FIRE AT A NAVY-YARD.

THE ROPE-WALK, OFFICES, AND SEVERAL SHOPS DAMAGED TO THE AMOUNT OF $70,000.

Boston, Aug. 21.—A fire broke out tonight in the hackling or preparatory room of the rope-walk in the Charlestown Navy-yard. When discovered, owing to the inflammable nature of the loose material in the building, the fire had already gained great headway, and the Navy-yard fire-engines, though promptly at work, made little impression on the flames. The city Fire Department soon arrived, however, and, with the efficient aid of the Navy yard brigade, marines, spare hands, &c., succeeded, in about an hour, in subduing the flames. The fire started in the second story, which contains rope-making machinery, consisting of one large spreader, four second spreaders, four draw-frames, and a quantity of shafting. All of these machines, which were valued at $5,000 each, were destroyed or rendered useless by the caving in upon them of the heavy room which fell an hour after the fire started. The lower floor contains a horizontal engine, which was not badly damaged, and 250 tons of new cordage, which will have to be sold at auction. Adjoining the preparatory house is the building occupied on the second floor by oil-rooms and offices, and on the third floor by blacksmith's, repair, and carpenter's shops and tool-room. The shops were all burned out, while the contents of the offices were badly damaged by water. One hundred and fifty feet of rope-walk proper was so badly damaged as to make necessary its demolition and rebuilding.

The loss on machinery, stock, tools, &c., will reach $50,000, while the damage to the buildings will swell the total loss to nearly $70,000. The fire was caused by friction in the shafting, and the employees state the engine has of late been driven 40 or 50 revolutions per minute faster than is usual with engines of that calibre.

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