

CHIEF GARRITY PLEDGES RULE OF SINGLE BOSS

Pulls, Politics, and Soft Jobs Go, He Says.

Chief of Police Col. John J. Garrity will be the one and only head of the Chicago police department from 10 o'clock this morning until the day he quits the post.

"I intend to be my own chief," Col. Garrity told a reporter for THE TRIBUNE, who interviewed him at his home at 1918 Clifton Park avenue at 1 o'clock last night.

"There will be no politics mixed up in my administration of the police department. There will be no pulls. There will be no soft jobs. I don't know anything about the present condition of the department, but you can bet I'll soon find out."

Col. Garrity, former commander of the old Second Illinois regiment, whose appointment by Mayor Thompson yesterday surprised the entire city, said he would go on duty at 10 o'clock this morning. His appointment was confirmed by the city council at its meeting yesterday. The vote of confirmation was unanimous.

Surprise to Colonel, Too.

"This appointment was almost as much of a surprise to me as it was to the rest of the city," Col. Garrity said. "I didn't have any idea of it until two days ago, when I was asked if I would accept it."

"Who offered you the post?" Col. Garrity was asked.

"I would rather not say," replied the new police head. He said he had not conferred with Mayor Thompson at any time regarding the appointment.

"My policy in administering the police department will be twofold: First, I intend to give protection to the good citizen, the man who wants protection. Second, I hope to inculcate the military idea of implicitly obeying orders into the members of the department, from the man on the beat up to the highest official.

"The cabarets? I don't think much of the cabaret element. I don't intend to waste much time with them. I am going to put a few honest and efficient men on cabaret work and if the people who run them don't sit up and be good they're going to have a wholesale lot of trouble with those few men.

Ware Crooked Gamblers.

"Gambling? I haven't any use for crooked gamblers and crooked gambling houses, and I hope to exterminate them so far as Chicago is concerned. But I don't intend to break my neck trying to protect the d—n fool who gambles and loses his money honestly. He doesn't deserve protection. He knows when he gambles he has no business doing it.

"If I had 10,000 policemen, like New York, I might be able to spare a lot of men to do special work on cabarets, gambling, etc. But I haven't got them. And I'm going to remember that my big job is to get rid of real crime and to protect the honest citizen, the business man, and the man who owns his little home. I'm not going to waste men trying to protect these people who don't want to be protected. At the same time, cabarets and everybody else must live up to the letter of the law."

Saloons will have to obey the law as it is written, Chicago's new chief declared, and men on the beats will be held responsible through their captains.

Captains Responsible.

"When I say I'm going to have military discipline I mean this: The captains are to be held absolutely responsible for everything that happens in their districts. There will be no shifting of blame to subordinates. It will be the captains' duty to see that their subordinates do their duty. If they fail the captain will be held responsible.

"I am told there is some crookedness in the police department. I don't know whether there is or not. I don't know anything about the department yet, but soon will. And if there are any crooks

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"I ALONE AM TO BE CHIEF"

So Says Col. Garrity as He Becomes Head of Chicago Police Department.



Col. John J. Garrity
KOEHNE PHOTO

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In the department they can bet their lives that I'll have my eye on them, from the patrolman on the beat up through the ranks to the highest official. Every man caught in any crookedness, no matter who he is, will be immediately suspended and will face the trial board.

"I hope to cooperate with every force that is interested in seeing the law enforced. I don't know whether I'm to be congratulated or not on this appointment; but one thing is sure: I'm going to do my best."

Col. Garrity was sworn in late in the afternoon by City Clerk Igoe. He will take the police oath this morning when he assumes formal command.

Alcock Glad to Retire.

Acting Chief of Police John H. Alcock, who has been in charge of the force for the last eleven months, returns to his civil service post as first deputy today. Capt. Morgan A. Collins, who has been acting first deputy, probably will be returned to his former post as commander of the central district.

"I am glad to be relieved of the duties of the acting chief," said First Deputy Alcock. "There is always a feeling of uncertainty when the department is without an actual head."

Mayor Thompson had a parting good word for Alcock.

"I think Chief Alcock has been a very efficient police officer," the mayor said.

In his letter of appointment to the colonel Mayor Thompson said he had no instructions to give other than those he gave former Chief of Police Herman F. Schuettler.

Free Hand to Colonel.

"In naming you for this important post," part of the mayor's letter read, "I am guided by the efficient record you have achieved as a military commander in the service of our state and nation."

"The only instructions I have to impart are the same as I gave to your predecessor when he took command of the department, a copy of which I herewith attach.

"Wishing you success and assuring you of the fullest cooperation and support of all the departments of the city government."

The letter attached to the appointment, written by the mayor in January, 1917, to Chief Schuettler, informed the chief he was in full charge of the department.

Mayor Thompson has been looking for a successor to Chief Schuettler ever since the latter's death. It has been said that First Deputy Alcock was offered the place, but declined it. It also was rumored that other police commanders were offered the job and that they refused it.

The city council action on the new chief was brief. As soon as the appointment was made, Ald. Matt Franz and John Toman asked that the rules be suspended so that the appointment could be concurred in at once. This was done and the vote on confirming Col. Garrity was unanimous.

Col. Garrity was born June 21, 1869,

on Illinois street near Rush street. He entered the militia June 14, 1889, and was made colonel in July, 1907. During the Spanish-American war he commanded a company in Cuba and served as provost marshal at Cienfuegos. He commanded the Second infantry on the Mexican border in 1916.

The colonel resigned April 22, 1918, when he was preparing to take his regiment to France. He was found physically unfit for overseas duty. His former regiment, now the One Hundred and Thirty-first infantry, has made an enviable record in France.

In civil life Col. Garrity was an assistant auditor in the postoffice department. He is credited with having obtained an appropriation from the state for the construction of the Second infantry armory at West Madison street and Washtenaw avenue.

Col. Garrity is a Democrat.

Rivers McNeill Leaves to Family Estate of \$446,000

An estate of \$446,000, left by Rivers McNeill, late collector of customs, is to be divided among his widow and three children, according to his will, admitted to probate yesterday.

The testament directs that the ground rent under a lease of property at 201 and 203 South Clark street shall be held by his son, Malcolm Rivers McNeill, as trustee. Out of this rental \$3,000 a year is to be paid to the widow, Mrs. Ella McNeill, of 1312 Maple avenue, Evanston. The remainder of the rent is to be shared by the three children.

The will directs that the trust shall terminate at the death of Mrs. McNeill, when the rent shall be divided among the children. All of the rest of the estate is bequeathed in equal parts to the children.