

JUNIOR DEPUTY CHIEF PETER F. M'DONOUGH

Important District in His Charge.

His Record Since Joining the Fire Department Years Ago.

JUNIOR DEPUTY CHIEF PETER F. M'DONOUGH has charge of the second of the two divisions into which the fire districts of Boston are divided. This territory includes districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14, and is guarded by an effective fighting force of seven district chiefs and 458 officers and men, 23 engines, 14 ladder trucks, eight chemical engines, one water tower and the spare apparatus of the department.

The line dividing this division from



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the first runs across Fort Point channel, Broadway extension, Pleasant st, Columbus av, Park sq, Boylston and Arlington sts to the Charles river. In other directions its boundary lines are those of the city limits, and include Roxbury, Dorchester, West Roxbury, the Back Bay and Brighton.

In this division lies the best residential and better-built part of the city, but it also includes the hazardous lumber-yard districts which were the scene of the "Albany-st fire" of last summer.

The second deputy chief makes his headquarters at the house of ladder company 4, Dudley st, a far more satisfactory location than are those of the houses in which he has served. Previous to his present appointment Deputy McDonough has always been stationed downtown in the busiest houses of the 4th district. In his 23 years downtown he has probably seen more inside fire-fighting than any other man in the

service. Contrary to general impression the downtown district chiefs are right on the "firing line," as were Deputy McDonough and Chief Egan a few moments before the latter went down to death with the falling floors of the Merrimac-st building in 1898.

The department record of the second deputy is an interesting one. Born in the North End Aug 15, 1857. Entered fire department July 21, 1883 and was assigned to ladder 8. In October of same year he was made permanent and was transferred to ladder 1 Jan 1, 1884. Promoted lieutenant and assigned to engine 26, August, 1887. Transferred to engine 6, February, 1888. Promoted captain and assigned to engine 10, August, 1888. Transferred to engine 8, September, 1890. Promoted district chief and assigned to East Boston in June, 1894. Transferred to charge of fourth district, November, 1894. Promoted deputy chief and assigned to the second division, March, 1906.

Knowing Deputy Chief McDonough's record and reputation as a leader where hard inside fire fighting has been frequent, one is surprised to learn that before entering the department he was a clerk. He is a typical fire fighter, a "driver" the men call him, but a "driver" who is always with his men and always appreciative of the men who are doing the work. His stern experience has stamped him with its impress.

The few who are familiar with him can always arouse his interest by reminding him of the rescue he once made, when after groping through suffocating volumes of smoke he led to safety a man and his wife. Just able to gasp, the woman whispered: "My baby! My baby!" and swooned away. Back for the baby went the sturdy fire fighter, while kindly hands led husband and wife to the street. When, nearly suffocated, the hero staggered out with the baby—a dear little poodle dog—he was painfully surprised to learn that a pair of heroes were being showered with congratulations for having rescued the man and his wife.

Whether or not that incident influenced his judgment, it is a fact that though for many years he was chief of the most hazardous tenement house district, where fires were many, he seldom recommended anyone in particular for saving life. This may seem peculiar to those who do not understand the facts of the case, but this course is founded on justice and common sense and has received the endorsement of the really sensible leaders of fire fighters in America, and particularly of those in Boston.