DIED IN HARNESS.
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DIED IN HARNESS.

Capt John F. O'Connell of Fire Department.

Expired in Bed in the Engine House Before Doctor Arrived.

Stationed in Dorchester Lower Mills Since 1901.

Capt John F. O'Connell of engine 16, Dorchester, died in bed at the engine house yesterday morning, about 5:45, of heart disease. He was discovered by one of the firemen who went to the captain's room to arouse him. He noticed something peculiar about the captain's breathing, who did not awake. The fireman immediately telephoned to Dr A. L. Draper, the family physician. The doctor was out on a call, but he happened to pass the engine house later and was called in, to learn that the captain had died but five minutes previously.

Dr Draper says that the real cause of death was a strain of the muscles of the heart, which Capt O'Connell received at a fire, while attempting to force an entrance in one of the doors of the Hayward building at the corner of Causeway and Portland sts.

Capt O'Connell began his duties in the fire department as a substitute in 1882. In January of the following year he was made a permanent man in company 8. He was promoted to a lieutenancy on ladder 4, after which he was transferred to engine 26 and 35 in December, 1893. He was made a captain of company 6 in June, 1894, remaining in that company until 1901, when he was sent to engine 16, Dorchester.

Capt O'Connell was one of the most popular men of the department. His good nature was in proportion to his giant stature.

The men of his command always regarded him as a true friend, one whom they could go to for advice at all times, and one in whose judgment they placed every reliance.

While a strict disciplinarian, he was always just and kind. He never lost sight of the fact that he himself was a fireman, notwithstanding that he was a commanding officer in the department. His career as a fireman may be written in one sentence: He has been ever dutiful.

Whole chapters could be written upon the performances of Capt O'Connell, under most trying circumstances. He was considered by his brother fire fighters an utterly fearless man, cool in danger, quick-witted and resourceful. He had a thorough knowledge of the methods of fire-fighting. He was modest and unassuming. Duty was his watchword and honesty his inspiration

Capt O'Connell lived at 1196 Morton st, Dorchester Lower Mills. He was a member of Mt Vernon council, K. of C.

The funeral will be held Wednesday morning, with solemn high mass of requiem at St Gregory's church at 10 o'clock.

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