

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

#### DISTRICT CHIEF STEPHEN J. RYDER

"I have been fighting fires about 30 years, have been caught in many tight places, and while I have been close to death often and witnessed much misery as the result of fire, there have been so many pleasant incidents in my career and I have made so many friends that I am glad that I took the position.

"I spent several years at Fort Hill sq and of course that meant work—tremendous fire duty. Later at Engine 15, where I was the lieutenant, and as captain of the double company on Congress st I was in the thick of it.

"Excitement or thrill, whichever you might choose, is a fireman's middle name. I have had my share of the thrills and excitement. The first blow on the tapper gets some of the boys.

"All of us are eager to go ahead and naturally after serving as lieutenant for several years, I was anxious to get another bugle. It came my way in February, 1895, when I was named to take command of the Congress st double company. I succeeded Capt James H. Victory, who with Lieut Gottwald and three other members of that company and Dist Chief Egan had been killed at the Merrimac st fire.

"You can imagine how I must have felt on taking command of that stricken company. I guess that anybody would feel that congratulations were not in order on such an occasion as that."

Dist Chief Stephen J. Ryder is now



STEPHEN J. RYDER  
District Chief.

in command of the 3d District with headquarters in the house of Ladder 18, Pittsburg st. When Deputy Chief Taber is away he relieves him. His service at Fort Hill sq, Engine 15 and the Congress st double company was of the highest type. For three years he commanded District 7, embracing the lumber district and lodging house section of the South End. In 1909 he was sent to District 8, Roxbury, remaining there until January, 1915, when he came down town again.