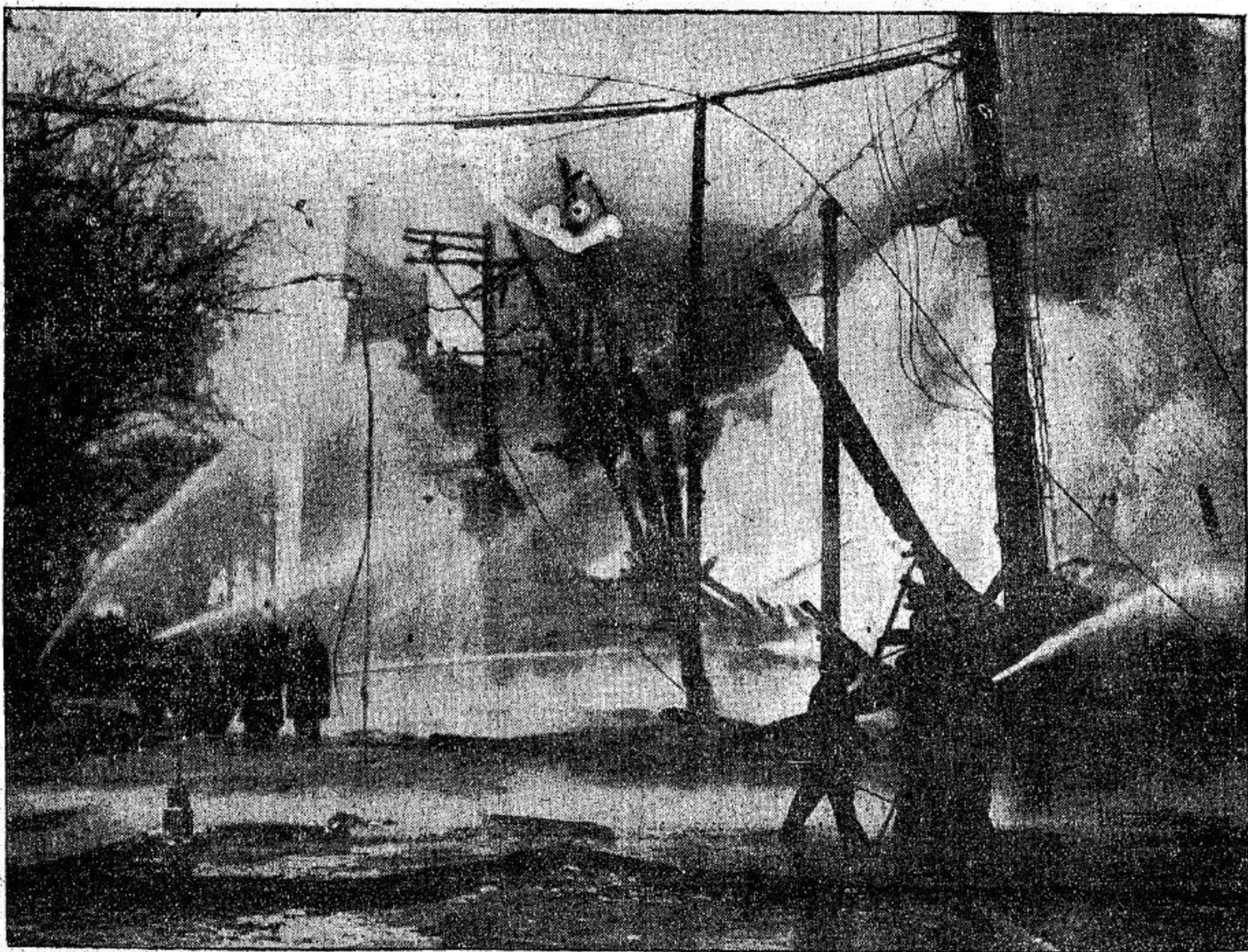


## THREE GIRLS RESCUED AT FIRE



FIGHTING BLAZE IN FACTORY ON L ST WHEN FIRE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT.

## SIX ALARMS AT SOUTH BOSTON

Several Tenements Scorched by Factory Fire.

Department Squelched Blaze Which Threatened a Disaster.

### OCCUPANTS OF THE BURNED BUILDING IN SOUTH BOSTON

Building owned by Michael F. Cahill.

Basement and first floor—Boston Metal Leather Company; 100 employees.

Second floor—fronting on 1st st, Thomas W. Byrnes, wire manufacturer and electric batteries, 50 employees.

Second floor, rear—Michael F. Cahill, ferule and tool manufacturer, 50 employees.

Third floor—Allington & Curtis Co, sheet metal workers, 35 employees.

Fourth floor—vacant.

Fifth floor—Boston Art Metal Company, 35 employees.

Total loss \$150,000; to building \$70,000 and to all the contents, \$80,000; partially insured.

What developed into the most exciting fire that South Boston has suffered in many years started shortly after noon today, when the "old suspender factory" building at the corner of L and 1st sts, burst into flames. Before the firemen reached the spot it was a veritable furnace, and houses across the street, occupied as tenements, were beginning to catch.

One alarm followed another in quick succession from box 136, between 12:20 and 12:30 p. m., until have had been rung, and another from box 2169, on a school near the scene, made six. Woman and children in the tenement houses were forced to run for their lives, taking only such things with them as they could seize in their mad rush.

### Rescue of Three Girls.

One of the spectacular features of the fire was the rescue of three girls from the roof of one of the wings during the early stages. One of the girls was Margaret Hanlon, bookkeeper for the Allington & Curtis Mfg Co. The names of the other two are Helen Quinn and Gertrude McAuliffe.

The Allington & Curtis Co occupied the second floor. When the girls went out in the hallway at the cry of fire they found the place filled with smoke coming up from below. Knowing they would be trapped if they went down stairs, they started up, and went out on the roof of the wing, where they shouted for help.

To ladderman James Hurst of Ladder 6, who was on his day off, the three girls owe their escape. He was near there in civilian clothes when he heard about their plight, and he rushed to the place and from some place, no one knew where, he managed to get a ladder.

He put this against the side of the building and started to their rescue. Meanwhile many men and women were running about, shrieking to the girls not to jump, and the girls were yelling for

aid. This was before the Fire Department had arrived and it seemed as if the girls were doomed.

The people did not realize that Hurst was a fireman and would know just how to go about the rescue. When they saw him clambering up quickly they felt relieved, but not too much so until they noted the skillful manner in which he directed the girls to go down, assuring them that they had plenty of time and not to lose their nerve.

### Tenement Houses Across Street.

Across the street from the big factory building were eight tenement houses, in which two families live. These were in the danger zone, and the women and children started to get some of their belongings.

Before they could remove many of their belongings the fire was sweeping around them, and the big volume of smoke covered everything so that it was hardly possible to see anything within 50 feet. This added to the excitement, and mothers rushed about frantically, trying to gather their children together, to protect them.

### Start in Old Wooden Factory.

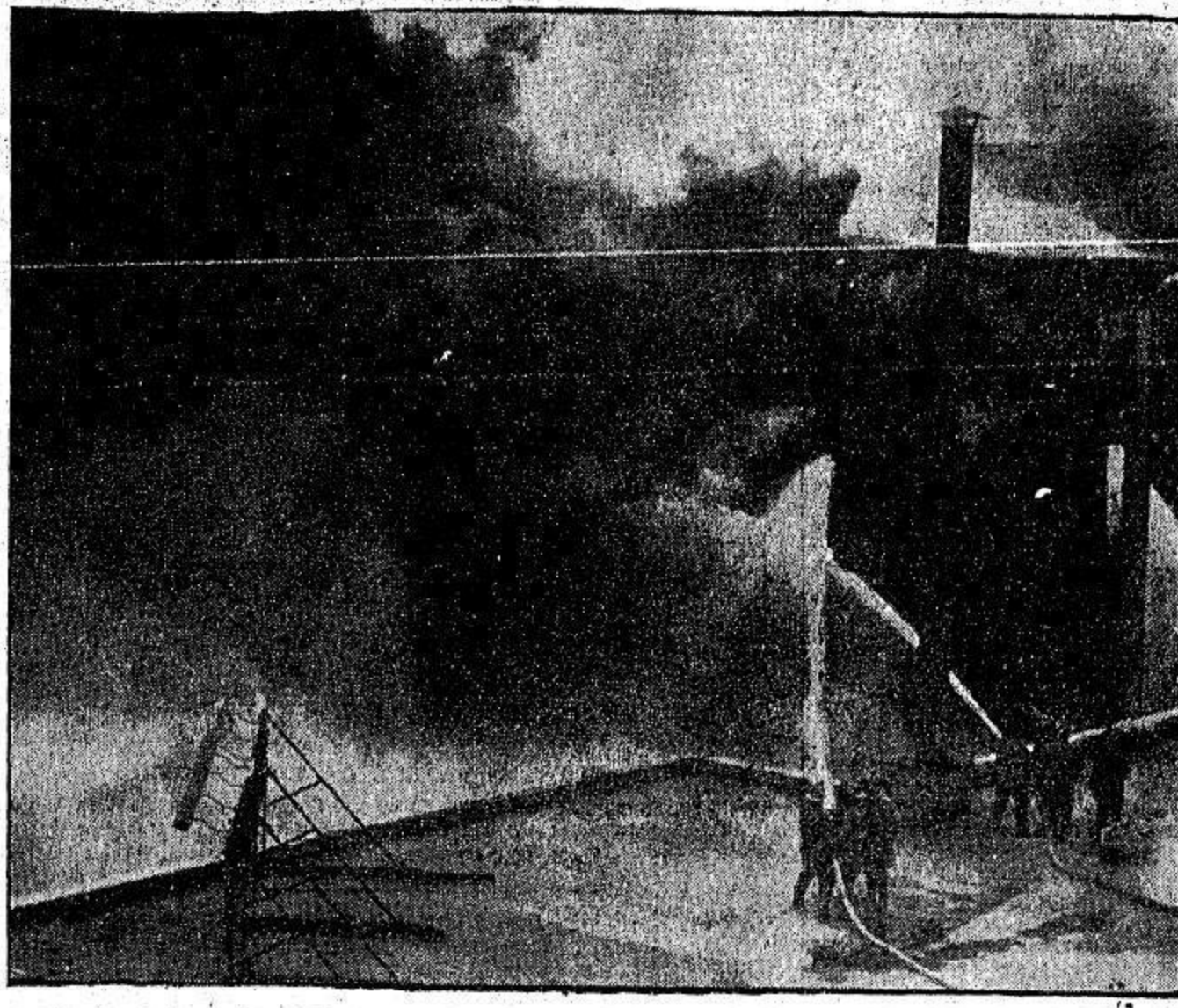
The building where the fire started was a five-story wooden structure. It had a frontage of 150 feet on 1st st and 100 feet on L st. It was owned by M. F. Cahill and occupied by more than a dozen firms.

The wind was blowing from the northeast and this fanned the flames so that they swept through the structure like a furnace blast. From one floor to another they raced before the firemen had a chance to get a stream going at all.

The first alarm from box 136 was followed by a second, third, fourth and fifth in rapid succession. This brought

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## DENSE SMOKE WHICH ROSE FROM THE BURNING FACTORY



FIGHTING THE FIRE IN THE FACTORY FROM A TENEMENT HOUSE ROOF.

### THREE GIRLS RESCUED AT FIRE

Continued From the First Page.

a lot of apparatus to the fire, but because of the long haul to get there, over near the Point, as the section is know the fire had got such great headway that it seemed as if it would spread for a radius of half a mile at least.

### People Terrified by Flames.

In some respects the fire resembled that of Chelsea in its early stages. The way in which the flames roared upward and the smoke belched around terrified the people so that they started an exodus for the stores and homes of neighbors some distance away, with as many of their belongings as they could carry.

By 1 the district was filled with apparatus and sight-seers, and the latter got in the way of the firemen and retarded the work a bit. Finally squads of police arrived and they cleared the zone so that the firemen could get streams on all the places in danger as well as on the big factory.

It was early seen that the big factory building was doomed, and with it went a couple of old buildings and sheds in the rear. The houses on L st were scorched and had windows broken by the heat comprised Nos. 19, occupied by Elizabeth Leonard; 21, occupied by Martin Greely; 23, James Denehy; 25, William Fitzgerald; 27, Edward Connery, and 29, William Cronin.

### Explosions in Peninsula Garage.

Directly to the east of the building where the fire originated is the new cement building of the Peninsula Garage, owned by Joseph P. Mannig. Within the first half hour there were several explosions in the garage.

Although the flames were blowing away from the garage, it was enveloped in smoke and large embers and sparks were dropping all about it. It was impossible to get near the building, but the explosions indicated that there was a fire inside.

Fire Commissioner Grady was soon at the scene after the fire got going, and he was in constant touch with Fire Chief McDonough in planning to cope with the spreading flames.

### Flames Near Edison Light Plant.

Directly across from the fire is the big plant of the Edison Electric Light Company, but this is a brick building and it was not in a very dangerous position, for the fire was sweeping the other way. Because the tenement houses are of wood, and it has been so dry lately, the firemen were afraid the burning embers would soar away to sections elsewhere, and start other fires, as they did in Chelsea. That was why the extra alarms were sent in.

When the apparatus from the city got over there, some of it was sent out on the outskirts of the section to watch for incipient fires. The houses near the fire caught on the roofs, but the firemen had planned their attack so well that they were able to save them, although the places were badly scorched.

As the minutes went by it was seen that the department really was getting the upper hand, and that what had threatened to sweep the entire district was being confined to a smaller area than the chief had anticipated.

There was plenty of room to fight the fire, and the wind sweeping from a northeasterly direction was not blowing hard enough to carry the embers so far away that the firemen could not keep track of them.

### Walls Fall on Fire Apparatus.

When the fire was at its height a burning plank fell and struck Capt. Daniel Nolan of Ladder 1, and bruised him, but not seriously.

The wall in the front of the building toppled over and fell on the ladder wagon, partly burning it, and another wall fell over on Engine 7, and that was being damaged also.

The telephone, trolley and electric wires were burned in the vicinity and some of them were falling down, but the current was shut off so that the firemen would not get shocked.

The heat was so intense that the grass plot on the Edison lawn was scorched, and steam began to rise out of the ground in other parts where the ground was moist.

### Loss of Mr Cahill \$70,000.

Michael Cahill, owner of the building in which the fire started and who also uses a portion of the second floor, where he manufactures tool handles, lives at 272 West 5th st, South Boston. When seen by a Globe reporter at the fire, he said: "I was in my shop on the second floor when I noticed smoke coming up through a belt hole from below. I rushed out into the hall to reach the stairs, but the hallway was so choked with smoke that I was forced back into my shop."

"I then ran out on to the fire escape on the 1st-st side of the building and reached the street."

"I have owned the building about four years. I understand the structure is about 25 or 30 years old. So far as I know, there has never been a fire in it before, although most of the shops use fire for their manufacturing purposes."

"The building was worth \$18,000 and was fully insured. I also had about \$2,000 worth of machines in my shop so that my loss will probably be about \$20,000. All the other occupants had many machines in their shops and it is now hard to estimate what the total loss will be."

One of the firms lost its payroll of \$100 because the men spread so rapidly. The men were to be paid at 1 today.

but they will have to wait now until next week.

It was impossible to get out any of the materials and goods in the building, so fast did the flames spread.

### Six Alarms Given in All.

Mayor Curley went over to the fire before 1 p. m., as soon as he heard about it, and he remained there until about 1:30. Before he left he complimented the fire chiefs on the manner in which the fire was handled, and the quick way in which it was smothered out. Five alarms were given from box 136 and another from box 2169.

The sixth alarm that came in was for a fire started on the roof of the dwelling at 672 East 2d st, by sparks carried along by the wind. This blaze was quickly put out with small loss.

While the fire was in progress alarms from other sections of the city came in, and these necessitated a covering in of a lot of apparatus from the outskirts and the use of apparatus from other cities and towns adjoining Boston, under the mutual protection system.

### Stewart Walker Unconscious.

At 2:30 this afternoon, Stewart Walker, a member of the Box 52 Association, a veteran of the great Boston fire, was on East 1st st viewing the ruins of the burning building when a hose burst and the end struck him full in the face, knocking him down and making him unconscious. He was taken into the home of Mrs. Greeley on L st, and was given first aid, and then was taken to his home in Brookline.

In talking to a Globe reporter this afternoon, engineer George Martin stated that he left the building at 12 to go to his luncheon, and that the fire was then all right, and that he looked all the doors of the engine room. At 12:25 p. m. neighbors saw smoke coming out of the first floor and the basement, where the fire started, and within a few minutes, it was said, the building was in flames.

Mary Kane and Katherine Feehan were employed on the second floor of the building by the Cahill company. With the assistance of Genero Rizzo, an Italian, they reached the fire escape and thus gained safety on the street.

### SOUTH END FIRE DRIVES OUT FAMILIES

Two families were driven out of the two and one-half story wooden dwelling at 137 Tyler st, South End, about 1:30 this afternoon by a fire which started from an unknown cause on the upper floor and spread to the roof. The upper floor apartment with its furnishings was badly damaged and the firemen had half an hour's fight.

The alarm was sounded when the South End fire companies were at South Boston and the fire was fought by the out-of-town companies. The house is located in a wooden block and when the flames shot through the roof there was great excitement among the occupants of the block.