

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

#### CAPT THOMAS J. MULDOON ENGINE 20

"In the past 22 years I have had my share of narrow escapes from death. One that I recall was at the Roxbury fire in May, 1894. I had been a member of the company only two months at that time. This was really my first big fire.

"When we arrived, several buildings on both sides of the street were a mass of flames. We ran our line up Coventry st and we were fighting hard. The flames by this time had crossed Tremont st, and Ladder 12's quarters were enveloped in flames.

"I was lying flat in the street playing the hose. As I tried to get a drink of water from the nozzle a live trolley wire fell down across the line I was playing and I received a snock that very nearly ended my career as a fireman.

"I crawled across Tremont st to the square, where I partially recovered from the shock after a while. My eyes being afflicted, I could hardly see, but continued to work with my company until the fire was under control.

"At another time, several years later, I responded to an alarm from box 129. This was in February, 1901. The fire was on Gold st, South Boston. When we arrived on the scene the smoke was pouring from the windows on the third floor. Several people were crying out that a woman was in the building burning to death. I rushed up the stairs and crawled along the hallway on my hands and knees.

"The smoke was so dense I had great



CAPT THOMAS J. MULDOON.

difficulty in locating the rooms. Finally I pushed a door open and was met by a mass of flames that burned my face and eyes quite badly. I groped around the room and found the woman. She was enveloped in flames. After a hard struggle I succeeded in beating the flames out with my hands, burning them severely.

"I carried her out and as I reached the street, fell unconscious and it was some time before my comrades could revive me. The woman was sent to the hospital, where she died a few hours later in great agony. For this act I received a medal of honor."

Capt Muldoon joined the department March 18, 1894; was made lieutenant June 14, 1901, and promoted to captain Sept 19, 1913.