

FIREMEN ASK MORE TIME FROM DUTIES, CLAIMING IT IS DUE

**State Benevolent Association
Begins Crusade at Today's
Convention.**

**THEY MAY LEVY TAX TO
PAY ASS'N'S EXPENSES**

**Assessment Plan Now in Vogue Has
Good Following and Change Will
Not Be Made Without Opposi-
tion—Other Business in
Convention.**

Michael J. Ryan of Paterson opened the ninth annual convention of the New Jersey Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association at 11 o'clock this morning in Turner Hall.

There were present at the convention thirty-three delegates, being three from each of the cities of Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Hoboken, Camden, Trenton, Plainfield, Atlantic City, Elizabeth, Orange and Montclair, the cities of the state having paid fire departments.

The convention will be in secret session all day and a banquet will be served to the city officials of Trenton after the convention work is over, at six o'clock this evening.

The matter under discussion this morning was whether or not there should be a per capita tax for the maintenance of the Benevolent Fund and for general expenses. At the present time the benevolent fund is maintained by assessments and while there is a faction of the association clamoring for the per capita tax as the only sure method of maintaining the Benevolent Fund, there is a large following of the present plan of assessments. No action has been taken this morning.

The time of the convention this afternoon will be taken up with a discussion on the project to agitate one day off duty in six instead of the present plan of one day off in eight. The firemen believe that it is possible to grant this request without crippling the departments at any time. They are confined in the fire houses now for seven days, night and day, except for meal hours, and the firemen find the close work very trying.

LESS PAY THAN POLICE.

One of the strong arguments for the new plan of one day off in six instead of in eight days, is found in statistics which show that firemen are paid less than policemen, time on duty considered.

Officers of the association will be elected this afternoon. President Ryan will succeed himself. Secretary Robert D. Bender of Newark will also be re-elected. There will be a change in the office of vice president, now filled by Thomas McGinty of this city and Treasurer James Elberson of Camden, but nothing has been rumored on which to base a prophecy as to the firemen to be honored by election to those offices.

The Trenton delegates to the convention are John G. Ford, Engine 1; Asa Lanning, Engine 3, and Thomas McGinty, Truck 2.

The committee having the banquet in charge this evening is composed of Asa McGinty, chairman; Charles Howell of Camden and Charles Schroeder of Paterson.

The New Jersey Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association has its membership among the rank and file of the paid departments in the state. None of the superior officers are entitled to membership.