

OFFICIAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR THE

Year ending January 31, 1871.



BOSTON:
PRESS OF ROCKWELL & CHURCHILL,
122 WASHINGTON STREET.
1871.

R E P O R T

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C H I E F E N G I N E E R

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B R I G H T O N F I R E D E P A R T M E N T,

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.

THE present Board of Engineers, appointed in May last, on entering upon their duties, found the town without an organized Fire Department; Engine No. 2, and Wilson Hose Carriage No. 1, without companies, and Engine No. 1, stored in the basement of the Town House, so dry and out of order as to be unfit for use. The year previous, Engine No. 2, and the Hose Carriage were manned; Engine No. 1 was without a company and stored. The engineers, finding the town thus unprotected, at once took measures to organize companies, or at least to have the fire apparatus in good order. Engine No. 1 was put in complete repair and placed in the Engine House, the Hose Carriage removed to the room so long occupied by the engine (and originally designed for it). Engine No. 2 was found to be in good working order.

The engineers were successful in forming an efficient company for Engine No. 1; not readily succeeding in obtaining companies for Engine No. 2, and the Hose Carriage, competent men were placed in charge of them, to keep them in good order and ready for immediate use, by the citizens, in case of fire in town, the Hose Carriage being effective only in case of fire in the centre of the town where hydrants could be used. Upon examining the houses, engines, and apparatus, many things were found wanting, such as spanners, belts, hose straps, oil suits, etc., which deficiency was at once supplied.

Fires and alarms have occurred within the town the past year as follows:—

April 11. Fire at Roofing Company Buildings.

April 28. Fire at house owned by Edmund Rice.

July. Alarm caused by bonfire on premises of S. W. Trowbridge.

Sept. 26. Fire at barn owned by Jacob F. Taylor.

At this fire, Engine No. 1 rendered most efficient service. The barn with contents was entirely consumed, but the large dwelling-house but a few feet distant, by the exertions of the firemen, was saved. The good order of the company at this their first fire, their quiet and orderly conduct in returning, the earnest and hearty manner with which they worked, was remarked by all. Mr. Taylor tendered his thanks to the company, and generously furnished a bountiful supply of refreshments on their return to their house. It is a pleasure to mention this act of kindness, so very seldom are our firemen appreciated.

In common with our neighboring cities and towns, who were present at the firemen's muster held in Haverhill, Mass., the Engineers granted permission to Butcher Boy Company No. 1, to attend with their engine, an engineer to accompany them. The fine appearance of the company, with their beautiful engine, tastefully decorated, attracted much attention. Unfortunately an accident occurred at the trial, which prevented their taking a prize. Being placed in position, they had played but three strokes, attaining the distance of 169 feet, when the air-chamber burst, throwing several of the company to the ground, but doing them no material injury; had it not been for this accident they would have undoubtedly brought home a prize. The engine upon its return to Boston was immediately sent to the manufactory of Hunneman & Co., builders, for repairs. Through the kindness of Chief Engineer Eaton, of Cambridge, an engine was procured to take its place while repairing. This accident was no fault of the company; it might have happened at a fire, as it often has in other towns, rendering the engine useless for the time being. Several engines at this muster met with the same accident.

In July an efficient company took charge of Engine No. 2, and a company is now forming for the Hose Carriage, which will make the Fire Department full and complete.

The engines and all the fire apparatus are in good order, and ready for immediate use.

The following is a list of the officers of the companies: —

BUTCHER BOY ENGINE No. 1. 40 MEMBERS.

Foreman, John Lee; 1st Assistant, Charles E. Sanderson; 2d Assistant, John Griffin; Clerk and Treasurer, John Brennen; Steward, William L. Hill.

CHARLES RIVER ENGINE NO. 2. 40 MEMBERS.

Foreman, William Killion; 1st Assistant, Frank Garvin; 2d Assistant, George H. Stetson; Clerk and Treasurer, M. F. Morley; Steward, John Nolan.

A well-regulated Fire Department is indispensable in every city and town in the Commonwealth, and firemen as a body should be more highly appreciated, and better paid for the arduous duties they perform, and the dangers they encounter.

The engineers are proud to say that, for efficiency and good conduct, our present companies have not been surpassed in former years.

Recently a request was made by several members of the Baptist Church living in the north part of the town for permission to use the hall of No. 2 Engine House, to hold prayer-meeting one evening each week, they finding their own fuel and light; the engineers gave their consent, if no objection was made by the engine company. Capt. Killion called a special meeting of his company; the matter was laid before them, and it was voted unanimously that permission be granted them to use the hall for that purpose.

This generous disposition on the part of the company is certainly most commendable, and fully appreciated by the society using the hall.

The engineers would urge the necessity of being better supplied with water in case of fire. In many localities in the town our engines would be powerless, and our firemen compelled to be simply spectators at a fire, without the ability to render assistance, for the reason that water could not be obtained. We would recommend at least twelve reservoirs to be built in proper localities, that a sufficient supply of water may be obtained, should a fire occur in any part of the town.

Some of our citizens have strongly urged the purchase of a steam fire engine. The engineers are of the opinion that one at present would be useless, as the town is not provided with sufficient water to feed it. In many towns hand steam engines are used with good success; a company of 20 men is sufficient to draw them any distance, and at fires they have proved as effective as larger ones drawn by horses, thereby saving the great expense of horses, harnesses, etc. A hand steamer could be

easily manned, and with the necessary supply of water would be sufficient for our town.

Engine House No. 1 is located in the rear of the Town House ; Engine House No. 2 is located at the north part of the town ; Wilson Hose Carriage No. 1 is kept in the basement of the Town House. Should the town take action respecting the necessary building of reservoirs, the engineers would suggest the purchase of a hand steamer, to be placed in No. 1 Engine House ; Engine No. 1 to be placed at the east part of the town, which would require the building of an engine house in that locality. With engines thus stationed, and reservoirs built, our town would be comparatively safe ; it certainly is not now, and a fire occurring in some parts of the town would most surely demonstrate this fact.

Four large cumbersome ladders owned by the town are kept in the basement of the Town House ; they are almost useless, having no carriage or convenience to remove them any distance to a fire. The town should own a carriage fully equipped with ladders, hooks, etc.

The well in the school-yard in rear of No. 2 Engine House is in bad condition and not worth fixing. To supply the engine and school-house, the engineers would suggest the building of a reservoir or cistern large enough to be used in case of fire.

Some repairs are needed on the engine houses, to meet which, with the pay of members of the department, we would recommend that the sum of eighteen hundred dollars be appropriated for the support of the Fire Department, the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. B. PRATT, } *Engineers*
 JOEL G. DAVIS, } *of*
 GEORGE H. PECK, } *Brighton.*

Feb. 1, 1871.

TREASURER'S REPORT
OF THE
EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS
OF THE
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1871.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

APPROPRIATION, \$1,000 00.

EXPENDITURE, \$1,000 56.

Wilson Hose Co., salary to May 1st, 1870,	\$50 00
Engine Company No. 1, services,	291 62
“ “ “ 2, “	257 32
Hunneman & Co., exchanging air-chamber, repairing hose, lamps, etc.,	98 25
James A. Cogswell, badges, figures, letters, straps, etc.,	53 00
Henry C. Lougee, miscellaneous articles,	22 85
J. A. Joslyn, and Ezra Eaton's Son, eight oil suits,	32 00
D. O. Sanger, and Salma Kendall, oil, lamp chimneys, etc.,	27 38
S. G. Cheever, four fire-hats,	22 00
Holmes & Ruggs, one and a half tons coal,	13 00
Valentine Eckert, services as steward, No. 2,	15 00
Sundry persons, repairing engine and hose carriage,	74 69
Sundry persons, miscellaneous articles fur- nished,	43 45
	<hr/> \$1,000 56

SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Board of Engineers, services 1869-70, \$300 00