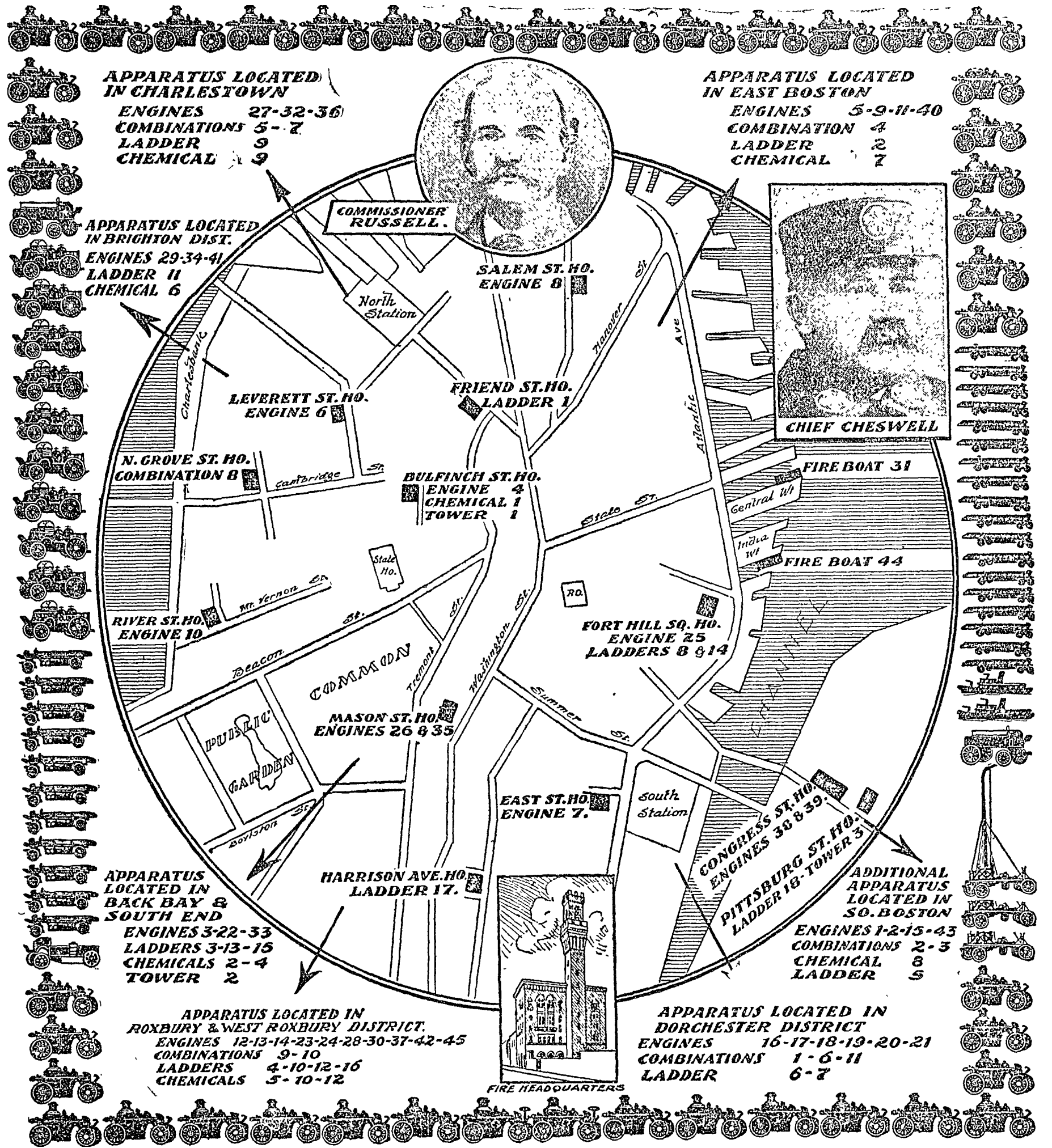


FIRE EQUIPMENT OF BOSTON MORE THAN TWICE AS LARGE AS BALTIMORE'S

Chief Cheswell Has Fifty-Three Fire Engines at His Command—These With Chemical Engines, Ladder Trucks and Combination Companies Make a Formidable Fire-Fighting Force Which Boston Can Rely on in Case of Conflagration.



AROUND THE BORDER OF THIS CHART IS A REPRESENTATION OF ALL THE ENGINES, HOSE WAGONS, FIRE BOATS AND CHEMICALS IN THE BOSTON DEPARTMENT, ARRANGED AS IN A PROCESSION.

Bostonians could hardly believe the statement made during the recent disastrous fire that devastated the business section of the city of Baltimore, that the latter city had but 24 engines in the fire department.

The battalion chief in charge of the New York apparatus that was dispatched to Baltimore in response to the latter city's request for aid, is on record as saying that Baltimore didn't have half engines enough.

Since the Baltimore conflagration Bostonians have been comparing the fighting fire forces of the two cities, and they express themselves as being satisfied that Boston is about twice as well fitted to cope with such a fire as was Baltimore.

The Globe's Baltimore correspondent states that in the recent fire in that city the fighting force was made up as follows:

- Twenty-four engines.
- Eleven hook and ladder companies.
- Three chemical engines.
- Two water towers.
- Three protective or salvage companies.

Veteran Boston firemen say that such a force is totally inadequate for a city of the size of Baltimore. In fighting the fire the chief of the Baltimore department was assisted by six district chiefs.

It is true that Baltimore's area is not as large as Boston's, the former covering 3 1/2 square miles and the latter 4 1/2 square miles, but firemen say that not even this difference in the area of the city is a good excuse for Baltimore's small number of engines. The population of Baltimore is given as 508,967, while Boston's is put down as 529,822, according to the last census.

If Boston should be visited by another big fire Chief Cheswell would be able to concentrate 43 steam fire engines on his objective point, together with the

fireboat, provided that the fire could be reached from the water front. To each one of these 43 steam engines is assigned a hose wagon carrying 34,306 feet of hose. Stored in the companies' houses are 21,528 feet of reserve hose.

The engine companies are located as follows:

- Steam fire engines—Twelve in city proper, four in East Boston, six in South Boston, five in Roxbury, six in Dorchester, three in Charlestown, four in West Roxbury and three in Brighton.
- Fireboat—One, located India wharf.
- Horse hose wagons—Forty-three, located as follows: Twelve in city proper, four in East Boston, six in South Boston, five in Roxbury, six in Dorchester, three in Charlestown, four in West Roxbury and three in Brighton.

In addition to these engines in the fire houses there are 10 engines in reserve which could be pressed into service, making 53 engines in all, more than twice the number that Baltimore was able to send to its fire.

Boston also has a spare fireboat which could be put into commission if the circumstances permitted it.

The total force on the fire department payroll is \$53, about 500 representing the actual fighting force.

The chief of the department has two assistants and 11 district chiefs, all of whom are men of acknowledged abilities as fire fighters.

There are 13 ladder companies in the Boston department, as against 11 in the Baltimore department. Baltimore has but three chemicals, Boston has 10, three of which are in the city proper.

The department also has in reserve a number of ladder trucks, chemical engines and hose wagons, all of which could be put into service at short notice. There are also two water towers in the department. The Boston protective department is much larger than that of Baltimore.

Portable extinguishers are carried on all ladder trucks and are also located in the different fire engine houses. The department has 22 coal wagons, each

capable of conveying two tons each. According to the last report of the fire commissioner there were 332 horses in the department.

Last year Boston spent \$1,317,402.39 for her fire department. In his report to Mayor Collins Commissioner Russell commended the men of the department and sounded a warning about building modern structures close together, observing:

"The dreaded conflagration has not overtaken us yet, and, while good fortune has played a part in the satisfactory result attained, the activity and ability with which the members of this department have handled the strenuous and arduous are, in my opinion, the main cause of our success; but it is a little discouraging to see how year after year the old conditions continue by the building of wooden structures close together in those parts of the city which offer tempting bait for conflagrations, not to mention the tinder-boxes in the heart of the city."

The accompanying map shows the location of the different pieces of apparatus in the Boston fire department. The manner in which the apparatus is distributed is shown in the following table.

Boston fire department—Henry S. Russell, fire commissioner; William T. Cheswell, chief of department; John A. Miller, assistant chief; Nathan L. Hussey, second assistant chief; Brown S. Flinders, superintendent of fire alarms; Henry M. Hawkins, superintendent of repairs; George W. Stimpson, veterinary surgeon.

The Boston fire department was organized in 1837. It is in charge of one commissioner, who has entire control of the department, a chief, first and second assistant chiefs, 11 district chiefs, each in charge of a fire district, superintendent of fire alarms and officers, engine-men, telegraph operators, etc.

STEAM FIRE ENGINES.
 No. 1—Dorchester st., corner 4th, South Boston.

No. 2—4th st., corner O, South Boston.
 No. 3—Harrison av., corner Bristol st.
 No. 4—Lantern st.
 No. 5—Marion st., East Boston.
 No. 6—Leverett st.
 No. 7—East st.
 No. 8—Salem st.
 No. 9—Paris st., East Boston.
 No. 10—Mt Vernon st., corner River.
 No. 11—Corner Saratoga and Byron st., East Boston.
 No. 12—Dudley st., Roxbury.
 No. 13—Cobot st., Roxbury.
 No. 14—Center st., Roxbury.
 No. 15—Corner Broadway and Dorchester av.
 No. 16—Temple st., Dorchester.
 No. 17—Meeting House Hill, Dorchester.
 No. 18—Harvard st., Dorchester.
 No. 19—Norfolk st., Dorchester.
 No. 20—Walnut st., Dorchester.
 No. 21—Columbia road, Dorchester.
 No. 22—Warren av.
 No. 23—Northampton st.
 No. 24—Corner Warren and Quincy sts.
 No. 25—Fort Hill sq.
 Nos. 26 and 27—Mason st.
 No. 28—Eim st., Charlestown.
 No. 29—Center st., West Roxbury.
 No. 30—Center Hill av., Brighton.
 No. 31—Center st., West Roxbury.
 No. 32—Bunker Hill st., Charlestown.
 No. 33—Boylston st.
 No. 34—Western av., Brighton.
 No. 35—Monument st., Charlestown.
 No. 37—Longwood av.
 Nos. 38 and 39—Congress st., East Boston.
 No. 40—Summer st., East Boston.
 No. 41—Harvard av., Brighton.
 No. 42—Bigelow Square.
 No. 43—Andrew sq., South Boston.
 No. 44—Berth at India wharf, fireboat.
 No. 45—Poplar st., West Roxbury.

LADDER TRUCKS
 No. 1—Friend st.
 No. 2—Paris st., East Boston.
 No. 3—Harrison av., corner of Bristol st.
 No. 4—Dudley st., Roxbury.
 No. 5—Fourth st., near Dorchester st.
 No. 6—Temple st., Dorchester.

No. 7—Meeting House Hill, Dorchester
 No. 8—Fort Hill sq.
 No. 9—Main st., Charlestown.
 No. 10—Center st., Jamaica Plain.
 No. 11—Chestnut Hill av., Brighton.
 No. 12—Tremont st., Roxbury.
 No. 13—Warren av.
 No. 14—Fort Hill sq.
 No. 15—Boylston and Hereford sts.
 No. 16—Poplar st., West Roxbury.
 No. 17—Harrison av.
 No. 18—Pittsburg st.

COMBINATION COMPANIES.
 Combination company No. 1—Dorchester av., Ashmont.
 Combination company No. 2—Fourth st., near K st., South Boston.
 Combination company No. 3—Andrew sq., South Boston.
 Combination company No. 4—Corner Saratoga and Byron sts., East Boston.
 Combination company No. 5—Monument st., Charlestown.
 Combination company No. 6—Grove Hill, Dorchester.
 Combination company No. 7—Winthrop st., Charlestown.
 Combination company No. 8—North Grove st.
 Combination company No. 9—Center st., West Roxbury.
 Combination company No. 10—Longwood av.
 Combination company No. 11—Walnut st., Dorchester.
 Water tower No. 1—Bulfinch st., Bristol.
 Water tower No. 2—Fire headquarters, Bristol.
 Wrecking wagon—Fire headquarters, Bristol st.

CHEMICAL ENGINES.
 No. 1—Bulfinch st.
 No. 2—Church st.
 No. 3—Shawmut av.
 No. 4—Egleston Square.
 No. 5—Harvard av., near Cambridge st., Brighton.
 No. 6—Saratoga st., East Boston.
 No. 7—B st., South Boston.
 No. 8—Main st., Charlestown.
 No. 9—Paris st., Roxbury.
 No. 10—Tremont st., Roxbury.
 No. 12—Fremont st., Roxbury.