

CHIEF QUILTS HIS JOB.

BRENNAN NO LONGER HEAD OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

His Resignation Accepted by Mayor Hopkins Yesterday—Said to Be the Third Time He Has Asked to Be Relieved of the Position—Says He Is Glad to Be Out of It, and Thinks His Successor Will Find the Place Anything but a Bed of Roses.

Chief of Police Brennan resigned yesterday. Until his successor is appointed by Mayor-elect Swift Assistant Chief of Police Kipley will attend to the routine duties of the position. Chief Brennan's resignation has been in the hands of Mayor Hopkins since April 3, the day after the election. Coupled with other things which have happened in the department Chief Brennan's action was not unexpected. In his letter of resignation he says little of any causes for the step, and when spoken to on the subject said he wanted a little time to attend to his private affairs and thought he might as well take it now.

Mr. Brennan denies that the recent action of the Police Commissioners or that little disturbance over the reappointment of eighty men the Commissioners had discharged had anything to do with his resignation. He said he wanted to give the new Mayor a chance to make his appointment to the vacant position as soon as he could, and in the meanwhile preferred to take a rest.



EX-CHIEF OF POLICE BRENNAN.

It is not understood that Mayor Hopkins asked the Chief to reconsider his decision in any way. There was no chance of Brennan holding the position much longer, and it is said he acted wisely in resigning.

Mayor Hopkins' letter of acceptance in reply to the Chief's resignation was in this form:

April 6, 1895.—M. Brennan, Esq., General Superintendent of Police—Sir: I accept your resignation as General Superintendent of Police dated April 3, 1895, to take effect this day at 7 o'clock p. m. Assistant Superintendent of Police Joseph Kipley will take charge of the department until your successor is appointed according to law and has qualified. It is a matter of regret to me, and must afford ground for sincere regret to all the people of Chicago, that one who has done so much by long continued, honest, and capable service to render the Police Department of the city efficient should deem it proper to retire from that department at this time.

Hoping that in private life you may meet with that success which you certainly deserve, I remain your friend, etc.

JOHN P. HOPKINS, Mayor.

Not the Chief's Fare.

If rumor be true this is not the first time Chief Brennan's resignation has been in the hands of the Mayor. Three times, it is believed, he has told the official head of the city that he could no longer keep both his position and his self-respect. Every one of these alleged resignations occurred over the gambling-house troubles of last summer. The first action taken by the Civic Federation was to notify Chief Brennan that gambling existed in certain places. Chief Brennan probably knew that a great deal better than the Federation did, but the Mayor was believed to be infallible. Chief Brennan saw what was coming and, it is said, asked permission to close the gambling-houses. This, it is alleged, was refused and Chief Brennan is credited with a resignation. This was not acted upon and then followed the raid by the Civic Federation. Then there were bad times for the Chief of Police. He had been credited repeatedly with the statement that there was no gambling in Chicago, and the Civic Federation furnished him with a long list of names and warrants for the arrest of the gamblers. A pretty well-founded report says Chief Brennan went to Mayor Hopkins and refused point blank to act longer unless he was permitted either to close gambling-houses or serve the warrants. The gambling-houses closed.

Few Chiefs of Police started in under better auspices than did Chief Brennan. He knew personally nearly every man in the department and had had long experience in the practical workings of the police force. He started in well, and those who know him say he would have kept the gait had he not been hampered by the City Hall gang. He introduced several reforms into the police department and succeeded in getting more work out of the police at the City Hall than any man ever got before. It had been the custom to turn the detectives loose on the streets, with no tab on them but a report to be made at night. Chief Brennan issued an order instructing every detective on duty to call up the office every two hours either from a patrol box or a private telephone. He is responsible for the white stripe down the trouser leg and for the service badges which alone distinguish an old policeman from a new man. He took a great deal of interest in the improvement of the patrol-box system and evolved those shiny peaked caps the patrolmen wear.

Glad He Is Out of It.

As soon as the news of his resignation leaked out the chief's office was besieged. Here is all he had to say about his step:

"My resignation has been accepted and I am out. I assure you I am glad. I do not know any of my predecessors who were not glad to leave the office. 'Uneasy rests the head that wears a crown,' and mine has chafed me ever since I put it on. A Chief of Police is in hot water every minute of the time. The work has absolutely made me gray. Well, I have the consolation of knowing that I have made the force the best in the world, and the still sweeter consolation that my hands are and have been absolutely clean.

"I have resigned because my private affairs require my attention and because the new Mayor, for whom I have the highest respect, may have a clear field. He is certainly entitled to it. My successor, whoever he may be, will find the office anything but a bed of roses. As to civil service reform, as applied to the force, I believe in it. I believe in the present Police Commission, and I believe the new law, if honestly and fairly executed, will prove a great benefit to the city government.

"As to those eighty men whom I have reappointed out of the 220 who were discharged, I reappointed them because I thought they had been wronged. There are men among them who could write as fine a business letter as any of the Police Commissioners. I am convinced there were mistakes made in the examination of their papers. They are still on the force and I have received no order to discharge them. I promised they should not again be discharged and the Mayor promised them the same thing. So far, you see, I am ahead, but this had nothing whatever to do with my resignation."

"What are you going to do now, Mr. Brennan?"

"First of all take a rest. Afterwards I do not know what I shall do. My old business connections are broken, and I doubt if I could pick them up again even if I should care to. I have made no plans."

"Joe" Kipley in Charge.

The news of the resignation of his superior came to Assistant Chief of Police Kipley in the following note from the Mayor:

Chicago, April 6, 1895.—Joseph Kipley, Assistant Superintendent of Police, City—Dear Sir: The resignation of General Superintendent of Police Brennan having been accepted to take effect at 7 o'clock tonight, you are hereby ordered to take charge of the police affairs of the City of Chicago, pending the appointment of a General Superintendent of Police. Yours truly,
JOHN P. HOPKINS, Mayor.

It is not expected that the new Chief of Police will be confirmed in the office he now holds, though he has had experience enough to be able to fill it. Joseph Kipley is John D. Shea's old "side partner." These two

men, then only patrolmen, used to travel in about the toughest district there was in Chicago. There was something radically wrong if they got through the night without at least three fights, and they generally appeared against from one to two dozen prisoners in police court in the morning.

That was twenty years ago, and, with slight political lapses, Brennan, Kipley, and Shea have been connected with the police force ever since. Though he is not over-proud of the honor, Kipley is said to be the best-looking officer Chicago has got. Brennan, like the other two, has held nearly every position there was on the force. He started in as patrolman more than twenty years ago, and under Mayor Cregier was Assistant Chief of Police.

For some years previous to that he had been Secretary of the department. When the Republicans came into power Brennan resigned and started out in the real estate business with E. S. Dreyer & Co. When Carter Harrison became Mayor he asked Brennan to be his World's Fair Chief of Police. Brennan stood out for some time, but finally consented to serve.

Under the laws of the department Chief Brennan is entitled to a pension. He has been twenty years on the force and is more than 50 years old. As he will get half of the salary of the Chief of Police he is hardly likely to suffer poverty in his old age. He says he will not apply for a pension at once, but will let the thing stand for a while.

John W. Ela was sorry to hear Brennan had resigned. "I have always considered Brennan a good man but one who was badly handicapped," he said. "I think he was in sympathy with civil service as applied to the department of which he was the head. At the same time he was in sympathy with some of the men who were discharged under the operation of that law. Whether this had anything to do with his resignation I do not know."

Sends a Notice to Mr. Swift.

Late in the afternoon Chief Brennan addressed the following letter to Mayor-elect Swift:

George B. Swift, Mayor-elect City of Chicago—Dear Sir: For the last two or three days I have endeavored to find you through Ald. Madden, Mr. Kent, and others, but knowing full well how busy you are I have abandoned the idea of a personal interview. My object was to explain to you my desire to get out of office on or before Monday night, as I had made arrangements which make it necessary for me to be absent from the city for two or three days, and I was anxious that you should know of the existence of the vacancy. I therefore beg leave to inform you that, having failed to find you personally, I have handed my resignation to John P. Hopkins, Mayor, and he has accepted it, same to take effect this evening at 7 o'clock. Wishing you every success in the arduous and difficult duties incident to the exalted office to which you have been elected, and in solving the many difficult problems which you will be called upon to determine, I have the honor to remain, very respectfully and sincerely,
M. BRENNAN,
General Superintendent of Police.

The letter was sent in courtesy to Mr. Swift as an official notification of his resignation.