

# TABER NEW FIRE CHIEF PETER WALSH RETIRED

## Mayor Approves Department Changes—Senior Deputy Given Place for Which Outgoing Superior Jumped Him



PETER E. WALSH,  
Retiring Chief.



JOHN O. TABER  
New Chief.

### Post He Leaves Not Yet Filled

### Walsh Says He Quits at Own Request

### John J. Curley Approved As City Treasurer

### Appointment of Dolan as Collector Rejected

Chief Peter E. Walsh of the Fire Department was retired at half pay (\$2500) and senior deputy Chief John O. Taber was advanced to the chiefship, with salary increase from \$1000 to \$5000, in orders approved by Mayor Curley last night.

The orders contained opinions of Dr William J. McNally, department medical examiner, and of Dr Frederick J. Bailey, assistant city physician, that Walsh is incapacitated for further service. To a Globe reporter, Chief Walsh said, before he had quit the department:

"I am retired at my own request. I think this is the best course, after the physical discomforts I have suffered during the past year."

Dr McNally's diagnosis was: "Flat feet and back strain, prognosis unfavorable. Chief Walsh is permanently incapacitated from further efficient service as a fireman." Dr Bailey wrote: "I believe that he is permanently physically incapacitated for duty in the Fire Department."

Acting Fire Commissioner Joseph

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# TABER FIRE CHIEF WALSH IS RETIRED

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P. Manning subscribes his signature to both these opinions.

## Was Picked as "Young Blood"

When Mayor Peters set out to re-organize the department after Commissioner John Grady's retirement, he picked Walsh from among the junior deputies as "young blood" best fitted to bring about the changes he wished. That was in July, 1919. Walsh was jumped over Taber's head to the chiefship. All has gone quite harmoniously since.

Walsh was not on the right side of the fence in the campaign, and after the election his displacement was only a matter of time, so those acquainted with department affairs have said.

The Mayor said last night he has no idea yet as to who shall have the deputyship which Taber's promotion creates. Dist Chiefs Edward J. Shallow, Albert J. Caulfield and Allan J. Macdonald, all having fine records of department service, were oftenest mentioned in talk last night for the vacancy. Advancement for one of them will mean a salary increase from \$3500 to \$4000.

## Retiring Chief's Record

Chief Walsh was appointed to succeed Chief McDonough. The new chief and Deputy Chief D. F. Sennott were both Walsh's seniors when the appointment was made. It was said at the time that Walsh's selection was made because of his youth and great ability as a fire fighter.

He was born Sept 25, 1868, and was employed as a stone cutter before being appointed to the Fire Department. July 29, 1892, he was assigned to Engine 11, Saratoga st, East Boston, as a permanent substitute, remaining there until Feb 10, 1893, when he was shifted to Engine 40, Sumner st, East Boston. To Engine 4, Bulfinch st, he was shifted June 2, 1893.

He was promoted to the grade of lieutenant Aug 28, 1896, and was placed at Engine 40. To Engine 33, Boylston st, he was transferred Feb 19, 1897, and to Chemical 1, Bulfinch st, March 12, 1897. He was shifted to Engine 7 Aug 11, 1899, remaining there until Dec 5, 1902, when he was sent to Combination Ladder 6, Grove Hall.

In 1900 he married Miss Mary L. Bowers of Roxbury.

In November, 1904, he was advanced to the rank of captain and assigned to Ladder 3, Harrison av. Four years later, while still in command of Ladder 3, he was admitted to the bar, being the second member of the department to become a lawyer.

In 1913 he was appointed district chief by Fire Commissioner Charles H. Cole and assigned to the Hyde Park District, replacing Acting District Chief John H. Wetherbee.

Since his appointment as chief he has had several stiff and threatening fires to fight. His promptness in sounding additional alarms when the protection of property demanded them has been commented upon.

## New Chief's Record

Since the elevation of Chief Walsh, Chief Taber has been in charge of the Bureau of Supplies and Repairs of the department. He has an extraordinary reputation in the department for bravery and sound judgment.

Chief Taber is 58 years old and has been in the service since Jan 4, 1888. He was assigned to Ladder 8 and drove that company several years. June 28, 1895, he was advanced to lieutenant, and saw service at Engine 3 and Ladder 13. March 23, 1900, he was raised to a captaincy and sent to Engine 27. Later he went to Engine 15. March 9, 1906, he became a district chief, and after four years' service at Harvard st, Dorchester, was sent to Pittsburg st.

He was appointed deputy chief March 11, 1911.