

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES.

### CAPT JOHN F. WATSON LADDER 17

"I have not been fighting fires as long as some of my comrades, but during my career I have been caught in many tight places and have had some close calls.

"One narrow escape was at the Hunt Brothers fire on Tremont st, in February, 1907. I was in charge of the first auto chemical, stationed at Ladder 12. I responded to the alarm from box 221. We found the fire was in the basement and had filled the first floor with dense black smoke.

"We groped our way inside and were trying to find the stairway when there was a terrific explosion that blew all the windows out of the building. It had occurred above us and therefore we were unhurt. Our comrades rushed into the building expecting to find us badly injured, but were happily disappointed.

"At a small fire in the restaurant at the South Station, I had a narrow escape from serious injury. When I was walking over the glass roof that runs around the Summer-st side of the station, I went through the glass and would have fallen to the sidewalk 30 feet below had I not stretched out my arms and caught on the iron braces. I was rescued from this position by members of our company.



CAPT JOHN F. WATSON

"Once I responded to an alarm for a fire in a building on Washington st, near Thorndike. When I got there, I found the place filled with smoke. Hoseman Kehoe and myself went up to the second story, where we were met by a police officer who informed us that there was a man on the floor above and told us to go up and get him. He wasn't taking any chances himself. We groped our way through the smoke to the floor above and found the man lying on a bed overcome by smoke. We brought him to the street, where he was revived."