

COUNTRY CLUB'S HOME IS BURNED

Destroyed After Watch
Party at Dedham

Fire Ruins Upper Story of Fine
Brookline Home of S. B. Reed

DEDHAM, Jan 1—The clubhouse of the Dedham Country and Polo Club on Westfield st was destroyed by fire early this morning.

The clubhouse has been two-thirds closed for about two months for the conservation of food and coal, but last evening it was opened to the members for a watch and dancing party. The members and guests had only left for their homes a short time before when the steward of the club, George Haynes, discovered smoke coming from the cellar. He telephoned the Fire Department and aroused the employes who had

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retired among whom were Mrs George Hayes who had with her a 14-months-old daughter Avis, Misses Alice and Frances Manning, Mary Gray and Annie Hayes.

The firemen, after a two-mile run, found a brisk blaze, and using up all their chemicals, had to lay a hose of about 100 feet to a pond in the rear, where, after cutting through 18 inches of ice, they were able to get a small stream. By this time the whole structure was a mass of flames.

Seeing they could not save the house, the firemen turned their efforts to saving the barns and golf repair house.

Many of the steel lockers of the members were saved by the firemen and spectators, but some 20 were destroyed.

The loss of the club is about \$25,000 and was mostly covered by insurance.

SOUND THREE ALARMS FOR \$10,000 BROOKLINE FIRE

Brookline firemen fought hard to save the roof of a fine private dwelling house at 779 Washington st, Brookline, yesterday afternoon, but the fire had a good start and caused about \$10,000 damage to the upper part of the house. The property is owned by Mrs Katherine M. McNally and is occupied by Samuel B. Reed, president of the Boston Protective Association.

Three alarms were sounded, the first coming from box 27 at 12:35 p m. Somebody sounded an alarm from box 271 five minutes later and Chief Johnson ordered a second alarm from box 27 at 12:50. The top of the dwelling was then entirely in flames. The firemen kept the fire from getting below the top floor sleeping rooms.

Mr Reed and members of his family were at luncheon when a neighbor rang the doorbell and said the house was afire. Mr Reed's small grandson was asleep in one of the chambers on the top floor, but was brought out without difficulty.

Neighbors assisted the family in carrying out the furniture, so that much of it was saved. Damage by water served to increase the loss by fire. Mr Reed's personal loss amounted to about \$1500. The dwelling is valued at \$30,000.

The fire was one of the worst the Brookline department has tackled in a long time. It was caused by a defective chimney, the flames breaking out in a blind attic and working in between the ceiling and the roof, where it was extremely difficult for the firemen to reach.

Mr Reed, who, as head of the Boston Protective Department, has had much experience in protecting property during a fire, expressed himself as well pleased with the work of the Brookline firemen.

FIGHT THREATENING FIRE NEXT DOOR TO THEATRE

A fire which threatened to assume dangerous proportions was discovered about 7:30 p m last night in the basement of the building at 407 Washington st, occupied by Browning, King & Co, clothiers. An automatic alarm sounded. This was followed by a bell alarm. The

heat caused a burglar alarm to be set off and men from a private detective agency hastened to the place.

Patrolman Dobbratz of the City Hall-at Station, who was on duty at the Orpheum Theatre, next door, saw the fire through the transparent sidewalk. He sounded an alarm.

Chief McDonough on arrival conferred with Manager Victor J. Morris of the Orpheum Theatre. As there was no danger of the fire entering the theatre structure the chief decided no announcement should be made to the audience. An intermission resulted in some person leaving the house and through the chief's order no more were admitted. Those inside had no knowledge of the blaze until they emerged.

The flames ignited gas in the basement, and this caused a sheet of fire to penetrate the cellar. Not until workmen from the gas company shut off the gas was it safe for the firemen to enter the cellar.

District Chief Ryder estimated the damage from the fire at \$250.

FIRST 1918 FIRE IN BOSTON AT 39 POPLAR ST, WEST END

The first fire in Boston for the new year, so far as records at Police Headquarters show, was in the West End. A still alarm called the firemen of Engine 6, Leverett st, out at 23 minutes after midnight. The fire was caused by some plumbers thawing out water pipes in the cellar of the five-story brick building at 39 Poplar st. The house is unoccupied. The damage was \$50.

FIRES IN DWELLING HOUSES CAUSED BY THAWING PIPES

Fire in an unoccupied three-story wooden dwelling at 77 Cottage st, East Boston, yesterday morning shortly after 7 o'clock caused \$50 damage. Thawing out the water pipes with a light caused the fire. The house is owned by John Bell.

Thawing out water pipes in the four-story dwelling at 231 West 3d st, South Boston, caused fire damage of \$50 yesterday morning shortly after 9 o'clock. The blaze was on the first floor. The house is owned by William Sline.

FIRE DESTROYS ONE HOUSE IN MEDFORD, OTHERS CATCH

MEDFORD, Jan 1—A fire, which started from an overheated furnace in the residence of Mr and Mrs A. C. Felkin on Fells av. near the Malden line, early this morning during their absence destroyed the 2½-story house and threatened a dozen more dwellinghouses in the vicinity.

A high wind from the northwest blew snows of sparks from the fiercely burning house, which was at the top of the slope up which Fells av runs, down upon the roofs of the houses on the south side of the hill.

The sparks set fire to the house of Thomas MacKenzie of 114 Fells av, where the roof caught; the house of William F. Donovan of 123 Fells av, where the piazza was ignited, and that of Felix McParland of 71 Rock Glen road. Firemen with chemicals kept the flames from spreading.

The fire is believed to have started shortly after 2 this morning, as the smell of burning wood was noticed by residents of that district about that time. Many of them searched their own houses from attic to cellar for fire. The flames evidently broke out after a couple of hours' smoldering in the cellar. The Felkin house was doomed when the firemen arrived. The loss is set at \$6500. The house was insured.

Mr and Mrs Felkin had remained over night at a Boston hotel after a theatre party and a New Year's supper. They returned to this city about 11:30 this morning, when neighbors informed them of their loss. At the time the firemen were searching the ruins for their bodies, it having been feared that they had lost their lives.

FIREMEN BREAK UP COLD SPELL FOR FAMILY OF SIX

Dorchester firemen broke up a cold spell in the home of Mr and Mrs Jacob Kwaks, 376 Norfolk st, last evening and gave the father, mother and four children a comforting word and relief in the shape of a fire in the kitchen stove before they departed.

The action by the firemen came as a result of a fire in the Kwaks home a few minutes before 5 o'clock when an oil stove exploded, setting fire to the floor and rugs and causing a damage of \$50.

When a summons from box 352 brought the firemen to the house the floors, walls and ceilings were glazed with a thin coating of ice, the kitchen range was frozen up and water in the pipes turned to ice. The family had been trying to keep warm by means of the small stove that stood in the center of one room.

"No more heat," said Kwake to the firemen, after the flames had been extinguished. Kwake then explained the situation. With the thermometer then 2 degrees below zero the "boys" disconnected the hot-water back from the range, thawed out the water pipes and provided the wherewithal for a cozy fire.

"Your stove is all right now, light a fire and you will be all right," were their parting words.

Fire in Unoccupied Roxbury House

Engine 13, Roxbury, was called out by a still alarm for a fire on the first floor of the unoccupied wooden dwelling 197 Vernon st, early yesterday. The cause of the fire was not learned. The damage was \$300. The building is owned by Charles Pieroway.