

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF HYDE PARK,

WITH

REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER

TOWN OFFICERS,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING JANUARY 15TH, 1875.

ENGINEERS' REPORT.

ENGINEERS' OFFICE, H. P. F. DEPARTMENT, }

HYDE PARK, JAN. 15, 1875. }

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Town of Hyde Park:—

GENTLEMEN,—This being the end of the financial year of the town, we hereby have the honor to submit a report, as relates to the Fire Department, during the past year. The apparatus of the Department is in good order, and remains as last year, with the addition of one horse hose-carriage, and one thousand feet of leather hose, purchased in June and July last. All losses have been made good and repairs well kept up. The experience of the last twelve months has clearly proved that the Department is not strong enough as regards engines to properly protect the town, and this would be so, even was it, that in some of the most exposed districts, no reliable water source exists, except when forced through very long lines of hose. As regards a better supply, the engineers of last year called for such, under the head of "Needful," and the attention of your board has been called on more than one occasion to the same necessity.

As regards the discipline and efficiency of the members of the force, it is excellent, and great credit is due them, and it is to be hoped that this year will see their pay increased to a sum that will be more in proportion to the demand upon their services than they now receive. Accompanying to which we would call your attention, is a list of fires, causes, &c., some thirty-four in number, by which it is evident that the efforts of the Department have been taxed severely, and when it is added that in no instance has a fire extended beyond the original limits, as on arrival of the Department, no better guarantee of its efficiency could be afforded.

In conclusion, we would add that an absolute necessity exists for a first-class steam fire engine, an extinguisher engine, and better water facilities.

We are, gentlemen, very respectfully,

FRANCIS E. BOYD, }

H. HIBBARD, } Engineers.

W. W. HILTON, }

LIST OF ALARMS ATTENDED DURING THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 15TH, 1875.

DATE.	TIME.	OWNER.	LOCATION.	CAUSE.	LOSS.	INSURANCE.
January... 18	7.49 A.M.	Currying Shop.....	Easton.....	Central Park avenue.....	Incendiary.....	
February... 29	1.39 A.M.	Dwelling.....	.....	River street.....	Chimney Burning.....	
March... 23	1.50 P.M.	Brush.....	.....	Corriganville.....	.....
March... 24	1.00 A.M.	Dwelling.....	Woods.....	Pierce street.....	Incendiary.....	
March... 26	11.30 A.M.	Brush.....	.....	Readville.....	.....
March... 24	10.35 P.M.	Agricultural Hall, "Old,"	.....	Doolham.....	.....
April... 3	11.55 A.M.	Brush.....	Beutey's Land.....	Fairmount.....	Incendiary.....	
April... 15	12.50 P.M.	N. Y. & N. E. R. R. Shops.....	.....	Readville.....	.....
May... 5	1.59 A.M.	Neponset Block.....	.....	River street.....	Unknown.....	\$30,000 \$40,000
May... 6	6.00 P.M.	Neponset Block.....	.....	River street.....	Rains.....	
May... 14	11.55 A.M.	N. Y. & N. E. R. R. Shops.....	.....	Readville.....	Accidental.....	30,000
May... 15	3.09 P.M.	Everett House.....	.....	River street.....	None.....	Slight.
June... 5	1.30 A.M.	Dwelling.....	W. Hamblin's House.....	Central Park avenue.....	Detective Fire.....	None.
August... 1	9.08 A.M.	Dwelling.....	.....	Fairmount.....	None.....	
August... 27	4.00 A.M.	Assistance Called.....	.....	River street.....	.....
September... 27	2.10 A.M.	Everett House.....	.....	River street.....	Detective Fire.....	300
September... 27	2.10 A.M.	Block of Stores.....	S. B. Coffin.....	Railroad avenue.....	Incendiary.....	1,200
September... 27	4.05 A.M.	Dwelling.....	T. Corrigan.....	Corriganville.....	Incendiary.....	5,000
October... 4	12.00 A.M.	Block of Stores.....	S. B. Coffin.....	Railroad avenue.....	Incendiary.....	1,000
October... 29	1.30 A.M.	Dwelling.....	Owen Hughes.....	Central Park avenue.....	Incendiary.....	1,000
October... 23	9.31 P.M.	Brush.....	.....	Glenwood avenue.....	.....
October... 30	5.50 P.M.	Dwelling.....	B. Connor.....	Business street.....	Incendiary.....	500
November... 1	6.20 P.M.	Barn.....	B. F. Thompson's Estate.....	Sunnyside street.....	Accidental.....	500
November... 2	6.30 P.M.	Greenhouse.....	B. C. Voss.....	Kochuska.....	.....	30
November... 4	5.50 P.M.	Dwelling.....	Colman.....	Child street.....	Detective Fire.....	30
November... 6	8.40 P.M.	Brush.....	.....	Neponset.....	.....
November... 10	6.44 P.M.	Block of Stores.....	W. A. Bonney.....	Fairmount avenue.....	Detective Fire.....	3,000
November... 20	10.20 A.M.	Dwelling.....	P. Carley.....	Readville.....	Detective Fire.....	500
November... 20	12.10 A.M.	Barn.....	L. Fogg.....	Central Park avenue.....	Incendiary.....	1,300
November... 20	8.50 P.M.	Dwelling.....	B. Connor.....	Business street.....	Accidental.....	
December... 15	12.00 A.M.	Catholic Church.....	.....	Wesleybury.....	.....
December... 16	1.45 A.M.	Barn.....	H. T. Rollins.....	Oak street.....	Incendiary.....	1,500
January... 1875						800
January... 2	11.00 P.M.	Catholic Church.....	.....	Hyde Park avenue.....	Accidental.....	23,000
January... 3	3.00 P.M.	Catholic Church.....	.....	Hyde Park avenue.....	Stains.....	17,000

*Out of town.

†Out-buildings were endangered.

‡Some while being out of order, continued to blow, and raised alarm.

§Boiling over of a kettle of fat.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid Good Will S. F. Engine Co., No. 1, pay roll, . \$437 64

Paid Rough and Ready S. F. Engine Co., No. 2, pay

roll, \$513 39

Norfolk Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, pay roll, . 476 51

Splicer Hose Co., pay roll, 466 67

F. A. Sweet, services as engineman and repairs

on engine, 84 45

H. E. Hunt, services as engineman, 75 00

Joshua Wilder, services as steward and cash

paid out, 647 71

Cole Bros., repairs on engines, 249 09

J. Johnston, " " " " 58 80

McKenzie & Chadbourne, repairs on engines, &c., . 67 64

J. F. Nolan, fire hats, straps, and repairs, . . 53 70

R. Corson, drawing engines to fires, 285 75

Stark & Stickney, smoke stack, 11 22

E. M. Pratt, record book and refreshments, . . 11 50

Miles & Silsbury, refreshments, 8 12

Sanford & Rannells, " " " " 5 14

O. M. Lord, " " " " 24 80

Fitts' Express, expressing, 39 10

James Colleary, labor on fire ruins, 2 00

Jas. McMann, " " " " 2 00

Thos. Jordan, " " " " 6 00

M. Conroy, " " " " 6 00

P. Haley, " " " " 8 00

Small, Haines & Co., oil, 12 10

E. W. Moffatt, duty at Neponset Block fire, . . 2 50

W. A. Bonney, coffee, 4 50

E. P. Davis, services as engineer, 145 82

Robert Bleakie, " " " " 100 00

H. N. Hibbard, " " " " 100 00

James Patterson, refreshments, 48 50

S. B. Coffin, " " " " 40 00

Corydon Ireland, " " " " 3 50

Martin O'Brien, " " " " 16 37

G. W. Gunnison, feeding horses, 11 00

Amoskeag Manufacturing Co., 1 four-wheel hose-

carriage, 691 00

Alfred W. Hayes, services as watchman, 2 00

Boynton & Rogers, repairs on pump, 1 25

Paid B. F. Kidder, expressing, \$6 50

James Boyd & Sons, oil, blunderbuss, fire hats

and repairing hose, 117 75

R. Williams, labor and material, 5 93

Brigham & Piper, coal, 206 00

Downer Kerosene Oil Co., oil, 12 20

C. L. Rich, repairs on engines, 15 00

J. B. Walker, drawing hose-carriage, 5 00

American Steam Packing Co., packing, 2 25

E. E. Rollins, services as fireman, 10 25

H. A. Winship & Co., fire hats, 27 25

Boyd & Stevens, repairs on engines, 16 00

J. E. Piper, coal, 60 00

H. P. Bussey, painting fire hats, 6 00

A. M. Fisher, gloves, 45

\$5209 35

CR.

By amount of appropriation, \$5000 00

Excess of expenditure, \$209 35

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Our fire department seems to call for special mention in this report. This department alone, of all within our control, has exceeded its appropriations in the past year, though these were thought to be very liberal at the time the estimates were made in the commencement of the season.

But our citizens are, no doubt, prepared to learn that the expenditures have been extraordinary in this department from the occasion of an occurrence of an unusually large number of fires during the year. Both the officers and men of the department are entitled to the gratitude of every property owner in the town, for the promptness with which they have responded to every fire alarm; for the successful manner in which they have contended with the devouring elements, confining its ravages, in every instance, to the buildings in which it originated,—and this, too, when several of the fires have been in the most thickly built-up portions of the town, and when but for the good management and courageous and efficient efforts of the officers and men, extensive and calamitous conflagrations would have resulted.

In a word, we have had more substantial evidence than ever

before that our town possesses a fire department which can be fully relied upon for all reasonable protection against fire, and which, for discipline and efficiency, to say the least, is second to none in the county.

The many fires in the different sections of the town have fully established the important fact, that our fire department, as now organized and equipped, is able to cover a large proportion of all the hazardous localities from the never-failing water supplies of our rivers and brooks which are favorably located for this purpose in their course through the town.

During the year two reservoirs have been constructed in hazardous localities — one at private expense and the other at the cost of the town; one or two more of these important auxiliaries of fire departments should be added during the coming year.