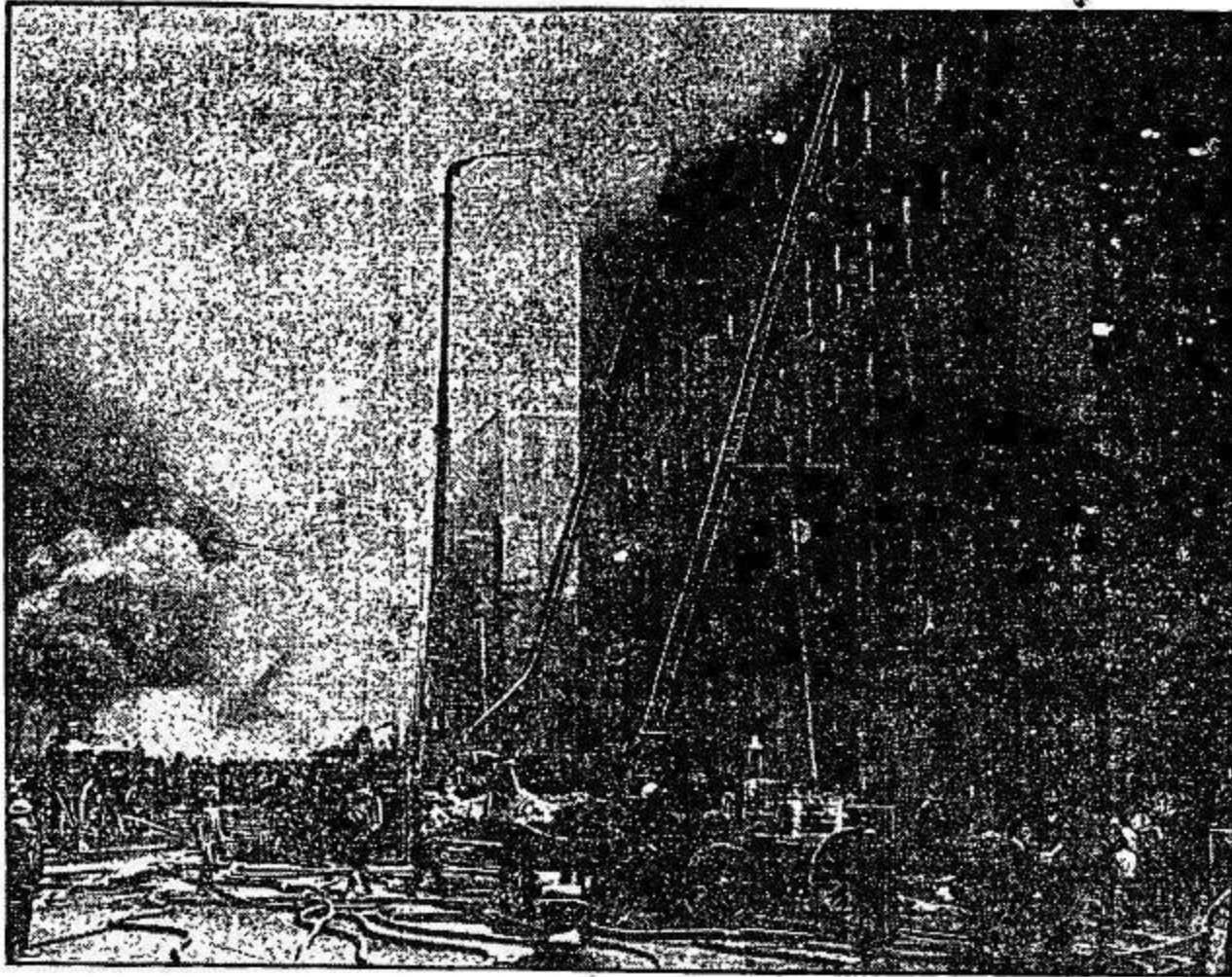


# The Boston Sunday Globe.

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 1907

## FOUR ALARMS, LIVE WIRE SCARE, THREE HURT AND \$100,000 DAMAGE AT CONGRESS-ST FIRE



## \$100,000 LOSS, THREE INJURED

Four-Alarm Fire on  
Congress St.

Excitement and Accident Due  
to a Live Wire.

Aged Man Run Down by  
a Hose Wagon.

Damage estimated at \$100,000 was caused by fire yesterday afternoon in the warehouse district. The blaze was in the six-story brick building at Congress and A sts, which is occupied by several firms. The flames were confined to the plant of the Columbia counter company, of which Edwin C. Hood, a retired minister, is president, but the damage by water will be shared by four other firms.

Fire officials say the damage would have been much greater with possible loss of life if the fire had occurred on any other week-day, as several hundred persons, including many women, are employed in the building.

The fire was discovered at 1:30 creeping along the coping. When Deputy Chief Grady reached the scene the flames had got through the roof and were leaping to a height of 20 feet. It was stated that gasoline was stored in the vicinity and the deputy ordered a fourth alarm, skipping the second and third.

Before any apparatus had arrived the volunteer firemen of the American express company had three lines of hose working and did effective work.

Just after the first alarm apparatus got to work Chief Grady ordered the aerial ladder from Fort Hill so raised and Capt Patrick Lanergan was fulfilling the chief's order when the ladder came in contact with a live wire and became charged.

Equipped with rubber boots and rubber gloves, ladderman Thomas H. Andreoli climbed the ladder and snipped the wire, which dangled, striking the wooden post at Congress and A sts, on which box 148 is located and at which fireman Ingersoll was standing.

The pole became charged and so did the alarm box. Ingersoll had his hand on the key and was slightly shocked, but he dodged the dangling wire. Before any of the employes of the electric light company had an opportunity to string up the wire it struck William McGlinchey, aged 8, of A st, South Boston. He was taken to the Emergency hospital and last night it was stated that his condition was not serious.

Through the strenuous work of engines 7 and 26, that were at work on the roof on the rear of the building the fire was kept from spreading to the big wool house of Jeremiah Williams & Co on Summer st extension, directly back of the burning building and separated from it by a narrow alley.

While the hose wagon of engine company 7, driven by Denis F. Daly, was responding to the alarm, Franklin Mead of 39 M st, South Boston, an elderly man, was knocked down in Dewey sq. He is at the relief station, in serious condition.

Witnesses of the accident attach no blame to Daly, who, they say, did everything in his power to avoid striking the old gentleman, who was apparently bewildered.

Nobody seems to know what caused the fire. Officials of the fire department are of the opinion that there was an explosion of a combination of gasoline and varnish, which the counter company used, but members of the firm say this combination was kept in an adjoining structure and was never brought into the main building.

The fire destroyed the top floor and ate the entire roof away. The Columbia counter company estimate their damage at \$75,000, the Eagle shoe company figure their loss at \$15,000, and M. P. Sheehan, who manufactures paper stock, Lansie & Grozjean and Winthrop M. Baker, chocolate manufacturer, suffered damage by water.

Dist Chief Sennott stated that the building was inspected Thursday last by Lieut William McCorkle of ladder 18 and that everything was all right at that time.

Yesterday, as far as Supt Malaguto of the Columbia counter company knows, there was only one person in the building when the fire was discovered, and he was the engineer. All of the young women employed by the Baker concern had left.

The absence of Chief Mullen was noticed by many. It was stated that he is suffering from a severe cold and Commissioner Wells gave him permission yesterday morning to go to his summer home, Onset, until Monday morning. The chief left the South terminal just two minutes before the first alarm was sent in.

One fireman was injured. He was ladderman Daniel J. Hurley of ladder 18, and he did not begin to feel the injury to his foot until he came out of the building late in the afternoon. He could scarcely walk, and Lieut McCorkle had him sent to the Emergency hospital.

There was a big police detail present under the charge of Acting Capt Forrest F. Hall of the Broadway station.

It was the first serious fire that the warehouse district has had and it proved the wisdom of installing apparatus in that section, which is growing rapidly. Engines 38 and 39, ladder 18 and tower 3 are quartered there and Dist Chief Sennott makes his headquarters there.

The four alarms brought out nearly half of the department apparatus. In every section of the city the "covering system" had to be relied on and it worked well, according to Commissioner Wells, which is a compliment to the new running card prepared by Chief Mullen and his aids.