PELHAM, N. H.

Serious Blaze at Congregational Church Horse Sheds Threatens Nearby Property.

PELHAM, N. H.; July 18.—Townsmen were aroused from their sleep last night at midnight by the ringing of the old church bell, which again pealed out a call for help, summoning the people to fight a vicious blaze which seriously threatened the post office and general store and residence of Harry H. Atwood and Congregational church itself, besides other buildings close by, all within close radius of the church horse-sheds, which had become ignited in some unaccountable manner.

The fire originated in the northwest corner of the church yard, where the two lines of sheds come together at right angles and spread rapidly in both directions. The fire was gaining such headway before assistance arrived that an urgent call for help was telephoned the Lowell fire department, and also Dracut—both promptly responding.

Meanwhile men at the Pelham car house, who were first to discover the conflagration and spread the alarm ran a line of hose from the car barn water tank to the scene and await saved the day, subduing the fire where the sheds joined the general store. The church is blistered and discolored on the northwest end and badly smutted under the coving where the fire caught from the intense heat. This is the third time that the fire equipment at Pelham car house has saved the store and residence of Mr. Atwood. First in October, 1919, when these buildings were struck by lightning; next on July 18, 1921, when a garage on this property was totally destroyed and last night when this fire raged rapidly through both lines of sheds until it had been totally destroyed or badly charred, besides also one end of another long shed on the Atwood property being considerably damaged. The town as well as Mr. Atwood have indeed been fortunate in having this fire protection, as it is impossible to estimate where a fire of such a serious nature would stop had it got beyond control. Volunteer fire fighters responded as usual in large numbers and the time honored “bucket brigades” gave great assistance. The loss to Harry H. Atwood will probably amount to about $250 in stock which was partially destroyed. This stock was stored in the 2nd shed, where the fire was finally stopped. The horse sheds were owned individually and carried no insurance.