

MOTORIZATION OF EAST BOSTON ENGINE COMPANIES IS INTERRUPTED BY FIRE

New Apparatus Installed at Houses of Nos. 9 and 40—Aged Woman Gives Alarm For Blaze in Home of Her Son



Old Dobbin had to step aside in East Boston yesterday afternoon for the more modern means of propulsion—the automobile—but not until he had given a good account of himself. In brief it was the motorization of Engine Companies 9 and 40, recognized as two of the best fighting fire units in the Boston Fire Department. Hundreds of curious watched the proceedings.

It was a sad parting, the passing of the old faithful steeds from the firemen and children, and grownups.

Fire Commissioner Theodore A. Glynn, Fire Chief John O. Taber and District Chief Henry J. Power, together with Richard C. Kirby, president of the East Boston Improvement Association and other prominent business men figured conspicuously in the parade and installation ceremonies which attended the arrival of the new pieces of apparatus.

Promptly at 2 o'clock the procession comprising the new engines and the horse-drawn pieces formed at the North Ferry and, with Fire Commissioner Glynn turning the siren, proceeded through the principal streets of the island and back to the quarters of Engine 9 on Paris st. Hundreds gathered at this point and shouted and cheered Commissioner Glynn.

District Chief Power, master of ceremonies, introduced "Teddy" as the "best Fire Commissioner Boston has ever had." The remark brought a lusty cheer from the crowd.

Fire Commissioner Glynn said that he was pleased to be the means of modernizing the fire fighting machinery in East Boston, inasmuch as he felt that it was badly needed because of the district's geographical location. He added that probably by the latter part of next month or the first of September a new aerial ladder will replace the present Ladder Company 2, a horse-drawn piece, thus completing the motorization of all of the East Boston companies.

Horses Lead to the Fire

The procession had hardly got underway on its trip to the quarters of Engine 40 when box 634 struck. There was a great scramble as the new apparatus swung into action on its first alarm. Fire Commissioner Glynn handling the siren on Engine 9. The horse-drawn engines plunged into action and responded to their last alarm like gallant veterans.

Ladder 2 went racing up Meridian st at the head of the motor apparatus. It was a rare test, the horse against the automobile, and in this case Old Dobbin won and the crowd cheered and cheered. The ladder company was the first piece of apparatus at the blaze and in action.

The fire was in the apartment of Albert Bouchie on the top floor of the three-story wooden dwelling, 40 Central sq. owned by Bernard Farley. It was discovered by Mrs Anna Bouchie, 90, bedridden mother of the occupant. She aroused from a nap and found smoke



Above—Commissioner Glynn and Chief Tabor on New Fire Truck.
Below—The Last Trip of the Old Apparatus.

pouring into her room. By frantically ringing a bell on the chair beside her bed, she managed to attract her son and he sounded the alarm.

When District Chief Power led his men into the building he was advised of the woman's presence in the room next to the fire and of her feeble condition. The hallway was filled with suffocating smoke and heat. Instead of ordering her removal he ventilated her room and placed two firemen beside her in readiness to remove her to safety if the fire spread. Chief Power then tore away half of the wall leading into the woman's room before the flames were checked.

Mrs Bouchie chatted with the firemen about everything but the fire and said she was glad they had new motor apparatus. She fairly hugged Chief Power when he returned to the room and told her that the fire was out.

Fire Commissioner Glynn shook hands with the aged woman and received her blessing.

The damage by the fire was placed at \$300.

Glynn Breaks Ground for Building

With this incident closed, the firemen proceeded to complete their program. They went to the quarters of Engine 40, over which Capt Thomas Lannary presides, and officially installed the mo-

tor pieces. The gong was sounded as the horses galloped out of their stalls and into the harness and was kept ringing until they were out in the street. Another big crowd was on hand here too.

Fire Commissioner Glynn spoke and broke ground for the new quarters of the company, which will be erected in the near future at a cost of \$300,000. The building will be erected on the site of the present quarters.