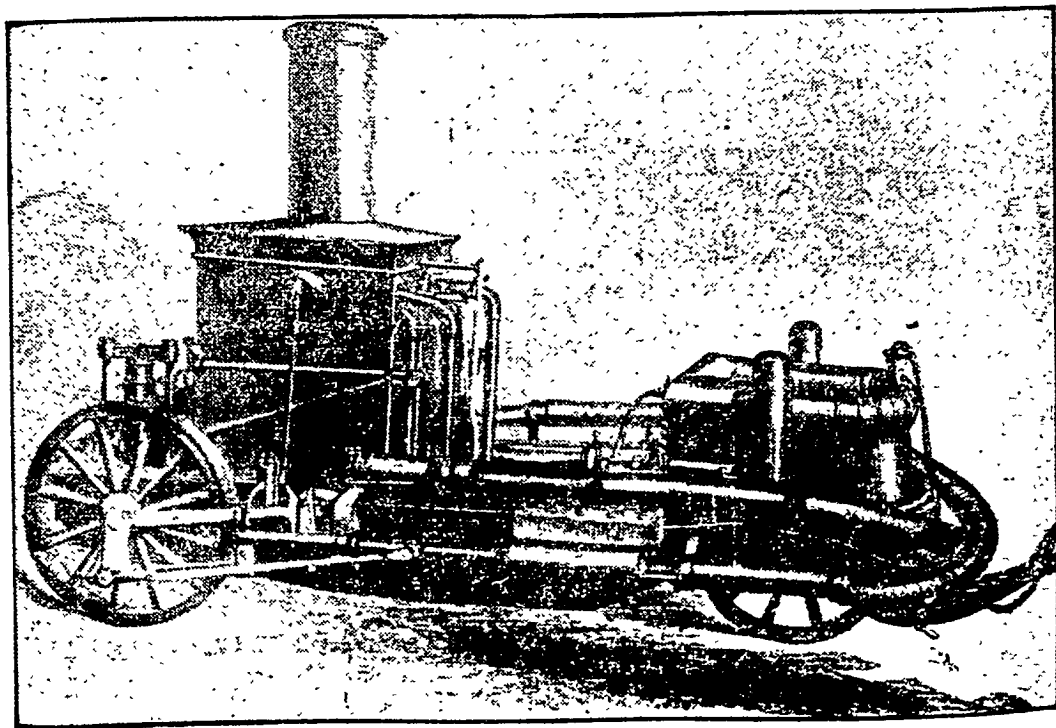


FIRST STEAM FIRE ENGINE IN BOSTON.



BUILT IN 1854; COST \$7000.

When the city fathers of half a century ago purchased the first steamer for the Boston fire department, it required over a year to complete the transaction, as negotiations were begun in February, 1854, and the machine did not reach here for the first time until March 3, 1855.

The cost of the ancient fire fighter was \$7000. Its name was the Miles Greenwood. The corner of Tremont and Park sts was the scene of the practical test of the steamer's capacity to throw streams of water in comparison with hand engines.

A publication of Jan 14, 1855, thus tells the story of the purchase, and describes the machine:

"We present our readers with an accurate delineation of the new steam fire engine, invented by A. B. Lata, for which our city government appropriated the sum of \$7000. The city of Cincinnati, which was the first to adopt

this important invention, has three large engines in the process of construction. At an experimental trial in Cincinnati, water was forced through a line of hose 600 feet in length, throwing a stream upon the roof of a five-and-a-half story building, 112 feet high. At the same time six streams were in operation, throwing simultaneously 100 barrels of water per hour five stories high. Water was thrown in nearly a horizontal line 220 feet.

The machine is capable of being put in operation in five or six minutes after the fires are started.

"A very peculiar and important feature is that by which steam can be made to pass from the steam chamber through a pipe into a building before a fire is fully developed, thereby smothering it in its incipient stages. It has often been said that water occasions as much damage to property as fire, but by employing steam in this way, goods may be saved without any injury.

"The capacity of this engine is equal to that of six common engines, and while it is capable of throwing as much water, it ejects with much greater force and to greater heights and distances.

"We believe this machine is destined to work a complete revolution in the fire departments of great cities, and that before long every large city and town will have two or three of them. Doubtless there will be improvements introduced, but the name of the inventor of this new engine will ever be remembered as that of a public benefactor. Our city government has acted with commendable activity in this matter.

"The order authorizing a committee to visit Cincinnati and examine the steam fire engine introduced into that city, was passed on the 21st of February last, and the committee, consisting of Messrs George Odiorne, James F. Whittmore, Stephen Tilton Jr, Samuel Hatch, Watson S. Mayo and Thacher Beal, submitted their report on the 14th of April."