

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## FINANCES

OF THE

## TOWN OF DORCHESTER,

FOR THE

Year ending January 31, 1857.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TO THE SELECTMEN OF DORCHESTER.

GENTLEMEN: I herewith present the Eighth 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, 1857; also the amount of loss and insurance as far as has been ascertained, together with an inventory of the property of the town in charge of each engine company, May 1, 1856; 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, ISAAC W. HART, EDMUND C. FRUEAN, and SARELL J. WILLIS, *Assistant Engineers.*

There are now six Engine Companies, in commission, viz:

FOUNTAIN Co. No. 1.—Dean M. Swift, *Foreman*; John A. Preston, *Ass't Foreman*; John Robie, *Clerk*; Lorenzo Gurney, *Steward.*

PROTECTOR Co. No. 2.—Thomas M. Marshall, *Foreman*; Henry F. Eaton, *1st Ass't Foreman*; James H. Bird, *2d Ass't Foreman*; Lewis P. Bird, *Clerk*; William Webster, *Steward.*

TORRENT Co. No. 3.—Seth D. Durell, *Foreman*; Henry Fobes, *Ass't Foreman*; George Bridgham, *Clerk*; David Ripley, *Steward.*

ALERT Co. No. 4.—Frank L. Tileston, *Foreman*; Isaac Williams, *Ass't Foreman*; Benjamin F. Wiley, *Clerk*; Peter Cook, *Steward.*

INDEPENDENCE Co. No. 5.—G. A. Spear, *Foreman*; N. W. Holt, *Ass't Foreman*; E. W. Harding, *Clerk*; I. H. Fish, *Steward.*

TIGER Co. No. 6.————, *Foreman*; Andrew Sumner, *2d Foreman*; Harding Rich, *3d Foreman*; Daniel W. Baker, *Clerk*; Theodore Hersey, *Steward.*

The department has the past year been called out 47 times by alarms of fire; 13 times by fires in this town, 22 times by fires out of town, 12 times by false alarms, for various causes.

The following is a table of the fires and alarms; also of the owners or occupants of buildings burned; the estimated loss of property by fire in this town; and the insurance thereon, as far as ascertained.

A Table of the Fires and Alarms from Feb. 1, 1856, to Feb. 1, 1857.

1856.	O'Clock.	Location, etc.	Owner or Occupant.	Loss.	Insurance.	Causes, etc.
Feb. 20	7 1/2 P. M.	Machine Shop, South Boston,	H. Loring,			Accidental.
" 24	10 P. M.	Quincy,				Unknown.
" 27	8 P. M.	Unoccupied house on Adams street,	L. P. Haskell,	4,000 00	3,700 00	Accidental.
March 3	10 P. M.	Rope-Walk, South Boston,				Accidental.
" 4	8 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
" 10	9 1/2 P. M.	House and Barn in Quincy,	Mr. Madigan,		240 00	Accidental.
" 19	8 P. M.	Barn on Hancock Street,	J. W. Trull,	350 00		Accidental.
April 11	7 1/2 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
" 12	9 P. M.	Gerrish Market, Boston,				Accidental.
" 13	11 A. M.	Alarm from Quincy,				Unknown.
May 7	1 1/2 P. M.	House on Brush Hill Turnpike,	Mr. Bangs,	4,000 00		Accidental.
" 11	1 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
" 13	3 A. M.	Shanty on Cedar Street,	William McFarland,	1,000 00	175 00	Accidental.
" 18	10 1/2 P. M.	Brush, near Centre Street,				Accidental.
" 19	7 A. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
" 21	7 A. M.	Planning Mill, Boston,				Unknown.
" 27	6 A. M.	Stable and Shed, Bowdoin Street,	Moses Draper,	500 00		Accidental.
June 10	8 P. M.	Chimney Burning, River Street,				Accidental.
" 18	8 1/2 P. M.	Land Works, South Boston,	J. W. Crafts,			Unknown.
July 2	9 1/2 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
" 7	7 1/2 P. M.	Jeweler's Shop, Milton,	Mr. Sharp,			Burning Shavings.
" 17	9 P. M.	Alarm from Quincy,				Unknown.

1856.	O'Clock.	Location, etc.	Owner or Occupant.	Loss.	Insurance.	Causes, etc.
July 23	3 1/2 A. M.	Bone Dust Factory, Roxbury,				Unknown.
" 23	9 1/2 P. M.	Alarm from Quincy,				Unknown.
" 28	9 1/2 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
Aug. 6	10 1/2 P. M.	Varnish Factory, Willow Court,	King, Dexter & Co.,	250 00		Accidental.
" 8	11 1/2 P. M.	Alarm from Quincy,				Unknown.
" 13	11 1/2 P. M.	Stable in Roxbury,				Accidental.
" 15	1 P. M.	Stable, Neponset Village,	Calab Hill,	200 00	150 00	Accidental.
" 24	5 A. M.	Barn, &c., on Washington Street,	Richard Wall,	1,200 00		Accidental.
" 27	8 P. M.	Brush at Squantum,				Accidental.
" 28	8 P. M.	Barn at South Weymouth,				Accidental.
" 28	11 1/2 P. M.	Sugar Refinery, Doshan,				Accidental.
Sep. 3	11 1/2 P. M.	Cabinet Shop, River Street,	Tileston & Hollingsworth			Unknown.
" 6	7 P. M.	Brush in Quincy,				Unknown.
" 15	4 A. M.	Alarm from Roxbury,				Unknown.
" 21	9 1/2 P. M.	Stable, Exchange Street,	Isaac Field & Co.,	3,000 00	2,000 00	Unknown.
" 30	2 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
Nov. 8	7 1/2 P. M.	Woods in Milton				Unknown.
" 15	1 P. M.	Barn, Cottage Street,	Mrs. A. J. Gardner,	400 00		Unknown.
" 18	8 1/2 P. M.	False Alarm,				Unknown.
" 25	1 A. M.	Fire in Braintree,				Unknown.
Dec. 15	9 P. M.	Fire in Milton (House),				Unknown.
" 20	11 1/2 P. M.	House, Port Norfolk,	John Costaine,	2,200 00	1,500 00	Accidental.
1857. Jan. 17	10 1/2 P. M.	Fire in Cambridge,				Unknown.
" 25	3 1/2 A. M.	Engine House, Meeting House Hill,	Protector Engine Co. 2,	2,000 00		Accidental.
" 26	3 1/2 A. M.	House, West Roxbury,	Mr. Bowditch,	\$18,200 00	\$7,765 00	Unknown.

On the morning of January 18th, last, the Engine House of Protector Co. No. 2, together with the Engine and Apparatus belonging to the Town of Dorchester, in charge of that company, and also a valuable amount of property belonging to the Co. was destroyed by fire, accidentally caused, it is believed, by fire left in a stove in the house, the company having been called out a few hours previous, by an alarm of fire in Cambridge. The large and increasing amount of property in the vicinity of the locality, in danger of fire, appears to the Board of Engineers, to require that another engine should be purchased and located in that vicinity. The want of a hook and Ladder Company in the Fire Department, is much felt; and an effort will be made to collect the Hooks and Ladders now distributed in care of the Engine Companies, and with some additions, and necessary repairs to the carriage, it is hoped that a Company may be obtained to take charge and manage them.

The several Engines and Apparatus of the Department is in good order and ready for instant use.

The expenditures for the Fire Department, have somewhat exceeded the appropriation made by the town, but have been, it is believed, judiciously and necessarily made.

A system of Fire Alarms has been adopted by the Board, and a strict compliance by the several Companies thereto required, which it is believed will put a stop to unnecessary alarms for fires out of this town, and the many false alarms.

The amount of expenditures under the direction of the Board of Engineers, for repairs of Engines, houses, new hose, &c., &c., has been \$2,198 72.

Total expenditures on account of Fire Department the past year, \$2,995 72.

The Foreman and Clerk of each Engine Company, is required on or before the first day of May in each year, to make and return to the Chief Engineer, an Inventory of all the property belonging to the Town, in their charge. The following is an account of the Inventories received May 1, 1855, viz:

*Fountain Company No. 1.*—Engine House, Engine No. 1.

1. One hose carriage, 50 feet suction hose, about 400 feet leading hose, 4 buckets, 2 axes, 4 pipes, 2 torches, 1 signal lantern, 2 other lanterns, 1 oil can, 2 side lamps, 1 hand lamp, 1 lamp filler, lamp shears, 6 settees, 5 chairs, 1 table, 1 looking glass, 2 pails, 2 wash bowls, 2 dippers, 2 stoves, 1 wash boiler, one wrench, 1 wheel jack, 1 fire hook, 2 ladders, 48 badges, 20 keys.

*Protector Co. No. 2.*—Engine House, Engine No. 2. One hose carriage, 34 feet suction hose, 275 feet leading hose, 4

buckets, 2 axes, 3 pipes, 13 spanners, 8 belts, 6 hose straps, 1 torch, 1 signal lantern, 1 other lantern, 2 oil and fluid cans, 4 side lamps, 1 lamp feeder, 8 settees, 4 chairs, 1 table, 1 looking glass, 1 pail, 4 tin pans, 1 wash bowl, 50 dippers, 1 stove, 1 cauldron, 1 wash boiler, 1 wrench, 1 wheel jack, 1 fire hook, 40 badges, 15 keys, 50 spoons, 2 tin pails.

*Torrent Co. No. 3.*—Engine House, Engine No. 3. One hose carriage, 36 feet suction hose, 300 feet leading hose, 4 buckets, 2 axes, 4 pipes, 14 spanners, 8 belts, 2 torches, 1 signal lantern, 2 other lanterns, 2 oil and fluid cans, 6 side lamps, 2 hand lamps, 1 lamp feeder, lamp shears, 6 settees, 4 chairs, 1 table, 1 looking glass, 1 wash boiler, 1 wrench, 1 wheel jack, 1 fire hook, 40 badges, 40 keys, coal and bark, 1 broom, 1 brush.

*Alert Co. No. 4.*—Engine House, Engine No. 4. One hose carriage, 28 feet suction hose, 400 feet leading hose, 4 buckets, 2 axes, 4 pipes, 10 spanners, 7 belts, 4 hose straps, 2 coupling screws, 2 torches, 1 signal lantern, 4 other lanterns, 2 oil and fluid cans, 9 side lamps, 1 hand lamp, 8 settees, 1 stove, 1 cauldron, 1 wrench, 1 fire hook, 1 ladder.

*Independence Co. No. 5.*—Engine House, Engine No. 5. One hose carriage, 37 feet suction hose, 350 feet leading hose, 4 buckets, 2 axes, 3 pipes, 12 spanners, 6 belts 2 coupling screws, 1 signal lantern, 2 other lanterns, 2 oil and fluid cans, 2 hand lamps, 1 lamp filler, lamp shears, 6 settees, 3 chairs, 1 table, 1 looking glass, 2 tin pans, 42 dippers, 2 stoves, 1 cauldron, 2 wrenches, 1 wheel jack, 1 fire hook, 5 ladders, 1 pump and pipe, 30 badges, 20 keys, 2 shovels.

*Tiger Co. No. 6.*—Engine House, Engine No. 6. Two hose carriages, 36 feet suction hose, 400 feet leading hose, 6 buckets, 2 axes, 3 pipes, 16 spanners, 7 belts, 1 hose strap, 2 coupling screws, 1 torch, 2 signal lanterns, (one being unfit for use,) 3 other lanterns, 2 oil and fluid cans, 2 side lamps, 2 hand lamps, 1 lamp feeder, 8 settees, 3 chairs, 1 table, 1 pail, 1 stove, 2 cauldrons, 2 wrenches, 1 wheel jack, 2 fire hooks, 1 ladder, 1 oil jug, 2 brooms, 1 duster, 1 brush, coal, wood, bark, tin water pot, 1 gal. N. F. oil keg for same, 1 shovel, coal hod, fire pot, 1 set wooden runners, 1 runer, 1 hub runners, copper oil pot, 2 hose ropes.

The whole number of persons who performed all the duty required by law of Enginemen, from May 1, 1855, to May 1, 1856, as per returns received by the Board of Engineers, was 161.

Very Respectfully, Yours,

SYLVESTER H. HEBARD, Chief Engineer.

Dorchester, Feb. 1, 1857.

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

## ENGINE No. 1.

Paid Engine Company, 100 00

Fiske & Crane, services as steward, 25 00

Lorenzo Gurney, " " 25 00

R. F. Tolman, refreshments, oil and fluid, 30 47

Howland & Harding, refreshments, 12 62

J. C. Talbot, " bowls, oil and fluid, 12 32

Edwin B. Bennette, fire pole, 2 50

H. Crane, repairs on engine, 25 13

William Wendemuth, leather, 1 50

Fearing & Co.; manilla, &c., 6 78

George Baynton, repairs, 5 50

D. H. Gilbert, " 2 50

William Tucker, " 1 00

J. A. Tucker, " 1 00

Lorenzo Gurney, " 95

Shelton & Cheever, new hose and repairs, 166 54

Samuel Tileston, varnishing carpet and setting glass, 5 00

Charles Tileston, lanterns and repairs, 8 23

Roulstone & Syfferman, caps, 13 00

Fiske & Crane, use of horses to draw engines to fires, 38 25

John Stacy, for carting, 1 25

\$484 54

## ENGINE No. 2.

Paid Engine Company, 100 00

George H. Barnes, services as steward, 25 00

Paid James H. Bird, services as steward, 12 50

W. A. Webster, " " 12 50

A. & J. H. Upham, refreshments, 29 87

A. D. Swan, " oil and fluid, 38 76

Isaac Field & Co., " " 22 70

J. Whorf, " oil, fluid, &c., 46 20

Howland & Harding, " " 6 00

E. Clapp, Jr., stationery, 3 40

Hunneman & Co., spanner, air chamber and other repairs, 42 85

J. Delano, spanners, &c., 8 00

G. H. Barnes, oil and washer, 7 00

W. A. Webster, shears and milk, 80

I. Turner, repairs, 3 24

S. J. Willis, signal and square lanterns, 15 17

E. V. Munroe, door fastenings, 3 25

Charles A. Upham, poll and iron work, 3 38

T. M. Marshall, carpenter work and lumber, 22 60

Howe & Eaton, labor and stock, 28 13

J. P. Clapp, lumber, 18 42

Howe, Pratt & Co., lumber, 48 80

William Spargo, carpenter work, 31 20

Bove's Express, carting, 4 25

B. Royce, " 50

John Stacy, " 50

R. Cunningham, horse, drawing engine to fires, 2 50

C. F. Preston, coal and bark, 18 00

Amasa Pray, " 10 75

\$566 27

## ENGINE No. 3.

Paid Engine Company, 100 00

David Ripley, services as steward, 50 00

William Withington, refreshments, oil, &c., 15 15

Hunneman & Co., air chamber, tongue and repairs, 48 75

S. W. Haley, repairs on hose carriage, 3 32

William G. Swan, repairs, 7 00

Thomas R. Cooper, painting, 1 75

Paid S. J. Willis, lanterns and repairs, 3 50

B. Royce, carting, 50

\$229 97

## ENGINE No. 4.

Paid Engine Company, 100 00

Enoch Fenno, services as steward, 25 00

Peter Cook, " " 25 00

Henry Clark, Jr., refreshments, oil and fluid, 23 38

Charles Tileston, oil can, 96

Enoch Fenno, refreshments, 3 32

" " spanner belts and work, 3 57

Shelton & Cheever, repairs, 25 00

G. L. Fisher, " 5 67

J. W. Sloan, " 7 50

Gay & Allen, " 1 95

Peter Cook, labor, 1 00

S. J. Willis, signal lantern, 10 50

I. W. Hart, for a sled, 15 00

John Stacy, carting, 7 25

William Hall, lock and keys, 6 20

Henry Beckwith, horse several times, 6 00

Fiske & Crane, " 1 00

\$268 30

## ENGINE No. 5.

Paid Engine Company, 100 00

Isaac H. Fish, services as steward up to Feb. 1, 1857, 62 50

Howland & Harding, refreshments, fluid and stationery, 74 85

Nathan Holbrook, refreshments, 20 00

E. B. Saunders, " 2 33

Daniel Spear, " 3 43

J. T. Murphy, castor oil and repairs, 13 77

Hunneman & Co., extension arms, 28 00

Shelton & Cheever, new hose and repairs, 101 63

Paid William G. Swan, repairs on house and engine, 55 31

" " bell, torches and lanterns, 33 00

" " furnishing water and fixings, 53 99

J. C. Robinson, smith work, 23 25