

# BRAVE FIRE LADDIES.

## Fire Commissioner Russell Recognizes Feats of Valor in His Department by Granting Days Off and Commendation in General Orders—Some of the Men Who Have Been So Honored in the Past Year.



DIST CHIEF PAT RICK E. KEYES.

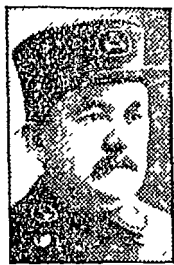
SEVERAL years ago Fire Commissioner Henry S. Russell inaugurated a custom which has proven very popular among the rank and file of the Boston fire department. Almost every day in the daily reports received from the various fire districts there were communications reporting the brave acts of firemen.

The commissioner continued to receive these good reports and finally he began to think of some way to repay the members of the department who were performing such a meritorious conduct. As he thought the matter over he concluded that although the men were performing brave deeds, at the same time they were merely doing their duty.

He let the matter drop for a time, but the good reports continued to come to the office, he finally decided to take some action. To every man who performed a brave deed he allowed an extra day off and commended him in general orders.

sible for the child to get across before the car came along, so he rushed to the door, out on the tracks and pulled her back. Had he hesitated five seconds the child would have been ground to death.

Hoseman John A. Nicholson of engine 25 distinguished himself in a most peculiar manner. He was returning to the engine house one Sunday afternoon in October from dinner. As he neared the corner of Oliver and High he observed



LIEUTC. W. CONWAY. MICHAEL J. DACEY.

a man trying to pry open the door of a store Nicholson, like a professional sleuth, crept up on the wrongdoer and captured him before he had a chance to run. He turned him over to a police officer and later Commissioner Russell praised him for his act.

Ladderman Michael F. Hayes of ladder 3, Harrison av, saved an old man from being overcome by smoke at a fire on Malden st, Nov 20, while hoseman John T. Powell of engine 8, Salem st, removed an aged woman from a Cleveland-pl dwelling to a place of safety a few weeks ago.

The latest member of the department to distinguish himself is District Chief Patrick E. Keyes. At a fire in a dwelling on Maverick st, East Boston, a few weeks ago, he removed a woman by the name of Handforth from the second floor of the burning building to the street on Friday. Keyes name was placed on the roll of merit.

Hoseman William F. Bryan of engine 25 has twice been commended during the year for stopping runaway horses and in each instance the stop was a good one.

Probably the best stop of a runaway horse made by a fireman during the year



MICHAEL F. HAYES HENRY F. BRADY.

"Brave deed," has a very broad meaning in the fire department. A man may either distinguish himself by rescuing a person at a fire, by stopping a runaway horse or in many other ways. Some of the men are very modest and hesitate to report their doings to their superior officers and in a number of cases citizens have taken the trouble to report the brave acts of firemen to the commissioner.

During the past year there were numerous members of the department commended in general orders for their gallant conduct. For their bravery in rescuing persons from burning buildings 14 members were commended, for stopping runaway horses 32 members of the service were praised while one was commended for capturing a burglar and another for saving child from being killed by an electric car.

Commissioner Russell is proud of the men who have distinguished themselves, and only a few weeks ago made the following statement: "If all the brave firemen were to receive medals for their heroic acts the medal market would run short."

When an extraordinary thrilling rescue is made at a fire the commis-



LIEUT MICHAEL I GREENE. CHAS. A. WOLFF.

was made by ladderman Louis J. Howard of combination ladder 4, Saratoga st, in July. A light turnout, in which was seated a woman screaming, dashed through Saratoga st, at a terrific rate of speed and was quite near the railroad tracks. Howard rushed to the street, grabbed the animal by the bridle, but was dragged though the street for a long distance before he was able to bring the beast to a stop.

Another excellent stop of a runaway horse was made by Lieut John F. Hines, engineer Thomas F. Hedington and assistant engineer Francis H. Boudreau of engine 9 last March. The above-mentioned persons were responding to an alarm of fire on the engine 9. One of them happened to glance around and saw that in some manner the hose wagon horses had got away from the driver and were dashing through the street in a manner that threatened destruction to themselves and objects to which they might come in contact. The three laddies jumped from the engine and waited for the hose wagon steeds to come along. It was with no little amount of trouble that they stopped the beasts. Commissioner Russell thought it a most excellent piece of work.



CHAS. A. DONAHUE JOHN T. POWELL.

sioner makes a personal investigation and usually writes to the Massachusetts humane society asking the members to recognize the brave act of whatever firemen it may be. This year the only two members of the department who the commissioner has recommended to the Humane society were Lieut Charles W. Conway and ladderman Michael J. Dacey of ladder company 13, Warren av.

At a fire on Harwich st, on the evening of Dec 9 these two laddies performed a brave act for which they were commended and had their names placed on the department roll of merit. They went through fire and smoke to save the life of a 4-year-old colored child, who was hemmed in by the flames on the second floor of a building. They removed the child to the street.

Lieut Conway received a wound on the head while engaged in the task, while the smoke played havoc with Dacey. The commissioner felt greatly pleased with the work of the men and praised them personally at the time.

Conway and Dacey were the only two members of the department who had their names placed on the roll of merit during the year, and by all it is con-



PATRICK J. MALONE GEO. C. DOWLING

Assistant engineer John H. Sullivan of engine 26, Mason st, was standing on the corner of Tremont and Pleasant sts one afternoon in August. He happened to glance up Tremont st and saw a horse and buggy dashing down the decline toward Pleasant st at a gait that would astonish all Sullivan took in the situation at a glance, and when the animal reached Pleasant st Sullivan grabbed him, but the horse pulled him along Tremont st as far as Church. Before stopping the horse Sullivan was dragged about the street and the coat of his uniform was torn in shreds.

Only a few weeks ago ladderman James H. McTierman of ladder 18, Pittsburg st, made an excellent stop of a runaway in Adams sq. The horse was attached to an express wagon, and the way he went through Elm st, across Washington to Adams sq, would make the owner of Major Delmar envious. McTierman had a hard time stopping the horse.

Other members of the department who during the year have been commended for stopping runaway horses are hoseman Frank P. Chapman of engine 1, Dorchester st, South Boston; John J. Connelly of engine 4, Bulfinch st; Wil-



FRED L. SARGENT DANIEL S. BELL.

liam H. Smith of engine 13, Cabot st, Roxbury; assistant engineer Edward M. Quigley of engine 14, Center st, Roxbury; hoseman George L. LeFavor of engine 21, Columbia road; engineer Walter Abbott and hoseman Thomas H. Anderson of engine 24, Warren st, Roxbury; Joseph A. Webber, engines 26-35, Mason st; James T. Pendergast, engine 12, Dudley st; David W. Towle of engine 27, Elm st, Charlestown; Dennis F. Quinlan of engine 27, Elm st, Charlestown; John H. Bagley of engine company 40, Sumner st, East Boston; engineer John B. McKay of engine 41, Harvard av, Allston; hoseman Aaron A. Tapp of engine 43, Andrew sq, South Boston; William P. Colpoys of the fireboat; ladderman Frederick I. Adams of ladder 3, Harrison av; William Muir of ladder company 9, Main st, Charlestown; John T. Lynch and Michael J. Dacey of ladder 13, Warren av; Thomas E. Flanagan and Henry J. Hartnett of ladder 15, Boylston st; Joseph P. Han- ton of ladder 17, Harrison av; Henry C. Egan of combination ladder 2, East 4th st, South Boston; Lieut Bart F. Hayes of combination wagon 7, Winthrop st, Charlestown; Frank Melcedey of combination ladder 10, Longwood av.



WILLIAM PETERSON JOHN P. OLSEN

The commissioner has still another way of commending members of the department. Many firemen respond to alarms while on days off and assist members of the department. The commissioner does not believe in allowing any such demonstration of zeal to pass unrewarded and to each man that performs such an act he sends the following letter: "I desire to thank you for your zeal in responding to alarm while on a day off."

coined that they made the best rescue of the year.

Ladderman John P. Olsen of ladder 1, Warren sq, is another laddie who distinguished himself. On Saturday evening, May 23, he saved the life of a child named Ida Hawkins at a fire in the house of her parents on Brighton st, West End. The house was full of smoke at the time, and it was with difficulty that Olsen groped his way through the darkness to the room where the child was. Olsen is regarded as an expert ladderman, and has been in the service about nine years.

At a bad fire in the building 199 Albany st, on Monday afternoon, May 25, hoseman Daniel S. Bell and George C. Dowling of engine company 3, Harrison av, and laddermen Charles A. Donahue and Patrick J. Malone of ladder company 3, Harrison av, did good work. The four laddies removed several persons from the building to the street at the time. The fire had got pretty good headway, and the inmates of the house were screaming with fright. The firemen had a most difficult time in making the rescues.

At a very smoky fire in the dwelling 242 Massachusetts av, on the evening of June 15, Lieut Michael D. Greene of engine 33, Boylston st, and ladderman Charles A. Wolfe of ladder company 15, Boylston st, showed the kind of goods they are made of. The fire in this house had created a small sized panic and it was no easy matter for Greene and Wolfe to quiet the excited inmates. Several persons had been removed from the house when shrieks were heard. Knowing that someone else was in the house, Greene and Wolfe rushed back and removed aged Mrs Murphy to the street.

The bravery of hoseman Henry F. Brady of engine company 1, Dorchester st, at the fire at the lawn party in aid of the consumptives' home on June 27 will not be forgotten. After the explosion had occurred, Brady rescued several small children from the tent and was praised by the commissioner.

A few days later ladderman William Peterson of ladder 7, East st, Meeting House Hill, saved a little child from severe burns at a fire in the house 1331 Dorchester av.

The act of hoseman Fred L. Sargent of engine 23, Northampton st, who rescued a child from death by an electric car, was witnessed by many and was described as a thriller. Sargent was on patrol in the house of engine 23 at the time. An out-bound Dorchester car was coming through Northampton st at a fast rate of speed. As it neared the engine house Sargent saw a little girl start to cross the street. Sargent at a glance realized that it would be impos-