

LIGHTER ENGINES WANTED.

Views of Firemen on the Superiority of Light Apparatus for Suburban Towns —Roxbury's New Machine.

At a celebration last evening, at engine company 24's house, Warren and Quincy streets, Roxbury, at which many prominent firemen and veterans in fire department circles were present, Fire Commissioner Richard F. Tobin and others strongly advocated the adoption of lighter fire engines in place of the heavy ones now in use, particularly in the suburban districts. Captain Tobin, who has thoroughly investigated the subject, has satisfied himself that lighter machines should take the place of heavy ones, on the ground that they could be hauled to the fires quicker. The occasion for the reception was the arrival of a new and beautiful engine of the kind described.

After a collation had been served Captain D. C. Bickford called the meeting to order. He said he was proud of the new engine, and that he appreciated the assistance the commissioners had rendered him in his efforts to put out fires in his important section of Roxbury. Captain Bickford called upon District Chief Munroe, who spoke at considerable length on the advantages of the new engine and of the great importance of the district where it is now in commission.

Captain Tobin of the fire commissioners referred to the unavoidable absence of the other two commissioners, said he felt the engine was very badly needed in the locality. He believed that many of the larger engines should be substituted by lighter ones. He said that the new engine of company 24 was as good as any in Boston, although there are many in use which are larger and more powerful. She is as powerful as any second-class engine in the service, although she was built for a third-class machine. We feel that if you can get out quick and lose time on the road, it is no advantage to have these very heavy engines. A lighter engine can be run much faster on such streets as you have in Roxbury. Captain Tobin spoke kindly of the efficiency of engine 24, and closed by giving several other reasons as to why lighter engines should take the place, particularly in the suburban territory, of heavy apparatus.

The next speaker was Chief Engineer Webber of the Boston fire department. He advocated lighter engines. He had similar views on the matter to those of Captain Tobin.

John S. Damrell, inspector of buildings, was pleased with the new engine. He didn't believe in heavy engines. Speed and light machines is what is needed.

The new machine is an upright double engine, handsomely nickel-plated, and has a connecting rod instead of the link motion. It has been carefully tested in the presence of the fire commissioners and experts, who pronounce it excellent apparatus.

Among the many present last evening were Commissioner Tobin, Director Conant of base ball fame, John S. Damrell Assistant Inspector Frye, building department; Chief Engineer Webber, Captain Willis, Captain Gover, engine 17; Captain Bird, hook and ladder 7; Captain Powers, hook and ladder 4; Captain McCarthy, engine 12; District Chief Sawyer, District Chief Munroe, District Chief Hewins, John Lagan, engine 24; John F. Woodward, engine 23; Henry Dempsey of the repair shop; ex-Hoseman Moses Hubbard, 24; ex-Hoseman J. B. Burgess, 24; ex-Hoseman Woodward, ex-Hoseman Beals, Henry Hayes, John Collicott, ex-engineer, 2; ex-Assistant Engineer Wilkinson, 24; Walter Pierce, now of engine 12.