

PREPARED TO SAVE LIVES

Omaha Firemen Ready to Fight Death as Well as Flames.

CHIEF SALTER TALKS ON THE TOPIC

His Men Well Trained in Use of Modern Appliances and Fairly Well Equipped with Apparatus.

Whether it is because fires seldom occur in Omaha that make a serious demand upon the efficiency and discipline of the gallant men who make up the regular fire department, or that fires involving great danger to persons in buildings and to the firemen themselves are still rarer, the public has few opportunities to witness daring work or thrilling rescues, but deserved confidence in their capacity has been won by Omaha's fire-fighters in actual battles with flames, and is greatly enhanced by the fact that they keep in lively training for meeting and effectively responding to any and all contingencies involving hazard to lives or property. While all the firemen are given opportunities for practice with life-saving and special fire-fighting apparatus, the only special equipment for these purposes is at engine house No. 3, where, also, are facilities enabling the firemen to practice difficult climbing tests, the use of pomper ladders, handling life-saving net and other special exercises.

Omaha Men Well Trained.

"Only a very few cities in the United States provide their fire departments with every device found to be of a practical character and find it necessary to conduct regularly schools of training. New York, Chicago and possibly Philadelphia, but reports of these schools of training and descriptions of the kind of apparatus and how it is handled go a long way toward increasing the efficiency of firemen everywhere," said Chief Salter yesterday. "Go where you will, you will not find better informed firemen than guard the city of Omaha. At engine house No. 3, we have, besides the usual ladders, four pomper ladders, three of the latter being enough to form what is called a chain. These ladders are only used to ascend to otherwise inaccessible points of a building and of course are invaluable when life is endangered by reason of the cutting off of the ordinary means of exit. They are light, but strong, and any of our firemen can, by their use, climb to the roof of the highest building in very short order. The man taking the lead carries the end of a rope and this is made fast. The men handling these ladders are provided with a belt, to which is attached a strong hook. Should it become necessary to carry a helpless person to the street, the fireman gives two wraps of the rope around the hook, and this acts as a brake and admits of the fireman devoting himself freely to the work of rescue. Nevertheless, it requires superb nerve oftentimes, but no one has reason to doubt that Omaha's firemen possess that to a high degree. Then, too, these hooks are used in connection with the pomper scaling ladders, and by attaching the hook to the point of the ladder the fireman is enabled to have free use of his arms to either render aid to save life or to cooperate with the other firemen."

How the Men Keep Trained.

"Our men keep in training in the use of these life-saving facilities and all the department's life-saving apparatus is carried on the wagon to every fire. Another thing of no small importance in these days of improvements and new methods, our men profit by careful study of the special means employed in the very large cities to save life and property, and, while we do not have an equal amount equal to New York, for example, we profit by studying and adopting new methods. Our men are exceedingly well informed in this way. In supplementing the facilities we have on hand with apt knowledge of the exact thing to do in emergencies. After all, that which renders special equipment of real value is the intelligence, skill and bravery of the men. We have a substantial equipment and an equipment well fitted in character to fight any fire. Of course, an ideal equipment would mean the duplication in various sections of the city of the special facilities, we have at engine house No. 3.

When the Net is Needed.

"It sometimes occurs that the pomper ladders cannot be used," continued Chief Salter, "on account of flames and smoke bursting from windows. Should life be in jeopardy we have a spring net into which persons can jump with safety, where otherwise a jump means death. The success of the spring net is due in no small degree to the coolness of the person in danger. A leap to the net should always be gained so that it will be struck as nearly as possible in the center, thus distributing the strain nearly equally on the firemen holding it. Our men are practiced in net holding and should it ever become necessary to bring it into service, skillful hands will hold it.

"While Omaha has escaped disastrous fires and has had few fires involving the loss of life, our men have proven in less serious tests their daring, skill and carelessness of training. Among many instances that might be referred to was the exhibi-

RELIGIOUS.

The population of Polynesia at the present time is said to be about 860,000, of whom 325,500 are Christians. This is the result of a single century of work.

Bishop Potter's many friends of the Church of New York are contemplating raising a fund to build a \$100,000 residence on Cathedral Heights for his use. The Phillips Brooks house, at Cambridge, Mass., cost \$100,000, and is occupied by not only the United States but England, France, Turkey, Japan, China and South Africa.

A committee of American Roman Catholic bishops has decided to establish in this country a seminary for home and international students. This has been urged especially by the Paulist Fathers.

Rev. Dr. J. S. B. Hodges, rector of St. Paul's, Baltimore, for thirty-one years, died on Feb. 26. He is survived by his wife, the holy eucharist 7,500 times, baptized 1,500 persons, confirmed over 1,200 and performed 500 marriage ceremonies.

In Petersburg, Fla., counties of Virginia, and in some other sections of the state, there is a large class of negro church people known as the "Baptists." They are a happy, healthy, happy children. "Favorite Prescription" prevents nausea, soothes the nerves, promotes the appetite and causes sleep to be sound and refreshing. It gives a great physical vigor and muscular elasticity so that the baby is well and strong. It was created by surgeon and dentist Dr. H. Hale by this test. He was a young man and a stranger in a northern city. As he walked along the street, heavily burdened with tools, his baby had fallen and slipped under his arm and one of the bags taken from him. The man who thus reprimanded him learned to know afterward as Dr. Hale.

"The churches," says an advertising man quoted in the Philadelphia Record, "seem more and more inclined to take space in their bulletins for advertisements. These kinds are often quite generously advertised on Saturdays, and in some cities, notably New York, these advertisements occupy considerable space, and are attractively set in display type."

"They're policemen at the Thirty-fourth street pier, waiting for Prince Henry," "Why have you placed that one (referring to a badly battered soldier) in such a prominent position?"

"Can't you see? He hasn't 'any head. He's a detective."

Cougar Settled on Her Lung.

"My daughter had a terrible cough which settled on her lungs," says Mrs. Jackson of Danville, Ill. "We tried a great many remedies without relief, until we gave her Dr. Pierce's Honey and Tar, which cured her." Refuse substitutes.

Sheridan of the Boers

Characteristics and Ex-
ploits of Gen. Delarey

The last attempt of the British forces in South Africa to surround and capture General Delarey and his band of burghers is admitted by General Kitchener to have been fruitless. So, up to the present, the rout of Methuen's force and the capture of Methuen remains unavenged by British arms.

A record of the strategy and tactics of J. H. Delarey, the prosperous land owner and leader of the burghers of Lichtenburg for many years of peace, would probably furnish the most valuable matter for scientific students of warfare that is to be found on either side in the South African struggle. But apart from a military genius that recalls the personality or some of his ancestral compatriots in the first French republic, there is another side to Delarey as a man.

The last to leave Vryburg when the Boers came in were the half dozen officials of the Bechuanaland Survey department. Delarey convoyed them down with their families, handing them over from commandant to commandant, until they were set free to take the train below Orange river. When they were seen at Capetown none had any words but those of personal regard to say of him.

J. H. Delarey—pronounce his name De La Rey—is a medium-sized man of slight build. His head and features are large and the complexion looks pale against his full black beard.

He is not only a man of extraordinary mentality, but he looks it, a natural mathematician and a man of action. A quiet manner, combined with extraordinarily bright eyes, gives a sense of power at the first sight of the man.

A correspondent who occupied the room which had been his quarters before the fall of Bloemfontein was told that often Delarey was bed less than two hours in a night. He was always personally seeing to the carrying out of his plans.

It was he who overruled Piet Cronje when the older man insisted on sticking to the old style of fighting, seeking the hillsides and from improvised stone shanzes using the purchase of the higher positions to throw back attackers, as had been successfully done in the Kaffir wars. Delarey said: "Now; they will assume that we are on the kopele. Let us go somewhere else."

He had his way at Magersfontein, when

the last attempt of the British forces in the western campaign by capturing the British armored train on the Mafeking line and occupying Vryburg, relates the New York Sun. The Boer operations were directed by Delarey. When Vryburg, which lies out in the flat wholly unsheltered and was an easy capture, found itself without a constituted government, the neutrals began to help themselves freely to the household furniture of the British residents, who had hurried south into Cape colony.

Delarey himself moved south with his Lichtenburg commandos, collecting burghers as he went, and held the railway south of Kimberley. But as soon as he learned that proceedings which were not in accord with his sense of the art of war had followed the Boer occupation he ordered every stick of property in Vryburg to be returned to its rightful owner and at once set up a municipal system which was found working in perfect order eight months afterward, when the overwhelming numbers and widespread disposition of Lord Roberts' columns moving north necessitated a Boer

movement back into the middle Transvaal. The bank manager at Vryburg told the present writer after the British recapture that Delarey's system had worked like a perfect model, and it does not appear that there is a single outstanding private claim of any kind arising out of his extempore government.

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