

DAY OF FIRE DRILLS ALL OVER THE CITY

Mayor Mitchel and Commissioner Adamson See 1,900 Quickly Leave Factory.

FOR TRIANGLE ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Christopher Tests Garment Workers, and Ex-Chief Croker Holds a Demonstration.

Fire drills were held in schools and factories in all parts of New York yesterday, in response to the request of Fire Commissioner Adamson that yesterday, the third anniversary of the Triangle fire in which 147 persons lost their lives, be made an occasion for study of fire prevention and life saving.

Several hundred thousand pupils of the public schools and factory workers dropped their work yesterday at the clanging of alarm bells, fell into line and made their way swiftly and without confusion to the street by fire escapes and staircases.

Fire Commissioner Adamson, Chief Kenlon and Mayor Mitchel accepted an invitation yesterday afternoon to witness the fire drill of the employes of the American Tobacco Company's factory at 757 Wythe Avenue, Williamsburg. At 2:30 o'clock they were met by P. S. Hill, President of the American Tobacco Company; G. William Lang, manager in charge of the factory, and J. E. Williamson, inspector in charge of the factory.

Mayor Mitchel pressed the button which gave the alarm to Fire Headquarters. After giving the Fire Department five minutes' start, he turned in the factory's alarm and gongs clanged in all parts of each of the six floors of the building. The 1,900 employes in the factory dropped work instantly, and on each floor nine lines were formed heading for the five fire escapes and four staircases.

In a few seconds the leaders of each division appeared on the platform at the fire escape of his floor. The five es-

capas on the outside of the building filled with orderly, descending columns, made up chiefly of women. The employes of the upper floors waited on the escapes and in the buildings until the last of the company on the floor below had reached the fire escape. Every one in the building was in his place, and the march down to the street was made with the precision of the regular army.

Fire Commissioner Adamson and the party reviewing the drill had their watches out, and found that the building was cleared in one minute and forty-six seconds. Inspector Williamson said that when the employes were first being drilled three years ago it took seven minutes for them all to reach the ground.

A crowd collected yesterday to see the remarkable feat and moving-picture men were turning cranks from roofs in the neighborhood when the 1,900 employes were straightened as if by machinery into soldiery files and poured swiftly and quietly down the zigzag escapes. Inside the building the moving-picture operators began snapping the reviewing party. One of them asked Mayor Mitchel to step out by himself and face the lens.

"What do you want me to do?" asked the Mayor.

"Oh, just talk as if you were conversing," directed the operator. Mayor Mitchel stepped out and attempted to

talk like one conversing. After that Commissioner Adamson said casually that it would be interesting to see the fire drill from the inside. One of the company's representatives thereupon smashed the glass covering an alarm box and set the bells jangling again.

The the reviewers saw the fire brigades of the different departments of the factory in action. At the first sound of the gongs the men employes in the fire crews unwound hose in all parts of the building and attached it to standpipes, formed bucket lines and organized into patrols to make sure that none of the workers should be left behind. Salvage brigades stretched tarpaulins over the stock to protect it from water and others acted as guards to prevent thieves from entering the building.

During the day similar drills were held at between sixty and seventy factories of the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association under the direction of skillful drill masters headed by Mrs. Sarah W. H. Christopher, formerly an inspector of the Fire Department. Ex-Fire Chief E. F. Croker, head of the Croker National Fire Prevention and Engineering Company, superintended a fire drill of employes in several factories in a twelve-story building on the southwest corner of Thirtieth Street and Madison Avenue, while ninety-five other drills were held in different parts of New York by his inspectors.