

# BEST OF LONG SERIES.

## Firemen's Ball in Mechanic's Hall Attended by 15,000 Persons.



**CAPT. GEO. B. NORTON, ASST. FLOOR MARSHAL.**



**CAPT. JAMES T. FITZGERALD, ASST. FLOOR MARSHAL.**



**DIST. CHIEF EDWIN A. PERKINS, FLOOR MARSHAL AND LEADER OF MARCH.**



**MRS. GRACE N. PERKINS, IN GRAND MARCH.**

Attended by a great concourse of people such as only some big event can call forth, the 30th annual ball of the Boston fire and protective departments, held last evening in Mechanics building, was in every way worthy of the traditions of its notable predecessors. To chronicle it as the most successful of the score and nine now memories would not be giving it more than its due.

Upward of 15,000 people were there, making the ball a huge financial as well as a social success, and as a result the treasury of the organization will be enriched by several thousand dollars to care for the sick and injured. And the vast throng was as happy and good natured as it was large. To be sure there was some crowding, but this was expected in such a big company and it went by unnoticed.

The firemen themselves were there in goodly numbers too. Nevertheless Boston last night enjoyed the same efficient fire protection it is noted for. Every man present was on his day off, so the department was not crippled in any way. Notwithstanding this, every man from the "big chief" down to the newest private in the midst of the merrymaking kept duty their watchword ever in mind. A huge gong was in place on the stage to keep the firemen in touch with any alarm that would be turned in, and it needed but a signal to send the brave ladders away to foil the flames.

The halls were lavishly decorated. Great folds of red, white and blue bunting hid the bare ceiling of both halls and covered the walls. In Grand hall streamers of bunting of national hue were festooned along the balcony fronts, relieved here and there by small American flags. Along the balcony fronts, also, were plates of red bunting at short intervals, bearing the names of the different chiefs of the department.

The platform upon which the invited guests sat was beautifully draped with national bunting. Overhead hung three huge banners of red bearing the names of the chief and the heads of the several divisions of both the fire and protective departments. At the back of the stage was a large picture of Washington and Lincoln. The firemen's natty blue uniforms, the handsome gowns of the women and the brilliant lights all combined to make a picture of rare beauty.

The hall was formally opened about 8:30, when a detail of about 60 firemen in bright new uniforms marched from Exhibition hall into Grand hall, while a mighty cheer of admiration burst forth from the throng. First came a guard of policemen, then Chief Mullen followed by the department detail and the invited guests. When they reached the platform the detail made a double file, and through this the guests passed to the stage.

Mayor Hibbard did not attend because of illness, and as a result the city was represented by Alderman Walter Ballantyne. It was said the mayor had been slightly indisposed during the past couple of days and remained from his duties at the hall yesterday in hopes of being able to attend the ball.

From all over the state came visiting chiefs and invited guests, among them being Fire Commissioner Samuel D. Parker, A. H. Fiske, Framingham; Harry Stites, Orange; F. R. Brackett, Revere; Roy M. Garfield, Worcester; George F. Coleman, Worcester; F. O. Whitman, Braintree; W. M. Blood, Pepperill; John T. Pownall, Waltham; W. B. Randlett, Newton; H. C. Lord, Everett; Walter H. Pierce, Arlington; F. A. Cheney, Haverhill; T. F. Murnane, Fitchburg; George Carown, Swampscott; John Wetherbee, Hyde Park; George L. Johnson, Waltham; Albert M. Kimball, Hingham; Frank E. Tracy, Woburn; James E. Burke, Natick; H. Howard Upham, Needham; George W. Nichols, Woburn; William E. Cade, Wakefield; William E. Daniels, Natick; H. R. Packard, Attleboro; William Brophy, Boston; Thomas McLane, Manchester, N. H.; Frank Turner, Malden; F. W. Gowan, Malden; J. T. Swan, Everett; T. D. Symes, Winchester; H. E. Brennock, Cohasset; F. E. Judkins, Newton; Henry Marston Brockton; Henry M. Hawkins, Irving Guild, David L. Adamson, Aldermen Anderson, Giblein, Ballantyne, Attridge and Hale, Ex-Chief Patrick Keyes, Robert J. Callahan and Charles P. Bennett.

Like in years past the grand march

about 10 was the attracting feature. For this thousands packed into the balconies, others spread around the outskirts of the hall and more occupied even window sills to get a passing glimpse of the spectacle.

Following the orchestral concert there was a short interval without music, then the orchestra struck up a lively tune, which was the signal for the grand march to begin. Immediately more than 100 couples started around the hall, led by District Chief Edwin A. Perkins of South Boston and Mrs. Fred Perkins. Next in line came Chief John A. Mullen and Miss Helen V. Mullen, Capt. George B. Norton and Mrs. Norton, Capt. James T. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Richard Donohue and Mrs. Donohue and Charles H. Cosgrove and Miss Helen Lonagan.

First by twos, then by fours, then eights, then 16 abreast, they marched and countermarched, and presently dancing was set in order with a lively waltz.

Dancing was kept up to about 7 this morning, under the direction of District Chief Edward A. Perkins as floor marshal, with Capt. George B. Norton and Capt. James T. Fitzgerald as assistants. The aids were:

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| Lieut J E Redman   | D W O'Leary     |
| Lieut R J Carleton | G F Leary       |
| Lieut J W Dwyer    | G L Evanson     |
| J Fitzgerald       | J J Cronin      |
| D J Quinn          | W A S Hughes    |
| G F Murphy         | T E Caddy       |
| J P Maloney        | J M Fitzgerald  |
| E J Tierney        | D O'Leary       |
| J A Moran          | G R Donnelly    |
| R W Brown          | W A Ott         |
| E F Carroll        | E J C Powers    |
| W J Nolan          | E I McLaughlin  |
| C F Elseser        | J F Shea        |
| A McDonald         | E G Chamberlin  |
| R F Fleming        | P Gray          |
| W F Bryan          | T A O'Connell   |
| S J Wynter         | T F Muldoon     |
| G F Moore          | B F McNamara    |
| T R O'Brien        | J L McLaughlin  |
| J J Connolly       | R K White       |
| O W Murphy         | P J Dunn        |
| A G Durham         | W C Newdick     |
| P J Doherty        | R D Stewart     |
| D J Hurley         | E F Logan       |
| D F Sheehan        | W H Baldwin     |
| B J Dowd           | R T Brown Jr.   |
| P Ryan             | F J Mitchell    |
| J A Saunders       | J C Mollerstrom |
| J J Murphy         | J P O Craig     |
| T I Carey          | J J Carty       |
| F Kehoe            | B J McTernan    |