

CHEMICAL 1 TO DROP OUT AFTER 40 YEARS

Was Called "Extinguisher" Company When Started

By orders of Fire Commissioner John R. Murphy, Chemical Engine 1 company of the Boston Fire Department will be disbanded at 9 o'clock this morning, after a service dating 40 years on May 1, last.

A motor combination chemical and hose wagon will be placed in service with Engine 6, on Leverett st, while High Pressure Company, No. 3, will go into commission at the Bulfinch-st station.

The placing in commission of motor combination chemical and hose cars with all engine companies means the passing from the Boston Fire Department of the separate chemical companies that did more "running" in a year than any three other companies combined.

The North and West Ends and the business district, which were included in the running card of Chemical 1, will be cared for, as far as "chemical fires" go, by the tanks on the different hose wagons. With the exception of Engines 4, 7 and 25, every other company that will respond to a downtown fire will be equipped with chemicals.

Chemical 1, when organized on May 1, 1871, was equipped with a wagon that carried 800 feet of water hose and 15 small chemical extinguishers. This company and the one to be located on Church st, a year later, were known as "extinguisher" companies and it was not until the big tanks, containing 100 or more gallons of chemical solution, were mounted on wagons that the companies were known as chemical engines.

The taking of these big tanks out of commission does not mean the junking of this apparatus. Commissioner Murphy has had plans drawn for the mounting of the big tanks on the decks of the fire boats so that chemical lines can be used on small fires and also on the oil fires that are a menace to water-front property.

Besides the chemical tanks, Commissioner Murphy has plans made for the mounting on each boat of two sets of pumps, which have been on discarded land steam fire engines, so that it will be possible for the laying and running of small lines and getting streams of water that men on ladders can handle with safety.

At the present time the only lines that can be laid from the fire boats are the big lines from the 3000-gallon pumps. These streams are so heavy that men on ladders cannot handle them. The pumps of the old horse-drawn fire engines will be connected directly with the steam boilers of the boats, but the amount of steam that will be required to operate them will be so small that a big saving in coal consumption will be the result.

It was also announced yesterday afternoon that plans for the receiving and entertaining of the fire chiefs from the Pacific Coast, who will be in this city on Oct 8, to inspect the department, are nearing completion.

These officials are on their way to the convention of the International Association of Fire Engineers, at Atlanta, Ga, and are inspecting the fire departments as they travel across the country.