

NOTED FIREMAN TO HEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT.

John Grady, Promoted to Be Commissioner, Says Motor Apparatus Must Replace That Drawn by Horses—Has Been 40 Years in the Service, Starting at the Very Bottom of the Ladder.

seven years ago he was given a prize for his mount and his horsemanship. He lives with his wife on Walnut av. Roxbury, where he spends his days off with Mrs. Grady. Their only daughter is married. Mrs. Grady takes great pride in her Pomeranians and has taken more than one prize at dog shows. He and Mrs. Grady spend their vacations in the country.



Mrs. MARY ELIZABETH GRADY AND HER PETS.



HOME OF JOHN GRADY 86 WALNUT AVE. ROXBURY.



CHIEF GRADY IN HIS LIBRARY READING, WHICH IS HIS FAVORITE PASTIME.

HEROIC ACTS OF GRADY.

- Saved Sawyer girl, Hotel Hel- en fire, 1887.
- Saved life of fireman Quigley, Thanksgiving, 1889.
- Saved girl's life at Everett School fire panic, 1897.
- Saved five lives at Waltham-st fire, Feb 14, 1906.
- Carried gunpowder from fire and prevented powder explosion at Lovell store fire, 1880.
- Prevented powder explosion at Johnson store, 1896.

Why Mayor Appointed Grady.

"I appointed John Grady Fire Commissioner because I wanted Boston to have the best fire-fighting force in the country. I selected him because he knows the business of fire fighting. No man knows the Fire Department of Boston better than John Grady. I named him Fire Commissioner because I wanted to show the men of the department that there is something ahead for which they may aspire.

"We have been appointing lawyers and politicians to run the Fire Department. I thought it was about time to put a real fireman at the head of the department. Some writer remarked a good many years ago that he would not think of sending for a locksmith if we wanted a suit of clothes or for a tailor if we wanted a lock repaired.

"We have bought automobiles for the chiefs that they might get to the fire first, but a general on the ground without an army doesn't amount to much. I propose to see to it that the firemen get to the fire as soon as the chiefs."—Mayor Curley on Why He Named Grady Fire Commissioner.

New Fire Commissioner's Plans.

"So far as the finances will permit, I propose to motorize the Fire Department; that is, I shall put in automobile apparatus in places of horse-drawn vehicles as fast as I can. By motorizing the department I believe its efficiency will be greatly increased. We shall get rid of the disagreeable odor of the stable from our engine houses and we can reach a fire quicker than is possible by horse-drawn apparatus.

"At the present time every company loses the service of two men at a fire, who are detailed to guard the horses. But with an automobile engine we would have the services of those men for fire fighting.

"I want to make the Boston Fire Department the best in the country. It is a splendid fighting force today, but I believe that it can be made better. I will enter upon the duties of my new office with no enemies to punish or friends to reward. I want every man in the department to feel that they have a friend in me.

"I want also to say that no politician had a hand in my appointment. The honor came to me unsolicited. I was sitting at my desk at the engine house when I received a message that the Mayor wanted to talk with me. He tendered me the position, much to my surprise, and I accepted over the phone."—Deputy Chief John Grady, named as Fire Commissioner by Mayor Curley.

"Come in," called out a voice from the inside, in response to a knock on the closed door.

There sat the new Fire Commissioner in his shirt sleeves. His gut braid cap and blue coat were thrown carelessly on the little white enameled bed. He sat at his rolltop desk making out a daily report to be forwarded to the chief of the department.

"Glad to see you," he says with a hearty grasp of the hand and an invitation to sit down and make one's self comfortable. The chief's room at the engine house is good sized, but there is no attempt to decorate it with reminders of battles with fire. A picture of himself on horseback hangs on the wall. Over his bed hangs a good-sized picture of Col. Russell, for many years Fire Commissioner. Thus the new Fire Commissioner prizes highly. It was given to him by the late commissioner and Col. Russell was not given to distributing compliments for duty done or giving away photographs of himself.

This fact makes the picture more valuable. The new Fire Commissioner always got along well with Commissioner Russell. Mr. Grady is a man who tips the scales not far from 200, but there is little superfluous flesh on his bones. He is blue-eyed and gray-haired and reads and writes without glasses.

Will Be 60 July 12th.

At the next anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, July 12, Commissioner Grady will be 60 years old, but he is as active as most men at 45. He was born and brought up in the West End and went to the old Hawkins-st School. When a young man he learned the mason's trade. In those days a mason could and did lay stone and brick, do whitewashing and calstomming, in fact anything in the stone, brick and plastering line around a building.

His familiarity with building construction has been a great help to him in his work as a fireman. During his career of 40 years as an active member of the department John Grady has been a strict, but just disciplinarian. He demands and has respect from the men under him and insists that every man do his duty. He has always lived up to the rules and regulations of the department himself and sees no reason why every other member should not do the same.

Although a strict disciplinarian he has always been popular with the men under him and he never asks a fireman to go where he would not venture himself.

Was in the Big Fire of '72.

He was in the big fire of 1872, when Boston was visited by the most disastrous conflagration in its history. Some years ago when the old Fire Commission established a drill school for the members of the department they looked around among the captains for a head of the new department. They picked out Capt. John Grady and set him up as head of the school, and for a number of years he acted as the drillmaster of the school, teaching the young men how to scale walls, climb ladders, save lives and scamper about roofs.

He put in five years as drillmaster of the department and then was made district chief of East Boston. He was on this station only a short time. All the while that he was drillmaster of the department he was foreman of Truck 3 on Harrison av, doing fire duty in addition to his work as drillmaster of the department. In June, 1894, he was placed in charge of the Roxbury district, remaining there until 1906, when he was promoted to his present position. At first his headquarters were on Mason st, but later he was transferred to Fort Hill sq.

He has handled many big fires and has been thanked by the City Council for bravery in line of duty. His body and face bear several scars, reminders of injuries and wounds received while fighting flames. He was badly cut and bruised in the Dover-st fire of 1899, one of the hardest battles Boston's firemen have had in many years.

Likes Dogs and Horses.

He likes dogs and horses. In the "Old-Home Week" parade in this city

By M. E. HENNESSY.

Mayor Curley surprised politicians, firemen and underwriters by his appointment of Deputy Chief John Grady of the Fire Department as Fire Commissioner the other day to succeed Commissioner Cole, who resigned. That the Mayor's selection was a good one is evidenced by the many messages of congratulation both he and Chief Grady have received since the announcement of the appointment.

The Mayor takes the ground that the city has too long experimented with lawyers and politicians as executive heads of the Fire Department and that the time has arrived to put a fireman at the head of the Fire Department. In John Grady he is satisfied that he has the right kind of a man for the job.

His Honor takes the ground that if a man wanted a suit of clothes he would not send for a locksmith, nor would one needing a lock repaired send for a tailor. In other words, he acted on the old-fashioned notion of the shoemaker sticking to his awl. The Mayor has some well-defined notions about the Fire Department, as he has about every other department at City Hall, gained by his years of service in the City Government.

Wants Firemen on Ground.

In a statement which the Mayor made regarding the reason which led him to select Deputy Chief Grady as executive head of the Fire Department, he said that he had picked Grady because he wants Boston to have the best and most efficient fire-fighting force in the country, and, in his opinion, after looking over the available men in the department, Chief Grady is the best equipped man for the position. The Mayor and the new Fire Commissioner are agreed that the department must have more motor apparatus.

Boston has lagged behind in this respect. Other cities have gone in for automobile fire apparatus of a larger extent in proportion to the number of engines and other equipment than this city. The Mayor points out that the city had purchased autos for the chiefs that they may be on the ground early when a fire breaks out, but that little had been done about getting the chiefs of the department there. He says that a general on the ground without an army doesn't amount to much, and that it is his purpose to see that the fighting fire force is on the ground at the same time as the commanding officer.

This means that Boston is going to spend considerable money for auto fire engines and other fire apparatus. The new commissioner and the Mayor are agreed that the equipment of the department with auto fire engines means greater efficiency of the department and that every man responding to an alarm of fire will be available to fight the fire once the machine is connected with the hydrant. At the necessary time every company finds it look after the horses during the progress of the fire.

The introduction of the auto fire engine and apparatus in the suburban districts will, it is claimed, be a great advantage. In many cases the runs are long and the horses become tired long before the fire is reached. One piece of auto apparatus, it is claimed, will do the work of two or three of the horse-drawn engines because of its ability to get to the point of danger in a shorter time.

No Politics in Appointment.

Chief Grady says there is absolutely no politics in his appointment as Fire Commissioner. He declares that he never asked for the place and that when the Mayor called him up the other day and tendered him the position he was the most surprised man in Boston. Chief Grady was not overcome by the Mayor's offer. He accepted on the spot. He will be ready to assume the duties of commissioner the moment the Civil Service Commissioners OK his appointment. Nor will he lose his rating as a deputy chief. If the present Mayor should later feel that he had made a mistake in naming Grady he can ask him to step down and out, and Grady, it is claimed, may resume his old rating and position in the department. Nor will his appointment as commissioner affect his eligibility to retire under the pension laws on the salary of a deputy chief. Mr. Grady thinks that if he should find that he didn't like his new job he could resign and ask the Mayor to restore him to his old place in the department, or in the event of his having reached the retirement stage could be immediately placed on the pension list.

"A Square Deal for All."

The new Fire Commissioner enters his duties without feeling against any of his associates in the department. He declares that he wants to see the Fire Department of this city, which rates with the best in the country, move to the top of the list. He says it is a splendid department today, but he has some ideas for improving its efficiency. It is the first time that a uniformed member of the department has been

made the real head of the department. The nearest the city came to that was when William A. Green was made a member of the three-headed Fire Commission, but Green, it is said, was only a call man in his early days.

The new Fire Commissioner says that his motto while in office will be, "A square deal for all." He does not regard his appointment so much of a personal compliment to himself as he does to the firemen of the city and the State. He is proud of the fact that he has lived to see the day when a man from the ranks has risen to the head of the department.

Fire Commissioner Grady has filled every position in the service from the humblest place to second in command of the force, and now he goes from the active fire fighting force to the executive head of the department in which he has spent practically his whole life.

Short, Stocky Man Is Grady.

His headquarters are in the engine house in Fort Hill sq. "Is Chief Grady in?" "Sure," answers the man on duty on the floor. "Go right upstairs and you'll find him in the room to the left."