

POPE BICYCLE BUILDING BURNED

Only the Walls Remain of the Handsome Boston Headquarters of the Columbia Wheel.

BOSTON, March 12.—The handsome building 219, 221, and 223 Columbus Avenue, occupied by the Pope Manufacturing Company, bicycle manufacturers, was damaged by fire this afternoon. The building was six stories high, of white brick, with terra-cotta trimmings.

The inside of the building from basement to roof was almost entirely burned out, and it is estimated that the loss both to building and stock will be about \$125,000. The fire started in the basement, presumably in the woodpile just back of the boiler.

The building was supposed to be proof against fire, but it did but little toward resisting the flames, although the walls bore the heat well and will probably be of some use in rebuilding. The walls, however, on the upper story of the southerly side are cracked, and this portion of the structure will have to be torn down.

When the fire started there were thirty-five employes in the building, and several had a hard time getting out.

On the first, second, and third floors were 1,700 bicycles, and the fourth floor contained about 5,000 tires. All of the wheels and tires were destroyed and also 175 second hand wheels which were used on the fifth floor in the riding academy. Besides these articles, there were about 20,000 pieces of machinery, all of which were totally destroyed.

William Ashton, the janitor, was on the fifth floor when the fire was discovered. He started down the stairs. When he reached the second floor he found that he could get no further, and he was taken out of the building with the aid of a ladder. R. W. Winkley, the private secretary of Col. Pope, was on this floor, and also had to get out by means of a ladder.

Col. Pope's War Relics Burned.

Col. Pope, who was at the exhibition of the designs for posters for his company in the Metropolitan Bicycling Company's Academy, Sixtieth Street and the Boulevard, last night said to a reporter for THE NEW-YORK TIMES that to him the principal loss in the fire that destroyed the Pope Manufacturing Company's building in Boston yesterday, was his war relics and valuable papers relating to the war.

"I valued them," he said, "more than anything else the fire destroyed."