

gallon cylinder chemical. These were stored in a shed at the rear of the new block erected by the Blowey-Henry Co. on Jasper Avenue E. To this rendezvous all the citizens flocked when the call of fire rang out in the early day of the city.

### **The Present Central Hall.**

In 1893 the present hall at the corner of Fraser Avenue and Rice Street was built and in the fall of that year the apparatus was moved to that building. In October a steam engine and two hand hose reels were purchased. In the new building was sleeping accommodation for twelve men with light, heat and water supplied free. The fees paid the brigade were at the rate of 60 cents an hour while in attendance at fires.

Water for the steam engine was supplied from eleven tanks located on various parts of the city. They held 12,000 gallons of water each and were filled by the steamer placed down at the river bank. One of these old tanks is still in use located at the corner of Kimistino and Jasper.

### **Waterworks System Installed.**

The installation of the waterworks in the city, and the hydrants for fire protection rendered the use of the engine unnecessary, except under very exceptional circumstances, and although always ready for emergencies it is now held in reserve.

### **The New Regime.**

The first step in the formation of a paid brigade was taken with the arrival of the newly appointed chief, R. G. Davidson, of Sherbrooke, Quebec. The son of the man who for forty years had been in charge of the fire department of the eastern city, himself born in the fire hall and for many years in the service, Chief Davidson brought with him to Edmonton a valuable experience in up-to-date methods of fire fighting. A short time before he reached the city the volunteer brigade had gone on strike owing to a disagreement with the council, and the city was then being protected by five or six men only, who had been retained in the service. Chief Davidson reached Edmonton April 15th, 1906.