

BOSTON'S GREAT FIRE

About Twelve Acres of Territory Burned Over.

BOSTON, May 16.—Some small Roxbury boys set themselves up as rivals to Mrs. O'Leary's cow on the Boston baseball grounds yesterday afternoon and a result the city was visited by the biggest fire since Thanksgiving Day 1892, and a conflagration covering a greater area than any since the memorable one of 1872. While the financial loss is not a circumstance to that of either of the above mentioned fires, yet in less than three hours some twelve acres of territory were burned over. The base-ball grand stand and bleachers, a large school house, and engine house, 164 wooden buildings and 13 brick buildings were burned and some 1,000 families rendered homeless. The loss is conservatively estimated at from \$300,000 to \$500,000, although one authority puts it at \$1,000,000.

Indications are that the fire was caused by carelessness and mischief and became beyond control through stupidity.

There could not have been a better place to begin a blaze. The seats in the centre field had been torn down since last season and the only 25 cent seats left were those occupying a triangular position in the extreme right field. When these seats were completed there were left a great many shavings and loose pieces of wood. As it had not rained for some days, this spot furnished excellent ammunition for a fire.

The boys set the fire and getting scared ran away, and thus the flames got a good start.

An officer was told about the blaze and tried to pull away some boards, but those gave the flame the start it needed to make a conflagration. Then it took a long time to ring in the alarm and to turn on the water, so that it seemed all of 20 minutes between the first appearance of smoke and applying the first stream of water.

The second series of games between the Boston and Baltimore had begun before 5,500 spectators. But two and a half innings had been played and the Baltimore last took their seats in the bat in the last part of the third inning, when the contest was interrupted by flames, which could be seen rising from the right-field bleachers.

The occupants of the bleachers, feeling the warmth under them jumped from their seats in wild amazement and tried to extinguish the flames by tearing the rubbish and scattering it as best they could, but the blaze refused to be extinguished and gathered headway with a persistency which surprised them, and in a few moments was exciting more interest than the national game.

After five or ten minutes of unavailing work someone suggested calling the fire department.

The first alarm was rung in at 4:17 P. M. This was followed by a second, third and a fourth at 4:45.

The department was slow in getting to work, and before anyone seemed to realize the danger the flames were beyond control, (fact, it was at first considered a joke.)

The spectators began to get impatient that such a little flame should stop play, and impatiently cried: "Play ball, play ball."

With the rapidity of a prairie fire the flames rushed along.

The ball players ran out toward the scene, but it was not long before they were forced back. The flames had gained terrific headway and the spectacle, though awful, was most beautiful.

After having thoroughly found its way into the 25 cent seats the flames attacked the house outside the grounds on the east side and crawled along the fence. All this time there was nothing done to protect the grand stand. Not a line of hose was seen, nor a drop of water to avert the threatened danger. Everybody was indignant that nothing was done to protect the splendid structure.

The heat was so intense that the spectators who had been driven into the left field corner began to make their way out of the grounds through a hole in the center field fence. Those who managed to get a view outside of the fence saw a magnificent sight as the massive towers tottered and fell.

Fifteen minutes after the fire was discovered the houses in the rear of the ball grounds were attacked, and within an hour the whole fence on the right-field side, all the seats on the bleachers, the grand stand and the ticket office, with all wooden structures contiguous, had been destroyed. The fire had also burned through to Tremont street and then proceeding southerly had taken all the wooden dwellings on Burke, Coventry and Berlin streets within its grasp.

Emphatic Denials.

NEW YORK, May 16.—Ex-Secretary William C. Whitney was asked if there was any foundation for the story that the sugar trust made a contribution of \$500,000 to the democratic national campaign fund in 1892. "There is no truth in the story," said Whitney. "Neither from the sugar trust nor from any individual representing the democratic cause did I receive any contribution whatever, not even a cent."

H. O. Havemeyer when called upon for a statement regarding the story, denied the subject emphatically. "It is a pure fabrication beginning to end," he said.

Carnot To Set an Example.

PARIS, May 16.—The Matin prints an interview with an intimate friend of President Carnot, whose name for obvious reasons is not given, in which the gentleman interviewed is quoted as saying that he is authorized to state that M. Carnot will positively seek re-election. The president, the gentleman says regards it as his duty to set an example of avoiding undignified intrigue for a renewal of the peace.

Consider ArcLights Dangerous.

HARTFORD, Conn., May 16.—The Hartford Board of Fire Underwriters has voted that, from and after June 1, 1894, in all establishments where arc lights are used an additional rate of 50 cents on every thousand dollars shall be collected on all new and existing policies for the non-use of spark arresters satisfactory to the board.

Miss Willard Rides a Wheel.

LONDON, May 16.—Miss Frances Willard, president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in the United States, is the guest of Lady Somerset at her country house. Miss Willard practices bicycling daily, and has become greatly benefited physically thereby.

Cobron Awarded the Race.

DENVER, May 16.—In the race between Uncle Jack and Cobron at Overland for \$5,000 a side the race was awarded to Cobron, Uncle Jack not running. A row over the stakes caused the trouble.

Boys afterwards control of the fire was

secured and the call was rescinded.

A few minutes past 6 o'clock a woman was seen coming from a house on Cabot street with her clothes all on fire. She made a frantic rush from the street toward the ropes when patrolmen caught her in their arms, rolled her in the street and thereby saved her life.

A number of persons were more or less injured while the fire raged and there were numerous narrow escapes. Several firemen were removed to hospitals suffering from injuries more or less severe.

At a special meeting of the board of aldermen, called by the mayor, it was voted to request the trustees of the Johnson Fund to expend, the the over-siders of the poor, the balance remaining in their hands for the relief of the sufferers by the conflagration.

Natural questions was rife as to where the Boston will go for the present. The only ball ground accessible is that on Congress street occupied by the Players' League and Association clubs in 1890 and 1891. The grounds need retouching, but the grand stand is in fairly good condition. The game will be played there to-day.

IGNORANCE IN THE NAVY.

How a Stupid Officer Seriously Injured the Monterey.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Among the serious charges that Secretary Herbert is investigating on the coast defence ship Monterey at San Francisco is one relating to the virtual ruining of the hydraulic turrets which contain the big 12-inch rifles of that ship's battery. It is understood that on the recent sea cruise of the ship during the practice firing of the guns, it was thought by the officer in charge that the hydraulic mechanism for taking up the recoil needed modification. This apparatus consists of a perforated plunger working in a heavy cylinder through which water is forced. The machinists of the ship were ordered to take out the plungers and reduce their diameter "between a quarter and a half inch." This sweeping instruction was followed, a quarter of an inch being removed, and the plungers were replaced. When the guns were fired again the water naturally rushed past the plungers with very little resistance, and every pipe and joint connected with the apparatus burst, flooding the turrets and necessitating repairs which will consume several weeks. It was considered remarkable that the turret and gun mounting was not totally demolished by the recoil of the monster weapon.

Ordinance officers in Washington declare that the apparatus was probably all right at the outset and not more than one-thirty-second of an inch should have been removed in any event.

TROUBLE AVERTED.

No Danger of a Renewal of the Great Northern Strike.

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 16.—The Northern trouble which threatened to lead to another strike all along the line was averted without the intervention of the executive committee of the American Railway Association.

The trouble consisted of a difference between the men and President Hill over the construction of some of the terms of the decision of the board of arbitration which settled the great strike a few days ago.

Being called upon for an interpretation of its decision, the arbitrators announced a construction which practically gives the men all they contend for. It is that all the men who were out shall be taken back into the company's employ; that the men under arrest shall be kept at work until proven guilty of having destroyed property of the company and that no new men shall be employed by the company so long as there are old employees to take the places. Furthermore, Engineer Best, over whose discharge the difficulty arose, is to be taken back into the company's employ; that the men under arrest shall be kept at work until proven guilty of having destroyed property of the company and that no new men shall be employed by the company so long as there are old employees to take the places. 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