

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE
YEAR 1897-98.



BOSTON:
MUNICIPAL PRINTING OFFICE.
1898:

OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER,
BRISTOL STREET, BOSTON, February 17, 1893.

HIS HONOR JOSIAH QUINCY, *Mayor* :

SIR : Good fortune during the past year has enabled this department to again present a satisfactory showing ; and for how many years such fortune should have all credit for small fire losses I do not pretend to judge ; but there must be a point at which eternal vigilance and activity, good generalship, zealous leaders and anxious followers and an excellent and entirely successful system for receiving and transmitting alarms, together with thorough equipment and appliance for fire duty may claim at least a small share of credit for favorable results. But with all the vigilance, discipline and equipment possible, we cannot hope to long retain our present record when citizens keep hot ashes in wooden barrels, or delay in giving us alarms until after they have let a small blaze grow to an incipient conflagration through their vain efforts to perform their own fire fighting ; or while real estate owners can legally build tinder boxes in the shape of tenement houses, or leave old wooden fire-traps standing in the midst of large and valuable buildings ; for some day, with bad luck and weather, we are sure to find ourselves burdened with heavy fire loss, unless our law-makers eradicate the existing evils, which may, at any time, postpone to the far future that millennium for underwriters which every fire department should strive to establish. The wooden camps pitched in some of our outskirts, as well as much of South Boston, offer a tempting harvest for fire, and cannot fail to be gathered as soon as the conditions of wind and weather are favorable, in spite of all possible firemen and fire apparatus.

The so-called fire-limit should, I think, be speedily drawn far beyond its present line in order to bring within the restriction of the building law that territory which at present

is treated as a country district, and in reality is fast becoming a terror to all firemen.

Nothing has knowingly been left undone which could increase the efficiency of this department or make the houses more healthy, serviceable and comfortable for the men; and now a veterinary hospital is our only crying want, the old barn at present used for that purpose being the one spot in our whole outfit not suitable for the important work required of it; and I strongly recommend an additional ladder-truck for that part of our territory now covered by Engines 38, 39, on Congress street, for the reason that many large buildings have been erected in that vicinity, which, in case of need, would require nearer ladder service than at present afforded.

The fire-boat (Engine 31) has not yet been accepted, because she requires, in my opinion, some change in her engines to enable her to successfully cope with that class of fires which requires speed and quick handling; and, therefore, the time for her completion has been extended to May.

The underground 12-inch pipe for the salt water system has been laid for 3,800 feet through Congress street, Post Office square and Central street, still requiring some 300 feet at a cost of about \$7,500 to connect it at each end with the water where the fire-boats are expected to provide the power necessary to force water through the various hydrants to a height equal to or beyond that attained by a street engine.

Our two (2) horseless propellers have given very satisfactory proof of their ability to move speedily and handily through all conditions of streets, as well as of their power to throw extraordinary streams of water after reaching the scene of action.

No fire-alarm box has failed to properly send in the alarm to these headquarters; and, while six million five hundred thousand (6,500,000) blows have been struck on the various bells and gongs in transmitting alarms from these headquarters to the different companies, the mechanical and electrical system has worked with such exact precision that no engine or ladder has been at any time seriously at fault in responding.

I know of no case where the officers and men have not done excellent work when called upon, and trust Your Honor shares my confidence that, barring accidents and making allowance for the fallibility of man, our department will continue to deserve the good-will of our fellow-citizens, which, during the past week, has been made so apparent through the sympathy and help extended by them to the families of our six men who lost their lives while on duty at the recent fire in Merrimac street.

ORGANIZATION.

Commissioner, HENRY S. RUSSELL, appointed January 21, 1895; term expires May, 1898.

Secretary, BENJAMIN F. UNDERHILL, JR.

Chief of Department, LEWIS P. WEBBER, Headquarters, Bristol street.

Assistant Chief, WILLIAM T. CHESWELL, Headquarters, Engine-house 26, Mason street.

Second Assistant Chief and Chief of District No. 6, JOHN A. MULLEN, Headquarters, Engine-house 1, Dorchester street.

Superintendent of Fire Alarms, BROWN S. FLANDERS.

Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarms, CYRUS A. GEORGE.

Consulting Electrician, HENRY F. COTTLE.

Superintendent of Repair Shop, HENRY M. HAWKINS.

Assistant Superintendent of Repair Shop, EUGENE M. BYINGTON.

Veterinary Surgeon, GEORGE W. STIMPSON.

Medical Examiner, RUFUS W. SPRAGUE.

Purchasing Officer, CHARLES A. STRAW.

Storekeeper, GEORGE R. KNIGHT.

CLERKS.

Wm. E. Delano, M. J. Lafferty, Geo. F. Murphy, James P. Maloney.

D. J. Quinn, *Messenger*.

District Chiefs.

John F. Ryan,	Headquarters,	Ladder-house 2.
C. H. W. Pope,	"	" 9.

Joseph M. Garrity, Headquarters,	Ladder-house	8.
Peter F. McDonough, "	Engine-house	4.
Nathan L. Hussey, "	"	26.
Patrick E. Keyes, "	"	3.
John Grady, "	Ladder-house	12.
Edward H. Sawyer, "	"	4.
Williston A. Gaylord, "	Engine-house	18.
George F. Griffin, "	"	41.
Lewis P. Abbott, "	"	28.

FORCE AND PAY-ROLL.

Commissioner	\$5,000	per annum.
Secretary	2,400	"
Chief of Department	3,500	"
First Assistant Chief	2,400	"
Second " " " "	2,200	"
Superintendent of Fire Alarms	3,200	"
Assistant Supt. " " " "	2,000	"
Consulting Electrician	800	"
Superintendent of Repair Shop	2,000	"
Assistant Supt. " " " "	1,600	"
Veterinary Surgeon	1,800	"
Medical Examiner	600	"
Purchasing Officer	1,600	"
Storekeeper	1,400	"
2 Clerks	900	"
1 Clerk	1,000	"
1 Clerk	1,300	"
1 Messenger	1,000	"
11 District Chiefs	2,000	"
54 Captains	1,600	"
62 Lieutenants	1,400	"
43 Engineers	1,300	"
46 Assistant Engineers	1,200	"
454 Permanent men:		
297 at	1,200	"
39 "	1,100	"
52 "	1,000	"
37 "	900	"
29 "	720	"
92 Call men:		
1 at	325	"
26 "	250	"
65 "	200	"
1 Driver for Chief of Department	1.95	per day.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

2 Drivers for Assistant Chiefs	1.75	per day.
10 Drivers for District Chiefs	1.75	"
2 Watchmen	1,000	per annum.
2 Hostlers, average	2.10	per day.

FIRE ALARM FORCE.

6 Operators	\$1,600	per annum.
2 Assistant Operators	1,200	"
1 Foreman of Construction	1,800	"
1 Dynamo man	2.00	per day.
18 Repairers, average	2.83	"

REPAIR SHOP EMPLOYEES.

1 Engineer	\$3.00	per day.
1 Assistant Engineer	9.00	per annum.
1 Harness-maker	4.00	per day.
2 Painters, average	3.12	"
2 Wheelwrights, average	3.25	"
6 Machinists, average	3.17	"
4 Blacksmiths, average	3.19	"
2 Blacksmiths' helpers, average	2.50	"
4 Laborers	1.94	"

849 Total force.

FIRE DISTRICTS.

The city is divided into twelve fire districts, as follows:

District 1.

All that part of Boston known as East Boston.

District 2.

All that part of Boston formerly known as Charlestown.

District 3.

The territory bounded on the north and east by the water front, on the south by Summer street, and on the west by Washington and Charlestown streets.

District 4.

The territory bounded on the north by the Charles river, on the east by Charlestown and Washington streets, on the south by Winter, Park and Beacon streets, and on the west by the Charles river and Berkeley street.

District 5.

The territory bounded on the north by Beacon, Park, Winter and Summer streets, on the east by Fort Point channel, on the south and west by Broadway, Way, Motte, Castle and Ferdinand streets, Columbus avenue and Berkeley street.

District 6.

All that part of Boston known as South Boston, and running south as far as Dorset and Locust streets.

District 7.

The territory bounded on the north by Berkeley street, Columbus avenue, Ferdinand, Castle, Motte and Way streets, and Broadway, on the east by Fort Point channel and South bay, on the south by Massachusetts avenue, and on the west by the Charles river.

District 8.

The territory bounded on the north by the Charles river and Massachusetts avenue, on the east by Washington street, on the south by Atherton and Mozart streets, Chestnut avenue, Sheridan and Centre streets, Hyde square, Perkins, Catalpa and Castleton streets, across Jamaica way to the Brookline line, and on the west by the Brookline line, Beacon and Deerfield streets.

District 9.

The territory bounded on the north by Massachusetts avenue, South bay, Dorset and Locust streets, on the east by Dorchester bay, on the south by Freeport, Hancock, Bowdoin, and Quincy streets, Columbia road, and on the west by Seaver street, Columbus avenue and Washington street.

District 10.

That part of Dorchester bounded on the north by Seaver street, Columbia road, Quincy, Bowdoin, Hancock, and Freeport streets, on the east by Dorchester bay, on the south by the Neponset river and the Hyde Park line, and on the west by Harvard street and Blue Hill avenue.

District 11.

All that part of Boston known as Brighton, and extending east as far as Deerfield and Beacon streets.

District 12.

All that part of Boston known as West Roxbury, bounded on the north by a line from the Brookline line across Jamaica way to Castleton street, through Castleton, Catalpa and Perkins streets, Hyde square, Centre and Sheridan streets, Chestnut avenue, Mozart and Atherton streets, Columbus avenue and Seaver street, on the east by Blue Hill avenue and Harvard street, on the south by the Hyde Park and Dedham lines, and on the west by the Newton and Brookline lines.

In all cases where streets are designated as boundaries, the centre of the street will be the dividing line.

ASSIGNMENT OF DISTRICTS.

Each district is placed under the charge of a District Chief, as follows:

District.	Chief in Command.	COMPANIES IN DISTRICTS.					
		Engines.	Chemical Engines.	Hook and Ladders.	Hose.	Combination Companies.	Water Towers.
1.....	John F. Ryan.....	5, 9, 11, 40	7	*2	..	4	
2.....	C. H. W. Pope.....	27, 32, 36	9	*9	3	5	
3.....	Joseph M. Garrity....	8, 25, 44	....	*8, 14	..	..
4.....	Peter F. McDonough..	*4, 6, 10	1, 11	1	..	..	1
5.....	Nathan L. Hussey.....	7, *26, 35	2	17	..	..
6.....	John A. Mullen.....	*1, 2, 15, 38, 39, 43	8	5	..	2, 3	
7.....	Patrick E. Keyes.....	*3, 22, 33	4	3, 13, 15	..	..	2
8.....	John Grady.....	13, 14, 37	3, 12	*12	..	..
9.....	Edward H. Sawyer....	12, 21, 23, 24	10	*4	..	..
10.....	Williston A. Gaylord..	16, 17, *18, 19, 20	....	6, 7	..	1	
11.....	George F. Griffin.....	29, 34, *41	6	11	..	..
12.....	Lewis P. Abbott.....	*28, 30, 42, 45	5	10, 16	..	..

* Headquarters of District Chief.

The following-named members have received medals from the Massachusetts Humane Society for saving life at fires during the year:

Captain John I. Quigley, Engine Company 4.
Hoseman John Hogan, Engine Company 4.
Ladderman James F. Bailey, Ladder Company 17.

The following property is in charge of the Fire Commissioner:

Houses.

Location.	No. of feet in lot.	Occupied by.
Dorchester street.....	5,698	Engine 1.
Corner of O and Fourth streets.....	4,000	Engine 2.
Bristol street and Harrison avenue ..	4,000	Engine 3 and Ladder 3.
Bulfinch street.....	6,008	Engine 4, Chemical 1 and Tower 1.
Marion street, E.B.....	1,647	Engine 5.
Leverett street.....	2,369	Engine 6.
East street.....	1,893	Engine 7.
Salem street.....	2,568	Engine 8.
Paris street, E.B.....	4,720	Engine 9 and Ladder 2.
River street.....	1,886	Engine 10.
Saratoga and Byron streets.....	10,000	Engine 11 and Combination 4.
Dudley street.....	7,320	Engine 12.
Cabot street.....	4,832	Engine 13.
Centre street.....	5,713	Engine 14.
Dorchester avenue.....	2,842	Engine 15.
River street, Dorchester District.....	12,736	Engine 16 and Ladder 6.
Meeting-house Hill, Dorchester Dist..	9,450	Engine 17 and Ladder-house 7 on this lot.
Harvard street, Dorchester District..	10,225	Engine 18.
Norfolk street, " ..	7,683	Engine 19.
Walnut street, " ..	9,000	Engine 20.
Boston street, " ..	9,355	Engine 21.
Dartmouth street.....	4,463	Engine 22.
Northampton street.....	3,445	Engine 23.
Corner Warren and Quincy streets..	4,186	Engine 24.
Fort Hill square.....	4,175	Engine 25, Ladder 8 and Ladder 14.
Mason street.....	5,623	Engine 26 and Engine 35.
Elin street, Charlestown District.....	2,600	Engine 27.
Centre street, West Roxbury District.	10,377	Engine 28 and Ladder 10.
Chestnut Hill ave., Brighton District.	14,358	Engine 29 and Ladder 11.
Mt. Vernon st., W. Roxbury District.	16,275	Engine 30.
Bunker Hill street.....	8,188	Engine 32.
Corner Boylston and Hereford sts....	5,646	Engine 33 and Ladder 15.
Western avenue, Brighton.....	4,637	Engine 34.
Monument street.....	5,668	Engine 36 and Combination 5.

Houses.—Concluded.

Location.	No. of feet in lot.	Occupied by.
Cor. Longwood and Brookline aves..	5,400	Engine 37 and Chemical 3.
Congress street.....	4,000	Engine 38 and Engine 39.
Summer street, East Boston.....	4,010	Engine 40.
Harvard avenue, near Cambridge st., Brighton District.....	6,112	Engine 41 and Chemical 6.
Washington street, between Atherton and Beethoven.....	3,848	Engine 42 and Chemical 5.
Andrew square.....	5,133	Engine 43 and Combination 3.
Poplar street, cor. Washington, West Roxbury.....	14,729	Engine 45 and Ladder 16.
Church street.....	3,412	Chemical Engine 2.
Shawmut avenue.....	889	Chemical Engine 4.
Chelsea street, East Boston.....	1,346	Chemical Engine 7.
B street.....	1,804	Chemical Engine 8.
Eustis street.....	1,754	Chemical Engine 10.
North Grove street.....	3,918	Chemical Engine 11.
Winthrop street.....	3,000	Hose 3.
Friend street.....	1,676	Ladder 1.
Dudley street.....	3,923	Ladder 4.
Fourth street.....	2,469	Ladder 5.
Main street, Charlestown.....	4,290	Ladder 9 and Chemical 9.
Tremont street.....	4,350	Ladder 12 and Chemical 12.
Washington, near Dover street.....	1,007	Ladder 13.
Harrison avenue.....	2,134	Ladder 17.
Dorchester avenue, Ashmont.....	4,875	Combination 1.
Fourth street.....	3,101	Combination 2.

Fuel-house, Dorchester street, 1,610 feet of land.

Fuel-house, Salem street, 417 feet of land.

Fuel-house, Main street, Charlestown, 2,430 feet of land.
Headquarters Building and Repair-shop, corner of Albany and Bristol streets, 23,663 feet.

Water Tower No. 2 and Wrecking Wagon are in Headquarters Building.

6,874 feet of land on Washington street, Dorchester, purchased as a site for a ladder-house, which is now in process of construction.

12,251 feet of land on Centre street, West Roxbury, purchased as a site for Engine-House 30, which is now in process of construction.

Engine Companies.

No.	Location.	Built by.	Put in Service.	Diameter of Cylinder.	Diameter of Pump.	Stroke.	Second size.
1	Dorchester, near Fourth, S. B.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	April 1, 1890	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	Third
2	Fourth, cor. O. S. B.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Nov., 1890	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	8	First
3	Harrison ave., cor. Bristol.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Feb. 22, 1890	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
4	Enfinch st., E. B.	American Fire Eng. Co.	Feb. 22, 1893	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
5	Marion st., E. B.	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	Nov., 1890	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Second
6	Leverett st., E. B.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	April, 1890	.....	.....	Rotary.	"
7	East st., E. B.	American Fire Eng. Co.	June, 1895	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	First
8	Salem st., E. B.	Manchester Loco. Works.	March 30, 1896	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
9	Paris st., E. B.	Hunnehan & Co.	Oct. 14, 1872	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
10	Mount Vernon, cor. River st., E. B.	Manchester Loco. Works.	March 1, 1882	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
11	Saratoga, cor. Byron st., E. B.	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	April 9, 1873	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
12	Dudley st., E. B.	Manchester Loco. Works.	March 27, 1882	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
13	Cabot st., E. B.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	April 1, 1890	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	7	"
14	Centre st., E. B.	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	Sept. 17, 1870	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	First
15	Dorchester ave. and Broadway.	American Fire Eng. Co.	Feb., 1895	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Second
16	Temple st., Dorchester.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	April 8, 1890	.....	.....	Rotary.	"
17	Merchandise Hill, Dor.	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	July 1, 1889	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
18	Harvard st., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Nov., 1890	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Third
19	Norfolk st., Dorchester.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Dec., 1891	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
20	Walnut st., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Nov., 1890	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
21	Poston st., Dorchester.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Dec., 1893	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
22	Dartmouth st., Dorchester.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	Aug. 7, 1882	.....	.....	Rotary.	"
23	Northampton st., Dorchester.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	Sept. 12, 1890	.....	.....	Rotary.	"
24	Warren, cor. Quincy st., Dorchester.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Feb. 24, 1888	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	Third
25	Fort Hill sq., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Nov., 1896	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

No.	Location.	Built by.	Put in Service.	Diameter of Cylinder.	Diameter of Pump.	Stroke.	Second size.
26	Mason st., Dorchester.	La France Fire Eng. Co.	June, 1895	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	Extra first size.
27	Elm st., Dorchester.	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	July 1, 1872	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Second
28	Centre st., W. Roxbury.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	April 29, 1890	.....	.....	Rotary.	"
29	Chesnut Hill, Dorchester.	Hunnehan & Co.	Jan. 1, 1874	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	"
30	Mount Vernon st., W. Roxbury.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	July 1, 1889	16	9	10	Third
31	(Out of Service) Fire-boat.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	March 28, 1884	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	2 sets of pumps 4,790 gallons.*
32	Bunker Hill st., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Feb. 20, 1888	.....	.....	Rotary.	Second size.
33	Boylston st., Dorchester.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	Dec., 1899	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
34	Western ave., Brighton.	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	Dec., 1899	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
35	Mason st., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Dec., 1899	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Double extra first size.
36	Monument st., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	Dec., 1890	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Third size.
37	Longwood ave., Dorchester.	Manchester Loco. Works.	March, 1896	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Second
38	Congress st., S. B.	Manchester Loco. Works.	June, 1897	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	"
39	Congress st., S. B.	Self Propeller	April 1, 1890	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Double extra first size.
40	Summer st., E. B.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	Aug., 1890	.....	.....	Rotary.	First size.
41	Harvard ave., Brighton.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Feb., 1893	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	Third
42	Eggleston sq., W. Roxbury.	Sisby Mfg. Co.	Feb., 1893	.....	.....	Rotary.	"
43	Andrew sq., S. B.	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	March 8, 1893	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	"
44	India Wharf (Fire-boat).	American Fire Eng. Co.	Aug., 1895	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ H. P.	18 L. P.	10	2 sets of pumps 6,520 gallons.*
45	Poplar st., W. Roxbury.	American Fire Eng. Co.	Jan., 1895	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	Third size.

*At 225 revolutions per minute.

In Reserve.

No.	Location.	Built by.	Put in Service.	Diameter of Cylinder.	Stroke.	Second size.
A Old 8	Freeman & Inghet	April 28, 1869	7 1/2	4 1/2	"
B Old 10	Amoskeag Mfg Co.	Feb., 1870	7 1/2	4 1/2	"
C Old 11	Mancheater Loco Works.	Dec., 1870	6 1/2	4 1/2	"
D Old 17 (Crane neck)	Mancheater Loco Works.	May, 1880	6 1/2	4 1/2	"
E Old 4 (Straight frame)	Amoskeag Mfg. Co.	Nov., 1867	7 1/2	4 1/2	"
F Old 25	Silsby Mfg. Co.	July, 1884	.....	Rotary.	"
G Old 35	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Nov., 1890	9	5 1/2	First
H Old 37	Mancheater Loco Works.	July, 1867	7 1/2	4 1/2	Second
I Old 35	Clapp & Jones Mfg. Co.	Aug., 1890	9	5 1/2	First

Engine 31, "Old Fire boat" at Brook's Wharf, East Boston, to receive changes in engine and wheel.

Chemical Companies.

Number.	Location.	Builders.	Put in Service.	Weight as drawn to Fire.	Capacity.
1	Bulfinch street	Charles T. Holloway	Nov. 9, 1893.	Lbs. 4,500	Gals. 100
2	Church street	Babcock Manufacturing Co.	Oct. 4, 1893.	4,500	100
3	Longwood avenue	Babcock Manufacturing Co.	July 27, 1874.	3,720	100
4	Shawmut avenue	Rebuilt by Hinman in 1886.	Used as a spare engine and put in service, Dec. 30, 95.	2,900	100

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

5	Edgerton square	Altered by Hinman	Sept. 21, 1876.	5,130	170
6	Harvard street, Cambridge st., Brighton	"	May 1, 1876.	5,020	100
7	Chelsea street, E. B.	"	Sept. 27, 1886.	3,900	100
8	B street, S. B.	"	Oct. 27, 1887.	5,130	100
9	Main street, Charlestown.	"	July 17, 1880.	2,900	100
10	Eustis street	"	Sept. 13, 1880.	2,900	100
11	North Grove street	Babcock Manufacturing Co.	As chemical 1	5,080	100
12	Tremont street	Charles T. Holloway	Oct. 4, 1890.	3,000	80

In Reserve — Old Chemical 2. Builders, Babcock Manufacturing Co. Weight as drawn to Fire, 5,500 lbs. Capacity, 100 gals. 100

Hose Company.

Number.	Location.	Built by.	Put in Service.	Weight as drawn to Fire.
3	Winthrop street, Charlestown.	Amoskeag Manufacturing Co.	Sept. 13, 1888.	Lbs. 2,830

In Reserve — 7 hose wagons; 4 old hose carriages.

Ladder Companies.

Number.	Location.	Builders.	Put in Service.	Weight as drawn to Fires.	Number of Ladders.
1	Warren square	Abbott-Downing Co.	December 20, 1890.	Lbs. 8,800	12
2	Paris street, E. B.	"	April 20, 1891.	9,805	12
3	Harrison ave., cor. Bristol st.	"	June 2, 1886.	9,535	22
4	Dudley street, Highland District.	La France Fire-Engine Co., Elmira, N. Y.	April 25, 1884.	8,365	Hayes Extension.
5	Fourth street, near Dorchester.	Hunneman & Co.	March 3, 1870.	6,050	17
6	Temple street, Dorchester.	"	August 18, 1873.	6,043	19
7	Meeting-House Hill.	Freeman and Juckett.	January, 1869.	6,560	14
8	Fort Hill square	Abbott & Downing	January 30, 1872.	9,585	14
9	Main street, Charlestown.	Leverich & Co., N. Y.	June 6, 1872.	5,300	13
10	Care street, Ramoth.	Hunneman & Co.	December 21, 1870.	5,400	12
11	Chestnut Hill street, Brighton.	"	April 13, 1872.	8,065	14
12	Tremont street, Highland District	Ryan Bros.	July 31, 1880.	6,850	15
13	Washington street, near Dover.	La France Fire-Engine Co., Elmira, N. Y.	March 12, 1890.	6,800	Hayes Extension.
14	Fort Hill square	Fire Extinguisher Manufacturing Co., Chicago	January 30, 1893.	10,000	Extension.
15	Boylston street	Fire Extinguisher Manufacturing Co., Chicago	April 28, 1888.	10,000	Extension.
16	Roslindale	Repair-shop	September, 1888.	5,400	15
17	Harrison avenue	Preston Co., Chicago.	April 29, 1891.	11,975	Extension. 87 feet.

Ladder Trucks.—In Reserve.

Description.	Builders.	Weight as drawn to Fires.
Relief C, formerly old No 2.		Lbs. 8,375
Relief A, old 3	Hunneman & Co.	
" B, old 8	Repair-shop	
One new	Abbott-Downing Co.	9,535
Old Ladder 11.	Hunneman & Co.	8,065

Combination Companies.

Number.	Location.	Built by.	Put in Service.	Weight as fired, in tons.	Capacity.
1.....	Dorchester avenue, Ashmont.	Charles T. Holloway.....	March, 1892.	<i>Lbs.</i> 5,200	<i>Gals.</i> 70
2.....	Fourth street, S. B.....	" " ".....	May, 1893.	5,250	70
3.....	Andrew square, S. B.....	Fire Extinguisher Manufacturing Co.....	" " Ladder.	6,500	70
4.....	Saratoga, cor. Byron st., E. B.	Charles T. Holloway.....	January, 1898.	6,940	70
5.....	Monument st., Charlestown..	" " ".....	January, 1898.	6,940	70

Water Towers.

Number.	Location.	Builders.	Put in Service.	Weight as drawn to Fires.
1.....	Bulfinch street.....	Kansas City Fire Dept. Supply Co..	May 17, 1890.	<i>Lbs.</i> 10,000
2.....	Bristol street.....	Kansas City Fire Dept. Supply Co..	Dec. 18, 1893.	10,000

NEW APPARATUS PURCHASED DURING THE YEAR.

- 2 double-extra first-size self-propelling steam fire-engines.
- 3 large sized hose-wagons.
- 2 traverse-runner pungs.
- 3 combination chemical and ladder trucks.
- 1 fire-alarm wagon.
- 1 platform gear-wagon.

Hose.

Amount of hose purchased and condemned during the year:

	Purchased.	Condemned.
Leading cotton,	10,400 feet.	12,000 feet.
“ rubber,	4,800 “	1,200 “
Chemical,	— “	400 “
Suction,	68 “	141 “
Totals,	15,268 “	13,741 “

Amount of hose in use and in storehouse, February 1,
1898:

	In Use.	In Storehouse.
Leading cotton,	77,400 feet.	12,250 feet.
“ rubber,	6,450 “	5,200 “
Chemical,	6,750 “	350 “
Suction,	948 “	258 “
Totals,	91,548 “	18,058 “

HORSES.

Purchased during the year	76
Sold or exchanged	33
Died	1
Killed, for cause	5
Number in the department	324

MONTHS.	ALARMS RECEIVED.				Loss.				INSURANCE.		ALARMS.		BUILDINGS.				Wharves, Vessels, Coal and Wood piles, Electric cars, Bunkers, Haulage, etc.						
	From Whom.				Total.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	Fire.	False.	Needless.	Still.	Confined to buildings.	Extended to others.	No damage.		Slight damage.	Considerable damage.	Totally destroyed.	Out of City.		
	Fire patrol.	Members.	Police.	Citizens.																		Automatic.	Unknown.
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16			17	18	19	20	21	22
February.....	1	3	13	88	1	112	\$16,472	\$83,159	\$308,430	\$447,690	55	2	4	51	86	16	29	52	4	1	4		
March.....	1	11	13	109	3	138	17,159	32,416	97,377	286,225	72	2	5	59	102	1	7	36	67	2	4	17	
April.....	4	10	24	131	5	174	55,133	160,320	1,200,213	630,550	76	2	6	90	108	4	14	47	59	9	4	36	
May.....	3	11	7	97	4	124	17,723	39,385	479,500	246,850	53	3	7	61	79	3	13	40	43	3	2	17	
June.....	10	8	23	140	3	186	16,342	18,351	497,245	236,219	72	2	8	104	110	5	11	49	62	6	3	47	
July.....	31	8	33	139	5	210	20,280	13,849	565,449	66,955	68	3	5	134	113	2	11	51	53	9	5	2	74
August.....	3	4	15	90	2	115	11,312	22,428	406,426	262,500	49	1	6	59	91	9	48	40	3	1	8		
September.....	2	7	15	118	6	149	18,055	11,732	685,590	136,500	68	1	5	75	111	3	10	53	61	5	1	19	
October.....	6	3	25	139	8	173	21,632	18,093	1,119,840	241,108	79	1	10	85	116	4	16	52	68	4	2	3	23
November.....	2	7	24	87	6	130	18,171	59,180	783,750	320,960	58	3	9	60	79	4	18	38	40	9	1	2	15
December.....	1	6	16	157	8	192	40,314	39,307	1,019,400	328,000	95	4	6	87	148	2	25	57	83	10	2	1	7
January.....	3	11	21	128	11	174	37,920	26,575	937,600	984,000	82	1	8	84	127	1	36	50	89	8	2	1	11
Totals.....	67	89	229	1,465	68	19	\$1,877	\$390,924	\$4,575,501	\$3,555,397	827	24	79	947	290	176	1,300	117	72	20	21	275	

Causes of Fires and Alarms, from February 1, 1897, to February 1, 1898.

Alarms, accidental, automatic	41
" false	24
" out-of-town	21
Ashes, hot, in wooden receptacle	26
Back draft	1
Boiling over of tar or fat	30
Bonfires, grass, rubbish, etc.	278
Careless use of lamps, candles, etc.	51
" " pipe and cigars	36
Chimneys, soot burning	70
" defective	27
Clothes too near stove	16
Defective flue	8
" stove-pipe	9
" grate	3
" furnace	2
" sprinkler	1
Electric motor igniting car	25
" wires	78
Explosion and ignition of chemicals	16
Fireworks	35
Friction	4
Fumigating	3
Gas, explosion of	5
" ignition of leaky pipes	8
" jet setting fire	44
" stove, careless use of and explosion	14
Incendiary	38
" supposed	18
Kerosene lamp, explosion or breaking	91
" upsetting	37
" stove, careless use of, and explosion	59
Light mistaken for fire	20
Lightning	1
Matches, and rats	26
" careless use of	94
" children playing with	51
Naphtha, careless use of and ignition	12
Overheated stove or furnace	64
" steam-pipe or boiler	15
" chimneys	6
Use of kerosene to light fire	5
Drying plastering	12

Rekindling of ruins of previous fire	4
Slacking of lime	7
Smoky chimney	49
“ furnace or stove	41
Sparks from another fire	2
“ “ furnace or stove	11
“ “ chimney	26
“ “ locomotive	33
“ “ forge	8
Spontaneous combustion	40
Steam escaping	8
Unknown	219
Water-pipes, thawing out	17
Plumbers' stove upsetting	7
Total	1,877

Total number of actual fires	1,577
Confined to one building	1,270
Extended to others	29
Wharves, vessels, grass, etc.	278
Out of the city	21

BUILDINGS.

Slightly damaged	717
Considerably damaged	72
Totally destroyed	20
Not damaged	530

EXTINGUISHED BY

Extinguishers	355
Buckets of water	260
Chemical engines	237
Hydrant stream	165
Steamers	278
Police	7
Citizens	275
Total	1,577

FIRE-ALARM BRANCH.

The efficiency of the overhead service has been improved during the past year by the construction of a new circuit in West Roxbury, with which a portion of the boxes in that district have been connected. There were used for this work, including some renewals and extensions in other parts of the city, 129,360 feet of wire. Old wire taken down in 1897, underground district, 67,380 feet; outside district, 93,050 feet.

The underground district for 1897, as prescribed by the Commissioner of Wires, lies within the lines of the following streets:

Beginning at Warren bridge, along Charlestown street to Washington, Hanover, Court, Tremont, Park, Beacon, Joy and Cambridge streets to Charles river.

All work within this district was practically completed in the time designated, and in addition to this nearly as much cable has been laid outside, chiefly on Tremont street, south of Dover street, and in some streets on the Back Bay.

The cables used have been from ten to thirty-seven conductors, and are laid in ducts belonging to the New England Telephone Company, with the exception of 4,911 feet, which are owned by this department.

Total length of cables laid in district	13,016.4 feet.
Length of conductors	365,621.5 “
Cables laid outside district	12,876.1 “
Length of conductors	246,736.4 “
Total length cables now underground	107,125.5 “
Total length conductors	3,527,988.9 “

The underground service has been extended to thirty-eight boxes, twenty of which are placed on lamp-posts, two department houses, two police stations, and an emergency station of the Boston Elevated Railway Company, on Portland street. Eight testing stations have been established, four manholes built and forty-one service connections made, twenty-two of the latter being done outside the district.

All the fire-alarm boxes north of Dover and Berkeley streets are now connected with the underground service, with the exception of boxes 95 and 766. There have been 966

bell alarms given during the year which required 6,506,684 blows to be struck by the various apparatus of the system. Nineteen new boxes have been established, making a total of 601 boxes now in service.

The following boxes are private property: 38 duplicate, 115, 119, 149, 152, 161, 165, 227, 228, 244, 271, 279, 281, 283, 299, 358, 422, 442, 443, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 511, 533, 617, 619, 623, 624, 626, 629, 698, 711, 714, 715, 716, 718, 722, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 733, 735, 737, 738, 739, 741, 742, 744, 745, 746, 766, 769, 778, 779, 789, 791, 792, 793, 794, 797, 799, 816, 836, 838, 842, 864, 865, 919, 927, 967, 971, 974.

ALARM BELLS.

The Fire-alarm Telegraph is connected with the following bells:

Adams School-house, Sumner street, East Boston, steel, 2,995 lbs., owned by city.
Bunker Hill School-house, Charlestown, 2,009 lbs., owned by city.
Chapman School-house, Eutaw street, East Boston, steel, 3,109½ lbs., owned by city.
City Hall, Charlestown, composition, 3,600 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 16, Temple street, Dorchester, composition, 4,149 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 17, Meeting-House Hill, Dorchester, composition, 4,000 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 18, Harvard street, Dorchester, composition, 3,184 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 19, Mattapan, Dorchester, composition, 2,927 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 20, Walnut street, Dorchester, composition, 3,061 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 21, Boston street, Dorchester, composition, 3,026 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 28, West Roxbury, composition, 4,000 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 29, Brighton, steel, 1,535 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 30, West Roxbury, 300 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 34, Brighton, composition, 1,501 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 40, Orleans street, East Boston, composition, 817 lbs., owned by city.

Engine-house No. 41, Allston, composition, 900 lbs., owned by city.
Engine-house No. 45, Roslindale, composition, 1,059 lbs., owned by city.
Faneuil Hall, steel, 5,816 lbs., owned by city.
Lewis School-house, Dale street, Boston Highlands, composition, 3,104 lbs., owned by city.
Maverick-street Church, East Boston, composition, 2,000 lbs.
Princeton-street School-house, East Boston, composition, 2,470 lbs., owned by city.
Saratoga-street M. E. Church, East Boston, steel, 1,968 lbs., owned by city.
Warren School-house, Charlestown, composition, 3,000 lbs., owned by city.
Winthrop School-house, Charlestown, composition, 3,000 lbs., owned by city.

Bells owned by the city, which have been disconnected from service, are located as follows:

Fire-alarm repair shop, bell formerly used on house of Chemical Engine 5; one composition, 400 lbs., formerly used on house of Chemical Engine No. 4; one composition, 400 lbs., formerly used on house of Chemical Engine No. 6; and two small bells from other locations.
Engine-house No. 1, Dorchester street, South Boston, composition, 800 lbs.
Engine-house No. 2, composition, 800 lbs.
George-street School-house, Boston Highlands, composition, 4,160 lbs.
Hook-and-Ladder-House, No. 4, Dudley street, Boston Highlands, composition, 3,509 lbs.
Lawrence School-house, B street, South Boston, steel, 3,400 lbs.
Lincoln School-house, Broadway, South Boston, composition, 3,110 lbs.
Quincy School-house, Tyler street, composition, 2,941 lbs.
Smith-street School-house, Highlands, composition, 4,083 lbs.
Ticknor School-house, Dorchester street, Washington Village, steel, 2,995 lbs.
Trinity Church, Trenton street, East Boston, composition, 1,760 lbs. Formerly used on Castle-street Church.
Van Nostrand's Brewery, Charlestown, composition, 818 lbs. Formerly used on Boylston School-house.
Wells School-house, Blossom street, composition, 1,675 lbs.

PUBLIC CLOCKS.

The following public clocks, thirty-nine in number, are taken care of by the Fire Department:

City Proper.

Arlington-street Church.
 Charles-street Church.
 Christ Church, Salem street, owned by city.
 Commercial Wharf.
 Odd Fellows Hall, Tremont street, owned by city.
 Old South Church, owned by city.
 Old State-House, owned by city.
 Park-street Church.
 Suffolk County Jail, owned by city.
 St. Stephen's Church, corner Hanover and Clark streets, owned by city.
 Shawmut-avenue Church.
 Tremont M. E. Church, owned by city.
 Young Men's Christian Union, owned by city.

South Boston.

Bigelow School-house, owned by city.
 Gaston School-house, owned by city.
 Lincoln School-house, owned by city.
 Phillips Church, owned by city.
 St. Augustine Church, Dorchester street, owned by city.
 Ticknor School-house, Washington Village, owned by city.

East Boston.

Central Square Church.
 London-street Church, owned by city.
 Lyceum Hall, owned by city.
 Trinity Church, owned by city.
 Orient Heights Church, owned by city.

Roxbury.

Winthrop-street Church, owned by city.
 West End stables, Tremont street, owned by city.

Dorchester.

Baker Memorial (Upham's Corner), owned by city.
 Neponset Church.

Tileston School (Mattapan), owned by city.
 Unitarian Church (Milton Lower Mills).

Charlestown.

Bunker Hill Church.
 City Hall, owned by city.
 Harvard Hill Church.
 High School-house, owned by city.
 Unitarian Church.

West Roxbury.

Dr. Strong's Church.
 Unitarian Church.
 Congregational Church (Roslindale), owned by city.

Brighton.

Bennett School-house, owned by city.

Your obedient servant,

HENRY S. RUSSELL,
Commissioner.