

POLICEMAN DIES IN STRENGTH TEST

Boston Sergeant Receives Fatal Injury, Others Are Forced to Take to Their Beds.

PROTEST TO THE GOVERNOR

Commissioner Promises to Abate Physical Exercises Required of Older Men on the Force.

Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, Mass., May 26.—The toll of the so-called strength test taken as part of a civil service examination by Boston policemen seeking promotion today mounted to one dead, two in hospitals and several confined to their homes, and brought a flood of protests to Governor Allen from Police Department officials as well as serious charges against the fairness of the examination.

It was indicated that the Governor would give the matter his personal attention as soon as Civil Service Commissioner Eliot H. Goodwin and Police Commissioner Herbert A. Wilson return from trips out of the city.

An autopsy on the body of Sergeant John F. Montague revealed that he died of pulmonary embolism which in the opinion of the medical examiner, might have been brought on by the strength test. Montague complained before his death that the test caused something to "snap" in his back.

Patrolman Harry A. Brown collapsed while on duty after taking the test and is now in a critical condition at the Faulkner Hospital. Sergeant Maurice Sullivan is at the City Hospital suffering from a strain presumably caused by the tests, which included jumping while carrying heavy weights.

Addition to Regular Test.

The strength test which has so aroused Police Department officials was a surprise addition to the civil service examination which about seventy patrolmen and sergeants underwent at the State House Thursday in connection with their examination for promotion.

In outlining their grievances today, police officials said they feared the morale of the department would be shattered if the present mode of examination were allowed to continue. No complaint is made against the examining of young officers, but to subject the older and experienced patrolmen and sergeants to the test is thought far too much to expect of men mostly above the age of 40 years, many of whom have been injured at one time or another in the line of duty.

The strength test included lifting fifty-pound dumbbells, jumping three

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feet while carrying a weight and chinning tests.

Superintendent Crowley pointed out that the men had expected that they would be called on only to undergo tests for the hearts, lungs and eyesight and that they would be marked on the basis of nine points for training and experience, three for report writing and eight points for police law and procedure.

But, when they went before the commission, they found that five additional points were tacked on for the physical examination.

Fears Loss of Trained Men.

The Superintendent further asserted that there were some highly trained men in the department who would find it difficult to pass the severe tests.

An order was introduced in the Senate calling for an investigation of the examination to determine whether the physical tests were unreasonably severe.

Associate Civil Service Commissioner McMahon, Acting Commissioner in the absence of Mr. Goodwin, said over the telephone tonight that he was ready to vote for abandonment of the physical tests for the older officers if they were proved dangerous. He added:

"But I think it should be known that each police officer was examined by our doctor before he was allowed to take the test. Also many took the test the second time in order to im-

prove the marks they made in the first test," he said.

"Before we voted to put the physical examinations into effect each member of the commission took the test. We are all over 50, (I am 63), and none of us suffered ill effects from the exertion.

"As soon as I reach my office Monday morning, I and other members of the commission will investigate the affair minutely. If it is shown that the physical examinations cause the slightest injury, they will be cut from the civil service program."