

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

#### CAPT MICHAEL BOYLE ENGINE 16

"Undoubtedly I have had the same experiences as other men who have served a number of years in the fire service of a large city. But the most thrilling experience, if you would consider it such, occurred in the early morning of Dec 3, 1913, at what was known as the Hotel Arcadia fire, on Washington st, where 28 human beings lost their lives. I was captain of Engine Company 3 at the time.

"My company was the first to arrive at the scene. We saw a sight never to be forgotten—the entire building a mass of flames and the unfortunate men leaning from every window.

"On entering the building we found the entry and first stairway burning fiercely. We quickly extinguished the blaze there, and made it possible for those on the second floor to escape. With the upper stairtreads and balustrades burning, we fought our way to the fourth floor.

"On reaching it we witnessed a pitiable sight as our eyes were focused on the suffocated men lying around in all positions, but we were too late, the fire had overtaken them.

"Another thrill I might mention that has an element of personal danger occurred 27 years ago, when I had just entered the department. It was on June 21, 1889. I refer to the Heyer Bros' fire at 22-24 Summer st.



CAPT MICHAEL BOYLE.

"Engine 15 Company, to which I was attached, was ordered to the third floor, where we encountered terrific explosions from fireworks, with every variety of explosive flying around on that floor. I found it a rather uncomfortable position.

"When the fire was subdued I assisted in removing the bodies of six employes who were suffocated on this floor. I considered this a thrilling experience for the first day in the service."

Capt Michael Boyle was appointed and assigned to Engine 15 June 21, 1889; promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to Engine 12 Feb 6, 1903, promoted to captain Sept 5, 1910.