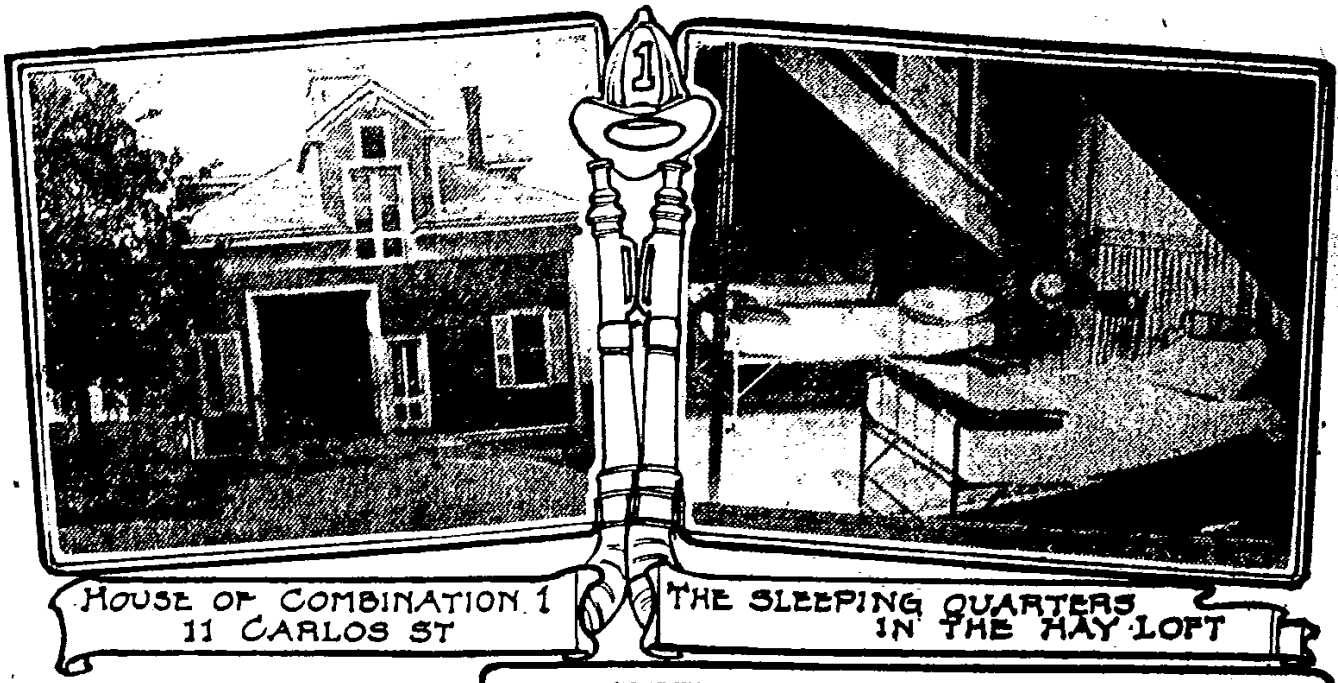


MEN WANT A NEW FIRE HOUSE

But the Fire Company in the Lauriat-Av Section Does Good Work in Spite of Their Present Cramped Quarters—This Company Has Already Responded to Between 40 and 50 Alarms and Its Record is a Good One.



The establishment of a fire company at Carlos and Callender sts. in the Lauriat-ay section, came after years of agitation. It was Fire Commissioner Wells and Chief Mullen that were convinced that the district needed better fire protection. The district has grown wonderfully in recent years, particularly the Wellington Hill section, where numerous apartment houses have been and are being erected. That the district was far removed from a fire company was proven to the fire commissioner last spring when he pulled a test alarm from box 343, which is located at Lauriat ay and Carlos st, in the very heart of the district.

It was nearly five minutes before the first piece of apparatus arrived. Ladder 23, from Grove Hall, which responds to the box on the first alarm, was nine minutes reaching the scene. Commissioner Wells was satisfied that such conditions would never do in this age where "getting there" counts so much to the success of a department.

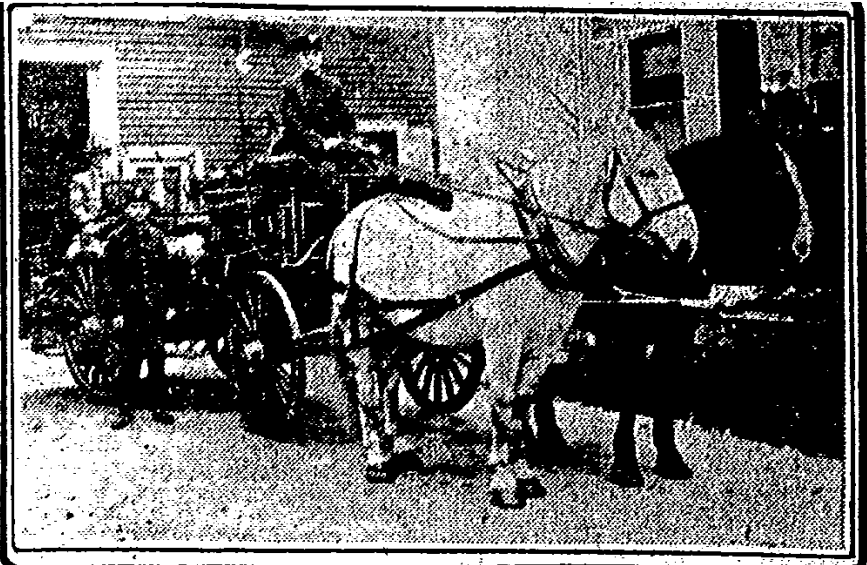
At first the commissioner said that the new company would be a temporary affair, but so great has been its success that now it has come to stay. The commissioner and chief did considerable looking around before they selected the place where the company is located. The building is a one-story and a half wooden structure and is leased by the city from Ex-Councilman Harvey of ward 24, who receives a tidy sum from the city for his property. Mr Harvey voluntarily assists the members of the company, who say that "every little bit helps."

When placed in commission the company was in the command of the veteran Lieut. Samuel F. Ridler, who died last Monday. He was attached to the company from July 2 until he went on vacation July 19. He lost about 17 pounds while there and was glad to go back to Ashmont after his vacation had ended. After he went away hoseman William F. Marquardt, from combination wagon 1, Ashmont, was sent to take charge of the company. The other members of the crew are Eben H. Wheelock, formerly at Ashmont, and Frederick H. Brown, a new recruit to the force.

Even after leaving Carlos st, Lieut. Ridler made out the reports for the house, retaining his interest in the company. Carlos st will continue to be an auxiliary company to the Ashmont combination until engine 46 is placed in commission.

Hoseman Marquardt, who is in charge of the apparatus at fires, is a laddie of experience, having seen nearly 10 years of service.

The house has been fitted out by Fire Commissioner Wells with electric lights. Lack of room has handicapped Mr Wells in making the quarters comfortable. The fact that room is scarce show-



COMBINATION WAGON 1—JOHN A. MCLAUGHLIN ON SEAT, WM. H. MARQUARDT BESIDE THE APPARATUS

ever, afforded the commissioner an opportunity to try out the "doorless stalls" scheme which is used in every fire-house in New York city. The bay and gray horses in service at Carlos st have no doors in front of them to screen their view from what is going on outside, and the "doorless stall" idea looks good to Mr Wells.

Eben H. Wheelock drives the two-horse hitch. The steeds that he guides formerly ran with the hose wagon of engine 1, Center st, Roxbury, and are good roaders. They make good time to fires and are in charge of a skillful reinsman who was stationed in the city proper for several years. John A. McLaughlin, another good reinsman, was in charge of the steeds the day that the pictures were taken.

The company answers 31 boxes on the first alarm, covering a large area. The Carlos-st firemen go to Mattapan sq on the first, and also go in a westerly direction as far as the institutions for the feeble-minded.

The first floor is fitted out with an office, etc. The firemen say that the only bad feature of the main floor is that the horses have to be cleaned in front of the apparatus near the door, there being hardly breathing room in the rear of the apparatus. Upstairs are the sleeping quarters, grain chest, hay rack, the balance of the fittings and a pigeon coop. When hay and grain arrive it is carted through the sleeping quarters, but the men do not mind that.

Rainy nights the firemen are kept on the jump. They dread rainy evenings like sinners fear the day of judgment. No matter how bad the lack of rain might injure the crops, the firemen

pray that the rain may keep away and the antirain prayers are all on account of a leaky roof.

District Chief John O. Taber has charge of the battalion of which the company is a part and says that the place has made a striking impression on him, and has made progressive reports to the commissioner. The company has responded to between 40 and 50 alarms and on each occasion the members of the company have acquitted themselves creditably.

In order to make the company at Carlos st permanent the fire commissioner was obliged to do some tall figuring. There was no appropriation for the company and he was obliged to sacrifice other plans he had made in order to make Carlos st a sure thing.

Agitation for the Lauriat-ay fire protection had practically ceased when Fire Commissioner Wells voluntarily gave the residents the protection for which they had clamored so long and his praises have been repeatedly sung by the citizens of the district.

Everybody in the district is interested in the fire station. The big gong on which the alarms are registered would wake the heaviest sleeper, and when it strikes at night many of the residents awake, rush to their windows to see if it is a go for the "Wonderland boys."

After engine company 46 is placed in commission at Ashmont, combination wagon 1 will cease to exist and the company at Carlos st will be then known as chemical 3. A new lieutenant will be selected for the company which will remain where it is until the fire commissioner gets the cash to build a handsome new house in the same locality.