

McDONOUGH RESIGNS, WALSH SUCCESSOR

Seniority Is Ignored in Picking Fire Chief

Mayor to Reorganize Departments With Younger Blood

Chief Peter F. McDonough of the Fire Department has voluntarily resigned after 36 years of fire fighting in Boston, and Dist Chief Peter E. Walsh is to succeed to the \$4500 post, if the Civil Service Commission approves. Mayor Peters verified last night such a report published yesterday afternoon.

Those who know the way the Administration wind is blowing said beforehand that this would be the first step

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replacing Acting District Chief John H. Wetherbee. For several years he has made his headquarters at Engine 2, Warren av.

Three Divisions Now

The appointment of District Chief Fox as third deputy chief and the reorganization of the city into three divisions, rather than the present two, reestablishes conditions such as they existed when Brig Gen Cole was in charge of the department, according to Commissioner Murphy.

Deputy Chief Fox will have his headquarters at Ladder 13's house on Warren av. and will be in command of Division 2. This division takes in the section from Dover st outward to Dudley, and Crosstown to Brighton on the west and South Boston on the east.

Senior Deputy Chief Tabor will remain downtown. His division will include the section between Charlestown and Dover st inclusive. This will be known as Division 1.

Junior Deputy Chief Sennott will cover Division 3, that section lying beyond Dudley st, including Dorchester and Mattapan on one side and Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury on the other.

Commissioner Murphy said that the reorganization was caused by the conviction that each of the two deputy chiefs had districts too large to be efficiently handled.

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in a wide series of changes, determined upon with a view to giving relatively young men the swing of departmental affairs, a chance which they, as a class, have heretofore been denied, it is said.

Mayor Peters hinted that more extensive changes in the administrative personnel of the department are impending. He is working in harmony with J. R. Murphy, his new fire commissioner, upon a plan of complete reorganization of the department, it is understood, aiming to develop anew its best strength as a fire-fighting machine.



DISTRICT CHIEF PETER E. WALSH,
Who Succeeds Chief McDonough.

Mayor Peters explained that Dist Chief Walsh was jumped over the heads of half a dozen other senior district chiefs, as well as over Deputy Chiefs J. O. Taber and D. F. Sennott, not solely because of his comparative youth, but because of his proved abilities as leader and fire-fighter.

Walsh Rates as Acting Chief

Chief McDonough's resignation comes just 36 years and a day from the date of his appointment to the department, July 1, 1853. It becomes effective August 1, by which date, it is expected, Mr Walsh will have qualified for the post. Until then his rating will be that of Acting Chief. Chief McDonough retires on half pay—\$2250. He has not disclosed his future plans.

Commenting upon his resignation, Mayor Peters said:

"The City of Boston regrets that Chief McDonough has seen fit to request that he be pensioned. His service of 36 years has been marked by an exemplary devotion and faithfulness. He leaves the service with the respect and regard not only of department members, but also of the citizenry of Boston as a whole."

The Mayor also announced the transfer of Dist Chief Henry A. Fox of district 11 to division 2, with an advance in rating to Third Deputy Chief. Chiefs Taber and Sennott are senior and junior deputy chiefs.

Acting Chief Peter E. Walsh has been connected with the Fire Department for 27 years, being appointed in July, 1892. He was advanced to lieutenant in 1896 to captain in 1904 and to district chief in 1913. During his service he has always been regarded as one of the most able, aggressive and fearless fire fighters.

Perhaps the most interesting experience in his long career he told to the Globe in an interview a few years ago. The last general alarm fire in Boston occurred nine years ago when fire broke out in a lumber yard on Albany st and quickly spread to buildings on Bristol st. Capt John P. McManus of Ladder 4 and Hoseman Thomas O'Connell of Engine 22 were so seriously injured that night that they had to be placed on the retired list. Walsh was standing with them on the fourth floor of one of the burning buildings a moment before the floor gave way and carried them to the basement. He was near a window when the ripping crash came. He straddled the window sill and was rescued from his perilous position by his company which threw a ladder against the building.

New Chief Aged 50

He was born Sept 25 1863, and was employed as a stone cutter before being appointed to the Fire Department. July 29, 1892, he was assigned to Engine 11 Saratoga st, East Boston, as a permanent substitute, remaining there until Feb 10, 1893, when he was shifted to Engine 40, Summer st, East Boston. To Engine 4, Bulfinch st, he was shifted June 2, 1893.

As a reward for his efficiency he was promoted to the grade of lieutenant Aug 23, 1896, and was placed at Engine 40. To Engine 33, Boylston st, he was transferred Feb 19, 1897, and to Chemical 1, Bulfinch st, March 12, 1897. He was shifted to Engine 7 Aug 11, 1899, remaining there until Dec 5, 1902, when he was sent to Combination Ladder 6, Grove Hall.

In 1900 he married Miss Mary L. Bowers of Roxbury.

In November, 1904, he was advanced to the rank of captain and assigned to Ladder 3, Harrison av. Four years later, while still in command of Ladder 3, he was admitted to the bar, being the second member of the department to become a lawyer.

In 1913 he was appointed district chief by Fire Commissioner Charles H. Cole and assigned to the Hyde Park District,