. The loss on the building was about \$500; it is covered by insurance. Mr Taylor says his loss is \$700; he has insurance. Miss McGowan lost about \$50 worth of furniture and belongings. Wah Lee's stock was wet down. Mr Kelley's loss is mostly by smoke.

Box 26 sounded at 5.20. When the department arrived a fierce fire was raging in the 2½-story wooden building on State st owned by Charles Smart. It is situated among a nest of wooden buildings, and the district is one that has caused considerable worry in the department.

The cellar is occupied by the New England spring company. On the first floor are Henry Kern, antique furniture dealer; the Colonial antique furniture company, and Cornelius A. Houghton, piano key manufacturer. The second floor is occupied by L. W. Brandeau & Co, wood carvers and dealers in mantels, and by Dixon & Fallis, pattern makers.

Every one of the firms has occasion to use varnishes and oils, and the fire on that account was hard to fight. The cause of the fire is unknown.

The Colonial antique furniture company had just moved in, and did not have an opportunity to place its insurance. Its loss is about \$400. Mr Houghton is the heaviest loser, principally on machinery. The loss to Brandeau & Co is \$500, insured. The principal loss to the spring company is by water. Mr Kern's loss could not be determined. The building was damaged to the extent of about \$1000, insured.

BRISK BLAZE IN CHELSEA.

House of Samuel T. Stickney on Beacon St Badly Damaged.

The alarm from box 15 in Chelsea, about 10 last evening, was for a fire in the 2½-story wooden house at 122 Beacon st. Before it was extinguished it had spread and damaged slightly three other houses in the vicinity.

The fire is said to have originated on the first floor of the house at 122 Beacon st through an infant overturning a kerosene lamp. The house is owned by Samuel T. Stickney, who lives on the upper story. David Silverman occupies the lower floor. The house was damaged to the extent of about \$1200, and the loss on the furniture will run to about \$700 for each family.

The house 124 Beacon st was damaged about \$25, and about \$30 damage was done to the furniture by water. The house numbered 120 was damaged to the extent of about \$25 and the house in the rear of 118 Beacon st was damaged about \$50 by the fire catching on the roof.