The Boston Daily Globe.
WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 3, 1913

AT LEAST 25 DEAD IN FIRE

Many Lodgers Jump From Windows.

Arcadia Hotel, South End Burned This Morning

Firemen Rescue Many by Ladders and Life Nets.

Victims Caught on Top Floor ---Some [illegible] May Die.

Trapped on the top floor of the Hotel Arcadia, a men's lodging house at 1202-1206 Washington st, just above Dover st, South End, which was gutted by fire just after 2 o'clock this morning, from 15 to 20 men are known to have lost their lives.

How many were killed on the lower floors is at present only a matter of conjecture. According to the clerk, William Walsh, there were from 150 to 170 men in the house last night. One man jumped from a window and was killed; there are nine injured at the City Hospital and the estimated number of those rescued safely is 85.

At 4 this morning the police reported they had removed 18 bodies. They thought the total loss of life would reach 30 but they said it would be hours before the search would be completed.

Medical Examiner Magrath at 4:45 this morning, after a thorough inspection of the building said there were 24 dead there. One more died on the way to the City Hospital, making the total of dead 25.

The last man to be taken out of the second floor, Tim Donahue, said that when he left there were at least 20 men on that floor.

Flames Raced Up Main Stairway.

The building is a five-story brick structure, owned by Moses H Guleslan. A saloon occupies the ground floor and the four upper stories are used as a lodging house.

The fire started at the foot of the main stairway, and before warning could be given to the inmates the flames had cut off the stairs.

Following the stairway the fire ran quickly up to the top floor, spreading the flames and smoke on every story.

Jerry Gardner, a well-known South Boston swimmer, discovered the fire as he was passing the front door.

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25 LOSE LIVES IN FIRE.

Continued From the First Page.

Many Rescued Naked.

Shouting to give a warning he ran to Box 771 and at 2:05 sounded the first alarm. When he got back to the doorway the spread of the flames had made entrance impossible.

Engine Company 3 and Ladder Company 3 were the first on the scene, but even as the firemen raised their ladders two men jumped from a fourth-story window to the sidewalk. One of them, an unknown colored man, died on his way to the hospital.

The first alarm was followed by a second at 2:10 and a third at 2:12. From Washington st and from Laconia st on the side of the building ladders were raised to every floor and as rapidly as possible the firemen carried down the terrified lodgers, many of them naked and others clad only in their underclothing.

Life nets were stretched from the

Only nine of these are reported injured, two dangerously. The majority of the rest were given clothing and allowed to remain or find some other lodging.

The fire was fought from the front and the Laconia-st side. On Laconia st were stationed a water tower and an aerial ladder and on Washington st, from the Elevated structure, the firemen had a dozen lines of hose playing on the building. Not until about 3 o'clock, however, were the firemen able to get inside the building.

At first no estimate at all could be made of the dead, or even of the occupants of the building, for the clerk could not be found and his record book was believed to have been destroyed in the flames.

Medical Examiner George B. Magrath, after getting up to the fifth floor, said he believed there were 15 or 20 bodies there, although they

INJURED, AT THE CITY HOSPITAL.

GEORGE F. ADAMS, burns and inhaled flames, dangerous list.
WILLIAM SULLIVAN, burns and inhaled flames, on dangerous list.
CORNELIUS E. SULLIVAN, sprained ankle.
PATRICK QUINN, contusions.
JOHN AHERN, contusions and abrasions.
WILLIAM GREENOUGH, contusions.
CHARLES HERMAN, overcome by smoke.
MARTIN JOYCE, cuts about the face and abrasions.
JAMES KELLEY, burns about the face.

trucks and hose wagons and held by firemen, policemen and citizens.

Fifty Taken to Hospital.

Into these a number of men jumped safely.

Solomon Striker of 15 Laconia st with patrolmen Daniel J. Leary and Daniel Fraser of Station 5 climbed to the roof of a shed in the rear and mounted the fire escapes. They helped many men out of the building, their estimate of the number being about 20.

A hurry call had been sounded for all available ambulances, and as the lodgers, whether injured or not, were brought out shivering into the cold air they were rushed with all speed to the City Hospital.

The first trip of the ambulance carried 10 men there, and afterward taxicabs and carriages were pressed into service, until before 3 o'clock there were 50 men at the City Hospital.

were so covered with debris that he could not be sure.

No fewer, it is supposed, were killed on any of the lower floors. The bodies, moreover, are so terribly charred that identification in many cases probably cannot be made.

Fire Spectacular.

Not in years has there been a fire to cause such intense emotion and horror. The fire itself was spectacular and the sight of men leaping from the windows and the knowledge that many more were cut off, unable to escape, filled with dread the great throng of men and women that packed the streets.

Not long after three o'clock the firemen had the blaze under control and at 4:19 the all-out signal was sounded. Even before this they had begun to take out the bodies under the direction of Medical Examiner Magrath, assisted by his associate, Dr Timothy Leary.

The building, a five-story brick structure, is owned by Moses H Guleslan and is assessed for $15,100.

THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 4, 1913

BOSTON STAGGERED AT THE HORROR OF ARCADIA HOTEL FIRE DISASTER

WHERE HOTEL ARCADIA'S DISASTROUS FIRE STARTED

GROUND FLOOR ENTRANCE TO HOTEL SHOWING STAIRCASE UNDER WHICH FIRE WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN CLOSET INDICATED BY ARROW.

FIRE RUINS IN THE ROOMS OF THE DOUBLE-DECK BEDS

IN THESE COTS, ON THE FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS OF THE ARCADIA, MANY LODGERS CUT OFF FROM FIRE ESCAPES WERE SUFFOCATED.

ON MAYOR'S ORDER.

Lodging House Floors Closed as the Result of His Inspection.

Mayor John F Fitzgerald made a tour of some of the most dangerous lodging houses of the cheaper character in the North, West and South Ends last night, and when he had concluded his trip at midnight he said the conditions existing in the city were for the most part horrifying, and that he would take immediate steps to remedy conditions.

Although he had ordered Dr Francis X Mahoney, chairman of the Board of Health, and deputy inspectors of the Building Department to make a rigid investigation of the lodging houses and instructed them to see that the letter of the law was enforced, the Mayor was not satisfied and started out on an investigation of his own shortly after 9 o'clock.

Into the poorly lighted and foul-smelling places of the unfortunate men who frequent them, the Mayor penetrated, inspecting every condition for good or for bad. He minced no words with the men in charge of the different houses, and in six of the seven visited he ordered some section or floor of the establishment to be closed up until further notice.

Preceding him were Dr Mahoney and the deputy inspectors, and by the time the Mayor arrived he found that his orders to curtail the number of lodgers

Continued on the Fifth Page.

Grand Jury at Once Begins Investigation at Ruins and At Similar Lodging Houses Throughout the City.

Many of the 28 Victims Lured to Death by Signs Holding Out False Hope Of Safety---Escapes Inadequate, Though Probably Within the Law.

LURED INTO DEATH TRAPS

By JOHN W. CARBERRY.

Painted on the front wall on every floor of the Hotel Arcadia, the licensed lodging house on the corner of Washington and Laconia sts in which 28 men lost their lives and at least 20 were injured in a fire yesterday morning, were the words "Fire Escape," and on either side an arrow pointed, one north, the other south.

A red light was displayed over each sign, ostensibly to call the attention of the lodgers on each floor to the location of the most convenient means of egress in case of fire.

These signs were cruel snares, for there were no fire escapes on the Washington-st front of the building and the arrows pointed only to little bedrooms in the corners.

Every man lured by those red lights, who followed the direction of one of the arrows, found himself in a trap.

Lured Into Deadly Trap.

If he turned to the right he came to the corner of the building and a window which opened over Washington st, but the only means of avoiding death from the advancing flames behind him was to drop.

If, directed by the other arrow, he turned to the left the deluded lodger reached a window over Laconia st, only to encounter a similar situation—no fire escape, no alternative but to leap for his life—and many of the trapped lodgers in insane desperation did leap, two to death and many others to serious injury.

There is no way of telling how many men, unfamiliar with the location of the exterior fire escapes, ran toward these red lights suspended on brackets from the Washington-st wall, saw the arrows, blindly selected one of the two directions indicated and raced to the windows, either on Washington or Laconia st, only to find too late that they were penned in.

When these men realized that they

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BOSTON'S MOST DEADLY FIRE

The story of the fire yesterday morning in the Hotel Arcadia is now all told.

The full count of the dead is known. Twenty-eight of them there are, the greatest number killed in any Boston fire in memory. Middle-aged or elderly, poor, most of these inmates of the ironically named "Arcadia" of Boston's South End, are not even known.

Side by side in the morgue lie the bodies of 21 unidentified, though yesterday the grim room was filled with men and women, many of them wealthy, who looked and feared to find a lost father, brother or son.

The building itself still stands, the outside walls at least, and may hereafter be put to another or the same use.

All that remains is the inevitable investigation—of the cause; of the responsibility, moral or legal; of the conditions that made such rapid spread of flames and loss of life possible and may elsewhere make it so again.

That investigation has already begun. The Grand Jury is investigating; at the Mayor's orders the Health and Building Departments are investigating, not only the circumstances of this fire, but the conditions in all other Boston lodging houses of similar type.

These facts have already been made clear: Fire gongs were not sounded to arouse the sleepers; if there were any fire extinguishers on the premises, none were used; false signs of fire escapes lured many men to death.

The cause of the fire was probably spontaneous combustion, although some talk of incendiarism persists, and opportunities for a fire to start where it did were abundant.

The men who yesterday morning escaped from the flames, naked or scantily clad, have been given clothing and treatment at the City Hospital, and released, to tell their tales of horror and to earn the price of their next night's lodging as best they may. At the hospital only four are left.

The story is virtually complete, and it is one of the most terrible stories that the city of Boston has ever had to tell.

GRAND JURY VISITS SCENE

Under the personal direction of Dist Atty Joseph C. Pelletier the Suffolk Grand Jury is investigating the Arcadia lodging house fire.

The purpose of the inquiry is to find out if any one was criminally responsible for the conditions that made possible the awful disaster.

The Grand Jury visited the scene of the fire yesterday to get evidence first hand and see the physical condition of the building, rather than rely on a description from witnesses.

The jurors also visited two other similar lodging houses, one called the Union in Washington st, near Cherry st, the other at 128 Eliot st. They will meet in special session next week to inquire further into the case and a number of witnesses will be called before them.

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RECORD TOLL IN FIRE VICTIMS

Arcadia Life Loss Is Boston's Heaviest.

Other Fires Here in Which the Figures Were Large.

In Great One of 1872 Only 13 Went to Their Death.

Not since Boston was first settled in 1630 has the city been visited by a fire which claimed such a toll of lives as that of yesterday morning in the Arcadia on Washington st, when 25 were suffocated and three others died as a result of the fire.

In the big Boston fire of Nov 9, 1872, which burned over 65 acres of buildings in the heart of the city, 13 firemen and citizens lost their lives. When the old Union Baptist Church Building on Merrimac st burned, the morning of Feb 5, 1898, Asst Chief Egan, a fire captain and five other firemen were carried down to death by falling walls.

It is not always the larger fires that cause the great loss of life, for a minor fire in a tenement building on Fleet st, Jan 29, 1902, resulted in the burning to death of nine Italians.

It was not until 50 years after the settlement of Boston that a fire horror claimed its first victim. On July 16, 1681, a negro woman, angry at her master, set fire to Mr Lamb's house in Roxbury. Mr Swan's house caught fire and a servant girl perished. Swift judgment was passed on the negress, the Colonial Court inflicting punishment of death by burning for the crime.

LURED INTO DEATH TRAPS

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had been misled by the "fire escape" lure there was not time to turn back and make for the only fire escape on the building—that in the rear.

The fire, ascending by the stairway, filled the center of the building so quickly that a man who had once started for the front of the building could not turn back.

Dangers at Every Hand.

An examination of the building after the fire disclosed a combination of circumstances that appeared not only to invite a conflagration, but to assure the loss of life that has occurred.

In the first place, the steam-heating plant was in the cellar directly under the stairs.

There was no asbestos protector between the dome of the boiler and the plastering over the laths of the stairway above it.

The plastering, owing to the intense heat from the boiler, had been chipped off, exposing these laths.

These laths had become so heated that one of the lodgers, who happened to be in the cellar several days ago, said the narrow strips of wood were so hot he could not rest the palm of his hand on them.

The fire started probably by spontaneous combustion, according to State Detective James Grady and the firemen, in a closet under the first flight of stairs, which is directly over the boiler.

The second and third stories of the structure, which were the first and second floors of the lodging house, were divided into two large rooms by a high partition which extended through the center of the building, east and west, or parallel with Laconia st.

Cell-Like Rooms, Narrow Halls.

The space on either side of this partition was cut up into small compartments of about eight feet by six feet in dimension, and these cells were separated by walls of light matched-board sheathing, which did not reach within three feet of the ceiling.

Long rows of double-decked cots or bunks with iron frames ran from the east to the west wall in each of two rooms into which the fourth and fifth floors were divided by the light wooden partition. On the fourth floor were berthed the men who could pay 20 cents for a night's lodging, while above, beneath the old mansard roof, those who could not afford to pay more than 15 cents were accommodated in the two tiers of bunks.

In the rear of these two large rooms were windows which opened to a fire escape balcony.

This was the arrangement of the five-story portion or the main building of the Hotel Arcadia. In the rear, but not so broad as the main structure, is a four-story annex, with four-foot alley abutting.

Natural Escape Cut Off.

Extinguishers of No Value.

Roof Egress Saves Many.

Fire Escapes Too Few.

Disaster Preventable.

Windows Only Hope for Most.

Double-Decked Cots.

Lyons Cautioned on Monday.

Everett Silent on Mayor's Order.

DOUBLE-DECK BEDS WITH WHICH UPPER FLOORS WERE FURNISHED

GRAND JURY VISITS SCENE

Continued From the First Page.

So far, it is understood, there is doubt on the part of the authorities whether criminal responsibility can be placed upon any one, but the inquiry will be pressed to ascertain if there has been any violation of the laws, and if not then to make recommendations that will obviate a repetition of the awful calamity.

In other words, if the law was complied with by all persons having anything to do with the maintenance or inspection of the building and the conditions that obtained there were sanctioned by law, then it is expected the prosecuting officers, through the Grand Jury, will cause some radical suggestions to be made for the purpose of securing legislation that will not make it possible, or at least probable, for a similar fire horror to occur.

Law in the Case.

Dist Atty Pelletier feels strongly that if it is not possible for a man to run a lodging house at a profit except under conditions such as prevailed in the Arcadia and similar houses in the city, then the city should get rid of such places and erect fireproof lodging houses with accommodations for the harboring of unfortunates who have to resort to such places.

As to Responsibility.

Question of Exits.

What the Grand Jurors Saw.

Visit to Morgue.

Dist Atty Pelletier's Statement.

PICKS HEATING PLANT AS CAUSE

Theory of One Who Escaped Flames.

J. T. Bergin Tells of Boiler and Closet Above It.

Describes Heat on Laths in Arcadia Basement.

Although the exact origin of the Hotel Arcadia fire will probably never be determined to the satisfaction of those directly interested, there is a strong suspicion among habitues of the lodging house that the heating plant of the building was responsible.

JOSEPH T. BERGIN,
Who Believes That the Hotel Arcadia Fire Was Caused by an Overheated Boiler in the Basement.

Bergin's Trip to the Basement.

Seeking Warmth on a Hot Floor.

LOOKING FOR A PREMIER.

French President Fails to Find an Available Successor to M. Barthou.

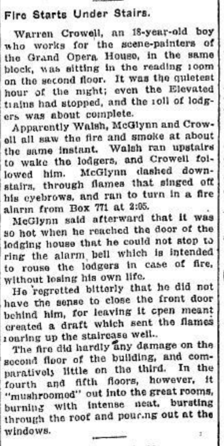
ARCADIA HORROR COSTS 28 LIVES

Morning Fire Deadliest in All The History of Boston.

Lodgers Suffocated in Beds, With No Chance to Save Lives.

The deadliest fire in the history of Boston, causing more than twice as many deaths as even the great conflagration of 1872, started yesterday morning at 2 o'clock, in a closet beneath the stairs leading from the street to the office floor of the Arcadia, a lodging house for men at 1202 Washington st.

It had not been determined last night whether spontaneous combustion had caused the fire or whether it was deliberately set.



WILLIAM WALSH,
Night Clerk of the Arcadia.

William Walsh, night clerk of the Arcadia, who says he was in the office talking with Arthur McGlynn, the night watchman, estimates that there were 40 or 50 in the 20-cent beds and 80 more in the 15-cent beds, which were in two great dormitories on the fourth and fifth floors. These beds were double-decked, and ranged so thickly in the room that there was barely space for a stout man to walk between them.

The register of the Arcadia shows 155 lodgers for the night.

Fire Starts Under Stairs.

Panic at Ladder Tops.

Injured Hurried Away.

Windows Choked With Men.

Twenty-Five Dead on Top Floors.

ONE OF THE BATHROOM ESCAPES THROUGH WHICH MANY WERE SAVED

ARROW INDICATES WINDOW THROUGH WHICH LODGERS REACHED THE OPEN AIR.

ARTHUR McGLYNN,
Night Watchman of the Arcadia

Identification Improbable.

L Structure an Obstacle.

John Eliot Club Dines.

DEATH LURE SIGN ON THE THIRD FLOOR INDICATING ESCAPES WHICH DO NOT EXIST

ON MAYOR'S ORDER.

Continued From the First Page.

Discredit to Boston.

Orders Floors Closed.

Lesson for Legislature.

CORRIDOR AND ARRANGEMENT OF ROOMS ON THIRD FLOOR

REGISTER GIVES A TOTAL OF 155

Tuesday Night List at the Arcadia.

All Probably in Beds When Fire Started Wednesday Morning.

Only Last Name Given of Most of the Lodgers.

From the inspection of the register of the Hotel Arcadia yesterday, it appears that there were 155 lodgers in the house Tuesday night, of whom probably all were in their rooms or bunks when the fire broke out early yesterday morning.

OCCUPANTS OF SECOND FLOOR ROOMS. Price 25 cents.

OCCUPANTS OF THIRD FLOOR ROOMS. Price 25 cents.

OCCUPANTS OF FOURTH FLOOR ROOMS. Price 20 cents.

OCCUPANTS OF FIFTH-FLOOR BUNKS (Price 15 Cents)

In the case of the occupant of one bunk on the fifth floor, the name is undecipherable. This lodger left a call for 5:30. Another on this floor, name unknown, had a dislocated shoulder and a third unknown had a Dover-st mission ticket.

MUNICIPAL LODGING HOUSES.

Chester R. Lawrence Advocated Them in 1911, but Legislature Rejected His Bill.

CHEAP LODGING HOUSE METHODS

Housing 5000 a Night Here and How It Is Done Under the Law.

JOSEPH G. LYONS,
Of the Lyons Hotel Company, Which Conducted the Arcadia, Scene of the Fire Which Cost the Lives of 28 Persons.

Some Rooms in Which 300 Can Sleep In the "Double-Decker" Beds.

The fire and the terrible loss of life in Hotel Arcadia on Washington st yesterday morning have revealed to the general public a lodging house condition and problem in the city which has been known only to the police, the Board of Health and the habitues of these houses.

It is estimated that at least 5000 men sleep every night in just such houses as the Arcadia in this city—houses that are arranged to accommodate from 100 to 600 people in a space which under normal conditions would not be used to house more than 50 people.

There are at least 20 such lodging houses in the city, many of them under such euphonious names as "Old Comfort," "Homestead," "Model," "Palace," "Star," "Arcadia," etc—suggestive names, though a bit ironical when considered from a strictly literal point of view.

The habitues and the police know them as "bunk houses," or "flop houses."

Housed 300,000 Here Last Year.

Rooms in Which 300 Can Sleep.

Their First Fire With Loss of Life.

Not a Roystering Place.

Conveniences for Lodgers.

One of the Last Added to the Chain.

On the Other End of the Scale.

FINDS BROTHER AMONG DEAD

Sad Identification by A. W. Seymour.

Crowd All Day at the City Hospital Mortuary Chapel.

Who Some of Fire Victims Are Will Never Be Known.

Out of the procession of sad-faced persons who filed yesterday into the office of the Boston City Hospital and made their way slowly down the yard to the brick building which houses the morgue and mortuary chapel, one was fated to find his brother among the victims of the fire in the Arcadia lodging house. It was Albert W. Seymour of 452 Shawmut av who recognized the features of his brother, Fred D. Seymour, aged 53, address unknown.

Subsequently four other bodies were identified, if identification it can be called. At least they were given the names by which they were known at the Arcadia and which they had written on the register Tuesday night. What they were, more than this, who they had been and where they had lived, the "identification" did not divulge.

One body was found to be that of Thomas A. Anderson, 42 years old, who for some time had lodged at the house. The other three could only be given the last names written on the register—Connors, Carter and Bradley.

The funeral of George F. Adams, the only one yet announced for any of the fire victims, will be at the rooms of F. C. Graham, 10 Harvard av, Hyde Park, at 1 p m tomorrow.

THE DEAD.

GEORGE F. ADAMS, 16 Preble st, South End, died of burns and inhaled flames at City Hospital.
WILLIAM SULLIVAN, died of burns and inhaled flames at City Hospital.
FRED. D. SEYMOUR, no address, dead when found in ruins; white, about 50 years, 5 feet 8 inches tall, 140 pounds, brown hair, long brown mustache and beard slightly gray. Morgue number 3799. Believed by employes of house to be man known as Doyle.
THOMAS A. ANDERSON, no address, found dead in ruins. Had lived at Arcadia for some time and had room 403; white, aged about 50, 5 feet 11½ inches, 115 pounds, gray hair, rather long, sandy mustache and imperial, brown eyes. Morgue number 3779.
——— CONNORS, no address, found dead in house. Occupied bunk 565; white, aged about 52, 5 feet 8½ inches, 155 pounds, brown hair, gray white mustache, blue eyes. Morgue number 3783.
——— CARTER, no address, found dead in house. Occupied room 115; white, about 50, 5 feet 11 inches, 200 pounds, black hair, gray over temples, smooth face. Morgue number 3780.
——— BRADLEY, no address, found dead in house. Occupied room 116; white, aged 35, 5 feet 8 inches, 185 pounds, long brown curly hair. Morgue number 3796.
Twenty-one unidentified men, burned or suffocated, bodies at City Hospital morgue.

INJURED PATIENTS AT CITY HOSPITAL.

James Kelley, face burned.
Charles Herman, 232 Springfield st, inhaled smoke.
S. C. Laflin, 68 Rockland st, Roxbury, sprained ankle.
Martin Joyce, cuts and abrasions.

Thirty-nine others, treated at the hospital for minor injuries, or brought there to be given clothes and food, were discharged and registered as out-patients.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD AT CITY HOSPITAL.

CITY HOSPITAL SUCCOR.

Preparedness of That Institution a Boon to Fire Sufferers—Salvation Army Misunderstanding.

Daily Industrial Aid Club Dines.

THIRTY HOUSED GRATIS.

Victims of the Arcadia Fire Made Comfortable by the Salvation Army.

Thirty victims of yesterday morning's lodging-house fire were housed gratis and made comfortable last night by the Salvation Army at the People's Palace, Washington st, South End. Capt Sulzer of the Army did everything in his power to help these unfortunates. The men have been fitted out with wearing apparel and will be aided to obtain employment.

GLIMPSE OF INTERIOR OF BEDROOM ON THIRD FLOOR AND A PART OF THE BATHROOM FROM WHICH LED THE FIRE ESCAPE.