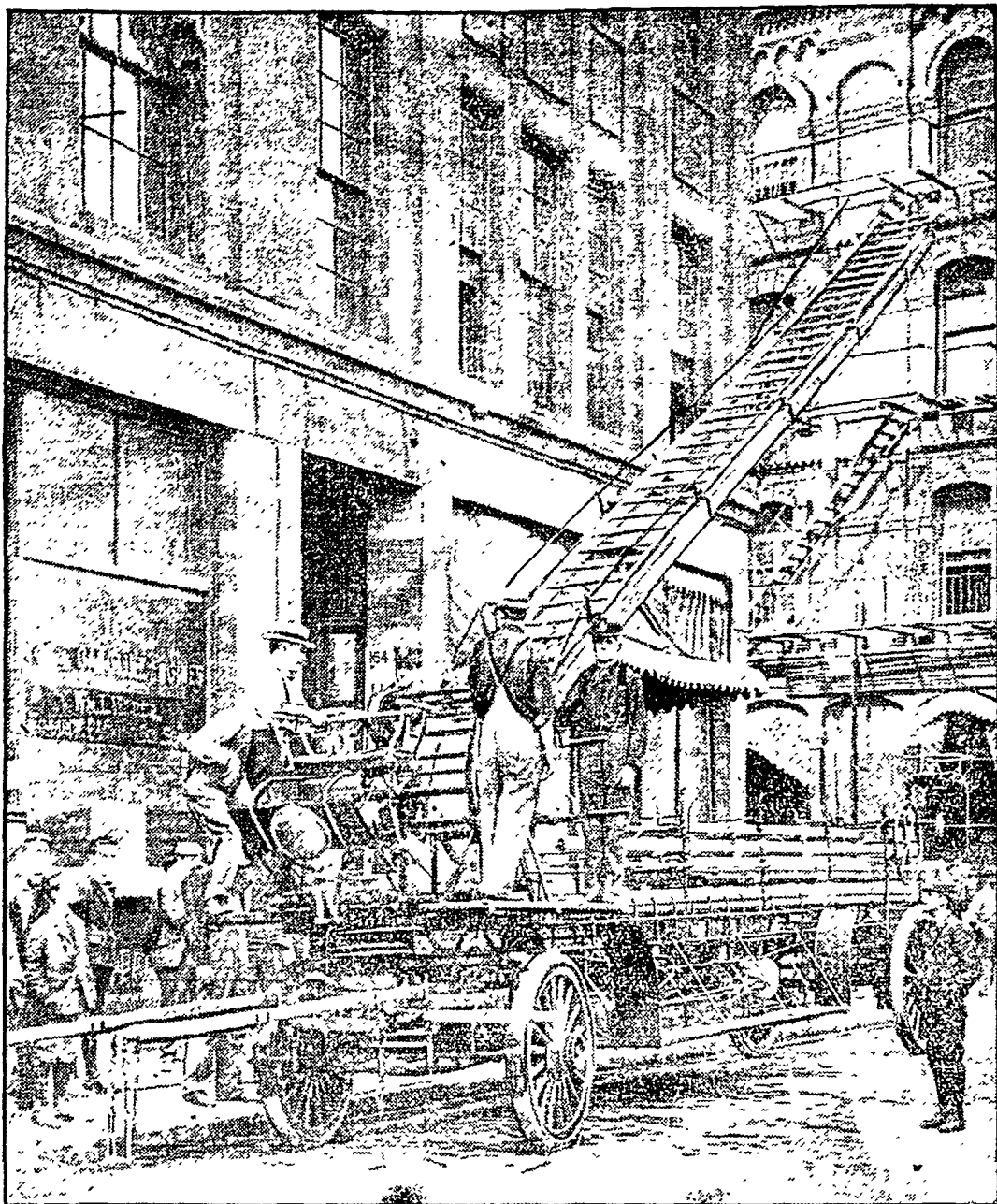


REAL FIRE WHILE EXHIBITION WAS ON.

Exciting Incident in Fort Hill Sq---New Self-Raising Ladder Works Most Successfully.



RECORD BREAKING EXHIBITION BY THE NEW SELF-RAISING LADDER IN FORT HILL SQ.

Something happened in Fort Hill sq, yesterday afternoon, while several fire companies were giving an exhibition in honor of those attending the convention of the National association of cooperative mutual insurance companies that was not on the program, but which pleased the guests, the fire officials and others assembled in the square more than they could tell.

While the companies were fighting the imaginary fire in the buildings at the corner of High and Batterymarch sts, a real fire was discovered on the roof of the four-story brick building at High and Oliver sts. The attention of chauffeur Frank Shea and messenger Thomas J. Stevens was called to the fire and while they made for the roof with great haste the crew of company 25, under Capt Cronin and by orders of Chief Mulled, deluged the fire with a stream which they had first been playing on the make-believe fire.

There was much excitement in the square, but the men of engine 25 made quick work of the blaze.

The fire incident proved the feature of the afternoon, but sharing the honors was the great success scored by the new ladder of company 14, which is equipped with self-raising appliances, and which was given its first public trial yesterday.

The visitors applauded and Fire Commissioner Wells smiled when it was declared that the ladder was raised in 33 seconds.

Lieut Patrick Lanergan, laddermen Thomas H. Andreoli and Leroy James of ladder 14, laddermen Michael F. Sylvia and Daniel Dineen of ladder 17 and hoseman John J. Gleason of engine 33 operated the truck.

Before the drill was started there was a short parade, ladder company 8 of Fort Hill sq leading the procession, followed by ladder 14, engine 25, ladder 13, the aerial truck from the warehouse district, horseless engine 38 from Congress st and its hose wagon, water tower 3, driven by the veteran reinsman, James H. McAllister; Chief Mulled's auto, operated by Frank Shea, and the commissioner's auto, with Joseph Donovan at the lever.

The parade made a big hit, and as the firemen circled the square in a speed exhibition the onlookers applauded.

It was just as the men of engine 25 were running their line of hose over ladder 14 to the roof of the unoccupied building that the real fire was discovered and then quickly extinguished. Engine 38 was worked and so was tower 3. Ladder 8 also gave an exhibition on Batterymarch st, while the boys of ladder 13 gave a ladder-raising exhibition that made a hit.

The new ladder arrived only yesterday from the factory at Elmira, N. Y. Its record of 33 seconds is 22 seconds less than that made by ladder 18. S. H. Mitchell, who directed the working of the new truck in its preliminary work-out, says it will be raised inside of 25 seconds when everything is working well. It is a great time-saver, fire officials say.

The ladder is operated from a rubber-

covered platform and this precludes all danger of anybody getting shocked in case it should come in contact with electric light wires while in service. The momentum to raise it is furnished by two cylinder tubes in each of which there are nine nested springs. By touching a little lever the apparatus is put in action and the ladder is raised 45 degrees to position, when it is taken by the firemen, who by the aid of cranks complete the job. The other trucks had to use cranks to lower the ladder or place it in a position near a window. On the new truck this is done away with, as the little lever is there and does what is necessary. The turntable is ball-bearing and six men can now do in 33 seconds what it formerly took eight men to do in 55 seconds.

Ladder 17 on Harrison av is being fitted up in a similar manner, and it is the intention of the commissioner to do the same with ladder 15 on Boylston st.

Close Their Convention.

The 11th annual meeting of the National association of cooperative mutual insurance companies of the United States at the American house, closed with the morning session yesterday. These officers were elected: W. D. Forbes, Des Moines, Ia, pres; Col Richard E. Barrett, Concord, Mass, vice pres; W. R. Lynch of Lincoln, Neb, secretary; Judge E. M. Coffin of Omaha legal adviser and chairman legislative committee. Denver was selected for the convention of 1907. The date will be fixed by the executive committee.