

FIREMEN ON THE POLICE FORCE.

In All, 64 Have Given Up Better Paying Positions to Take Their Chances In the Other Department—Promotion Rare, But They Rank Among Honor Men—High Limit Regulations Prevent More Changes.



EDWARD J. KELLY.



TIMOTHY J. SHEEHAN.



EDWARD R. RYAN.



DENNIS J. HURLEY.



PATRICK J. CROWLEY.

SOME BOSTON POLICEMEN WHO WERE ONCE IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Twenty-five years ago, when Walter M. McLean, now a district chief in command of the Hyde Park-Mattapan battalion of the Fire Department, left the fire service to accept an appointment to the police force, persons that followed the two departments closely were astonished.

Now when a fireman decides to become a policeman even the so-called "sparks" do not get concerned over the announcement, because shifting from one force to the other has got to be quite the thing. According to the records, McLean was the first fireman to make such a change, but since then 63 others have done likewise, and of that number 54 are in the police service today.

It is within the last five years that most of the firemen have made the change. McLean remained in the police service less than six months. He was assigned to the Lagrange-st Station and had a rather turbulent experience.

He made a wise move in returning to the fire service, because he won advancement rapidly and no man who has ever left the Fire Department for the Police Department has forged ahead, although Commissioner O'Meara has said that some of his best men have been recruited from the fire service.

Why do so many men leave the Fire Department for the Police Department? Hundreds of persons ask that question when they hear that among a batch of reservemen that Commissioner O'Meara has appointed are men who have quit the fire service, some of them full paid firemen who have given up \$1400 a year to work for \$2 a day.

Ten years ago those who were making the change used to say that prospects for advancement were better in the police service. Now the reason given by practically every man is that in the Fire Department they are compelled to endure altogether too much confinement.

Giant of Two Services.

John J. Maloney, the tallest man that ever donned a police or fire uniform—he stands 6 feet 7 inches and weighs 247 pounds—said that he does not understand how he endured the Fire Department as long as he did. "An outsider cannot imagine how the confinement will affect you. I had been accustomed to working out of doors. I saw service in the Navy, operated a steam roller and was a locomotive engineer. I had practically lived outdoors."

A Globe reporter received practically the same story from many of the others who have made the change. Firemen who are advocating a two-division system declare that the fact that 64 men have left the fire service because of the confinement is a good reason why the change should be at least considered.

There are many more firemen waiting for an opportunity to enter the police service. More than a score took the police examination held in October, and just as soon as others are of age they will try the examination.

While none of the men that shifted to the police service have been promoted, there are two who made the change and then returned to the fire service that consider that they made a very fortunate move. One is District Chief McLean and the other Capt Michael J. Teahan of engine 24, Roxbury.

The latter was a medal of honor man, serving in the ranks at ladder 17 when he left the fire service to become a reserve officer at Division 11. He returned to the fire service inside of four months. He has been promoted twice since.

First Honor Man.

The first time that Commissioner O'Meara ordered the reservemen to take a competitive examination for patrolmen he said that he would promote the seven men that secured the best marks immediately, regardless of the date of their original appointment. The man who stood at the head of the list was reserve officer Patrick L. Crowley of the East Dedham-st Station, the former East Boston basket-ball star and one-time member of Ladder 21. He was in the police service less than 10 months when he became a patrolman.

Edward P. Ryan, also of the East Dedham-st Station, another former fireman, was the honor man in the second competitive examination. He was less than eight months in the police service when he was appointed a patrolman. Close behind him in this examination was Gustav Shultz of Division 3, formerly a ladderman at Neponset and Fort Hill st.

Every time an examination for the Police Department is held a group of firemen is always near the top of the list. The type of men that the Police Department has received from the fire service is shown by the fact that of the 64 that made the change only one has been dismissed for breaking the rules. Some of the men that make the change do so at a great financial sacrifice. Seventeen of the men were full-paid firemen when they shifted over. That meant that they gave up \$120, \$100 or \$1400 a year, whatever the maximum salary happened to be when they made the change, to work for \$2 a day and what was their compensation for one year, at the end of which period they were given \$25 a day. Unless a reserve officer is lucky enough to get into the premium class when an examination for the patrol force is held he has to work as a reserve officer between 17 and 20

months. When appointed patrolmen they are placed on a \$1000 a year basis.

Too Much Housework.

Full paid firemen, who give up their positions now to enter the police service must expect to serve between five and six years before they are paid the salary that they were receiving when they made the change.

Firemen have a day off in every five, two weeks' vacation, an hour and a quarter for meals, and when conditions permit are granted on Sundays what is known as "Church Leave." Unless an alarm to which their company responds is sounded, they are in quarters 20 1/2 hours daily.

Actual firefighting occupies the smallest part of a fireman's time. It is the house work that wears a fireman. In every house there are men who have duties similar to a servant girl. Making beds, sweeping and cleaning is a part of the everyday work of a fireman, and in some houses the "skippers" are very exacting and have specially constructed brooms for locating tiny particles of dust.

In some districts the firemen have to wind clocks and discharge other side duties not in line with firefighting tasks which have been passed down to them from other generations.

What a policeman has to do and how he should do it is outlined in the manual. You never have seen a policeman pushing a mop around unless it was in his own house. Policemen receive a day off in 15, two weeks' vacation, but no church leave. Day policemen have meal periods. Night officers do not. A house patrol in fire station is done 24 hours a day and this breaks into the sleep of the men, but must be done.

When the amount of time that a policeman devotes to his work is computed it is apparent that he does not have a great amount of time to himself, but still he is really never confined for any great period indoors. Within every six days a night policeman, in addition to his regular tours of street duty, has to do what is described as an "evening in the floor," a "house day" and a "morning in."

Never Regret It.

A policeman attached to an intown division who is "out first" Saturday evening and makes arrests does not look forward to the following Monday morning with any great degree of pleasure, because Sunday night he is out on the last half, going on the street at 1 Monday morning and remaining there until 8. Then he has to go to court, and if he is delayed in court he loses much sleep, and, notwithstanding that, has to be out on the street at 6 o'clock in the evening again.

The police berth could be improved considerably, the members say, if time was allowed to members who have to spend most of their short days in court. Frequently they are compelled to go on the street after a "short day" without sleep. Drills and extra details are things that the policeman must expect on his "long day."

But the men who made the change and remained in the police service say they have never regretted it; the new position is superior in every way. The commanding officers of the former firemen declare that the ex-firemen are among their best men.

Every former fireman attached to one of the intown divisions—and there are 38 of them—is assigned to an important route, while those that are stationed in the suburbs are located in posts that are considered worth while.

Only 10 days ago "Joe" Hobbs, the clerk at the Roxbury Crossing station, resigned to become truant master. He was for several years a fireman and for the past 13 years in the police service. Hobbs was once a champion amateur oarsman and boxer and is on the eligible list for appointment to the State Police. State Detective Edward H. Murtaugh, attached to the office of Gov Walsh, was a fireman for nearly five years and a good one. He spent more than 11 years in the Police Department.

Thomas J. O'Connor quit the Fire Department after eight years' service when he was in line for promotion to join the Police Department and he left that to accept an important position with an electric lighting concern in New York State.

Bennie Alexander, now attached to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation at Police Headquarters, is perhaps the first former fireman that has received anything in the nature of a promotion since entering the police service. He is now attached to the pickpocket squad at Police Headquarters. Only three weeks ago he was brought to headquarters from Joy st.

The "Perfect Man."

At the North End Police Station eight former firemen are on duty. Two of the most prominent are William J. McLaughlin and John J. Maloney. The former is policeman No. 109 and he is the first applicant for appointment to the service that ever obtained 100 percent in the physical examination. He has been described as the "perfect man." A few months after he obtained this perfect mark Maloney came along and duplicated the feat.

This "browne" from the L-st Baths got 1690 points in the physical examination, breaking all records. Maloney is indeed a commanding figure when you consider that Dist Chief William Coulters and Lieut Rufus G. Fessenden could show some altitude themselves. Maloney stands way over them in height.

work on special cases at the North End. Capt Kimball says that the Italian officer is one of his most valuable men.

Capt Sullivan has four former firemen at the Court-sq Division. Around one side of Newspaper Row is Timothy J. Sheehan, for several years attached to busy Chemical A. Timothy J. Kelly, a brother of William Kelly, James E. Fitzpatrick and John E. Rowe are the others, and all are established in important posts.

Over at the Joy-st Division are "Jack" Herlihy, who is on duty in and about Bowdoin sq, and Gus Shultz, Thomas M. Igoe, William J. Leonard and James A. Sheffield. Under Capt Canney at Lagrange st are Charles W. Miller, William E. Clahane, John J. Cronin, who formerly drove Engine 25, and James McHugh.

Record of Bad Luck.

Capt Driscoll has eight former firemen at East Dedham st. Dennis J. Hurley was a full paid fireman and had served more than eight years when he made the shift. In the Fire Department he was extremely unfortunate, getting blown off a ladder at a fire on High st, severely injured at a hot-air explosion on North st and being thrown from a horse and sustaining a broken leg.

His record in the fire service is familiar to his former comrades. He was publicly commended for disarming an enraged Italian who was bent on shooting up the Fourth Section of East Boston, and again was commended for risking his life to stop a pair of runaway horses attached to the hose wagon of engine 8 on the Charlestown Bridge. He climbed from the back of the wagon to the front, down over the seat and out onto the back of one of the runaways to effect the capture.

Philip A. Grant, now a captain, had been dragged from the seat and was on the whiffetree when Hurley came to the rescue.

Others at the South End are Crowley and Ryan, the honor men on examination day; Edward F. Raftus, Martin S. Cosgrove, Jeremiah G. Buckley, James A. Toland and Daniel A. Crowley.

At Dudley st, Bernard J. Hallberg, Thomas J. O'Brien and William Sullivan are on duty, at Roxbury Crossing Frank E. Gilman, and at Jamaica Plain Florence O'Reagan, who went from the fire service to the Metropolitan Park police and thence to the Police Department.

Thomas J. and William B. Quinan, brothers Andrew J. Hurley, John E. Gildea, Dennis E. Sweeney, Thomas E. Higgins and Dennis G. Sweeney are the former firemen doing police duty at Brighton, and at Charlestown is Fred L. Clauss, a brother-in-law of Inspector Smith.

John Flynn and Joseph M. May are attached to the City Point police station. Capt Goode of the Boylston-st station has nine former firemen at his division. They are Edward J. Kelly, Edward Graham, Timothy F. Sullivan, Thomas L. Flinn, John A. Nicholson, John J. Counihan, Michael E. Conway, William F. Brown and Maurice F. Lee.

Kelly is the mounted man who gave such a wonderful exhibition at Fenway Park the day that Joe Wood and Walter Johnson had their great battle before a record crowd. Kelly was the only mounted man in the park when the crowd swooped upon the field and every fan recalls how Kelly handled the situation.

He is a former cavalryman. He was attached to Troop G of the 11th Cavalry and was in many engagements in the Philippines. He was discharged with the rank of sergeant. Kelley has also been attached to the Protective Department.

Five Who Went Back.

The Police Department has also received many recruits from the Boston Protective Department, while numerous firemen have accepted positions on the Metropolitan Park Police. It is now the practice for young men to take both the Fire and Police Department examinations. If they hear from the Fire Department examination first they accept the appointment and retain it until Commissioner O'Meara sends for them. Only five of the 64 men who have left the fire for the police service have returned to the former service. Besides McLean and Teahan, those that went back were John Cullen, engineer of Engine 38; Peter J. Dunn of Engine 40 and Edward T. Harrington. Dropping from \$1400 a year was more than Dunn could stand. Harrington has quit the fire force twice to become a policeman, and is now in the fire service for the third time.

Fire Commissioners Wells, Parker, Daly and Cole were against reinstating men who left their department to become policemen and did not like the change, but as Commissioner Grady has already reinstated two within five months, it would seem as if he was willing to permit the boys to "come back."

So far as it could be ascertained no man who was ever appointed to the Police Department originally left it for the fire service.

If many firemen could just stretch themselves a trifle—just enough to reach 5 feet 8 inches—the number of former firemen in the police service would be larger; but the list is sure to increase at an early date, because the marks for the recent police examinations will be published, and all of the 20-odd firemen that were examined are confident that they will be close to the top of the list.