

TO MAKE IT PERMANENT

One Day Off in Five for Firemen.

Engineers and Assistants to Enjoy the Privilege.

Commissioner Stops "Pull" and "Influence."

The firemen of Boston no longer entertain any fear of losing the one day off in five privilege which they have been enjoying since Dec 8. Although nothing has been given out officially at fire headquarters regarding the proposition, it is known that arrangements have been under way the past week for making the scheme a permanent feature.

Beginning yesterday morning, the several district chiefs and Asst Chiefs Grady and McDonough were granted the privilege and it is now being arranged to extend it to the engineers and assistant engineers.

Under the new arrangement there will be three days in every five when three district chiefs will be away from duty.

The engineers and assistant engineers have been receiving extra compensation weekly because of the fact that they were not getting the extra time off. There are about 45 regular engineers and the same number of licensed assistants in the department, and the only reason that has been given for the day off in five being kept away from these is the lack of licensed engineers.

There are, however, in the fire department the following men who have passed the engine school and who are considered capable of "covering" on engines:

Henry A. Woodmancy, engine 1, Dorchester st, South Boston; James Flavin, engine 2, East 4th st, South Boston; Patrick J. Cray, engine 3, Harrison av; Isaac M. Noble, engine 5, Marion st, East Boston; Warren C. Stevens, engine 10, River st, West End; Frank E. Merrill, engine 16, Temple st, Dorchester; Edward B. Johnson, engine 19, Norfolk st, Mattapan; Andrew J. Burnett, engine 20, Walnut st, Neponset; Michael J. Griffin, engine 25, Fort Hill sq; William J. Foster, engine 40, Sumner st, East Boston; Thomas Finneran, ladder 1, Saratoga st, East Boston; Edward C. Verkampen, tower 3, Pittsburg st; hoseman John F. McDonough, combination 2, Charlestown.

The probation men are also on the one day off in eight basis and will have to remain so until they pass the drill school and complete their six-months' probation.

The uneasiness that was felt in the

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department four weeks ago when petitions were sent to the different houses requesting the firemen to sign away their rights and have the day off in fire ordinance repealed, has entirely disappeared.

NO MORE "INFLUENCE."

Commissioner Says Firemen Themselves Must Present Their Claims for Promotion or Transfer.

According to Fire Commissioner Wells, the days of "pull" in the fire department have ended. He is tired of entertaining a steady stream of callers at his office whose aim has been to speak in behalf of some man desiring promotion or to intercede for some person in trouble.

Rule 5 in the "black book" prevents the members of the department from working the so-called "influence game," and yesterday the commissioner directed Chief Mullen to call the attention of the men to this rule, which is as follows:

"For continuance or advancement in the service, members must depend solely on merit and character. Good conduct and good service are the surest recommendations for promotion. Any attempt to bring influence to bear upon the commissioner for the purpose of securing promotion or transfer, or avoiding penalties for reprehensible action or conduct will be equivalent to insubordination and treated accordingly. This rule must be lived up to. Violations will be punished by a black mark and will injure the member's standing. The commissioner and the officers of the fire department are competent to judge the merits of the candidates, and on this basis alone will promotions be made. Members by written or oral communication present their claims to the commissioner.

"This notice is necessary because of recent violations of the rule, and it is intended as a fair warning for the future."

The recent promotions have created much talk and considerable feeling. There were many candidates for the positions, and as the commissioner could not promote everybody there were many who were disappointed.

The commissioner said that he endeavored to satisfy everybody in making the promotions.

It is not denied that influence has been exerted in behalf of men securing promotion, and in aid of men of high standing, too.

The new order means that the men will have to keep in their place as they did in the old days. It forbids the use of influence, even to secure a shift.

When the late Col Russell was in charge shifts were made frequently. If a man was dissatisfied with his berth and told Col Russell that there was a probation man in another house to which he wished to be shifted the commissioner would grant his request, and when a probation man objected the commissioner would simply say: "Young man, you should have your grip in your hand ready to move at any time."

When Fire Commissioner Wells took charge he disapproved this idea. There are many houses where the men are not anxious to serve and which have acquired some queer nicknames. Engine 1 is known as the penitentiary, engine 37 the floating hospital, engine 2 the jumping-off place, and water tower 2 "Ward K."