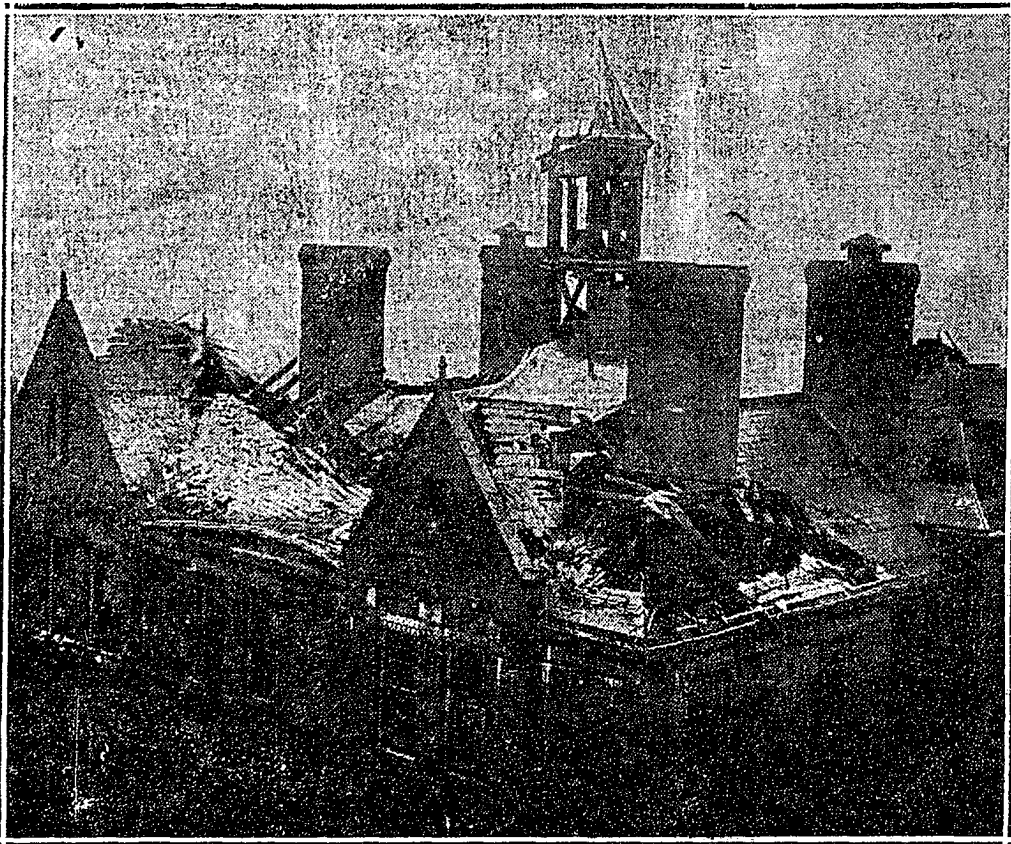


FOUR-ALARM ROXBURY FIRE BADLY DAMAGES SCHOOL

Myles Standish School Guted — Rain Prevents Conflagration Sweeping Neighborhood of Structure—Roof and Interior Destroyed



RUINS OF MYLES STANDISH SCHOOL, BADLY DAMAGED BY FIRE TODAY

Only the heavy rain which was falling at 3 o'clock this morning prevented a serious conflagration in the vicinity of the Myles Standish School on Roxbury st, Roxbury, which was gutted by fire and necessitated the sounding of four alarms this morning.

The fire started from some unknown cause in the cellar and spread to the first floor and up the broad stairway to the second floor and a blind attic on

the roof. The building was a mass of flames before the firemen arrived, and only the heavy rain prevented the flying sparks and embers from igniting adjoining buildings.

The fire was discovered by Miss Elizabeth Butler, who ran to the fire station on Center st, near the school.

The Butler family was awakened by the barking of their dog, but paid no attention to him. The dog finally went to

the room of Mrs Butler and started to pull the bed clothes. The woman called to her daughter, Elizabeth, who then saw the flames leaping high in the air.

Orders Fourth Alarm

The first alarm was sounded at 3:15 followed by a second and third at 3:22. District Chief Frank Driscoll responded

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on the first alarm and ordered the second and third which brought Fire Chief Daniel Sennott and Fire Commissioner Theodore Glynn. Chief Sennott ordered the fourth alarm when he saw the seriousness of the fire and closeness of nearby houses.

This is the worst fire that has occurred in Roxbury for some time and Fire Commissioner Glynn commended Chief Sennott and the firemen for the way in which they fought the blaze. Chief Sennott believes that the damage will amount to around \$50,000 and may reach even higher.

Frederick P. Johnson, janitor of the school, who resides on King st, a short distance away, said that he had been in the school at 9:45 last night and that at that time everything was all right.

The school was a two and one-half-story brick structure and was used as a pre-vocational school for pupils of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Rain Puts Out Sparks

In the lower floor of the school there were a machine shop, electric shop and a print shop. All of the machinery and tools were destroyed, as well as the books and valuable papers of the school. Miss Grace Pomeroy is principal of the school. This is the second fire at the school in the past year. Damage of about \$1000 was caused by fire about a year ago.

It is believed that the fire had been burning some time, as the building was blazing fiercely when the first alarm apparatus arrived. Starting in the cellar, the fire ate its way to the first floor and up a broad stairway to the second floor. The fact that the school is an old one and that the material is very dry was probably responsible for the fire getting beyond control of the firemen and resulted in only the walls being left.

For some time firemen and police were endangered by the flying slate and pieces of iron, as well as the dense smoke. Streams of water were thrown onto the building from all sides and firemen climbed to the tops of adjoining roofs to pour water into the structure. Flying sparks flew in every di-

rection and landed on the roofs of houses nearby but were quickly extinguished by the heavy rain and wet roofs so that no damage was caused to other buildings.

40 Families Warned

Upon the arrival of Chief Sennott and the sounding of the fourth alarm aids of the chief were sent to the adjoining tenement buildings and approximately 40 families were warned to be ready to leave their homes. The fire was at its greatest height at that time and looked very serious. The houses on one side of the school are about five yards from the side of the school and sparks were continually landing on the roofs, but no damage resulted.

There is a stone wall in the rear of the school, with six houses on Kings terrace. It is believed that the stone wall helped prevent the spread of the flames to these houses.

The school is situated on the top of a hill, and a high wind fanned the flames and caused sparks to fly in nearly every direction.

Several times firemen attempted to enter the building with lines of hose, but were driven back by the dense smoke, which blanketed the section for hours.

For more than three hours the firemen battled the flames, and about 6:30 nothing was left standing but the four walls of the school. The entire inside was a mass of ruins, and the roof as well. At 6:30 there were still smoldering embers, and lines of hose were still directed upon the building.

A serious hicup in street car service from the Dudley-st Terminal of the Boston Elevated was caused by the blocking of Roxbury st by the fire apparatus.

The Salvation Army truck, with coffee and sandwiches, was on the scene.

Chairman Bogan of the School Committee and Supt Burke, in conference with the Mayor at City Hall, informed him that the Standish School's 105 pupils will be taken care of in the Dudley School assembly hall, until other accommodations can be provided for them.

These officials estimated the damage to the school, built in 1874, to be \$75,000.