

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Receipts and Expenditures

OF THE

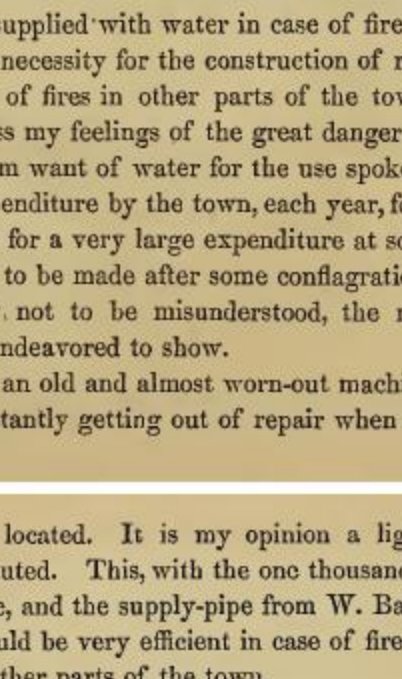
TOWN OF DORCHESTER,

WITH REPORTS OF THE

SELECTMEN, AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS,

FOR THE

Year ending January 31, 1868.



REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

To the Selectmen of Dorchester:

GENTLEMEN,—I herewith respectfully present the Nineteenth Annual Report of the condition of the Fire Department; also an account of the expenditures made under the direction of the Board of Engineers, and a record of the fires and alarms the past year.

The department is, I feel, worthy of commendation, for the promptness of its members at the call of duty, and is as efficient as ever. I have to congratulate the residents of the Lower Mills Village upon their being better supplied with water in case of fire than ever before, and I feel that the necessity for the construction of reservoirs for water, to be used in cases of fires in other parts of the town, is pressing, and would again express my feelings of the great danger many parts of the town are under from want of water for the use spoken of. It seems to me a moderate expenditure by the town, each year, for the purpose, may oblige a very large expenditure at some future time, as will be very likely to be made after some conflagration has shown to the citizens, in a way not to be misunderstood, the necessity I have, a number of times, endeavored to show.

Engine No. 1 is an old and almost worn-out machine; it is too heavy and unwieldy, constantly getting out of repair when used, and unfit for

the place where located. It is my opinion a light steam fire-engine should be substituted. This, with the one thousand feet of leading hose now being made, and the supply-pipe from W. Baker & Co's chocolate manufactory, would be very efficient in case of fire in the Lower Mills Village, and in other parts of the town.

Engine No. 2.—This is a new steam fire-engine, built by Messrs. Hunneman & Co., of Roxbury. It has proved to be a very superior machine, and has to a great extent overcome the prejudice at first so strongly felt against it. Wherever the occasion has presented itself for its use, it has been undeniably proved to be vastly superior to hand engines; in fact, since the introduction of steam-engines into fire departments, men have seemed unwilling as formerly to labor on hand machines, the most exhausting and exciting labor men are often called to do. It is not to be expected that in Dorchester, where we fortunately have had so infrequent fires, and therefore so little practical experience, the company in charge of this engine should be as efficient as they would otherwise be. They have shown themselves willing to do their best. This engine is attended with a new hose carriage, with one thousand feet of leading hose, in charge of a company of twenty men. The horses are used by the town on the highways, and, it is believed, earn their living.

Engine No. 3.—This engine is in very good condition, and provided with an ample supply of hose, well taken care of.

Engine No. 4.—In good condition. The engine house has been enlarged and greatly improved. Company efficient and prompt.

Engine No. 5.—Also in good order and ready for use. The house has been shingled, and is now in good condition.

Engine No. 6.—This engine is in as good condition as any hand engine in town, and the house and appurtenances are well cared for.

The hook and ladder carriage is in serviceable condition, being located at the Lower Mills Village. Another carriage, with hooks and ladders, may be needed at the northerly part of the town.

The department is organized as follows:—

SILVESTER H. HEBARD, Chief Engineer.

Assistant Engineers:

- JAMES T. OLIVER, HENRY FOBES, NATHANIEL WITHINGTON, GEO. G. DENNISON, THEODORE HERSEY.

There are now six companies in commission, viz:—

- Fountain, No. 1, . . . 30 members, John Hutchinson, Foreman. S. F. Engine, No. 2, . . . 23 " L. P. Bird, " Torrent, No. 3, . . . 23 " J. C. Hewins, " Alert, No. 4, . . . 45 " J. H. Burt, " Independence, No. 5, . . . 36 " H. A. Allyn, " Tiger, No. 6, . . . 52 " J. B. Graham, " Hose Company, No. 1, . . . 15 " J. E. E. Goward, " Mattapan Hook & Ladder, in charge of two persons, Samuel Bridget, Steward.

Annexed is the record of fires and alarms from February 1, 1867 to February 1, 1868.

Respectfully submitted, S. H. HEBARD, Chief Engineer.

DORCHESTER, February 1, 1868.

TABLE OF FIRES AND ALARMS, From February 1, 1867, to February 1, 1868.

Table with columns: Date, Time, Location, Owner or occupant, Loss, Ins., Cause. Lists various fire incidents from 1867 to 1868.

TOWN PROPERTY.

Table listing town property: Engine-House No. 1, Engine and other personal property, \$1,500 00; Engine-House No. 2, " " " " 12,500 00; etc.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

FOUNTAIN ENGINE No. 1—LOWER MILLS.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Fountain Engine No. 1, including items like services of firemen, extra work, and materials.

STEAM FIRE ENGINE No. 2—MEETING-HOUSE HILL.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Steam Fire Engine No. 2, including services of firemen, engine work, and supplies.

TORRENT ENGINE No. 3—UPPER ROAD.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Torrent Engine No. 3, including services of firemen and steward.

ALERT ENGINE No. 4—MATTAPAN.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Alert Engine No. 4, including services of firemen, rent, and engine repairs.

INDEPENDENCE ENGINE No. 5—NEPONSET.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Independence Engine No. 5, including services of firemen and steward, and various repairs.

TIGER ENGINE No. 6—UPHAM'S CORNER.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Tiger Engine No. 6, including services of firemen, extra work, and engine repairs.

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY—LOWER MILLS.

Table of receipts and expenditures for Hook and Ladder Company, including services of firemen and use of horse.

GENERAL EXPENSES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Table of general expenses for the fire department, including salaries for the chief engineer and assistants, and other operational costs.

RECAPITULATION—EXPENSES OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Summary table of total expenses for the fire department, categorized by engine company and general expenses.

CREDIT.

Table showing credit items: By appropriation, \$5,000 00; Exceeds appropriation, 355 84; Total, \$5,355 84.

VOLUNTEER COMPANIES.

Table of expenses for volunteer companies, showing payments for services for engines No. 1 through No. 6.

CREDIT.

Table showing credit for volunteer companies: By appropriation, \$900 00.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The steam fire engine bought for the town has in every instance where its services have been required, proved a very valuable addition to the efficiency of the department. The engineers are very much pleased with its performance. There was no provision made in the vote of the town meeting, making the appropriation for the purchase of the engine, for hose, or for a hose-carriage. One thousand feet of leading hose, and a good hose-carriage have been bought, and their cost is included in the expenditure which therefore exceeds the appropriation.

By the report of the chief engineer, it appears the department is in good condition, excepting the engine at the Lower Mills. An iron pipe has been laid from W. Baker and Co's chocolate manufactory to the corner of River Street, through which water can be forced from Neponset River. This will prove a very great protection in case of fire in the Lower Mills Village. We recommend the extension of the pipe to the head of Sanford Street. The engine-house at Mattapan has been enlarged and improved and the necessity of removing it obviated.

All the teams employed in the repair of highways, and the two horses belonging to the fire department, are kept in the stable at the almshouse, and they show Mr. Spear's careful attention. The horses belonging to the fire department are kept at work on the highways within a short distance of the steam fire engine, so as to be ready at all times for duty.