

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER TO THE SELECTMEN OF
DORCHESTER.

GENTLEMEN: I herewith present the Tenth Annual Report of the condition of the Fire Department of this Town, with an account of the fires and alarms the year ending January 31, 1859; also the amount of loss and insurance as far as has been ascertained; and also, the amount of expenditures under the direction of the Board of Engineers for the support of the Fire Department.

The Department is organized as follows:

SYLVESTER H. HEBARD, *Chief Engineer.*

ALFRED CLAPP, WILLIAM G. SWAN, GEORGE L. FISHER, EDMUND C. FRYEAN and CYRUS SAVAGE, *Assistant Engineers.*

There are now seven Companies in commission, viz:

FOUNTAIN Co. No. 1.—Dean M. Swift, *Foreman*: John A. Preston, *Assistant Foreman*; Thomas F. Temple, *Clerk*; Charles F. Hall, *Steward.*

PROTECTOR Co. No. 2.—Oliver Glover, 2d, *Foreman*: Lewis P. Bird, 2d *Foreman*: James H. Bird, 3d *Foreman*; H. Davenport, *Clerk*. George H. Barnes, *Steward.*

TORRENT Co. No. 3.—G. M. Blake, *Foreman*. B. F. Bartlett, 2d *Foreman*. N. W. Garland, *Clerk*. M. H. Warren, *Steward.*

ALERT Co. No. 4.—Isaac Williams, *Foreman*. G. F. Fenno, 2d *Foreman*. Benjamin F. Willey, *Clerk*. G. F. Fenno, *Steward.*

INDEPENDENCE, No 5.—Andrew Collins, *Foreman*. N. W. Helt, *Assist. Foreman*. E. W. Harding, *Clerk*. G. G. Dennison, *Steward.*

TIGER Co. No. 6.—Isaac W. Bird, *Foreman*. J. B. Graham, 1st, *Assist. Foreman*. Robert T. Glidden, 2d *Assistant Foreman*. O. Davenport, Jr. *Clerk*. F. A. Sumner, *Steward.*

MATTAPAN HOOK AND LADDER Co.—H. Crane, *Foreman*. W. Preston, *Assistant Foreman*. W. Shields, *Clerk*. A. S. Packard, *Steward.*

The Department has been called out 77 times the past year, by alarms of fire; 21 times by fires in Dorchester, 26 times by fires out of this town, and 30 times by false alarms from various causes.

The members of the several companies composing the Fire Department have been paid, since May last, thirty cents per hour each, for their services the time occupied in attending at fires in this town. Also, thirty cents each, for each of twelve monthly meetings held by the several companies.

In the Report last made by the Chief Engineer to your Honorable Board, he expressed the opinion that the payment of a certain sum per year to each member of the Fire Department was preferable to the present system of payment, he has not since seen cause to alter that opinion, still believing that the interest of the Town and the Department would be promoted by a change of the system. With the present system it is impossible to calculate, with any degree of certainty, the amount necessary to be appropriated by the Town for the support of the Department. The present system of payment has been the great cause of the expenditure of the Department exceeding the appropriation made therefor by the Town the past year. It will be necessary the coming season to paint the Engine Houses occupied by Companies No. 3 and 6; otherwise, the Engines, Hook and Ladder Carriages, and the other apparatus belonging to the Department, with the Engine Houses, are in good order.

The amount of the expenditures under the direction of the Board of Engineers, for Repairs, Hose, Fixtures, &c., has been \$1,703 14. Total expenditures on account of Fire Department the past year, have been \$5,125 39.

Annexed is a Table of the Fires and Alarms from February 1, 1858 to February 1, 1859.

Respectfully, Yours,

SYLVESTER H. HEBARD, *Chief Engineer.*

Dorchester, Feb. 1, 1859.

Table of the Fires and Alarms, from February 1, 1858, to February 1, 1859.

1858.	O'Clock.	LOCATION, &c.	Owner or Occupant.	Loss.	Insurance.	CAUSES, &c.
Feb.	3 11 A. M.	Dwelling House, Bellevue street.	H. P. Ellis.	Very slight	.....	Accidental
"	6 P. M.	Grass, near N. Y. Central R. R.	.....	\$750	.....	Sparks from Locomotive
"	5 11 P. M.	House, near Roxbury, Slough-ton st.	McIntire	.....	.....	Incendiary
"	6 11 P. M.	House and Barn, Wash'n vil. Boston	E. Gassett.	400	400	Unknown
March	2 9 P. M.	Dwelling House, Percival Avenue.	.....	.....	.....	Accidental
"	5 8 P. M.	False alarm.	.....	.....	.....	Burning Chimney
"	11 2 P. M.	School House, Quincy	Town of Quincy.	.....	.....	Unknown
"	19 6 P. M.	Brush, on Green street.	T. D. Quincy.	.....	.....	"
"	24 2 P. M.	False alarm, Roxbury.	.....	.....	.....	"
"	6 P. M.	Stack of Hay, Savin Hill.	W. Worthington's est.	125	.....	Sparks from Locomotive
"	23 10 A. M.	Grass, near Boston street.	G. A. Taylor.	.....	.....	Children, from matches
"	7 P. M.	Ice House, River street.	A. Hollingsworth.	100	.....	Incendiary
"	27 9 P. M.	False alarm	.....	.....	.....	Unknown
"	30 11 A. M.	Burning Brush, Squantum.	.....	.....	.....	"
"	31 8 P. M.	Alarm, from Quincy.	.....	.....	.....	"
April	2 7 P. M.	" Hingham	.....	.....	.....	"
"	11 P. M.	Barns, West Roxbury.	.....	.....	.....	Incendiary
"	6 4 P. M.	House and Barn, Roxbury.	.....	.....	.....	Unknown
"	7 8 P. M.	Woods, near Granite Bridge.	.....	.....	.....	"
"	7 9 P. M.	" " "	.....	.....	.....	"
"	7 11 P. M.	" " "	.....	.....	.....	"
"	8 11 A. M.	False Alarm, from Boston.	.....	.....	.....	"
"	8 5 A. M.	Alarm, from Port Norfolk.	Messrs. Southworth.	.....	.....	Accidental
"	11 7 P. M.	Tool House, Norfolk street.	Lemuel Clapp.	25	.....	Incendiary
"	17 8 P. M.	Woods, Plymouth.	.....	.....	.....	"
May	1 8 A. M.	Turpentine Works, Roxbury	.....	.....	.....	Accidental

Table of the Fires and Alarms from February 1, 1858 to February 1, 1859 — Continued.

1858	O'clock.	LOCATION, &c.	Owner or Occupant.	Loss.	Insurance.	CAUSES, &c.
May	2 8½ A. M.	Cabinet Shop, Cedar street.	G. Hall.	20	20	Accidental
"	13 10¼ P. M.	Alarm, from West Roxbury.	"	"	"	Unknown
"	15 10 P. M.	"	"	"	"	"
"	21 A. M.	American Hall, Sanford street.	Z. Kenney.	3000	1500	Incendiary
"	24 A. M.	Cotton Store House, River street.	Mr. Hurd.	400	"	"
"	30 9½ P. M.	Slaughter House, near Neponset.	L. Spear.	150	50	"
June	2 9½ P. M.	Barn, Roxbury.	N. Ward.	"	"	Unknown
"	8 9½ P. M.	Alarm, Roxbury.	"	"	"	"
"	9 12½ A. M.	Barn, Washington village, Boston.	"	"	"	"
"	14 11 P. M.	House, Port Norfolk.	N. W. Cushing.	1500	1000	Incendiary
"	30 8 P. M.	Alarm, Roxbury.	"	"	"	Unknown
July	2 9½ P. M.	Planing Mills, Neponset.	Mr. Herrick.	8000	"	Incendiary
"	3 9½ P. M.	Alarm, Quincy.	"	"	"	Incendiary
"	8 9½ P. M.	Fire, Roxbury.	"	"	"	Unknown
"	15 9½ P. M.	False Alarm.	"	"	"	"
"	20 7½ A. M.	Barn, Adams street.	Mr. B. Paine.	300	200	Ringling of 3's Bell
"	20 7½ A. M.	House, Roxbury.	"	"	"	Fire Crackers
Aug.	2 9½ P. M.	House and Barn, Dorchester avenue	Est. of Edward Sharp	4000	3500	Unknown
"	11 11¼ A. M.	False alarm.	"	"	"	Accidental
"	17 12 M.	"	"	"	"	Unknown
"	" 9 P. M.	"	"	"	"	"
"	20 10 A. M.	Cotton Picking Mill, River street.	Mr. Hurd.	25	"	Accidental
"	27 8½ P. M.	Old Tavern, North Quincy.	"	"	"	Incendiary
"	1 23 P. M.	Dwelling House, River street.	"	"	"	Accidental
"	2 23 P. M.	Blacksmith Shop, Quincy	"	"	"	Unknown
"	" 43 P. M.	False alarm.	"	"	"	"
"	" 3 9½ P. M.	Sheds, Quincy.	"	"	"	"
"	" 5 12 P. M.	Barn, Roxbury.	"	"	"	Incendiary
"	"	"	"	"	"	Unknown

A Table of the Fires and Alarms, from February 1, 1858, to February 1, 1859,—Continued.

1858.	O'Clock.	LOCATION, &c.	Owner or Occupant.	Loss.	Insurance.	CAUSES, &c.
Sept. 16	12½ A. M.	Barn in Roxbury	.....	.....	.....	Unknown
" 17	10½ P. M.	Alarm, Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 27	8½ P. M.	False Alarm.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 28	9½ P. M.	Barn, Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	Accidental
Oct. 4	7½ P. M.	Glass Works, South Boston.....	.....	.....	.....	Incendiary
" 19	3½ A. M.	2 Barns, River street.....	Est. of W. Richardson	3000	.....	Unknown
" "	11 P. M.	Carpenter's shop, Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 25	2½ P. M.	Church, Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"
Nov. 9	8½ P. M.	False alarm.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 15	5½ P. M.	Fire in Brighton.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" "	8 P. M.	Box Factory, Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 20	11½ P. M.	Alarm, from Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 21	8 P. M.	Barn, West Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 24	1½ A. M.	Store House, Milton.....	.....	.....	.....	Unknown
Dec. 6	9½ P. M.	American Hall, Sanford street.....	Z. Kenney.....	20	.....	Accidental
" 12	12½ A. M.	Barn, Cottage street.....	J. Bringham.....	750	.....	Unknown
" 17	11 P. M.	School House, Boston.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 18	8½ P. M.	House, in Milton.....	.....	.....	.....	"
1859.						
Jan. 3	6½ A. M.	Woolen Mills, Dedham.....	.....	.....	.....	Unknown
" 6	8½ A. M.	Dwelling House, Savin Hill.....	J. Tuttle.....	2500	700	Accidental
" 16	10½ P. M.	Barn, Myrtle street.....	Mr. W. Marsh.....	5	.....	Unknown
" 19	5½ P. M.	Alarm from Milton.....	.....	.....	.....	"
" 28	8 P. M.	Fire, Roxbury.....	.....	.....	.....	"

SYLVESTER H. HEBARD, Chief Engineer.