

THE FIREMAN'S BEST WEAPON.

HIGH PRESSURE REDUCING FIRE LOSSES.

Facts Not Generally Known About the System in New York—Experience of Other Cities—San Francisco to Have \$5,000,000 High Pressure Service.

(New York Sun.)

"The large percentage of combustible buildings and the improper conditions as regards safety that obtain in most American cities have finally forced upon the attention of municipal governments the necessity of making provision for an absolutely trustworthy fire fighting weapon. It is the opinion of fire underwriters and expert engineers, says Herbert T. Wade in his article upon 'High Pressure Fire Protection' in the current Review of Reviews, that high pressure service is most imperative in cities of any great size, that it is the best weapon against fire yet evolved and that its installation should be required in all cities where there are congested and hazardous risks because of the percentage of dangerous buildings in close proximity.

"During a transitional period, as it were," Mr. Wade says in summing up his subject, "when new construction is mainly fireproof or fire resisting fire protection for our cities is an expensive and important consideration. However, it is the price that must be paid for errors of the past, and the American people cannot compare the conditions in their own cities with those of Europe, where for centuries building has taken place with due regard to the danger of fire, so that for American cities with their tall buildings most unfavorably located in congested districts the main fire protection in the future must consist in an adequate water supply at a higher pressure than the average domestic supply, administered by departments no way inferior to those of the present day as regards organization and personnel, but even better equipped for meeting extraordinary emergencies.

"For such conditions the independent high pressure fire service of to-day is the most useful means that the fireman has as his disposal, and engineers and underwriters believe with all confidence that it will prove in any serious test with an actual fire."

The writer points out at the outset that an adequate water supply, available at any part of the city and to unlimited volume, is the chief asset in reducing fire losses in American cities. There are very few cities on this side of the Atlantic that have a city waterworks capable of exerting enough pressure to throw streams of water to the upper stories of high buildings, and fewer yet in which the streets are laid main large enough and strong enough to carry a volume of water under sufficient pressure to be wholly adequate in time of emergency.

In most cities the mains and standpipes on the buildings were installed in the day of low pressure, and even with facilities at hand for getting a strong head on the water used in fire fighting, the weakness of the pipes negatives any attempt at increasing the pressure.

In too many cities, too, the increase in population and spread of building have far outdistanced the limit of usefulness of the water available for fighting fires. It is in just such communities, and their number is great, that the insurance men have raised rates to such an extent that far seeing citizens in control of the Government are beginning to see that although the expense of installation of a high pressure system is great a compensation out of all proportion to the first outlay will speedily follow through the reduction of the insurance risks.

The city of Cleveland was the first to evolve something out of which developed the modern idea of high pressure fire service. It was in 1888 that the municipality authorized the laying of a six-inch cast iron main from the river to the top of a nearby bluff, a distance of 700 or 800 feet. Whenever there was a fire in the vicinity of this main a fireboat, one of the earliest of its kind, coupled up to the river end of the pipe and sent a stream of water up to the spot where this auxiliary supply was most needed.

Milwaukee, Detroit and Buffalo later adopted this special fireboat auxiliary. In the two latter cities the original single line of pipe was expanded to a system, and now the substitution of permanent pumping stations to take the place of the fire boat is entering a quick and steady application of high pressure is being contemplated. In Milwaukee a 10 per cent. reduction of insurance rates has followed the installation of this adjunct to the water supply and in Buffalo there has been a reduction of 30 cents on each \$1,000 insurance.

The city of Boston was the next to take up the new idea. In 1897-98 there was installed there a permanent system of cast iron underground mains, 5,000 feet in length, which was to offer an auxiliary supply of salt water, pumped from a fireboat constantly at anchor at the bay end of the main. This extension of a special high pressure service over a limited area was extensively imitated until first Philadelphia and then New York made the wide step of installing over a large area a high pressure system controlled by permanent pumping stations.

In giving an outline of the spread of the high pressure idea the Review of Reviews writer pays merited attention to the big project that is soon to be put through by San Francisco. Having once suffered so terribly because its water system failed it in emergency the Pacific Coast city has bonded itself to the extent of \$5,200,000 for the purpose of putting in a new high pressure fire protection and an auxiliary salt water system.

For fire purposes it has been decided to install an independent system, with mains aggregating over ninety miles in length. These are to be fed by two great reservoirs, each of 3,000,000 gallons capacity, which are to be constructed at a height of 750 feet above the lower portions of the city.

Two complementary reservoirs are to be constructed at lower elevations, which will supply the ordinary pressure on the city's mains, but the highest reservoirs will be able to keep, through force of gravity, a constant high pressure head upon all the fire mains. This system promises to be capable of throwing from 8,000 to 12,000 gallons a minute under 300 pounds pressure. The salt water stations will be independent of each other, so that the failure of one will not impair the work of the other or the system as a whole.

The writer gives the main outlines of New York's high pressure system, citing some facts not generally known to the public. Mr. Wade says: "In Manhattan the problem was naturally more extensive and complicated



GIRL'S BLOUSE DRESS.

For school or every day wear, a blouse dress is always becoming and comfortable. The design here portrayed is made with a round collar and broad tucks over the waist front. The skirt is straight and gathered. Plaid gingham with braid trimming may be used.

(than in Brooklyn), for here was a region of congested risks for their extent and character probably unequalled anywhere in the world. It was necessary to increase greatly the fire protection and the amount of water, especially in certain downtown districts, and accordingly it was determined to install a high pressure fire main system within the district bounded by Twenty-third street, Third avenue and the Boverly, Chambers street and North River, with two pumping stations, one at Oliver and South streets, on the East River and the other at Cansevoort and West streets, on the North River.

"In July of the present year this system was put into operation and involves some sixty-three miles of extra heavy cast iron mains through which can be forced more water than all the fire engines in the borough can pump, and what is more, this supply can be concentrated on any single block. In other words, when the five centrifugal pumps at each station are working together the combined capacity exceeds 30,000,000 gallons a day, and each has been left at each station for installing three additional units.

"In the Manhattan system great care has been taken to remedy the previous grave defects of the distribution systems and hydrants. The protected district, which amounts to 1,454 acres or about one-tenth the area of Manhattan Island, is surrounded by twenty-four inch mains, while mains of that or smaller size down to twelve inches in diameter completely gridiron the district.

"On these 1,272 hydrants are so placed that there is always one within one hundred feet of any building and in sufficient number to enable sixty streams of water, each amounting to 500 gallons, to be brought to bear on any single block without employing hose of any greater length than 400 to 500 feet in any case. Thus, for the block bounded by Twenty-third street, Fifth and Sixth avenues and Twenty-second street there are available sixteen hydrants, from which in one day, with the pumps working at full capacity, enough water could be obtained to cover the block to a depth of thirty-six feet—in other words 3,500,000 cubic feet, or 45,000,000 gallons."

DOUBLE TRAGEDY.

Boston Policeman and His Wife Both Found Dead.

Boston, March 8.—A suspected murder, followed by suicide, was reported to East Boston police to-day. Daniel C. Sipplane, a policeman, was found dying in his home from the effects of a bullet wound believed to have been self-inflicted, while the body of his wife lay on the floor beside him. Sipplane died later at the East Boston Relief Hospital.

It is said that Sipplane was deranged from two years' brooding over the death of a 19-year-old daughter. Sipplane was born within a short distance of the scene of his death in 1858, while his wife, who was a few years younger, was also an East Boston woman. Sipplane had been a policeman for 22 years. Two sons survive.

27 KILLED.

Vienna, March 8.—An avalanche has destroyed a workmen's shelter at Sankt-Johan, in the Pongau district of Salzburg, killing twenty-seven persons. Fifteen bodies have been recovered from the wreckage.

IN 34 BATTLES.

Boston, March 8.—Col. Charles Rivers, who returned from the Civil War in command of the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, after having taken part in thirty-four battles, is dead. For seventeen years he was deputy surveyor of customs for the port of Boston.

At the members of the old St. Catharines Council, unseated by Mr. Justice Anglin, on the ground that the voters' list had not been certified to in time for the last election, have been returned by acclamation.

RUNNING TRAINS BY TELEPHONE.

HUMAN VOICE SUPPLANTING THE TELEGRAPH KEY.

Thousands of Miles of Railroads Now Operated by Telephone—It Has Succeeded Where Other Systems Have Failed—Precautions Against Errors.

(New York Sun.)

It is as easy to run trains by telephone as to call up a friend and invite him to dinner. The men who run the great railroads of the country are finding this out, with the result that many thousands of miles of railroad are now being conducted almost exclusively by telephone. Not long ago the superintendent of telegraph of a great western railroad explained why the Morse instrument is giving way to the human voice:

"The use of the telephone is so rapid in every way and so much more flexible than the telegraph that by it the dispatcher is enabled to get far more detailed information about exactly what is doing. Even when occasion requires he can talk directly with the conductor or engineer. He is thus brought so much nearer the actual details of train movement on the line.

"It is far more easy to train telephone operators than to secure telegraphers. There is hardly a new anywhere on the line where there are not young fellows who are more or less familiar with railroad work, who with very little training would be perfectly competent to do the work of telephone operators. There is much to be gained by making use of men in their own home towns. Our telegraph service was at its best when this condition existed to some extent, and discipline lessened in proportion as we have had to import telegraph talent."

While railroading by telephone seems like an innovation, it was really put into serious use thirteen years ago. It was then adopted by the Terminal Association at St. Louis, which in 1895 erected a new Union station with twenty-two tracks running north and south, all of which had to be available for trains running east and west. To complicate matters all trains had to back in, making it necessary to focus all the tracks in the station at one point, from which a number of tracks curved east and west to meet the main lines.

This arrangement required a complex system of switch movements to permit a train coming from the east or west to be switched to any of the station tracks. The handling of heavy traffic offered many opportunities for mistakes and delays in the passage of trains. The telephone was not adopted until several other plans had failed, and then this scheme, which is still in operation, was tried.

The man who directs the trains is stationed in an interlocking switch tower just beyond the crossover. From his desk he can see all the tracks entering the station, and also all the East and West main lines. He is connected with telephone lines extending along the main lines for several miles in either direction and receives over these wires reports of the movement of trains as they enter or leave the station.

These reports are made by switchmen stationed at various points who control the switches on the main line tracks. By giving them instructions the train director can shift the outgoing or incoming trains at will before they have reached or after they have left the terminal.

The train director is able to clear the station tracks for incoming trains in sufficient time to permit them to enter without delay. He is connected with the station master's office, so that the station master can be notified of the arrival of trains when they are still some distance from the station. The station force to take care of them.

The station master can stop the movement of a train even after it has started, as the train director can set the necessary stop signals before the train has left his control. By having the movement of all trains and switches in this terminal under one man, the train director over 700 trains a day are handled.

When the system of despatching trains by telegraph goes out there will be an end to an institution that was started in 1895. The use of the telephone for the purpose has been objected to on the ground that it is not as accurate as the telegraph owing to the similarity of sounds of different words, letters and figures. The adoption of the telephone at this time is indication that this trouble has been overcome.

The road that has been using the telephone for years is the Lake Erie, Alliance & Wheeling, which has nearly a hundred miles of single track road. The line handles much coal traffic and its schedule covers thirty trains each way a day. There are twenty-four telephone stations along the line at the various stations where the agents or train crews receive their orders.

On the division of the Pennsylvania lines between Columbia, Pa., and Parkersburg, Pa., a distance of thirty-eight miles, the trains have been operated by telephone, supplemented by block signals since 1906. This division handles ninety-five trains of 4,800 cars daily, but the arrangement differs from that on the Lake Erie, Alliance & Wheeling.

At each terminal of the division and at three intermediate points there are small switchboards to which are connected three classes of telephone circuits. One of these, called the director's wire, is a through circuit connected with each of the five switchboards. Another circuit, known as the long distance emergency wire, connects the switchboard at each end station with the board in the center of the division only. The switchboards are also connected with lines running

from some twenty-five station at various points along the track, these lines being known as block wires.

The train director can get in touch with the operators at the various switchboards and through them be connected with the telephone stations on the block wires in either direction and thus get in direct communication with the crews.

In receiving orders by telephone conductors and engineers are both required to go to the telephone, one to receive the order and the other to write it down as repeated by the first. After it has been received the man who writes it from the other's repetition must repeat it back, while the man who received it must underline each word as it is repeated, in this way giving a check on the order and insuring a correct understanding.

The New York Central has had a line in operation between Albany and Poughkeepsie, a distance of forty miles, since October, 1907, and it has never been necessary to resort to the telegraph service in this time, even with the telephone circuit in trouble. Special signalling devices are used on this line which permit the dispatcher to call on one station without calling the other, or while talking to one he may call another without interrupting the conversation.

In case of accident or unusual delay the system enables the superintendent of the division to talk with the man on the ground about the most immediate orders. The telephone circuit is also found to work well under weather conditions which interfere with the operation of the telegraph circuit.

AWFUL FIX.

Choice of Fall of Three Storeys or Death by Fire.

New York, March 8.—Choosing between death by fire, which had driven him out of his blazing room and onto the narrow ledge of his window, and a drop of three storeys to the sidewalk below, Dennis Redmond dropped and was almost instantly killed today by striking head first on an iron railing which shut off the basement stairs from the street.

Before finding refuge on the window ledge, Redmond, who had accidentally set fire to his bed, had shut off escape for himself through the building by piling up a quantity of blazing furniture between himself and the door in a vain endeavor to extinguish the flames. When the futility of his efforts was apparent, he retreated out of the window, hoping that the firemen would assist him to safety.

The fastest creep steadily nearer, however, until, unable to hold on any longer, his hands terribly burned, he let go.

PASTOR JAILED.

Also Must Pay Fine of \$300 For Running Away With Girl.

Noblesville, Ind., March 8.—Rev. J. W. Richey, for many years a member of the North Indiana Methodist Conference, and pastor of several large churches, was to-day fined \$300 and sentenced to jail for six months on a charge of eloping with Miss Bertha Williamson, a young girl of Carmel, the minister having deserted his wife to go with her.

Miss Williamson was an unwilling witness for the State, and only once admitted her relations with the minister.

ALFONSO'S TRIP.

Ceuta, Morocco, March 8.—King Alfonso arrived here this morning from Algiers on board the cruiser Extra-Madura. Salutes were exchanged with the shore, and today delegations from neighboring tribes are coming in to pay their respects to the King and to testify their friendliness with Spain.

MAY RECOVER.

Cadiz, March 8.—The physicians in attendance upon Vice-Admiral Pascual Cervera, who was reported to be in a dying condition at Puerto Real last week, are now of the opinion that the Admiral has a chance of recovery.

The Old Beggar's Uptown Day.

So many times during the last year had the rich Martin Goldsborough been imposed on in giving alms to so-called "charities," that this New Year's he firmly resolved to be extremely wary of them.

"I'll not be fleeced in this way," he declared, as he hurried along toward his office in Washington square, the very next day after New Year's. "Undeserving charity is a vicious pest. I'll not foster it any longer. Thank the Lord I've made one good resolution this year. I'll keep it, too!"

Hardly had he given vent to these expressions, when he spied a miserable figure standing, cup in hand, at the corner nearest his place of business. It was a clear cold winter's morning, which caused this figure to appear more miserable.

Abruptly pausing before this beggar woman he addressed her. "My good woman," inquired he, eyeing her suspiciously, "how is it that old blind Jo isn't begging on this corner this morning as usual?"

"He isn't able to be here to-day, sir! so he sent me to take his place."

"Your blind husband is sick, I presume?" pursued Martin Goldsborough, drawing a shining coin from his pocket, in proof that, notwithstanding his recent resolution and his unkened confidence in lowly human nature, here was one redeeming feature at least. "Here's a dollar for him!"

"Thank you, sir; but old Jo ain't my husband, and he ain't sick. He only hires me to stand here with this cup once a month. He says this is too good a corner to let run down, even for one day, so he gives me twenty per cent. for relievin' him for one day around the first of the month, sir."

"Well, I'm glad to see that poor old Jo, with all his misfortune, has some business about him. I'll keep him from starving to death, at any rate! But what does he do around the first of the month?"

"He spends the day uptown, where he collects from six big buildings, sir." "Ah!" exclaimed the rich Martin Goldsborough, as more sales dropped from his eyes, "he works a double game, eh? Old Jo goes up there the first of the month to beg, too?"

"No, sir. He goes up there to collect his 'rents'—Charles C. Mullin in the Bohemian Magazine for March.

Montreal harbor dues will not be increased this season. Manitoba Retail Merchants' Association is applying for power to organize a mutual fire insurance company.

Stanley Mills & Co. LIMITED

Grand March Sale of

Spring Housefurnishings

The month of March sounds the note of Spring for the housekeeper, and wise ones are getting in their cleaning and replenishing supplies early.

At no other time of the entire year do our weekly Housekeepers' Sales appeal as strongly to housekeepers generally as during the month of March.

Every department plans for extra sales during this month and the buying of supplies is profitable, indeed. To-morrow we will hold one of the most helpful and enthusiastic sales of the season.

Window Shades, Lace Curtains and Floor Coverings

100 good quality Opaque Window Shades, in the size to fit any ordinary window, 37 inches wide and 3 feet long. Light and dark green, cream and white. Each is fitted with a reliable spring roller, and complete with brackets and pull. Choice Tuesday at 35c ea.

Lace Curtains

100 pairs of really good quality White Lace Curtains, all 3 1/2 yards long and good width. These come in some exceptionally attractive designs and all edges are properly lock stitched; suitable for bedroom and kitchen windows. On sale Tuesday at \$1.00 pair

Sham Holders

The celebrated Tarbox Sham Holders, for either wooden or iron beds; very strongly made of varnished hardwood and will fit any size bed. No trouble to attach and do not crumple the sham when raised. Tuesday 50c each

Cable Net Curtains

125 pairs of the celebrated Cable Net Curtains, made of double twisted thread throughout. Excellent to wear. The most economical make to buy. \$3.00 pair

Floor Oilcloths

50 big rolls of good heavy quality Floor Oilcloth, 1 1/4, 1 1/2, 2 and 2 1/2 yards wide; in bright new and extremely effective patterns and colors. The best value we have ever offered at the price. Choice Tuesday at 25c sq. yard

Linoleums

Extra heavy Linoleums in the 2-yard width. This quality we recommend where good wear is required. The designs come in bold block and rich carpet effects, in light or dark colorings. Tuesday at 45c sq. yard

Wide Linoleums

A dozen pieces of extra wide Linoleums (3 1/2 and 4 yards wide), for covering rooms without a seam; well seasoned and will not crack. Tuesday 50c sq. yard

Our Newly Enlarged Meat Section

Owing to the great popularity and increasing business of our meat section, we have found it necessary to greatly enlarge that department of our grocery.

The high standard of quality that has gained for our meats the approval of our patrons during the past months, will be maintained and customers at this season will at all times the very choicest brands. To emphasize the new department we will offer to-morrow the following specials:

Ingersoll Cooked Ham, regular 30c lb., Tuesday 25c.
Ingersoll Pressed Tongue, regular 30c lb., Tuesday 25c.
Ingersoll Jellied Hocks, regular 20c lb., Tuesday 15c.

BACON — Ingersoll Bacon,

well streaked sides, fancy selected sliced or by piece, on Tuesday only at 17c lb.

BUTTER—500 lbs. of new Dairy Butter, regularly sold at from 27 to 30c lb., Tuesday only at 25c

CREAM CHEESE—In packages 15c and 25c

Cream Cheese in bulk, 25c lb. New England Ham, 2 lbs. 25c

PEANUT BUTTER—1 gross jars of Peanut Butter for sandwiches, etc. Regular 15c size, Tuesday for 10c

A HARD QUESTION WELL DECIDED

Where Will I Have My New Garments Made?

This is a question that confronts many a woman at this time of the year when her thoughts turn to the new Spring attire. We can answer that question better than anyone else. Here are some of the latest in dress fabrics and the careful advice of our modists to help you in choosing. We have one of the largest women's tailoring, dressmaking and separate skirt departments in the city, all perfectly equipped for promptly executing orders for dresses or tailored costumes. Our reputation for style, perfect work and satisfaction is widely known, and of course prices are very moderate for such styles. We advise making an appointment with the heads of these departments at once before the rush of the busy season that is bound to come in a few weeks. Place your Easter orders now.

Princess Poplin The New Wash Fabric

This is the latest weave in United States, and is advertised in all the leading fashion centres, and is in great demand across the border. It is in a bright silk, lustrous finish, is guaranteed to wash or even boil. Ribbon stripe pattern in self colors in pink, blue, and nature. Ask to see this fabric. Special value 40c

Shantung Anglairs 75c

Another new American wash novelty; silk and linen mixture, in a wide self bias stripe, beautiful permanent satin finish, 29 inches wide. Novelty shades of wistaria, tau, pink and natural, special value 75c

Directoire Amazons Special Value at \$1.00

Beautiful Satin Finish Directoire Amazon Cloths, a stylish fabric for the new Princess suits and gowns. All fashionable shades in olive green, American blue, wistaria, taupe, elephant, London smoke and catwallow. We advise choosing this fabric early. Special at \$1.00 yard

New French Broadcloths

Rich, satiny, all-wool weaves in the correct chignon weight for tailored wear. Plain and self stripe weaves in a grand variety of staple shades in navy, brown, green and black and novelty colors in amethyst, taupe, smoke, wistaria, Copenhagen, peacock, catwallow and old rose. Wonderful values at \$1.50 to \$2.00 yard

Opening of Men's Furnishing Dept.

In addition to our twenty departments here, we have added a Men's Furnishings section, and stocked it with the newest and best in quality and style in Men's Shirts, Neckwear, Collars, Umbrellas, Gloves, Hosiery, underwear, etc. This new department is situated in a convenient location, being at the entrance to the store. Everything is being done to make this new department popular, and we hope at an early date to have the pleasure of showing you some of the new styles for spring. We have a special department on the premises for making Men's Shirts, Pyjamas, Night Dresses, etc., to measure.

FINCH BROS., 29 and 31 King St. W.

SHREDDED

Builds Strong, Healthy, Sturdy Youngsters.

To serve—heat in oven, pour hot milk over it and salt to taste. Sold by all grocers, 13c a carton; two for 25c.

WHEAT

THIS WAS SAD.

New York, March 8.—Irene Scott, 6 years old, was killed last night by an automatic weighing machine which stood on the sidewalk in Ninth avenue. In some manner the heavy apparatus fell on the child as she put a penny in the slot to find her weight.

DOESN'T WANT THRONE.

Lisbon, March 8.—The Seculo says that the pretender, Don Miguel of Braganza, has declared his intention to renounce all claim to the throne of Portugal, out of sympathy for King Manuel, who was so tragically called to the throne.

Even the new rich can boast of ancestors who have been in the family for generations.

Importance of the Lungs.

The lungs are the life. When a man can breathe lustily no ordinary malady can kill him. I know an old chap who was given up three years ago by seven "able" physicians and one "able" surgeon. Their verdict was: "He can't last over three weeks." He is still in the ring, while three of the doctors have cashed in their cheques. A man can live 40 days without food, a few days without water, and a few minutes without air. The lungs are the soul. A man can live without stomach, bowels, heart, liver, kidneys, spleen, or brains—but he can't live without air! The air cleans the blood. Drink air by the million cubic feet and you will never die. Don't wait for the tank of oxygen to come along. Drink deeply of the common ether. Have it pure and plug your self foul every day. —From the New York Press.