

OFFICIAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,

FOR THE

Year ending January 31, 1872.



BOSTON:  
PRESS OF ROCKWELL & CHURCHILL,  
122 WASHINGTON STREET.  
1872.

REPORTS  
OF THE  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
OF THE  
BRIGHTON FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
AND OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EVERGREEN CEMETERY.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT.

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Two Hand Engines, one Hose Carriage, 1,500 feet of Hose, six Fire Ladders, constitute the fire apparatus belonging to the town. Engine No. 1 is stationed in the centre of the town, in the rear of the Town House. Engine No. 2 is stationed at the north part of the town. The Hose Carriage together with the Ladders, are kept in the basement of the Town House. The Engines have each a Company of forty members, with the following officers:—

### BUTCHER BOY ENGINE Co. No. 1.

Foreman, James Gallagher; 1st Assistant, Frank Newburger; 2d Assistant, T. I. Marshal; Clerk, James Ready; Steward, John Cross.

### CHARLES RIVER ENGINE Co. No. 2.

Foreman, John Nolan; 1st Assistant, M. Killion; 2d Assistant, M. M. Mullen; Clerk, J. Conley; Steward, V. Eckhart.

Wilson Hose Carriage No. 1 is at present without a company. The engines and all the fire apparatus are in good order and ready for immediate use. The past year the department has been called to fires within the limits of the town seven times, and several times from fires occurring in the neighboring towns, where, on two occasions, they have rendered good service. (The engines or any of the apparatus are not allowed to be taken to fires out of the town, except by the order of an engineer.) Agreeably to a vote of the town, a reservoir has been built, the past year, in the yard of No. 2 school-house, at the north part of the town. It is supplied from the school building, and being properly filled, both engine and school-houses are amply supplied with good water. In case of fire in the immediate vicinity it would be invaluable.

The town has three reservoirs : one in the centre supplied from the frog-pond, one in Union Square supplied from Union Hall Building, and the one just completed at the North End. In case of a fire occurring outside of these localities, the engines must depend upon brooks or wells for water, while in many thickly-settled parts of the town not even these are available.

The town is poorly supplied with water, and totally unprepared to successfully resist a large fire which may at any time occur. The engineers would again urge upon the town the necessity of being better supplied with water in case of fire, and in the most exposed parts of the town would recommend the building of reservoirs.

In the past we have been most wonderfully and providentially spared. While our neighboring towns have suffered the past year to an alarming extent from fires, our town has been comparatively safe from the torch of the incendiary, and the few fires which occurred were the result of carelessness or some unknown cause. So few fires in the town, our people seem to think we shall continue to be thus favored, and that a well-organized fire department, possessing the proper means to check the devouring flames, and to save property, almost superfluous.

We are constantly in danger. The past is no guaranty for the future, but it really seems that nothing short of a disastrous conflagration will arouse our people from their state of apathy, and prompt them to take decisive measures.

Whenever the town shall be supplied with water, the engineers would recommend the purchase of a Steam Fire Engine ; at present there are few localities where a steamer could be used effectively.

The fire ladders stored in the basement of the town-house are almost useless, for want of proper means of conveying them to fires. The want of hooks and ladders has been felt the past year even at the few fires we have had. A carriage fully equipped with hooks, ladders, and all the necessary apparatus, is indispensable. By building an addition on No. 1 Engine House, sufficient room could be obtained to keep a hook and ladder truck. It would be in the centre of the town, and at all times available.

In the City of Boston, and in some of the adjoining towns, the authorities seem to take advantage of all available means to repel fires, and in addition to their steamers, hose carriages, chemical engines, etc., have placed in the engine houses, Fire Annihilators, with proper persons appointed to use them. In very many cases these have proved effective, particularly in the early stages of a fire. A trial of them could do no harm; the expense is light, and the engineers would recommend the purchase of two or three to be placed in the engine houses.

During the past year, the Board of Engineers have done all in their power to keep up the department. The engines have been kept in good repair, with full companies attached to each, and all necessary repairs have been made upon the engine houses. The pay of the department, when full, amounts to \$1,150, for which, with the expense of keeping the engines, hose, and all the fire apparatus in good repair, with the additional expense always attending fires in town, particularly when steamers and engines from neighboring towns come here to render assistance, the engineers would recommend the same appropriation as last year.

In conclusion, we would again remind the town of the absolute necessity of being better supplied with water in case of fire, either by building sufficient reservoirs, or by some arrangement with the City of Boston whereby water could be obtained from Chestnut Hill Reservoir. Could this be accomplished, with hydrants placed throughout the town, a Steamer, with two or three Hose Carriages would be sufficient.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. L. B. PRATT,	} <i>Engineers</i>	
C. J. CROCKETT,		
M. A. BROWN,		} <i>of</i>
CHARLES CURRIER.		} <i>Brighton.</i>

Feb. 1, 1871.

TREASURER'S REPORT  
OF THE  
EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BRIGHTON,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1872.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

APPROPRIATION, \$1,800 00.

EXPENDITURE, \$1,767 94.

Salary Engine Co., No. 1,	\$468 03	
“ “ “ No. 2,	500 00	
Wilson Hose Company, services,	60 00	
Cambridge Fire Department, expenses at Varnish Factory, fires of March 6th and 28th, 1871,	105 00	
James Boyd & Sons, hose, fire-hats, re- pairing, etc.,	94 24	
Hunneman & Co., repairing engines,	84 50	
J. H. McCausland, “ engine-houses,	39 93	
James A. Cogswell, badges, letters, etc.,	40 12	
Salma Kendall, sundry articles,	58 00	
D. Otis Sanger, sundry articles,	45 05	
J. I. Bates & Co., iron pipe and repairing,	26 02	
H. C. Lougee, tin ware, etc.,	44 95	
Sundry persons, repairing engines and houses,	74 20	
Sundry persons, miscellaneous articles and services rendered,	127 90	
	<hr/>	<u>\$1,767 94</u>