

# GALLANT "DICK" NO MORE.

## Last Call for Commissioner Richard F. Tobin.

### Fire Department and G. A. R. Circles in Mourning.

#### Boston Born, He Filled Many Offices of Trust and Honor.

Fire Commissioner Richard F. Tobin, senior vice-commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at his home, 53 Mt South Boston, at 4 1/2 a. m. yesterday, of valvular trouble of the heart and Bright's disease of the kidneys, having been sick for the past four months.

Since he was appointed fire commissioner, in 1887, by Mayor O'Brien, Capt. Tobin has never had a vacation, not desiring any, as



THE LATE RICHARD F. TOBIN.

he wished to give his whole time to his business duties, and with his usual loyalty in all matters, he did not take that rest which he needed so much.

For many months before and during Grand Army week—Aug. 10 to 17—he had additional duties to perform on the innumerable committees connected with the receiving and entertaining of Grand Army men from all over the country. He never complained, but when that busy period was over, at the earnest solicitation of his family and friends, he decided to take a brief respite, and was given two weeks' leave of absence from his duties as superintendent of the Walworth Manufacturing Company at City Point, and also was excused from his labors as fire commissioner.

He stayed at his home in Boston but a few days, when, thinking the pure and bracing air of country life and the rest he could there obtain would be beneficial to him, he went to Moretown, Vt.

Capt. Tobin, at this time, was completely worn out from overwork and also complained of a throat trouble, which he thought was bronchitis. While in Moretown he called upon Dr. Jaynes of that place, a well-known physician, who at one time was an army surgeon with Gen. Veazey. He examined Capt. Tobin and found that what was thought to be bronchitis was but a swelling of the palate, caused by excessive smoking, which caused a tickling sensation in the throat, resulting in frequent coughing. It was also found that Capt. Tobin's

#### Heart was Affected.

and although he was told that the throat trouble was but a trifle, the heart trouble might be serious, and the patient would need careful treatment and, above all, a rest.

By the doctor's advice Capt. Tobin gave up smoking, and up to the time of his death did not light a cigar.

Being homesick and feeling that he could enjoy his rest much better with his devoted wife and children, he returned to South Boston, but only for a short time.

In response to numerous cordial invitations, he, early in September, was the guest of Col. Cutting at Pittsfield, Mass., where he seemed to improve.

He returned to South Boston apparently much benefited, but entered his house destined never to leave it alive.

For days and weeks he was able to sit at the window with some of his family over around him, but during the latter part of September he took to his bed.

His family physician, Dr. E. A. Gilman, constantly attended him and when he was worse the assistance of Dr. Francis Minot was called for consultation. He became very weak and at that time his life was despaired of. He rallied, however, and for a month and a half he has been in a critical condition.

Matters became more serious when Bright's disease set in, and all hopes for his recovery were in vain.

Two or three weeks ago he began to fail rapidly. Twice consultation of the physicians was held, the second time it being found that Capt. Tobin's case was hopeless. He spent very restless nights, would toss and tumble, get little or no sleep, and the morning he was heard to get up and go into an adjoining room. On getting back into bed he was thoroughly exhausted, the effort had been too much for him, and it was plain to be seen that

#### He Was Dying.

The family were summoned, and were around the bedside when he passed away at 4.15.

Capt. Tobin leaves a wife and seven children, three boys and four girls, the eldest being Henry Tobin, who is employed at the Lincoln National Bank in this city.

The funeral arrangements will be announced later.

The executive committee of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. for 1890, will meet at the State House Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, to take action on the death of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Richard F. Tobin, who was a member of the committee.

Richard F. Tobin was born in Boston, Nov. 20, 1844.

Brought up, like most Boston boys, in the public schools, nothing of extraordinary moment happened in early life to forecast the career of usefulness and honor which was his pride in later years.

His boyhood was spent for the most part within the borders of Old Cambridge.

The exciting days of the rebellion found young Tobin thoroughly enthused with the spirit of union and patriotism, and to that extent did his love of country carry him that in 1861 he made several unsuccessful attempts to shoulder a musket and march with the boys to the front, but his age was such that he being then but 16 years

Day after day, week after week, he witnessed the departure of troops from Cambridge, where he then resided, for the seat of war, and many a shopmate and friend marched gayly along in the ranks of Union defenders, while Richard was left behind.

Where there's a will there's a way," he thought, and when in '62 the government called for three-months men, a company was recruited in Cambridge and ordered to report at Faneuil Hall, Boston.

Now was his opportunity. Abruptly leaving his work in the afternoon, he proceeded to the historic old hall, where the boys were quartered, with the firm intention of donning the blue, but to his chagrin he found the entrance guarded and no admittance was given.

Determined, however, to gain admission, he proceeded around the corner of the building in hopes to find an inlet. No opening presented itself, and all that was left for him to do was to climb the conductor and reach one of the second-story windows of the hall. This he instantly did, but only to behold a sentinel on duty at the open window.

What now?

Dick was ever noted for his ready wit and quick perception, and in those days he possessed a sufficiency of these attributes, as the following will show. When he observed the "sentry" on guard with his back towards him, the late senior vice-com-

mander-in-chief of the Grand Army hit upon a piece of strategy that would have

#### Done Credit to Napoleon.

Instead of retreating he doubled himself up in such a manner and twisted his head into such a position that, when he attracted the attention of the vigilant guard the latter at once concluded that the boy was endeavoring to make his escape instead of trying to get in.

With a ferocious exclamation of "Ah! ah! you young rascal, you didn't do it, did you?" he grabbed the lad by the collar and heels and landed him in the middle of the hall, and it was not five minutes after before he was an enlisted man in the service of the United States.

But his glory was of short duration. His ambition died an embryonic death, for inside of 24 hours his company was ordered home and disbanded, and that was the last of our hero's soldiering, but not of service.

They were shipping boys for the United States navy at that time, and Richard immediately repaired to the rendezvous to ship, only to find that it was necessary to have the consent of his parents, as he was under age. This looked as though he was doomed to eternal disappointment, but true to his nature, he stuck to it, and duly became one of the gallant crew of the United States sloop-of-war Preble. After the destruction of that vessel he was transferred to the frigate Potomac, and later to the gunboat Pinola, all of which rendered effectual service under Admiral Farragut in the West Gulf squadron.

Since the war, Capt. Tobin, as a comrade of the Grand Army, has been well and favorably known throughout the Department of Massachusetts, having been an energetic and honored member of that organization for the past 15 years. He was connected with Post 7 of Boston and Post 30 of Cambridge, of which post he was senior vice-commander and afterwards commander.

He was a member of Post 2 of South Boston, and had held the important office of commander of the Department of Massachusetts, Grand Army of the Republic. Every one knows with what enthusiastic unanimity the national Grand Army convention elected him, during encampment week, to the exalted office of senior vice-commander-in-chief of the organization; and there are plenty who predicted for him a future and greater honors in the public walks of life.

Comrade Tobin filled many offices of civil trust and honor, among them being that of member of the Cambridge City Council, assistant engineer of the fire department of the same city, member of the State Legislature from Boston, to which branch he was elected for a second term by one of the most popular votes ever given a candidate. His record in the Legislature as the champion of the "soldiers' exemption bill" and other measures of interest to veterans is well known and appreciated by comrades. That bill, indeed, has always been universally

#### Known as "The Tobin Bill."

Nowhere better than in his career on Beacon Hill did Capt. Tobin show his strength of character to better advantage. No one even ventured to influence his judgment by any of those meaner devices of policy. It was necessary to approach him with honorable argument, and while he might sometimes be deceived he could never be duped into a deception. His speeches were always short, vigorous, manly and practical. Some men might regret his position at times on public questions, but none ever questioned his sincerity.

At an early age Capt. Tobin learned the trade of iron moulding with the firm of Lyman Kinsley & Co., and at the time of his death was superintendent of the Wal-

worth Manufacturing Company at City Point, South Boston.

He was appointed on the Boston board of fire commissioners by Mayor O'Brien in 1887. His appointment satisfied a large number, and surprised himself, for he had never solicited the office. He has done excellent work in the set vice, and the efficiency of the department is due in a great measure to his quick perception.

Force of character and love of justice were born in him, and in all his works and important offices the sterling qualities of his character have been readily seen and always appreciated. As a kind father and husband, a loyal comrade and a faithful public servant "Honest Dick Tobin" will be long remembered, and his manly qualities will serve to lift others in the race of life to a higher plane and loftier aspirations.

To have known him for five minutes is to have been his friend for years, and to have known him for years is to have found a personal loyalty unchangeable.

The guarantee of "Dick" Tobin's popularity was over his own engaging personality. That, for example, in the recent contest for THE GLOBE'S sword stood behind his more than a million votes as an unmeasured fund of whole-hearted, clear-headed, friendly loyalty.

#### LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE.

Arrangements for Funeral—Actions of Organizations.

The residence of the late Fire Commissioner Richard F. Tobin on Mt. South Boston, was all day yesterday hushed in silence, and but few visitors called among them being. Mayor Hart, Fire Commissioners Fitch and Murphy, Chief Webber and District Chief Mullen of the fire department.

Letters of condolence and telegrams came in rapidly to the bereaved widow. One of the letters, received from the commander of Post 2, of which deceased was a member, read as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT 2, G. A. R.,  
NOT IN BOSTON, Nov. 22, 1890.

Mrs. TOBIN—

DEAR MADAM—With sadness I have learned of the death of your husband and our beloved comrade and true friend. Pardon the intrusion at this time, when your heart is crushed with sorrow. Permit me to extend to you the sympathy of the members of Dahlgren Post, who esteemed him so highly. Very truly yours,  
B. JAMES F. DROWN, commander.

Another read:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,  
BOSTON, Nov. 22, 1890.

Mrs. R. F. TOBIN—  
DEAR MADAM—I am directed by the Department commander to express to you the sorrow of 24,000 comrades of Massachusetts in the death of our beloved Comrade Tobin. None knew him but to love him for his manly qualities and generous heartedness. To his comrades he is not dead, for he lives in their hearts, and to live in the hearts of those that are left behind is not to die. We give to you and your children our deepest love and sympathy, trusting He who cares for the widow and fatherless will care for you. The world to you looks dark, but if it were not for the darkness of the night there would be no joy for the morning. If there is anything we can do to lighten the sorrow you have only to command us. I have the honor to be, yours respectfully,  
A. C. MCINROE, Assistant Adjutant-General.

A telegram received during the morning was as follows:

EAST WEYMOUTH, Mass., Nov. 22, 1890.

Mrs. RICHARD TOBIN—I extend most sincere sympathy to yourself and family in this hour of

deepest bereavement, and sorrow with you in the loss of a true friend, brave soldier and loving comrade, now "mustered home." If I can serve you in any way please command me.

W. JAMES S. LOVELL.

RUTLAND, Vt., Nov. 22, 1890.

Mrs. R. F. Tobin, South Boston, Mass.

Permit me to voice the sympathy I know this great order has for you in this hour of your and their loss.

J. H. GOULDING,  
Adj. Gen. G. A. R.

Other similar communications were received from John C. Linnelien of Concord, N. H.; J. W. Bunt, inspector-general, Chicago, Ill.; John H. Cook, auditor of the Boston custom house; William M. Ohm, collector's office of the custom house, and George S. Willis.

Arrangements for the funeral, which will probably take place Wednesday morning has not yet been made.

At a meeting held at 18 Post Office yesterday afternoon, John H. O'Donnell, superintendent of the Wright & Potter Printing Company, and also assistant quartermaster-general and Fire Commissioner John R. Murphy were appointed a committee of arrangements to work in conjunction with the family.

A general committee will be chosen from the following: The national staff, the department staff, the fire department, the Keasarge Veteran Association, and the citizens of South Boston.

Dahlgren Post, 2, will perform guard of honor duty. A special meeting of this post is called for Monday evening, by which time it is expected everything will be arranged for the funeral.

#### TRIBUTES TO MR. TOBIN.

Fire Department Buildings to be Fittingly Draped.

There was general mourning at City Hall, yesterday, over the death of Fire Commissioner Tobin. Mayor Hart sent out the following to the City Council:

GENTLEMEN—Richard F. Tobin, fire commissioner, died at his home in South Boston this morning. You are requested to meet at your respective chambers, in City Hall, on Monday, Nov. 24, at noon, to take such action as may be appropriate. Commissioner Tobin has been in office since May, 1887, giving all the services that loyalty, integrity and special training and the deepest interest in his calling could possibly render.

Commissioner Tobin held the second highest position in the Grand Army of the Republic, and was an honor both to the Grand Army and the city of Boston.

THOMAS N. HART, Mayor.  
Nov. 22, 1890.

At noon yesterday came following from the fire commissioners:

To His Honor Thomas N. Hart, Mayor.

GENTLEMEN—We have to make to you the painful announcement that our associate, Commissioner Richard F. Tobin, died this morning at 4 1/2 o'clock. If there are any suggestions that you may desire to make to us, we should be glad to wait upon you. Very truly yours,  
ROBERT G. FITCH,  
JOHN R. MURPHY.

To this Mayor Hart answered:

The Honorable the Board of Fire Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN—The death of Richard F. Tobin, a member of your board, announced in your communication of this day, will cause deep regret throughout the city and in the Grand Army of the Republic, Commissioner Tobin having served the city most faithfully and to general satisfaction. The Grand Army of the Republic has honored Commissioner Tobin with its second highest office. Mr. Tobin's private life was blameless and pure. His loyalty and devotion were never doubted. He was honest

and true. His unselfishness was perfect. In view of the loss sustained by your department, you are hereby instructed to drap the department buildings in simple mourning, indicating in a plain manner the death of the commissioner, and to let these emblems remain for 30 days. You are authorized to take such further action as you may think right. Respectfully,  
THOMAS N. HART, Mayor.  
Nov. 22.

#### Brothers-In-Arms

Charles Russell Post, 7, G. A. R., will have a special meeting Monday evening, to take action on the death of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Richard F. Tobin.

#### Tobin Honored in Lowell.

LOWELL, Nov. 22.—Flags on the Grand Army halls are at half mast tonight as a mark of respect to Richard F. Tobin.