

# FIRE AND WATER ENGINEERING

FIRE PROTECTION—FIRE PREVENTION—WATER SUPPLY—SANITATION

Vol. LIV. No. 1

NEW YORK, JULY 2, 1913.

Published Every Wednesday



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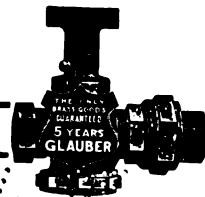
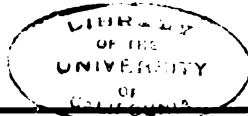
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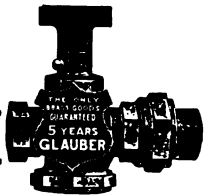
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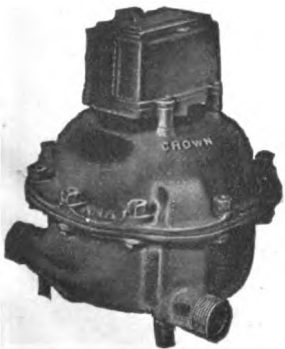
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## Fire in Troy Collar Factory Occured at a Fortunate Time

Few cities are as free from serious fires as Troy, N. Y., and when considered that it has more factories than most cities of its size perhaps in the country, exemption from this class of disasters is something for which its citizens should be thankful. Although "a miss is as good as a mile," the fire which recently broke out in the building occupied by the Interstate Collar Company and several other manufacturing concerns in that city, came only a few minutes from catching 150 female operatives on the upper floors of the seven-story structure. The building had scarcely been vacated by the employees, who quit work at 6 p. m., when the flames were discovered on the second floor and an alarm was turned in, soon followed by a second alarm. The building is equipped with a sprinkler system and a system of fire escapes that had practically been condemned. The sprinkler system failed to work, according to the report, and Fire Marshal Haynes declared that the women would have preferred to jump from the windows than to descend the so-called fire escapes. So it was fortunate that the flames did not break out a few minutes earlier, or there doubtless would have been another Binghamton tragedy. Smoking in the building is strictly forbidden, but it is thought that some one of the men in leaving the building lighted his pipe or cigar and threw the burning match where it strated a blaze. This is the only theory so far advanced as to the origin of the fire.

The blaze originated, it is thought by Fire Marshal Haynes and others, on the second floor, occupied by the Empire Collar and Novelty Company. The fire burned a big hole through the ceiling over the second floor in the center by the north wall, and then mushroomed over the third floor and ate its way up to the seventh floor, doing damage on each, but confining the greatest damage to the second, third and fourth floors. When Chief Byron reached the fire he sounded a second alarm. The task of fighting the fire was difficult, owing to the smoke, and smoke helmets had to be used. The sprinkler system in the building did not work and the rapid spread of the fire is partly laid to this defect by Chief Byron and Fire Marshal Haynes. Superintendent Diven, of the water works, stated that when the alarm was sounded the pressure, according to the recording gauge, showed 50 pounds. This was reduced to 37 when the engines began pumping water into the standpipes of the building which leaked. At 9 o'clock the pressure increased to 44 pounds, when the connections with the stand-pipes were cut off, and the pressure in-

creased steadily until at 2 o'clock in the morning the pressure recorded 64 pounds. The average night pressure is 50 pounds. The fire was a stubborn one and two locations on the second and third floors kept the firemen on the job until 7 o'clock the next morning. The contents of the building, mostly cotton material, aided by the Georgia pine construction of the interior of the structure, made a slow and smudgy conflagration, difficult to fight, and threatening to break out in other places at the same time. The efforts of the



F. F. PURCELL, CHIEF OF FIRE BRIGADE,  
DUBLIN, IRELAND.

firemen were directed during the height of the fire to prevent its spread to the drug and chemical stock of the John L. Thompson Company, adjoining on the north, and aside from damage by smoke, the Thompson company escaped.

The building, erected in 1888, is one of the best constructed of its kind in Troy, according to Fire Marshal Haynes, who examined the walls and found them solid notwithstanding the terrific heat they were subjected to. "Had the interior construction been of iron there would not be a wall standing," he said. The roof escaped damage, as did the first floor, except for water. During the early stages of the blaze the firemen were aided by the powerful rays from the searchlight on the steamboat Trojan at her dock until she left for New York at 8 o'clock. The total loss will not exceed \$30,000, which is covered by insurance.

## Waterford Water Works Sold

Pursuant to By-Chapter 391 of the Laws of 1912, state of New York, which became a law April 16, 1912, the board of water commissioners of the town of Waterford, N. Y., was created, commissioners to be appointed by the supervisor of the town. Supervisor Fred B. Steenburgh appointed Mr. John W. Ford, Mr. Charles H. Kavanaugh, Mr. Charles H. Shoemaker, Mr. John W. Flynn and Mr. James Meeker as commissioners, to serve during the time set by law. The board immediately organized with Mr. John W. Ford as president, Mr. Charles Shoemaker as treasurer and Mr. James Meeker as secretary. Work was commenced at once to appraise the works, and maps, measurements, schedules of lengths and sizes were prepared by Mr. Oscar Hasbrouck, C. E., and an inventory made of all the property of the water works company.



INTERNATIONAL COLLAR AND SHIRT FACTORY, TROY,  
N. Y., WHERE FIRE BROKE OUT.

Mr. Henry C. Hodgkins, C. E., of Syracuse, N. Y., was retained by the water works company, and Mr. Charles E. Roemer, C. E., of Troy, N. Y., by the water commissioners to make an appraisal of the works. This was completed and mutually agreed upon between the water works company and the water commissioners as to price, and on November 1, 1912, a taxpayers election was held and the proposition to buy the works carried. The commissioners then proceeded to sell bonds to pay for the works, and on August 5, 1913, the plant, works, franchises, rights and equipment of the company were taken over by the commissioners and paid for. Operation of the works by the board of water commissioners was commenced at once. Mr. Harry C. Curran, who was assistant superintendent of the water works company for the past twelve years, was appointed superintendent by the water board and also was appointed assistant treasurer, as provided for in the law. All other employees of the water works company were retained by the commissioners in their various positions, with the exception of Daniel B. McCarthy, who has been superintendent and treasurer of the company for over 20 years. He will proceed to close up the business of the company and terminate its corporate existence. The water commissioners contemplate some improvements to the works in the way of an improved supply, the nature of which cannot be stated at this time. Owing to the absence in Europe of Mr. Ford, Mr. Kavanaugh was recently elected president of the board,



TROY, N. Y. FIRE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION AT COLLAR AND SHIRT FACTORY FIRE.