

FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

DISTRICT CHIEF WILLIAM COULTER

"While I have had many narrow escapes and have been where the courage of firemen was often put to the acid test, no sight that I ever witnessed affected me as did the fire in the Arcadia lodging house on Washington st, Dec 23, 1913.

"I have had my narrow escapes, just like many other members of the department, and am fortunate to be able to relate them, but they failed utterly of stirring me as on December morning when I pulled up to the Arcadia, in command of Truck 3.

"How the members of my company, as well as other companies, tried to save the inmates is a story that has often been told. That in itself was heart-rending, but after the flames had been extinguished and we went in to bring out the dead, we were confronted with a task that was the most grewsome and trying that I think that I was ever called upon to perform. I will never forget it."

District Chief Coulter has been fighting the flames since 1883, being one of the veterans of the force. However, he is still on the job in the city proper, having charge of a very busy district. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1890, captain in 1895 and district chief in 1914. ~~The manner in which Capt Coulter con-~~



WILLIAM COULTER,
District Chief.

ducted the removal of the bodies from the Arcadia was approved by the Grand Jury, who commended him publicly in the report it made after its investigation of the fire.

Capt Coulter has commanded many busy companies, and firemen young and old describe him as a "great jake," which in the lingo of the firefighters means that he is an A No. 1 fireman.