

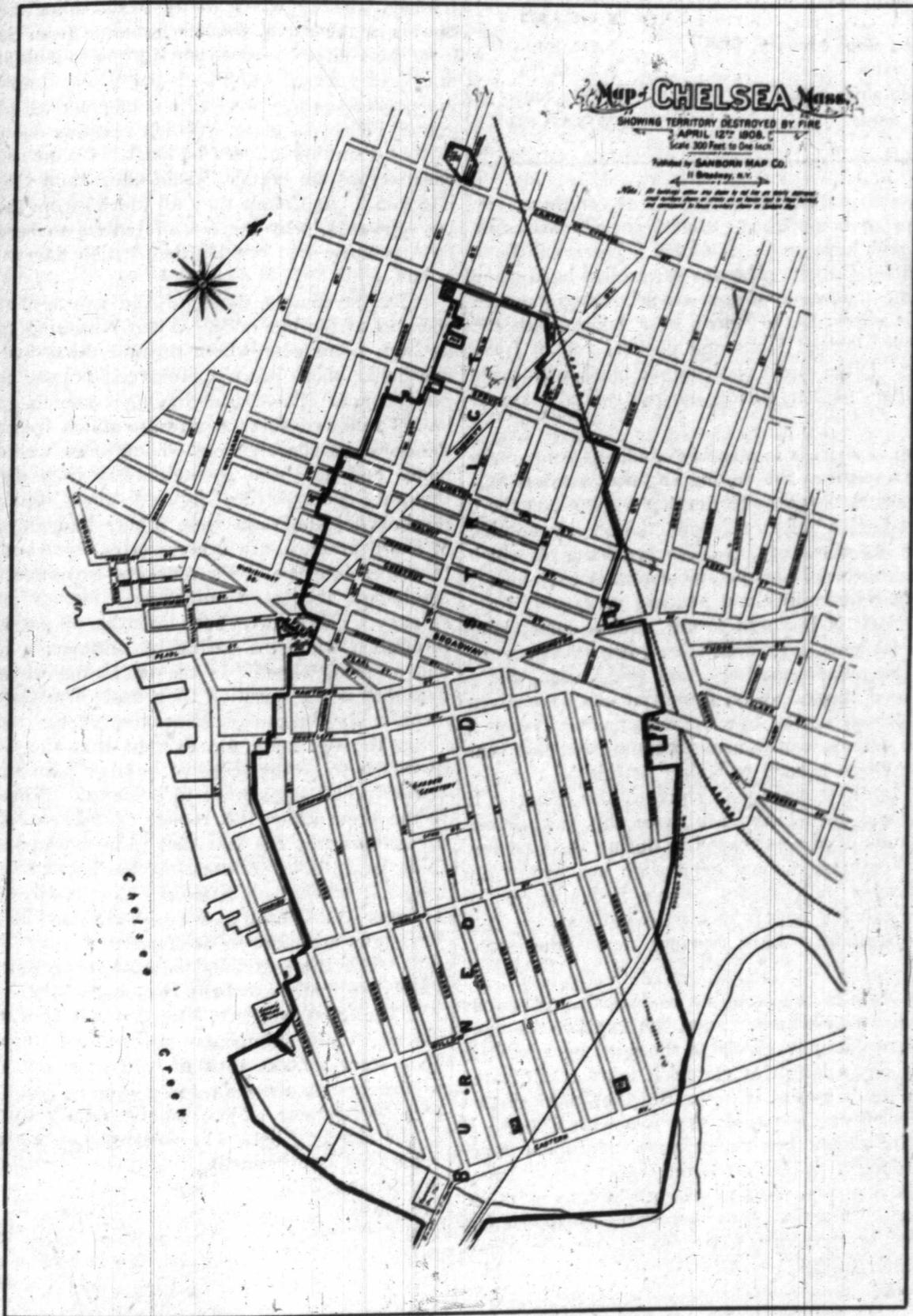
CHELSEA CONFLAGRATION.

Three Hundred and Fifty Acres Was the Area Burned.

Descriptions of the great fire of April 12th, at Chelsea, Massachusetts, have already appeared in these columns. But it is of further interest to hear from a Canadian who has visited the scene of the fire. This is Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, of Toronto, who has made a study of conflagration hazards and furnishes us with a plan of the city from the Norwich Union

This very suggestive paragraph about the fire brigade appeared in the report of a year ago. "Drills are not held regularly—a decidedly weak point in a department having infrequent calls to fire."

By reference to the plan it will be seen that the fire started at the corner of Carter and Summer Streets, where were "dumps" of rag-picking concerns. In some way a fire was started in the refuse on this dump and, blown by a very high wind, some embers were carried into an open window in a one-story frame, metal clad and composition roofed blacking factory across the small pond, and 100 feet distant from the



CHELSEA THAT WAS.

Map showing burned area of 350 acres, after the Chelsea, Mass., fire on April 12th, 1908.

Bulletin, reproduced below, showing the extent of the devastation.

The burned district is a mile and a quarter long by half a mile wide at the widest part, and covers some 350 acres. Two-thirds of the fire-brigade were call men, the remainder paid. There was one chemical engine and four steam fire engines. In addition it was thought that, in an emergency, assistance could and would be rendered by the fire brigades of Boston, having 43 steam fire engines; of Cambridge, having 7 steam fire engines, and Somerville having 4 steam fire engines.

filled-in ground. Being Sunday morning there was no one on duty, but the engineer happened to pass a few minutes later and found the fire burning briskly inside the window. He soon saw that he could not do very much himself to save the building which was on fire, but went at once to their other factory, 50 feet away across Carter Street, and connecting the hose, took it up on the roof (the building being only one-storey high) and was successful in preventing the sparks from the burning building setting this other portion of their plant on fire, even although it was of frame construction and with

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