

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OF DORCHESTER,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 4, 1850.

PRINTED BY A VOTE OF THE TOWN.

BOSTON:
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1850.

in favor of the town. The plaintiff has carried the case to the Supreme Court for a new trial.

The lots at the North Burying Ground have of late been appropriated so fast, that it seems desirable that it should be enlarged by the purchase of some adjoining land, if it can be had at a fair price, and also that a plan of lots, streets, and avenues should be made, so that a greater regularity and better economy may be observed in their disposal hereafter. It would also be well to raise and enclose the wall on the line of the public highway.

This Board would suggest the necessity of furnishing Iron Safe for the Town Clerk's and Selectmen's office, as a deposit for books and vouchers, the loss of which by fire or otherwise would be irreparable. If the town consider it of sufficient importance, some instructions should be given in regard to it.

A new plan for drawing warrants upon the Treasurer has been adopted by the Board, beginning on the 1st of February last, by which all bills and vouchers are to be retained and filed, in the Selectmen's office, and orders of a prescribed form will be drawn for the same. It is desirable that all accounts should be in the keeping of the Selectmen, for the purpose of reference in the settlement of subsequent accounts with the same individuals, and it will also simplify the town treasurer's accounts for the process of auditing.

It is further suggested, that it would be well for the town to direct that hereafter all orders upon the Treasurer for expenditures of every sort, whether special or general, shall be drawn by the Board. Such an arrangement would not in the least interfere with the rights of any other Board, in regard to the control of the several appropriations that may properly belong to them; but it would prevent confusion in the Treasurer's accounts, and at the same time all vouchers would find a deposit in one department.

Fire Department.

The acceptance by the town of an act establishing a Fire Department rendered it necessary to appoint a Board of Engineers, in accordance with which Messrs. Robert Richardson, Edward Jones, Charles Hunt, James Pope, Jr., Geo. L. Fisher, and Samuel Capen, were appointed to that office for the year commencing March 1, 1849. Any comment as to the prompt and faithful discharge of the duties devolving upon this Board seem to be uncalled for, the public having every means for judging of that matter. It may be well to state that the prudential affairs connected with this department have been managed in a judicious and economical manner, and will be seen to compare favorably in that respect with its organization in former years.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

TO THE SELECTMEN OF DORCHESTER—GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with your request, the following Report is presented to your honorable Board, showing the condition of the Engines and apparatus,—the expenses of the Fire Department,—the number of fires and alarms, from May 1, 1849 to Feb. 1, 1850, and a statement of the losses, the amount of insurance, and the causes of the fires.

There are six Engines with Hose carriages, supplied with suction and leading hose, buckets, axes, &c., and one Hook and Ladder carriage, supplied with hooks, ladders, and buckets, all of which are in good order, and ready for use at any moment.

Bills have been approved, as will be seen by the Auditor's report, amounting in the aggregate to five hundred sixty-six dollars and eighty-nine cents.

The department has been called out, by fires and alarms, twenty-nine times. Engines have been used at eight fires in the town and twice in Milton. Assistance has been received from the Cambridge fire department at two fires, and one fire was extinguished by the Boston fire department.

There are but four of the engines that have companies attached to them, viz. : Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 6.

The greatest fire took place on the night of December 1st, at Capt. Roswell Gleason's establishment, where, but for the prompt and cheerful exertions of the firemen, with the aid and assistance of the citizens, a most extensive conflagration would have taken place.

The losses, so far as they have been ascertained, amount to one thousand three hundred and fifty dollars, and the insurance to one thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars.

Date	Time	Name	Address	Value	Description
June 1	11 1-2 P. M.	Cheever	Waverley street	4000	Public house; incendiary.
" 2	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waverley street		Building used for drying cotton; unknown.
" 3	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waverley street		Curran's, rubbish, &c.
" 4	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waverley street		Fires set in the woods in three places.
" 5	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waverley street		Barrel of rubbish in the cellar.
" 6	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waverley street		Building at Piggory; incendiary.
July 4	10 1-2 P. M.	Cheever Newhall	River street	500	
" 5	11 3-4 P. M.	"	"		
" 23	11 3-4 P. M.	Stedman Williams	Roxbury		An old building; incendiary.
" 29	10 1-2 P. M.	Wm. F. Boynton	In or near S. Boston		Barns and other buildings; incendiary.
" 30	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Roxbury		Extinguished by Boston fire department.
August 8	5 1-2 P. M.	J. D. Reinhard	North street		Unfinished house; incendiary.
" 25	2 1-2 P. M.	George Kent	Summer street		Observatory; incendiary.
Sept 8	9 1-4 P. M.	John Clapp	Mount Bowdoin		Fire in the woods.
" 18	11 A. M.	Roswell Gleason	Mount Harrison		False alarm.
October 23	11 A. M.	"	Bowdoin street	200	Brush near Dorchester factory.
November 3	2 A. M.	George Kent	Cambridgeport		Barn; set on fire by boys playing with matches.
" 19	13-4 A. M.	John Clapp	Milton		Barn and part of House.
" 25	7 1-2 P. M.	Roswell Gleason	"		Barn near Blue Hill.
" 27	8 1-2 P. M.	"	Lower Mills		Cabinet shop; spontaneous combustion of oily rags.
December 5	3 A. M.	White	Somerville		Spontaneous combustion of soft coal.
" 6	7 1-2 P. M.	Roswell Gleason	Washington street		Barn; incendiary.
" 19	7 1-2 P. M.	"	Brookline		"
1850-Jan. 16	8 P. M.	"	Hingham		Barn and shop, five horses burnt; incendiary.
" 18	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waltham	7000	False alarm.
" 18	11 1-2 P. M.	"	Waltham	4675	Phoenix House stable.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD JONES, Chief Engineer of
Dorchester Fire Department.

Dorchester, February 1, 1850.