eight men were engaged in tearing down for the purpose of widening Holliday street, seven of the parties were buried in the ruins, three were instantly killed, the other four were dug out of the mass of brick and timber by the members of the fire department who quickly responded to the alarm, thus saving the lives of four human beings who in all probability would have perished in the ruins, had it not been for the daring spirit evinced by our firemen as the remaining walls of the building were in such dangerous condition that other than those connected with the department were afraid to venture under them. An alarm of fire was sounded on April 13th, 11¼ A. M., caused by a keg of blasting powder being placed in the cellar of a dwelling house, No. 309 E. Madison street: the powder was ignited by a blasting fuse: the explosion damaged the building, tearing out the front and back walls and tearing up floors, &c.; none of the parties occupying the premises were injured by the explosion, a party was arrested as being guilty of the act. After trial by the city Court he was declared not guilty.

By reference to Table H, you will find that since the office of Fire Inspector was instituted, the number of incendiary fires have been on the decrease. The year past only four incendiary fires have occurred. This may be attributed to a strict and impartial investigation which is made as to the origination of all fires. During the year several persons have been arrested, charged with arson, but after trial have been acquitted. All the ordinances of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, in relation to the duties of this office, have been strictly enforced.

Accompanying this report you will find a tabular statement, marked A, of all the fires and alarms of fire which have occurred during the year just closed. In it you will perceive the date and hour of the fire, the locality, the number of the signal box of the Fire Alarm Telegraph from which the alarm was sounded, how the property was occupied, description of the same, cause of alarm, and the name of the owners or occupiers, and the amount of loss and insurance upon the same.

Several minor tables, giving various kinds of information in relation to fires during the past year, have also been prepared. The one marked B gives an account of what the buildings destroyed or damaged were used for—whether for dwellings or otherwise. The one marked C gives the size and style of buildings. The one marked D gives the number of false alarms and the time of occurrence. The one marked E gives the numbers of fires outside the city limits, alarms from which were soundod in the city. The one marked F gives the number of alarms caused by chimneys, and the locality of the same. The one marked H gives a comparative statement of the several reports made from the office of the Fire Inspector. The one marked I gives the number and locality of the signal boxes of the Fire Alarm Telegraph, from which alarms were given during the year, and the number of alarms sounded from each box and the character of the same, whether for an actual fire, chimney, false, or outside the city limits.

In closing this report, I take occasion to return my thanks for the uniform courtesy extended to me in the discharge of my duties by the officers of the corporation and the members of the Police and Fire Department generally. In all investigations of violations of the law, and other duties of my office, I am frequently called upon to see them officially, and they have always been prompt in their advice and assistance in all cases.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. B. Boyd, *Fire Inspector.*