

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

#### CAPT JAMES F. RYAN ENGINE 25

"Most of the Globe readers are familiar with the Cambridge-st fire of Dec 21 last, where hoseman Charles Willett



CAPT JAMES F. RYAN

and Dennis A. Walsh met their deaths and hoseman William J. McCarthy was seriously injured. Well, we responded to box 1356 and carried a line over the

stairway to the fourth floor, and while we were at work the hose burst about three feet from the play pipe.

"There were seven of us and I sent one of the men down to the street for a new piece of hose. As we were carrying the destroyed piece toward the stairway we heard a crash and the floor and the one above it gave way, carrying down Walsh, Willett and McCarthy.

"They were members of Engine 10, a company of which I had command at one time, but none of those boys was attached to that company while I was the skipper.

"The boys of 25 and myself had a close call that morning. The crash, you see, was in the rear of the building and we reached the stairway in the front of the building and descended to the street without any great trouble.

"Yes, I have had other narrow escapes," said the captain. "You have got to figure on them when you take this job; but that Cambridge-st fire was about as close as I ever came to getting caught."

Capt James F. Ryan has been in the fire service since July 10, 1893. He served with Combination Ladder 3, Engine 3 and Engine 7 and as a private. In April, 1901, he was promoted to lieutenant and sent to Ladder 3. Jan 4, 1907, he was promoted to captain and sent to Engine 43. Later he was with Ladder 8, Engine 12 and Engine 10; and five years ago was sent to Engine 25, his present command.