

AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS'

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON AND THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,  
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS,

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1 8 7 2 - 7 3.

(No. 61 OF THE SERIES.)

---

MAY 1, 1872, TO APRIL 30, 1873.

(BOTH INCLUDED.)

---

CITY DOCUMENT.—NO. 79.

BOSTON:

ROCKWELL & CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS,  
122 WASHINGTON STREET.  
1873.

The great fire which visited the City of Boston on the night of the 9th of November, 1872, proved to be an awful calamity, destroying the heaviest business portion of our city, which embraced nearly all the wholesale and jobbing Dry Goods and commission houses, together with the Boot and Shoe and Wool commission houses; also a large number of Iron and Steel warehouses, Banks, Insurance offices and newspaper establishments. The fire commenced in a four-story granite, dry-goods warehouse, numbered 83, 85 and 87 Summer street, corner of Kingston street, about quarter past seven o'clock on Saturday evening, and the flames spread with fearful rapidity to the surrounding buildings, and were not subdued until the next day about noon, having destroyed all the buildings embraced within the district bounded by Summer, easterly side of Washington street, Milk street, all but the northerly side between Washington street and the new post office building, Devonshire street, Water street, both sides between Devonshire street and Liberty square, except the Boston Post newspaper building, Congress street to Lindall, Lindall street, Kilby street, Oliver street, southerly side of Oliver street to the water front on the harbor. The amount of property destroyed can safely be set down at \$75,000,000 — a vast amount in a compact space embracing an area of sixty-five acres. The whole number of buildings destroyed was 776, of which 709 were brick and stone, and 67 of wood. Fourteen lives were lost, of whom seven were firemen. The amount paid for refreshments, sleeping apartments, and feeding horses for the military, and refreshments for the firemen and police, in consequence of this fire, was, for the Military, \$29,858.87; Firemen, \$13,100.38; Police, \$6,202.97; total, \$49,162.22.

A special session of the Legislature of the State was convened by the Governor at the request of the City Council, by reason of this fire, and among the acts of said special session was one giving authority to the city to loan to

the owners of land on the burnt district, for the purpose of enabling them to rebuild, sums not to exceed in the total \$20,000,000, and another amending the act in relation to the erection of new buildings, so as to ensure a greater security from fire.

Messrs. William Gray, Otis Norcross, and J. G. Abbott were appointed commissioners under the act before mentioned, with authority to loan upon first mortgage to the owners of land, the buildings upon which were burnt by the fire of Nov. 9th and 10th.

The commissioners duly organized by the choice of William Gray as chairman, and Geo. P. Lovering as secretary, and commenced receiving applications for loans, the City Council having authorized a loan of \$5,000,000 in conformity to the aforesaid act, when the Supreme Judicial Court was asked by a petition signed by ten legal voters to grant an injunction against the issuing of the loan for the purposes set forth in the aforesaid act. The injunction was temporarily granted, and after a hearing before the full bench of said Court, Hons. B. R. Curtis and J. G. Abbott making arguments in favor of the constitutionality of the act, and the Hon. Dwight Foster, in behalf of the petitioners, against its constitutionality, the Court granted a perpetual injunction, on the ground of the act being against the provisions of the constitution. The expenses incurred by the commissioners, viz., \$1,362.69, and \$3,000 for payment of the services of the counsel, were paid by order of the City Council. No salaries have been paid to the Commissioners.

The City Council concurred with the Board of Street Commissioners in a system of widening streets on the burnt district, involving an expenditure of \$5,000,000, and authorized the borrowing of that amount for this purpose, which has been obtained in a sterling loan through the Messrs. Baring Bros. & Co., of London, the particulars in relation to which are given in the remarks which follow pertaining to the indebtedness of the city. The new post office and sub-treasury building is to be extended to Congress street, there fronting on a square laid out by the city bounded by Pearl

street, extended to Water street, Milk, Water, and Congress streets.

The rebuilding on the burnt district has been commenced in earnest, and the indications are that within a year it will be largely built over with handsome, more substantial, durable and secure warehouses on greatly improved avenues, and Boston will again present its wonted business appearance, with the loss in the valuation of its property soon repaired, and again enter upon another career of prosperity.

Since writing the preceding remarks our city has been visited by another destructive fire, occurring on the morning of May 30th last. It broke out in the rear part of Haley, Morse & Co.'s extensive five-story Furniture Warehouse No. 411 Washington street, consumed the building with direful rapidity, and communicated the flames to the surrounding structures, crossed Washington street to Essex street, destroying some thirty buildings, among which were the Globe Theatre, Chauncy Hall (private) School-house, Chickering's Pianoforte Warehouse (not their factory), burning over some two acres of ground, with a loss of property of fully one million dollars. Of the parties burned out ten were burnt out by the great fire of Nov. 9, 1872. This has added, in a short space of a little over six months, another burden for our people to bear, and struck another blow at our prosperity; but we feel convinced that the city will not suffer financially in consequence of it but a short time, as the same indomitable energy heretofore manifested by our citizens will enable them to surmount the effects of this second disaster, and the district, just laid waste by the devouring element, will immediately be built over again, as we have before remarked in relation to the rebuilding of the district burnt over Nov. 9, with better and more secure buildings for the purposes of trade.

## EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

	1872-73.	1871-72.
Expenses and Salaries,	\$605,310 90	\$899,249 68
Fire-Alarm Department,	40,507 00	42,768 89
Repairs of Engine Houses,	16,024 35	26,829 98
	<u>\$661,842 25</u>	<u>\$468,848 50</u>

Income, 1872-73, \$2,749 36 ; 1871-72, \$2,472 10.

A new steamboat, named the "William M. Flanders," for the use of the Fire Department on the water line of the city, was placed in service January 1, 1873. She is about 55 tons measurement, 75 feet in length, 15 feet beam and 7 feet in depth. The whole power of the fire-engine machinery on board is represented as equal in capacity to four first-class fire-engines, and with all in action will play eight streams at one time. This machinery was made by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co., and is of the same design as the steam fire engines made by said company. The boat, main engine, propelling machinery and boiler were built by the Atlantic Works, East Boston. Cost of boat, machinery and furniture, \$31,002.39.

### NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

ENGINE HOUSE AND ARMORY OF THE NATIONAL LANCERS.—  
This building, situated on Bulfinch street, Boston, is of brick, with decorations of Concord granite, three finished stories in

height, with a finished Mansard story over, and a cellar beneath the entire building.

It measures  $71\frac{1}{2}$  feet on Bulfinch street,  $89\frac{1}{2}$  feet on the northerly side,  $74\frac{1}{2}$  feet on the westerly, or rear side, and  $87\frac{1}{2}$  feet on the southerly side. The first story is finished  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height, the second story  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet, the third story 18 feet, and the roof story 13 feet at the front, and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet on the rear side. The rear portion of the third story is subdivided into two stories. The first and second stories are divided into three divisions, separated from each other by brick walls, but connected by sliding doors against openings in the walls; the upper division is occupied by Barnicoat Engine No. 4, with the stable in the rear of the first story, and the parlors, bed and bath-rooms in the second story, and a hay-loft at the rear of the same, also separated by a brick cross wall from the front rooms; the middle division is occupied by the Babcock Fire Extinguisher, and General Head-quarters of the Fire Department, with parlor and bedroom in the second story; the lower division is occupied by the Insurance Brigade, there being also a stable in this division. The entrance, vestibule and staircase to the Lancers' Armory is at the extreme lower side on Bulfinch street, is 8 feet in width and connects with the armory, officers' and dressing-room on the second story. Three flights of stairs additional to the last named connect the second story with the first story. The third story is one large hall used as the drill-room of the National Lancers, and has a committee room at each end, in the rear of the hall, and a well-lighted corridor connecting each, the hall and the committee-rooms; over these rooms are also two other rooms of the same size with those below, connected also by a well-lighted corridor, and by staircases to the rooms below, and fitted with dressing rooms; from the corridor projects a balcony extending the entire width of the hall.

The Mansard or upper story is appropriated as a banquet-

ing room, having a kitchen, store-room and usual conveniences. The architect of the building was Joseph R. Richards; the master masons, S. J. & G. Tuttle; master carpenter, Julian O. Mason; painter and fresco-worker, John A. Magee. Cost of land, \$55,000; of building, \$57,774.41. Total, \$112,774.41.

# CITY EXPENDITURES.

## ***Burnt District.***

*Payments on account of widening and extending streets on the "Burnt District" so called. Embracing the territory bounded by Summer, Washington, Milk, Water, Congress, Lindall, Central, Kilby, Oliver and Broad Streets, burnt over on the 9th and 10th of November, 1872.*

Land and other damages, viz.:

Washington street,	\$268,147 00
Arch street—extension,	132,000 00
Summer street,	117,063 00
Oliver and Kilby streets	
—extension,	103,376 00
Federal street,	79,808 00
Devonshire street,	70,156 00
High street,	66,488 00
Lindall street,	49,020 00
Hawley street,	43,450 00
Milk street,	43,366 00

*Carried forward,* \$972,874 00

\$579,858 29

*Brought forward,* \$972,874 00

\$579,858 29

Chauncy street—extension,	42,520 00	
Purchase street,	40,009 00	
Otis street,	26,692 00	
Pearl street,	19,000 00	
Congress street,	5,650 00	
		\$1,106,745 00
Paving—Laborers,	\$411 00	
Street signs, damages by removing walls, and small items,	815 64	
		726 64
Water Works—extending pipes,		12 08

*Total for Burnt District, as per item No. 16 of Treasurer's account,*

1,107,483 72

### ***Engine House No. 4, etc.***

*Balance of payments on account of the building erected on the Smith estate, Bulfinch Street, now occupied by Engine Co. No. 4, Extinguisher and Protective Companies and the Armory of the National Lancers,*

[Total cost of building and land, \$112,774.41.]

Carpenter's contract,	\$21,500 00	
Extra work and material, including sub-contract for additional stable, stairs, water - closets, etc.,	5,154 89	\$26,654 89
Contractors : for masonry contract,	\$23,421 00	
Extra work and material,	733 60	24,154 60
Painting and alterations since occupancy,	2,548 51	
Heating apparatus,	2,089 27	
Gas fixtures,	617 63	
Fuel, ventilator and small items,	212 97	
Architects,	200 00	
Total for Engine House No. 4 etc. as per item No. 31 of Treasurer's account.		56,477 87
Carried forward,		\$2,719,337 01

### ***Engine House No. 12.***

*Payments for a lot of land corner of Dudley and Winslow Streets and on account of erecting thereon an Engine House for Engine Company No. 12,*

Land,	\$9,736 00
Contractor for masonry,	1,000 00
Plans and specifications,	485 00
Advertising and printing,	91 49

*Total for Engine House No. 12, as per item No. 34 of Treasurer's account,*

11,312 49

### ***Engine House, Ward 14.***

*Payments for a lot of land on Warren, corner of Quincy street, and on account of the erection thereon of an Engine House.*

Land,	\$6,452 22
Plans and specifications,	549 35
Advertising and printing,	99 48

*Total for Engine House Ward 14, as per item No. 32 of Treasurer's account,*

7,101 05