

department in a letter to the St. Louis Board of Fire Underwriters, of which the following is an extract:—

“Every fire is easily extinguished in the beginning. The aim, then, should be for the persons employed to put it out to arrive on the ground as soon as possible. To that end we have in Paris, nearly 120 posts distant, on an average, from each other 800 metres. These posts are composed of three men furnished with a hand engine, which they pull by hand, and which contains in its outfit all appliances necessary for the different kinds of fires \* \* \*

\* \* \* and for salvage. By the side of the hand engine and on the same truck drawn by the three men, are cloth fire buckets, a pickaxe, a ladder 12 feet long, with curved hooks at the ends and doubling in two, a large salvage rope and apparatus for cellar fires, phials of sulphate of carbon for chimney fires, a cloth for chimney fires, with which to cut off the draught, keys to hydrants, etc. The “Sapeurs” carry with them, coiled in their helmets, a small rope 75 feet long, enabling them when they are in an elevated place to draw up to them the large salvage rope. \* \* \* Each post has, besides, a fourth man employed as telegraph operator, to report to the neighbouring fire district station the movements in detail of the first three men. If this post of three men have to deal with a fire of sufficient importance, the telegraph operator notifies the neighbouring district station of the need of aid. This district station sends immediately an officer and two more hand engines and two casks of water. The officer takes with him a more extensive outfit than that of a simple post. Each one of these hand engines is supplied like that of the small post, but it carries besides a double ladder 27 feet long, a salvage bag and a whole supply of pick-axes, fire buckets, etc. Our steam fire engines are rarely used. It is necessary to use them only when it is required to throw torrents of water to extinguish an enormous fire. This enormous fire happens, so to say, almost never; the reason of it is in the promptness of the aid, so that when a fire occurs at any point, not only the nearest post is quickly on the spot, but it is almost immediately followed by the other post adjacent to the post attacked. Generally the aid brought from the district station is useless, because the posts which have come to the assistance are already masters of the fire when the station aid arrives.”

“If there are persons to be saved, it is almost the first post which arrives that does the work. In a case where it is not possible to reach by the stairway, the apartment where persons to be saved have taken refuge, our firemen, supplied