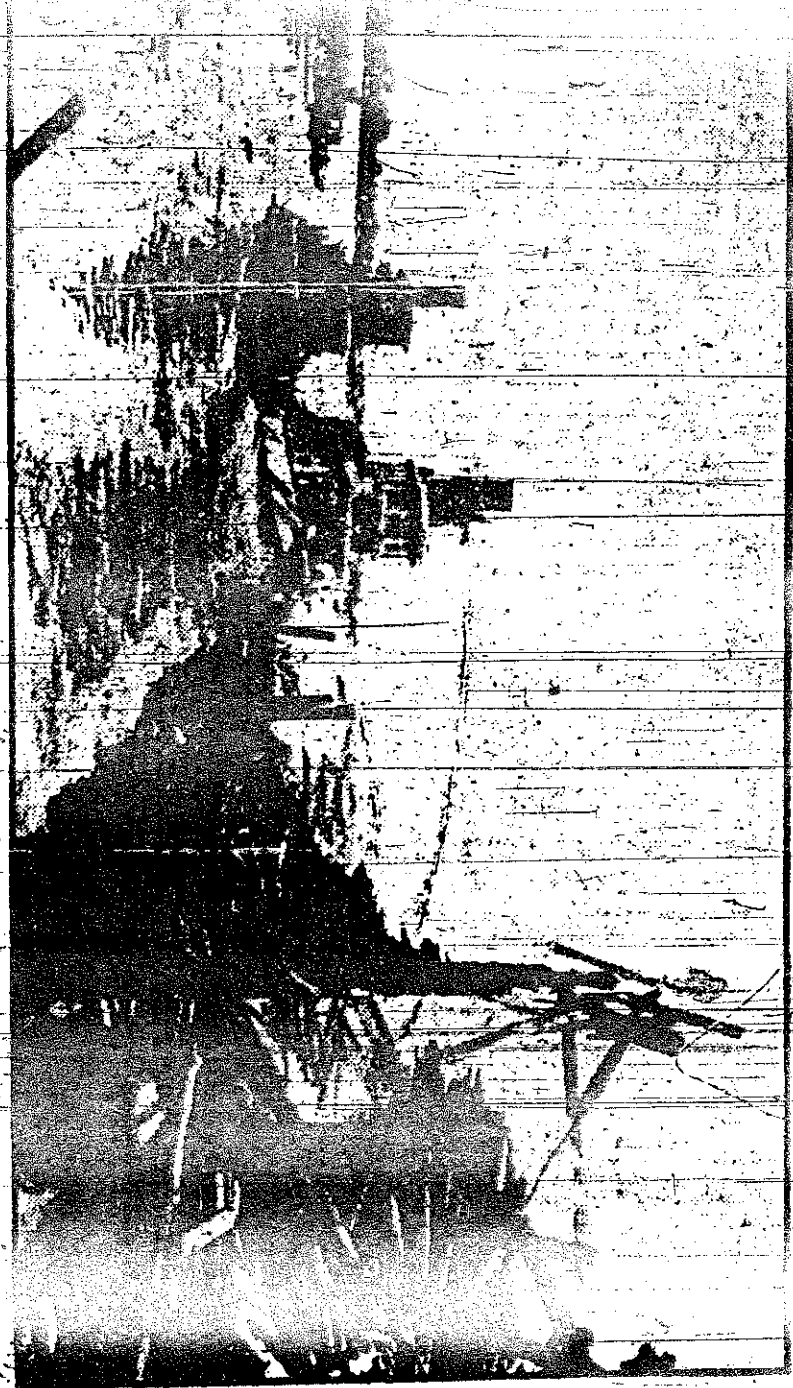


G WHARF FIRE



FIREMEN PLAYING ON THE LUMBER PILES. TUG ALONGSIDE.

Wilson Lumber Company's Plant on Decker's Wharf Badly Damaged--Schooner Sallie 'On Burned to Waters Edge--Barkentine Kremlin Damaged--Numerous Other Small Losses-- Total Loss May Reach \$60,000.

The Wilson Lumber Company on Decker's wharf had a very bad fire yesterday, the fire-riddled schooner the *Four* was destroyed and the barkentine *Kremlin*, one of the three new living the American flag was damaged. The new plant of the Wilson Lumber Company was burned somewhat and a slight loss incurred, but not very much damage done to this part of the establishment.

The fire was discovered shortly after 11 o'clock yesterday morning by Edward J. Powers, a former police officer and now watchman for the Wilson Lumber Company. He was on the outside of the stable of the Wilson Company about a third of a mile down Decker's wharf, on the west side of the wharf. He had just returned at that time of his work to a pile of manure that was lying in the stable, probably from what he had fed the horses. Powers ran to the stable, where he saw a fire in a box in the place and called his fire call. Just about the time that the fire was seen, the *Four* and the barkentine *Matt* (oil) on the wharf, and the coal plant of the Portland Lumber Co. was nearly knocked out by a fierce gust of smoke that came in through the archway of the wharf as he was walking down to the lower end. He called the alarm which is box 611. The fire was discovered at 11:22.

wrong point of the compass and thinking that perhaps it might be trouble prevailing up along the wharves he started out to go to box 622.

Just why caused this mix up is somewhat of a problem. Watchman Powers told the Argus last evening he later called up the Western Union where the A. D. M. system is located and asked them if they got it, and they said they did, also one from 611, but that they sent out the first one that came in, 622. The fire alarm that they at first made the statement that they got 422 from the A. D. M. people, but when the records of the A. D. M. people were produced with 622 and 611 on them it began to look as though the error had been made at the headquarters, the thing is certain, the alarm that came in on the quick tappers was 422 in every house in the city. Then when the alarm began to come in on the slow time it struck 622 also in every house in the city and likewise on the outside bells and whistles. It looks very much as if our complicated fire alarm system had again proven too complicated for the "human factor" in its management.

Capt. Blake, ran back into the stable and in ten minutes the horses and the harness were both reduced to ashes and cinders.

Across the dock lying between Decker's wharf and the section of the *Kremlin* which had been for some time discharging lumber on the joint account of the Wilson Lumber Company and the Decker-Winslow Company, which only Saturday finished discharging their wharf plant to the *Four* of Maine wharf which was also forwarded occupied by the Wilson Company. Further down the pier are the three-masted *Sallie* (one of the New York owned by the Pendleton Brothers and commanded by Capt. S. S. Sargent, an aged man, a veteran of the Civil War). The fire was rushing down the wharf toward this vessel, but as of this hanker was rolling lower, the barkentine engine and even then was striking up the rigging and billeting the paint on the after house. Watchman Powers knew there were people on board both vessels. He rushed on to the *Kremlin* and succeeded in sounding out those there. He thought the *Four* but could not reach her owing to the fact that she was blown across to the dock with her head and at the other side. Mr. Powers could not stay any longer, so after shouting a dozen times and throwing things on board

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