

# FEARLESS BOSTON FIREMEN

## Who Take All Kinds of Chances

### A SERIES OF PERSONAL STORIES

#### CAPT B. F. HAYES ENGINE 27

"During my 29 years of fire-fighting I have had so many narrow escapes from death that it is hard to remember which one gave me my greatest thrill.

"One incident made an everlasting impression on me and is still fresh in my mind. It was in April, 1898, at the Hoosac Tunnel elevator fire. I was lieutenant in charge of Engine Company 27 at that time. It was a wicked fire.

"We were just about to enter the building with a line of hose when there was a terrible explosion caused by the grain dust; the whole building was blown to pieces; had my company entered the building as we intended to I do not believe I would be alive today to tell this story.

"On Jan 4, 1899, while still lieutenant in the same company, I was responding to an alarm over in the city proper. I was in the tender of engine and applying the rear brake when my right foot slipped and went between the spokes of the wheel, breaking my leg in three places below the knee. I was confined at the Massachusetts General Hospital six weeks, and it was six months before I was able to resume my duties.

"At the big fire in the city of Lynn,



CAPT BARTHOLOMEW F. HAYES

in November, 1889, the Thanksgiving Day fire in Boston, the big Chelsea fire in 1908 and the Salem fire in June, 1914, I saw many narrow escapes of others, as well as having several close shaves myself."

Capt Bartholomew F. Hayes joined the department in June, 1887, was made lieutenant in August, 1897, and captain in 1907.