

FINE FIRE HOUSE.

That on Pittsburg St is
Nearly Ready.

Large Number of Men Desire to Be
Assigned There for Duty.

People of City Point Section
Much Pleased.

The new firehouse on Pittsburg st, in the warehouse district, that will quarter the new hook and ladder company, which will be numbered 18, is nearing completion, and in all probability will be ready to be placed in commission by Oct 15.

The work of erecting the structure was started about a year ago, and has been carried on slowly but surely by order of the commissioner.

There is no doubt that the new house is one of the finest in the country. Everything to provide comfort for the crew of the company has been installed. A gymnasium fitted in an up-to-date manner is one of the features, and the shower baths are sure to be appreciated.

Many members of the department have expressed a desire to be assigned to the new house when it goes into commission. All of them cannot be accommodated, as the company will no doubt consist of 12 men, including the officers.

A number of lieutenants are looking for the captaincy of the new house. It is doubtful if the commissioner would send any one of these lieutenants to the house even if he did make one of them a captain. The commissioner has said that the man to take command of the new truck would be a man who has had much experience with ladder companies. Two captains, one located in Roxbury and the other in the city proper, are looking for a transfer to the new house.

An entire new company has not been placed in commission for some years, and when one does go into commission a big shakeup usually occurs at the time. The commissioner will select 10 of the best ladder men in the city to man the new truck, and this will cause vacancies at a number of houses.

The location of the new house is considered by all an admirable one. The rapid growth of the district was the reason why the property owners asked for additional fire protection. The company is located in the heart of the warehouse district and in a majority of the surrounding buildings wool, a most inflammable material, is stored.

Wool fires always reach heavy damage, and as the buildings are of unusual altitude the presence of a ladder truck is needed in the district. The freight sheds of the railroads are within a few hundred yards of the new house, and within them is stored much inflammable material. A number of fires have originated in the freight house during the year, but the good work of the department kept the damage at nominal figures.

At present when an alarm is sounded a delay of some minutes occurs before the arrival of either ladder 8, Fort Hill sq; 5, 4th st, or 3, Harrison av. The installation of the new company will do away with this delay, and will also serve to greatly diminish the number of first alarm runs for the other ladder companies.

The new ladder truck has been in the house for a couple of months, previous to which it was stored in the house of combination ladder 6, Roxbury. Two massive chemical tanks will be carried, their capacity being 35 gallons each.

It is also the intention of the commissioner to place a water tower in the new house. This, however, will be done later. The excellent work rendered by the two towers now in service has led the commissioner to consider putting the new one on Pittsburg st, which will be a most desirable location.

Combination ladder truck 3, which has been in service at the Andrews-sq house for about four years, will be transferred to the house of combination wagon 2, on East 4th st, South Boston, as soon as the work of renovation going on in that house is completed.

The transferring of the Andrews-sq truck to East 4th st will make the purchase of a new truck for the Andrews-sq house a necessity. This the commissioner will do and the new combination that will be sent to Andrews sq will be much larger than the one located there at present.

When the Andrews-sq combination is transferred to East 4th st it will mean the taking from commission of combination wagon 2, which has been in service at the East 4th-st house since May, 1896. The machine is a most durable one, and has rendered excellent work, answering nearly every alarm in the district and covering steamer 1's house when that piece of apparatus was obliged to leave quarters on second alarm calls.

An enlargement of the crew will be in order when the combination truck arrives at the East 4th st house. Two new men will be added. The crew of the combination wagon at present is composed of Lieut John W. Murphy, hosemen Joseph Bird, Levi Thyng, Thomas Haney and Francis Hartigan.

The house has been entirely remodeled, the stairways have been moved, the entrance has been raised and a number of other improvements which are sure to bear good results have been made. The tower that was on the Emerson-st side of the building has been demolished. The reason is that the base utilized much room, and where the base was formerly located a new stall has been built.

The commissioner is being loudly praised in South Boston for his action in placing a ladder truck in the section. Ever since the department was organized the people of the City Point section have had to rely on ladder company 5, which is located on West 4th st, some distance from City Point. Company 5 is one of the department's banner companies and has always been prompt in responding to City Point alarms, but the City Pointers had a longing for a ladder truck nearer the Point.