

PORTLAND'S FIRE FIGHTERS AND SCOPE OF WORK

Fire Department. An Agency for Public Protection, Maintained at Great Expense, Which Demands Men of Courage and Efficiency and Subjects Them to Strict Discipline



1—Recreation in an engine house.
 2—At sound of a midnight alarm.
 3—Chief Engineer David Campbell.
 4—Steamer at work.
 5—Making a quick hitch.

Of the several agencies with which the hundreds of thousands of citizens of Portland are constantly served in an effort to render each and every one secure in his person and property, none demands more vigilance, discipline and faithful service than the fire department.

For the most part the public is quite unappreciative of the daily routine induced in by this corps of approximately 235 trained men employed at an annual cost to the city of some \$300,000 who are always on duty, always ready at a moment's notice to risk life and limb in the interest of the commonweal.

Most of us are so engrossed in the performance of our every day tasks as to underestimate the scope of the work of these guardians of our property whose chief stock in trade is alertness, courage and general efficiency.

Cost Is Great.

But when one considers that the city of Portland maintains its fire department at an annual cost of practically \$375,000, the magnitude of the work

is evident. Scattered throughout the city are 23 fire stations housing 14 engine companies, five truck companies, five hose companies and three chemical companies while an especially equipped fireboat, the George H. Williams, is ready to fight fire in the river and harbor district. At the foot of East Washington the fire boat is ever in readiness. In the adjacent tower a man is constantly on watch from 6 o'clock each evening until 8 o'clock in the morning as an aid to the location of fires.

Area of Fifty Miles.

The territory over which the men of the fire department stand guard comprises no less than 50 1/2 square miles which when reduced to acreage makes a formidable showing, the total area of the city including 22,586 acres of which 6929 acres are on the west side, and 24,272 acres on the east side, besides 1394 acres of water area outside the harbor lines.

The efficiency of the city's fire fighting force can be traced back to the

organization by which it operates. From his office in the city hall Chief Engineer David Campbell, who entered the service in 1881, actively administers the affairs of the department as he has done for the past 27 1/2 years, being responsible to an executive board of three members at present consisting of John F. O'Shea, F. B. Pier and Samuel Connell; while directly under him are W. Laudenklas, his assistant chief engineer; John E. Young, B. F. Dowell and Jay W. Stephens, battalion chiefs; Charles A. Savarian, superintendent of fire alarm telegraph; Walter Phillips, master mechanic; and Milton W. Weidner, clerk, who are on duty there.

A Busy Life.

The fireman's life is indeed a busy one—and far from the career of dreamy idleness that one might imagine. In the first place the need of efficiency has decreed the advisability of placing the department on a civil service basis, and accordingly thus removed from the realm of politics—membership therein is dependent upon certain qualifications

physical and mental. Thus it is no simple task to break into the service.

How Men Are Chosen.

From time to time applicants who have passed initial tests are put through a course of stunts, generally at Multnomah field, that test their abilities as firefighters. Tests requiring strength and courage are put before the candidates such as jumping into a life-net, carrying a dummy up a distance of two stories and back again, climbing an aerial ladder extended 100 feet into the air, etc.—while written examinations are awaiting those who survive. At present the names of 35 applicants are on the waiting list, the one time death of applicants being a thing of the past.

Lure of the Service.

The element of danger and love of excitement make the service fascinating to many who are in it, and thus atones for the monotony of the rigorous

daily routine. The same charm cures others, while the salary lists, which range upwards from \$100 per month, according to the grade of service, insure good material.

After the newly accepted man enters upon his duties, a probationary period of six months precedes his final appointment, while a full year of service must intervene before he is eligible to take examinations for promotion. Satisfactory service and good behavior lead to permanent employment.

Station House Routine.

Once enrolled in the department, the fireman is assured a busy career in the station house to which he is assigned. And in which he is to be found every hour of the day, save at meal time. The usual morning tasks are out of the way by 10 o'clock, when every man must appear in uniform while the officer in charge reads two or three sections from the rule book, announces any special orders and conducts a quiz on various essential details in order that the men may ever be familiar with the apparatus at hand. A weekly house drill is held, while outside drills, including exer-

cises in laying hose, scaling fire escapes, etc., occur from time to time. An officer from each station also makes frequent inspections of buildings in his respective district, and files report of his findings at headquarters.

These are but a few of a fireman's duties, but their mention may serve to illustrate the constant care exercised to furnish the city the maximum fire protection.

Costly Equipment.

The fact that the equipment of the fire alarm telegraph now in service represents an outlay of \$70,000 is indicative of its importance as is the fact that during the year of 1908 over \$11,000 was spent on the maintenance and extension of the system.

Real property to the value of over \$300,000 is held in trust for the department, while the \$185,000 and more

worth of apparatus is drawn by some 120 horses whose total value approximates the \$25,000 mark, and in addition the department has on hand \$30,000 worth of hose through which to play water on fires if need be. A machine shop is maintained to keep the fire fighting apparatus always in first class condition.

Such in brief is a recital of the safeguards with which Portland surrounds itself to ward off fire loss—that the measures are well taken appears from the fact that of the \$250,000,000 represented by the assessed valuation of the city's property, and the bulk of which is even exposed to total or partial destruction by fire, the total loss by fire in the year of 1908 registered by 796 calls, was a trifle less than \$80,000, involving, roughly, \$6,400,000 worth of property.

Such is the essential work of the fire department.

HIS INTEREST IS COMFORT OF SOLDIERS and SAILORS

PARIS, Oct. 22.—Henry Cheron, otherwise known in the two services as "the good bearded fairy" (la bonne fée barbu) is one of the most remarkable Frenchmen of the younger generation. It is notorious that France is suffering today from a bad attack of the "plague" or graft and that this weakness in the national character is the cause of endless corruption and abuse.

When, however, a Frenchman does set himself to redress abuses, few men of whatever nationality they may be, can compare with him in wholehearted devotion to his task. Nothing on earth can hold him back. No one on earth could bribe him. He will go through with the work or die in the attempt.

Is Determined Worker.

Such a man is Henry Cheron, whose admirable activity as under-secretary of state for war in M. Clemenceau's ministry marked him as the right man to tackle a rough job. When M. Briand, some weeks ago, succeeded M. Clemenceau as president of the council, he could find no rougher job for M. Cheron than to create an under-secretary of state for the navy, give the portfolio to him and bid him set to work to do for the navy what he had already done for the army.

M. Cheron's career, short as it has been—he is only 42—proves him to be a man of wonderful energy. A barrister by profession, he became mayor of Caen at the age of 27. Twelve years later he decided to enter parliamentary life. He was at once elected deputy for Caen. Six months afterwards M. Clemenceau, a keen judge of men—offered him the portfolio of under-secretary of state for war. This was in 1906.



Henry Cheron, Foe of Graft.

M. Cheron threw himself with characteristic energy into his new work. An ardent patriot he holds that it is every citizen's duty "to pay the blood tax." It is equally the duty of his superiors to see that his life is made tolerable during the two or three years of military service. From the outset he strove to make the soldier's lot a happy one. The cause of a soldier's existence and the beginning of dissatisfaction is his food. He has had a few sharp sentences to six months or six years' imprisonment sufficed to convince the contractor that M. Cheron was in dead earnest.

Institutes Reform.

His next step was to order that every regiment should be provided with a cookery book. In this interesting man-

ual the regimental cook finds every possible direction as to how to vary the menu, and how to make the best use of the material placed at his disposal. A similar manual is now in the possession of every ship's cook as well.

In the course of his visits to barracks M. Cheron discovered that the soldier's bedding was of the most primitive kind. A circular was forthwith issued to the generals commanding divisions instructing them to see that the troops were provided with clean and comfortable sleeping accommodation.

Next, M. Cheron noticed that many of the soldiers never wore socks. Horrified, he inquired into the matter, and learned that no provision was made by the army clothing department to supply them. The soldier had to buy his own socks, the result being in a vast number of cases that he preferred to go without rather than spend his meager pocket money in buying them for himself. Another circular was forthwith issued now receives socks with his uniform.

Provides Entertainment.

M. Cheron now asked himself what the soldier did with his leisure hours. Inquiry proved that the "plou-plou" had no better way of passing his leisure than to frequent the wine-shop and the music hall. A fresh circular was issued urging the officers to provide means of recreation, and suggesting that walks and excursions to points of interest in the districts surrounding the barracks, under the guidance of an officer, non-commissioned or otherwise, who would act as cicerone, would be an excellent counter attraction to cards and drink. M. Cheron went so far as to advise that small parties might be taken to visit historic monuments at no great distance, and made arrangements that they might even occasionally be lodged for a night in the barracks of neighboring towns where regiments are stationed. Thus the well-conducted soldier might from time to time be granted a pleasant holiday from the monotony of barrack-room life, and at the same time have his patriotic spirit kindled and his mind instructed by seeing national monuments, art galleries, museums, etc., under intelligent guidance. This circular must have been instantly acted upon for two or three days later a party of soldiers was encountered being taken over the national porcelain manufactory at Sevres by an officer whose commentaries were being listened to with evident interest.

SOME RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A MOTHER-IN-LAW--By Ella Wheeler Wilcox

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A QUESTION has been propounded to the editor of the magazine page which he has requested me to answer.

The question or series of questions pertains to the old, old subject which has troubled the mind of man since the beginning of creation, with the exception of Adam and Eve.

1. Has a mother-in-law any rights that a son-in-law, in honor, should respect?

2. If a mother-in-law and son-in-law have had a bitter quarrel over domestic affairs, has the son-in-law a moral right to command his wife to cease all social or loving intercourse with her mother?

3. If the wife decides, through a mistaken sense of duty to her husband, to forever remain in terms of undereared companionship with her mother, is she deporting herself in a proper or fitting manner toward her mother?

4. If the wife has a brother who becomes a chum of her husband under the state of affairs above mentioned, is that son showing a proper love or protecting spirit toward his mother, who is old and alone?

These questions are entirely too abstract to permit of a definite answer. It all depends on the nature of the quarrel or misunderstanding; if she has been interfering with the domestic affairs of the household, and offering unsolicited opinions; if she has been officiously intrusive in matters which pertained solely to the husband and wife, and which they could settle between themselves; if she has been pouring kerosene upon flames, instead of oil on troubled waters, then, indeed, the husband is right in suggesting that his wife choose between a home with him or with her mother.

A Mother-in-Law of Trouble.

A mother-in-law has been known to invite her daughter to a dinner of a most faithful and kind husband. If he remained in the office a half hour later than usual, if he chanced to walk a block on the street with an acquaintance of the opposite sex, the mother insisted on infidelity and neglect, until the comfort of the household was destroyed by her presence.

When the daughter, who proved to be a woman of common sense, and as just as sensible, informed her mother that she would support her away from her

EVER ON THE ALERT.

As under-secretary of state for the navy, M. Cheron has already done wonders. A strike of "inserta maritimes" or naval reserve men had been going on at Marseilles for weeks, and the trade of Algeria with France was paralyzed. M. Cheron rushed off to Marseilles, called the representatives of the sailors and the shipowners to meet him at the maritime prefecture, placed them in two separate rooms, and told them that a solution must be found. Within a few hours the strike was settled.

Then M. Cheron, instead of going back to Paris, as most ministers would have done, paid a flying visit to a ship in harbor. He scrutinized the men's quarters, the kitchen, tasted the bread, smelt the tinned meat, satisfied himself the lifeboats were in working order, and was off again before the captain, who had never seen such a thing in his life, had recovered from his stupefaction.

Begins on Navy.

From Marseilles M. Cheron went on to Toulon, halted a cab and drove to the naval hospital. Nearly all his visits are incognito, and we bet the officials who are caught napping! No one who has followed current events in France during the last few years can have failed to notice the constant mutinies which break out aboard the ships of the fleet. These mutinies are seldom very grave in themselves, but they nearly always have for their cause bad or insufficient food. It is significant that for some weeks past not a single case of this nature has been reported. The fact is "Jack" is beginning to believe the big, bearded fairy has waved his wand over the fleet, as he did over the army, and that he now has a friend who will not only promise but reform.

Measly.

Of course poverty is no disgrace, but it's a measly shame when a homey fairy's face is by fortune.

BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.

From the Boston Herald.

The barber likes to shave you.
 To add unto his witte;
 The swimmer likes to save you
 To get a medal bright;
 The agent likes to sell you
 To make a dollar note;
 The speaker likes to tell you
 The way you ought to vote.
 The surgeon likes to bleed you
 Because 'twill do you good;
 The lunch man likes to feed you
 To get rid of his food.
 The footpad likes to plug you
 To make his job complete;
 The copper likes to tug you
 To show he's on the beat.
 The faker likes to lure you,
 You are his only priest;
 The doctor likes to cure you
 To raise his latting list.
 The tailor likes to hat you,
 If him perchance you owe;
 The undertaker plant you
 To see his harvest grow.

Novel Origin of Name.

From the Detroit News.

The "Lone Star" name of Texas has an interesting origin. A half century ago men's overcoats were ornamented with large brass buttons. It happened that the buttons on the overcoat of Governor Smith, of Texas, had the impress of a five pointed star. For want of a seal one of these buttons was cut off and used. The owner of this overcoat and of the button, Henry Smith, was chief executive of the provisional government of Texas, which, in 1821, preceded the declaration of independence by Texas against Mexico, and the winning of that independence in the battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1846.

MOTHER-IN-LAW'S PORTION.

Madame Mother-in-law, so far as your rights are concerned, you have no more right to interfere with the domestic relations of your son or daughter than any stranger in your town. You are entitled to love, if you are lovable, to respect, if you make yourself worthy of it, and to respectful treatment at all events on humanitarian grounds.

You are entitled to good care and protection from your children, but this does not mean that they shall always make you a member of their households, if they find it more expedient to care for you elsewhere. It does not mean that you have the privilege of criticizing the domestic arrangements of their lives and homes.

If your son or daughter asks your ad-

QUESTION.

own home, but not in it, the mother lifted her voice in a loud wall of being "forsaken" by her own offspring, and the majority of the public sympathized with her.

Yet the daughter was right. So is the husband right who takes a similar stand when he finds that harmony and peace and love exist in his home when his mother or his wife's mother is out of it, and that these elements of happiness are driven from the windows in affront when she enters at the door.

When a woman marries a man, when a man marries a woman, their personal, financial, domestic and sentimental affairs should be decided between them with no intervention of a third party until they ask assistance.

A mother who is "old and alone" is not necessarily lovable or in the right. A son or a daughter should look after the physical well being of such a mother, and should be respectful in speech and deportment toward her, but to coincide with all her whims and to adopt all her prejudices and to uphold her in all her ideas is morally wrong.

Sometimes the wife is in the wrong. Sometimes a man marries a woman who is so narrow and so selfish and so jealous that she begrudges the husband's mother her son's affection.

Sometimes a loved and cherished daughter marries a man so selfish, so tyrannical that he wants to utterly obliterate childhood and girlhood from her memory and leave only himself the tyrant for the wife to think about.

But I must confess that I have seen but one such wife or husband where I have seen 10 selfish and disagreeable mothers-in-law.

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