

# CITY IS TURNED OVER TO FIREMEN

Hundreds of Volunteer Fire  
Fighters in Conneaut  
for Big Convention.

Keen Competition Expected  
in Contests and Records  
May be Broken.

SPECIAL TO THE PLAIN DEALER.

CONNEAUT, July 18.—The eighteenth annual convention and tournament of the Northern Ohio Volunteer Firemen's association, which is being held in this city for three days, beginning today, promises to be the largest attended in the history of the organization. Hundreds of visiting fire ladders from all parts of Ohio



R. D. ANDREWS.

Chief of the Conneaut fire department.

and Pennsylvania, and several from New York, have arrived and every train brings its quota to the meeting. Many sightseers are also thronging the city and the week will be a gala one for this section.

On the first day of the meet, nothing was done except to assemble the companies and install them in their respective places. It is estimated by Chief Andrews of the local department that fully 1,000 men are already in the city, while tomorrow is expected to swell the number by as many more. The entire town has been thrown open to the visitors, and gay decorations of bunting and flags adorn the principal business houses and residence sections. A carnival is holding forth on the main streets.

Tomorrow the convention will be held in the city hall, when officers will be elected for the ensuing year and a program rendered. In the afternoon the big parade, in which all the firemen will participate and which will be accompanied by thirty bands, will be held.

The majority of the sightseers are in attendance to witness the hose races, which will be held on Friday afternoon. Among the famous racing teams which will enter those events are the Union City (Pa.) team, ex-champions of the world; the Bridgeport (O.) Independents, who won first money at the St. Louis exposition, and other well known teams. Large prizes have been offered for every race, the aggregate being \$1,000, and it is expected that some records will be broken. Besides the hose races, foot races and a water fight between two local companies will be features of the convention.

The Church of the Epiphany will give its fifth annual excursion to Put-In Bay July 21. H. H. Popleton is on the excursion committee.