

Cost and Training of Brigade.

According to the Daily Telegraph the annual cost of keeping the Fire Brigade going approximates a quarter of a million sterling every year, and the salaries and wages bill alone amount to more than £125,000. The clothing of the men costs about £10,000 a year, and nearly a tenth of that amount is spent in medical attendance. The strength of the brigade consists of about 1,300 officers and men, and included among them are nearly 200 coachmen and a dozen pilots, whilst between 30 and 40 skilled mechanics are kept continuously employed on the equipment. This equipment is increasing annually to the extent of £5,000 or £6,000 worth on an average, and, roughly speaking, the brigade at present possesses 86 steam engines, a dozen motor fire-engines, half a dozen motor fire-escapes, 110 vans, 100 hose carts and ladder trucks, five fire-floats and tugs, seven rafts and store barges, 250 various kinds of escapes and long ladders, and 60 miles of hose. A motor fire engine, which is the latest thing in fire appliances, costs £1,200, or nearly three times the cost of a horsed steam fire engine. About £17,000 is expended every year on telephones, fire alarms, and electric bells; horse hire absorbs nearly £23,000, whilst new hose and other gear and stores are accountable for more than £10,000 annually.

There are always under instruction at headquarters about 150 men, and these are drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of the navy and the mercantile marine. The reason for this, as the Daily Telegraph remarks, is obvious. An efficient fireman has to be as nimble as a cat, and he must be able to run along coping-stones and roof-ridges at dizzy heights with unerring foot. Long experience has proved that the training of a British seaman supplies the necessary nerve and nimbleness. The training of a recruit at headquarters is very severe and thorough. He is taught not only to fight the flames but to save human life, even at the risk of his own.

Several members of the Brigade are continuously engaged in a special duty known as the inspection service. This consists of inspecting the fire appliances of places licensed for public entertainment and the government buildings. The more general adoption of electricity for electric lighting has added considerably to the work of the Brigade, for that illuminant has developed new risks.

The Salvage Corps.

No description of the metropolitan fire service would be complete without a reference to another fine body of men known as the London Salvage Corps, which Colonel Fox has so ably controlled for many years. This organization is entirely distinct from public control, and is maintained solely in the interest of the insurance companies and the large property owners, but the men work loyally side by side with their comrades in the Fire Brigade, and over and over again they have proved themselves to be no less courageous. There is still another class of fireman of quite modern growth. These are the private fire brigades, which form part of the organization of many of the great London business establishments. The men are frankly amateurs, drawn chiefly from the ranks of clerks and warehousemen, but they are, as a rule, well trained to deal with a sudden outbreak of fire.

Prominent Topics.

Fort William Strike.

The Fort William strike has come to an inglorious and unprofitable conclusion. The men have obtained nothing that they could not have got without striking. A large number of them are thrown permanently out of their jobs. Seven have been committed for trial for rioting and have a chance of being provided for at government expense for some time. It will be remembered that the company had actually announced concessions, when the strikers assumed the role of dictators and commenced active hostilities against the Canadian Pacific. They have injured the company's business somewhat, have hurt Fort William considerably, and done a great deal of damage to their own interests.

The Department of Labour has arranged for a board of conciliation in which the C.P.R. will be represented by Mr. W. J. Christie, of Winnipeg, and the employes by Mr. Frederick Urry, secretary of the Trades and Labour Council of Fort William; these two will appoint a third, who will be chairman of the board.

How to Handle Rioters.

The disarming of the strikers at Fort William by the troops sent to preserve order was a neat, clever and well-conceived piece of work. It prevented them doing mischief as thoroughly as the slaughtering of dozens and wounding of scores would have done. Every man carrying a weapon was guilty of a crime against Canadian law and got off easily in simply losing his knife or his revolver while retaining his liberty. One of the best services ever rendered by the Montreal police was when they rounded up the knives and revolvers in the possession of the foreign element in this city. That was a movement that might very properly and profitably be imitated in every town, mining district or lumber camp where foreigners are to be found in large numbers. We do not wish to discriminate in favour of Canadians, but carrying deadly weapons is one of the follies of which few Canadians are guilty.

New Health By-Law.

The Montreal Board of Health is drafting a new Health By-Law containing important provisions regarding adulteration and the exposure of food to contamination. The law on these subjects can hardly be too strict; but the trouble generally seems to be, that such law as we have is not enforced with sufficient strictness. For this we are not disposed to blame altogether the Health Department, which is sadly under-manned for a city of the size of Montreal. The rapid growth of the city involves a great increase in poverty in certain districts, much over-crowding and generally unsanitary conditions calling for continual and close inspection. More sanitary police are urgently needed.

Canadian Forestry.

A special meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association is to be held at Regina on September 3rd and 4th, under the presidency of the Lieutenant-Governor. Papers will be read by many of the highest authorities on forestry in Canada. There is no subject of more practical importance to Canada, than that of the preservation of our