

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

#### CAPT WILLIAM E. RILEY ENGINE 4

"To find yourself in a large storehouse in dense smoke with flames shooting all around you and a hot air explosion blowing you off your feet is an experience I had at the Crimminis Wool Storehouse on Congress st, Aug 18, 1910.

"I had carried my line to the first floor and was playing there when a hot air explosion took place, blowing me several feet backward. When I regained my equilibrium I heard a great rubbing noise inside the building, and having lost our line, several of us started to make our way out of the building.

"We had just got outside when the roof and five floors fell crashing into the cellar and the street, scattering debris and timbers in all directions.

"After a short time the company gathered around the building again and I reported to Chief Mullen and Commissioner Daly, who were present. Roll call was ordered in the street and it was a great relief when all members were accounted for.

"It was at this fire that the salt water system was used for the first time. The



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water was pumped into Tower No. 1 and proved very successful."

Capt William E. Riley was appointed to the department in July, 1892, promoted lieutenant in November, 1904, captain March, 1907.