

CHIEF FEARS MILITARY RULE

McWeeny Afraid Aldermen Will Convert Force Into Army.

"WON'T BE REAL COP LEFT."

Drills May Take Place of Real Work, Says Superintendent.

Chief of Police John McWeeny is fearful that the special aldermanic subcommittee which will shortly make recommendations for the reorganization of the police department, will transform his force into militiamen and the stations into armories. He has visions of the reveille taking the place of the morning roll calls and the police whistles being replaced by bugles.

"As far as I can learn," the chief said, "this committee has got the military 'bug' to such an extent that we won't have any real policemen. All I hear is talk about drills, and inspection, and military appearance, and schools of instruction. I guess they're going to have parade grounds instead of beats and issue clothing allowances and rations to the cops.

"You can't make a military man out of the old thief catchers on the force—I can tell them that—and I don't see how they're going to do much police work if they've got to take care of a lot of military maneuvers and drills.

Abolition of Sergeant a Puzzle.

"I understand the committee is going to abolish the rank of sergeant. The lord knows how they're going to get along without sergeants. I'm told that the lieutenants are going to be expected to be responsible for the stations and their men. Well, all I've got to say is that they'll have to make a lot of new lieutenants, for it will take about four or five of them to the station if they do away with the sergeants, especially in the big stations. Why, it takes all of one lieutenant's time to handle the big cases alone.

"Then I understand another proposition is to take all the plain clothes men away from the outside stations and have all of them work from a central downtown bureau. I'm certain that such a plan won't work. Just for instance, if there was a big crime out at Fifty-fifth and State streets and they sent eight good men out from downtown what would they know about the neighborhood? Nothing. But a plain clothes man who had been working in the district would know all about the geography and the surroundings and would know the men of the neighborhood.

"I don't think the removal of plain clothes men from the stations will help along police work at all. In fact, I'm sure that we won't get as many criminals under that system as we get today with the detectives on duty throughout the city."

Not Consulted by Committee.

The chief said he had not been consulted by the subcommittee concerning the reorganization plans, and that if he were consulted he would have a lot to say against the supposed plans of the committee.

Ald. Richert, chairman of the reorganization committee, said yesterday that its report would be ready on Tuesday when it will be presented to the council committee on schools, fire, police and civil service. He declined to discuss the contents of the report.

It is known that one of the recommendations to be offered will be for the reduction of the number of police precincts, probably to not more than two-thirds of the present number of forty-five. This would mean the abandonment of one-third of the police stations of the city.

It is said that the committee plans to redistrict the city so that all of the good station houses will be kept in service and the old and inadequate structures abandoned. One of the features of the plan is said to embrace the building of a big central station in the loop which will take care of the big central portion of the city with a territory probably reaching over at least three of the present precincts in the central section of the city.

CORKERY WILL CASE OPENS

Relatives Say Rich Widow Was Influenced by Sister of John P. Hopkins in Making Bequests.

A jury was impaneled in Judge Dever's court yesterday to try a suit involving the \$500,000 estate of Mrs. Mary A. Corkery. Relatives contesting the will contend that Mrs. Corkery was of unsound mind when she made her will. A group of other relatives, who are heirs, are defending the will. Their attorneys say they will disprove absolutely the contentions of those who have brought the suit.

The contestants say that Mrs. Corkery was unduly influenced, in making her will, by Miss Adella Hopkins, a sister of ex-Mayor John P. Hopkins, and by John A. McCormick, executor under the will.

In support of the allegation that Mrs. Corkery was of unsound mind, Weymouth Kirkland, one of the counsel for the contestants of the will, said in his opening statement that the testator up to and preceding the executing of the instrument, was suffering from various diseases, including arterial sclerosis, delusions, brain lesion, aphasia, and Bright's disease.