

TO SUCCEED AUSTIN E. FORD.

Thomas Sturgis Made a Fire Commissioner by the Mayor.

Mayor Strong yesterday announced the appointment of Thomas Sturgis as a Commissioner of the Fire Department, in place of Austin E. Ford, who died Sept. 17. Mr. Sturgis, accompanied by his wife, went to the Mayor's office at 11 o'clock. After the usual preliminaries Mr. Sturgis took the oath of office and received his commission.

The new Commissioner was born in this city April 6, 1846. He received his education in the public schools. In the Spring of 1864 he enlisted in the Fifty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment and served until the close of the war. When he was mustered out of service he held the position of Assistant Adjutant General of the First Division of the Ninth Army Corps, which was attached to the Army of the Potomac.

After the close of the war Mr. Sturgis studied law, but did not practice to any extent. He went West and settled in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and there engaged in the banking business and in stock raising. He also became interested in railroad properties. He remained in the West for nearly twenty years and returned to this city eight years ago. He is now the head of the Sturgis & Hill Company, builders, and is Treasurer of the Union Stock Yards of Chicago. He lives at 138 East Thirty-sixth Street.

Mr. Sturgis is known as an anti-Platt Republican, but he has never taken a very active part in local politics until this year, when he organized the Twentieth Assembly District McKinley Sound Money League. The Mayor appointed him a Civil Commissioner to succeed E. L. Godkin in April. His appointment as Fire Commissioner, it is understood, was urged by Bishop Potter, J. Pierpont Morgan, William A. Stewart and other well-known citizens.

The appointment of Mr. Sturgis it is thought may put a stop to the differences which have characterized the proceedings of the Fire Board since the advent of the appointees of Mayor Strong.

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