

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

#### CAPT THOMAS J. LANNARY ENGINE 40

"I have had many narrow escapes in my 30 years of fire fighting. One close call was way back in 1888. On one October morning I responded to the first alarm for a fire on Lewis Wharf. When we arrived at the scene the flames were making great headway. The building was used for a storehouse, and there were many tons of spices, pepper, etc. stored there.

"I was hoseman of Engine 25. Fort Hill sq. at the time, and it was up to me to get the hose where we could work to advantage. I succeeded in getting to the floor where the fire was, but the smoke was so dense that I was obliged to lie close to the floor.

"I stood this as long as I could and finding myself getting weak I managed to crawl to a ladder and finally reached the ground, where I fell unconscious, and remained in that state 30 minutes, after being revived I was taken home.

"One year after this fire I had another narrow escape. At the Thanksgiving Day fire in 1889 I went up a 65-foot ladder on the Columbia-at side of the Brown Building and was playing on the fire when Chief Louis P. Webber noticing the walls were about to fall, ordered us down. We had barely



CAPT THOMAS J. LANNARY.

reached the ground when the walls collapsed. We lost our line of hose, it being burned in the fire.

"A grewsome task was at the North-st fire, where I found three men dead in beds, suffocated by smoke."

Capt Thomas J. Lannary joined the department Oct 15, 1886; hoseman Engine 25, 1890; lieutenant Engine 33, 1896; captain Engine 40, 1903.