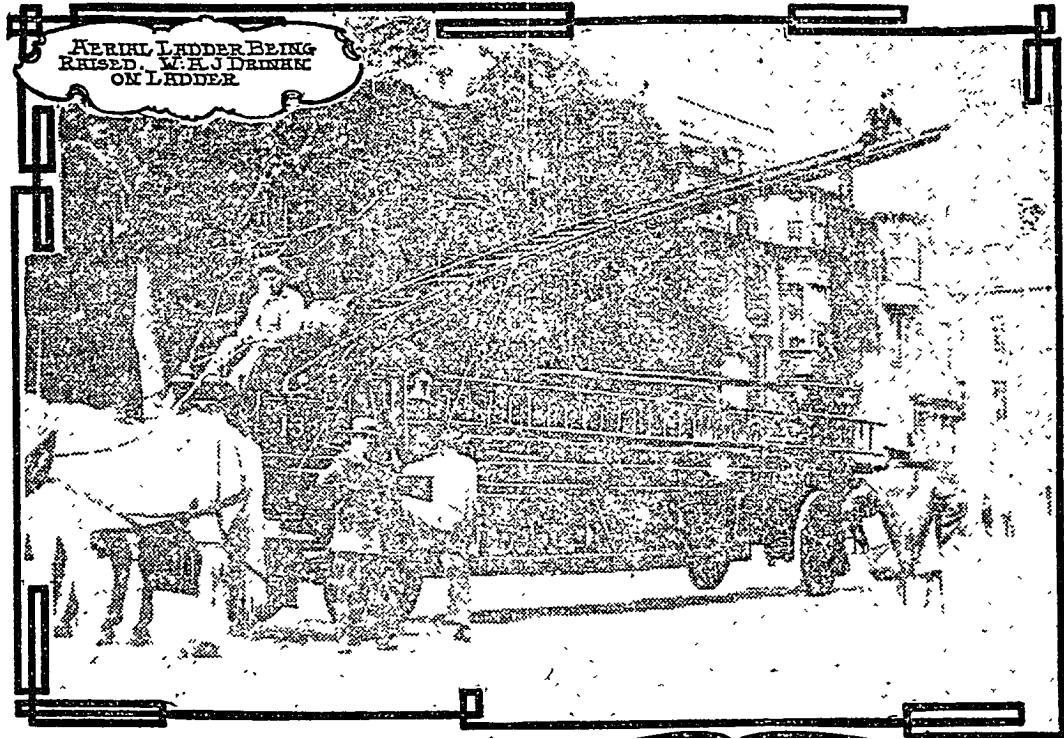


NEW AERIAL LADDER MADE BY DEPARTMENT.

Biggest Truck in World, Fitted With Compressed Air Raising Device, in Commission Yesterday.



AERIAL LADDER BEING RAISED, BY E. J. DRINKER ON LADDER

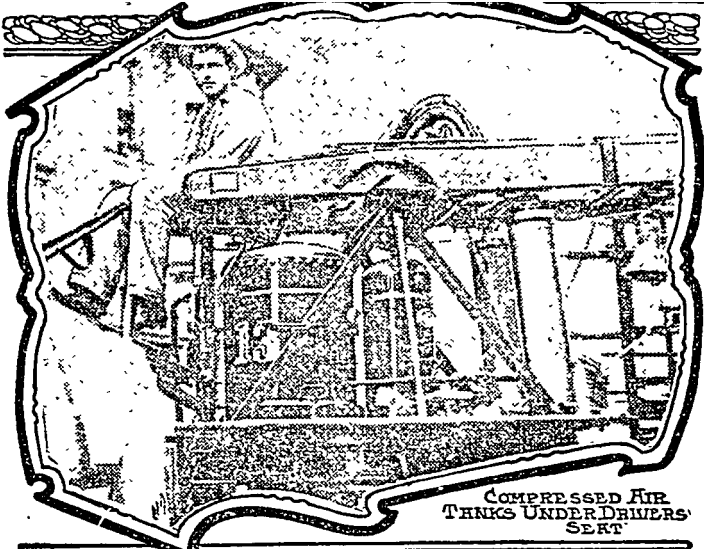
New aerial ladder truck 13, built in the fire department repair shop, the first ladder truck in this city to be equipped with the compressed air device for ladder raising, has been placed in commission at the fire station on Warren av. and the crew headed by Capt Michael J. Nolan are anxiously awaiting the first opportunity to put the new truck through a practical test.

The new truck is said to be the biggest in the world, when extended to its full length reaching an altitude of 89 feet and being equipped with all the latest appliances. The fire leaders are delighted with the new truck and twice this week they had it publicly exhibited in parades.

The compressed air device for raising a ladder is called the Dahill hoist, being named after Chief Edward F. Dahill of the New Bedford department, its inventor. He studied hard to ascertain some method of rapid ladder raising, discovering finally that compressed air was the thing. Now many of the leading cities of the country have them, Baltimore having 11, while Detroit and other cities are also using the trucks.

The compressed air tanks are located under the driver's seat. The big tank contains compressed air to a pressure of 375 pounds. The simple process of opening one valve sends the ladder to any desired height in quick time. The ladder has been raised in seven seconds to a vertical point. The power is supplied by the compressor and motor in the cellar of the fire station, which connects with the tanks on the truck by a pipe. In one charge the truck is supplied for 8 to 12 raisings.

At the exhibition given yesterday a Globe reporter was permitted to raise the truck, and the test passed off without a hitch. John N. O'Brien and Samuel E. France of New Bedford, identified with chief Dahill in the Pneu-



COMPRESSED AIR THANKS UNDER DRIVERS' SEAT

matic aerial appliance company, have witnessed every exhibition and returned home today after the truck was placed in service.

Capt Michael J. Nolan says that every man in the company will be taught how to raise the truck. The firemen on truck 13 are awaiting the chance to raise the "big stick," as they call the main ladder.

Commissioner Wells and Chief Mulien are much pleased with the new apparatus. They are not only pleased with the self-raising device, but that the truck was turned out by some of the department's skilled laborers.

Every appliance is modern, the pole apparatus which disconnects the team of horses from the truck being a feature.

In the parades ladder 13 was applauded all along the line. It was raised several times during the parades for the benefit of the public, and since the parades both the commissioner and chief have received letters complimenting them on their good fortune in having such a piece of apparatus.

The exhibition yesterday on Warren av was largely attended and praise was heard on every lip for the new ladder 13, and its crew.