

BETTER FIRE PROTECTION.

Two Stations and More Apparatus Planned.

East Boston, South Boston, Roxbury and Dorchester to Benefit.

Commissioner Not Disposed to Keep a Boat Up South Bay Channel.

The foundation for an engine house in East Boston and an aerial truck and water tower house in South Boston have been completed. In addition to the erection of these two fire stations alterations have been made on engine house 20, Dorchester, and engine house 37, Longwood av, Roxbury, and within a very short time a combination truck will be installed at each.

The combination truck for Dorchester will be called combination 11, and a new crew of men will be sent there, which will necessitate the appointing of a lieutenant. For some time the need of better ladder service has been felt in that section. The nearest ladder service with engine 20 is in the vicinity of Meeting House Hill, which is quite a long run from engine 20's house. The combination trucks will carry large chemical tanks.

The combination truck which will be installed in 37's house will be known as combination 10. The putting in of the new apparatus will greatly improve the fire service in the vicinity of Parker Hill, in which section there was much talk recently of the poor protection against fire. The installing of the additional apparatus, however, has not been brought about by the agitation of the citizens of Parker Hill, for the commissioner some time ago decided that the locality should have better protection and the construction of apparatus and the altering of the fire station have been under way for several months.

Soon after Commissioner Russell bought the land for the new engine house in East Boston a protest against the erection of the house was launched by citizens. A petition was gotten up and submitted to Alderman Kelley. The gist of it was that the lives of children attending the Emerson school would be endangered with the engine so near when going to and coming from school. Later a counter petition was circulated, which was signed by influential residents and business men of the neighborhood, approving of the site selected and stating that they hoped the city would not delay in constructing the engine house. The house will be similar to the Warren-av structure completed a couple of months ago. The building of this house has been made necessary by the fact that old chemical 7's house on Chelsea st will have to be demolished when the widening of Bennington st becomes necessary. A crew of men will be placed in the house from different companies, and very likely a man will be promoted to lieutenant.

The new fire station for South Boston has been discussed for some time, and when it is erected and a new company put into commission there will be several promotions of men and a few important transfers. The new building will be erected on Pittsburg st, near Congress and A sts, and will be 36x93 feet, of three stories with wings, one of which will contain a lavatory and a stairway tower, back of which will be stairs to the roof. The structure will be built on new made land, and the basement will be watertight. Within the past four years that locality has grown wonderfully and business men have been asking for more apparatus.

For some weeks there has been talk among downtown business men that the commissioner intended to put another fire boat into commission at one of the wharves along Albany st, near Southampton st, as it is known that the fireboat has had much trouble in getting up the South bay channel at very low tide. Four-fifths of the fires along the water front are along Albany st, and many have thought that a fireboat should be stationed in the lumber district.

Col Russell does not favor the idea, however. He thinks well of the present quarters of the fireboats, which he thinks are centrally located and within easy reach of Charlestown, East Boston and prominent spots of Boston harbor. The commissioner has known for

a long time that the water in the South bay channel is extremely shallow at low tide, and that on more than one occasion the fireboats had difficulty in getting within easy reach of a big fire, and so had one of the boats fixed so she can go up the channel at dead low tide without trouble.