

BRAVE FIREMAN AND POPULAR.

District Chief John F. Ryan of Brighton Has Seen Nearly 23 Years of Service.

A more popular and braver fire fighter than District Chief John F. Ryan of the 11th district, Brighton, would be hard to find. He has been a member of the department nearly 23 years, and has been on duty in the city proper most of the time.

Ryan's rise was rapid and his promotions were well-earned, as he was a tireless worker and a man that could be relied upon at all times.

The popular fire fighter is known all over the country, and visiting firemen value his friendship highly, and as an entertainer pronounce him first class.

The chief finds things very quiet in the Brighton section, where there has been only one bell alarm since the new year, and finds it different from the days spent at engine 26, Mason st, when to have four or five runs a day was not unusual. The Brighton district is quite large, and is composed of the following pieces of apparatus: Engines 29, 34 and 41, ladder 11, hand chemical 6. The chief makes his headquarters at the house of engine 41, Harvard av, Allston, and a visitor to his office should not neglect to take a look at his picture gallery. He has a most interesting collection which he prizes highly. He is also a great lover of art.

During his 17 years' continuous service in the city proper Ryan was on duty at all the large fires, and he has had many narrow escapes from death. He has been praised numerous times for his bravery.

He is connected with the Knights of Columbus, the Elks and the relief and charitable associations of the Boston fire department.

The chief is enjoying excellent health and appears good for many more years of service.

John F. Ryan was born in Boston April 17, 1857. He attended the Quincy school. After leaving school he learned the steamfitter's trade, which he followed until his appointment to the fire department. He received his appointment as a permanent member on May 15, 1880, and was assigned to engine 7, East st. After serving with "Tiger 7" nearly three years he was transferred to engine 26, Mason st, Jan 22, 1883. As a reward for his faithfulness he was promoted to the grade of lieutenant on March 17, 1881, and was placed at engine company 6, Leverett st.

As an officer he proved himself very capable. He was promoted to the grade of captain on Feb 16, 1888, and was assigned to engine company 33, Boylston st, which that day was placed in commission. He found business not very brisk at steamer 33, so on his own re-

quest he was transferred back to Leverett st on Aug 31, 1888. He remained on duty with the West End steamer until May 15, 1891, when he was transferred to engine companies 38-39, Congress st, which were placed in commission on that day. He acted as captain of the double company until Feb 19 1893, the day of the big shakeup, when he was shifted to Mason st.



DISTRICT CHIEF JOHN F. RYAN OF BRIGHTON

When it became necessary to create new districts in 1894 the board of commissioners selected Capt Ryan as one of the new acting chiefs. He assumed the grade on June 15, 1894, and was placed in charge of the 5th district, in the heart of the city, with headquarters at Mason st. His transfer to the 11th district, Brighton, on March 12, 1897, came as a big surprise and created no end of comment in fire department circles. The chief had just settled in Brighton when he was shifted to district 1, East Boston, Nov 12, 1897. He was returned to the Brighton district July 12, 1901, and has remained there since.