

shave if their appearance is in the least rusty. Buildings in Germany, as a rule, are all fire proof, with tile roofs, tile or stone floors, walls and partitions of heavy stone or brick masonry, and stairways and halls built without the introduction of wood in any shape, there is but a slim chance for the fire fiend to get a foot hold, and much less to get under any headway. Europeans don't go to bed at night with the vague fear haunting them that before morning they may suffer the martyrdom of St. Lorenzo by being roasted alive, and it seldom happens that their own houses prove to be their funeral pyres. The property holders pay little or no insurance, and they are not taxed heavily every year to keep up an expensive fire department. Were the architects and builders to erect such combustible, tinder-box buildings as are being constructed in the United States every year by the thousands and tens of thousands, these "despotic" governments would proclaim an edict within twenty-four hours, either to cut off the architects' and builders' heads or transport them to—the United States for life. The yearly statistics, which have been carefully gathered, of the losses by fire in the United States show that they equal in value the annual cotton crop of the South! Imagine what the accumulation of wealth would be in our country if we had but the fire-proof buildings of Europe. There is no reason why New York and Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago should not be as fire-proof as Paris. To destroy the latter city by fire ten years ago, the communists found impossible, and they only succeeded in burning out the interior of some of the public buildings by first filling them with the most combustible materials, saturated with barrels of petroleum, pitch and tar. To burn up Boston it would not require these accessories; a lighted match on a windy night, thrown behind a wooden partition or ceiling, or under the wooden floors, where the carpenters have carefully hid away their shavings, is almost sure to do the work."

Paris fire department.

About seventy years ago, owing to the destruction by fire of the Austrian Ambassador's residence at Paris, and the number and high standing of the victims, the fire department was completely reorganized and placed upon an entirely military footing. The organization consisted of a battalion of firemen in four companies, composing 13 officers and 563 men, who were armed with guns. They were disciplined according to military laws and were obliged to serve the city in other capacities than as firemen. Within recent years the force has undergone many changes and its present main features are explained by the chief of the