

JAN 2 1896

to

APRIL 7 1905

NOT AND SHOE

1895

NG

CORRESPONDENCE.

LOSS OF PRESSURE IN HOSE.

TO FIRE AND WATER ENGINEERING:

Please let me know the loss of pressure in hose from fifty to 1,000 feet, with eighty pounds pressure at the nozzle.

CHIEF.

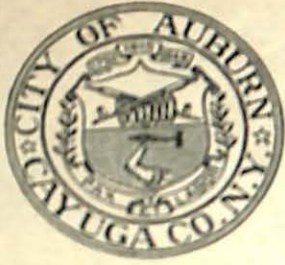
[The following are figures showing the loss of pressure in hose from fifty to 1,000 feet:

Pressure at nozzle, eighty pounds; diameter of nozzle, one inch; gallons of water discharged per minute, 219.

Pressure at hydrant to maintain pressure at nozzle through two and one-half-inch smooth, rubber-lined hose.

Length of Hose. Feet.	Pressure at Hydrant. Pounds	Loss in Pressure between hydrant and nozzle. Pounds.
50	92	12
100	100	20
200	115	35
300	131	51
400	147	67
500	162	82
600	178	98
800	209	129
1,000	241	161

ED. F. AND W. E.]



CITY OF AUBURN, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

THOMAS M. OSBORNE, MAYOR.
E. H. HERRLING, EXECUTIVE CLERK.

June 30, 1905.

Mess. The Board fo Fire Commissioners.

Auburn, N. Y.

Gentlemen:-

The Water Board has requested, in an informal manner, that a test of the pressure in the water mains be made by the Fire Department; I therefore ask that you kindly co-operate with the Water Board in making the test.

Very truly yours.

Thos Osborne

Mayor.

in connection with the recent incendiary fires.

Barth was formerly in Mr. Stupp's employ, and during ~~the~~ weeks did about one week's work in the shop. He was not allowed a key to the shop, but seems to have possessed himself of one, in order to make a raid on the premises. He had sufficient plunder on him to admit of a charge of grand larceny—sufficient, without the charge of arson, to send him to State prison. He was too drunk to be examined this forenoon.

The Incendiary Committed to Jail.

Barth was arraigned in Police Court this afternoon, on charge of arson and grand larceny. He waived examination and was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury, which sits in October next. The prisoner is a young man about twenty years of age, and has been under surveillance by the police for some time past. He has been seen under suspicious circumstances at the outbreak of incendiary fires heretofore, and is, without doubt, a fire-bug of the most determined character.

ANOTHER INCENDIARY ATTEMPT.

An attempt was made on Saturday night, at about ten o'clock, to burn the lumber yard of Mr. W. H. Derby, on Wall street. Mr. Josiah Mills, while returning home at the above hour, saw a light in the yard, and noticed suspicious movements. On approaching the spot, there was a lively stampede of some party, from the premises, and a large fireball, saturated with kerosene, was found, ready for application to the lumber. July 31-1875

INCENDIARISM.—An incendiary attempt was made at burning Burtis & Son's malt house on Water street, at an early hour this morning. It was discovered by Doc Purdy, in season to prevent damage. A fire had been kindled in the cellar, under the stairs, by a systematic arrangement of inflammable materials.

A still alarm of fire brought the department last evening, caused by the dropping of a lighted kerosene lamp in an upper hallway of the Mutual Savings Bank building. What fire there was, was smothered with a woolen blanket.

At 7 o'clock last evening, a alarm of fire caused the boys a run but proved to be bogus.

ring of the third floor carpet and damaging the walls and ceiling of the Grand Army building. The interior of the barber shop was scorched out, and contents destroyed. The stock of Messrs. Vechten & Lyon, on the second floor and basement, was damaged to some extent by the fire. It was also the stock of Messrs. Swold & Co., adjoining, but only a slight degree in the latter case. Messrs. Van Vechten & Lyon are insured \$20,500 on stock, and \$10,000 on the building.

Stupp carries no insurance, and has his entire outfit of chairs, tables, etc.

Barth, a barber by trade, has a bad reputation, was arrested in the vicinity, in a state of intoxication, on suspicion of being the fire-bug on this occasion.

A big scare was created among the army of operatives in the big woolen mill on Owasco street at noon to-day. An accident occurred to the steam pipe of the boiler allowing a large volume of steam to escape. The noise caused by the rush of steam alarmed the employees, many of whom rushed, panic-stricken, from the building.

At 10 o'clock last night, at the hour

NOV Quite a Burn. 12 1875
THE TRUE PRESS OFFICE IN A BLAZE—COOLEY'S GROCERY, BODLEY'S TAILOR SHOP, HUBBARD'S FRUIT DEPOT AND GOUGH'S CIGAR SHOP BADLY DAMAGED.

At seven o'clock last evening the sudden and brilliant illumination of the True Press office, in the Shimer block on State street, alarmed the people and storekeepers in that neighborhood who started the cry of fire immediately, when the alarm was given by County Treasurer Cook from the Water Works Company's office in the Seward block, and the noisy clangor of the fire bells soon followed, which brought hundreds of people into the streets.

By this time the fire in the printing office had acquired considerable headway surrounded as it was by material of the most inflammable description, and the flames arose high above the lofty building in a wide sheet which attracted the vast crowd to the corner State and Genesee streets, completely blocking the former and considerably retarding the efforts of the firemen. At this time things began to wear a dubious aspect and fears were entertained that Auburn was about to experience a young Chicago. The night fortunately happened to be unusually still, hardly a breath of air stirring, but had the contrary been the case a very disastrous conflagration would undoubtedly have resulted.

All the companies of the department rallied with their usual promptitude and under the direction of Chief Morris and his trusty assistants, seven powerful streams were speedily at work deluging the building. Hook & Ladder company erected ladders against the structure in front, which a number of intrepid firemen rapidly ascended and poured a torrent of water into the third story windows with saving effect. Ladders were also erected in the rear where additional streams were applied to the building, and thus attacked in front and rear it looked as though the fire would be short-lived and all fears of an extensive conflagration were quieted, and confidence was restored in the troubled breast of Shimer who was on the ragged edge of despair.

The gallant firemen soon had the fire under control, and partially subdued, when the hose feeding the principal stream burst in the vicinity of the peanut stand in front of Walley's, causing a general stampede in the crowd and a hasty movement of the portable peanut shop. Misfortunes never come singly, and this instance formed no exception but materially strengthened the rule, as this time they came in a triplet, for in turning off the water at the hydrant, due haste was incautiously exercised and the enormous pressure so suddenly brought to bear upon the water mains burst the pipe and created a huge rent in the earth in front of the Express Office, in which a boy subsequently buried himself and was only disinterred through the exertions of the bystanders. This break necessitated shifting three of the other hydrants.

Owing to fortuitous circumstances the fire made slow progress, and the wooden cornice, surmounting the building, several times was enveloped in flames, if not been for an unusual breeze, they would have

MORE INCENDIARISM.—Another incendiary fire was set last night, soon after nine o'clock, in a barn on the premises No. 75 Owasco street, formerly owned by Hiram Ward, now the property of Mr. Isaac E. Pearson. The alarm was given from station No. 31, Auburn Woolen Co.'s office, but the fire was quenched before it had gained sufficient headway to do much damage, and before the firemen could reach it.

The immunity enjoyed by incendiaries is becoming nauseous to the community, while the helplessness of the authorities to check or punish the perpetrators is the subject of very general criticism.

FIRE.—At half past 5 o'clock this morning an alarm was sounded from District No. 14, at the prison gate, occasioned by a fire at the frame dwelling No. 13 Garden street, owned by Mr. William Scott, and occupied by Mrs. Mathews, widow of the late Patrick J. Mathews, as a boarding house. The fire caught in the loft over the kitchen, during the ignition of kindlings in the cook stove, and spread through the upper portion of the rear building. The winter bed clothing and woollens of the family, stored above, were destroyed. The firemen were on hand in good season. Mr. Byron Witham, with a son of Mr. Scott, ran One's hose cart to the fire and got a stream on in season to save a spread of the flames. August 31 1875
The house is insured for \$900, which will more than cover the damage.

MORE FIRE BUGISM.—Another incendiary attempt was frustrated on Thursday evening, at the time of the alarm of fire caused by the attempt to burn Mr. Pearson's barn on Owasco street. It seems that a quantity of kindling had been placed in the barn of Mrs. Lizette Worden, No. 95 Owasco street, but by reason of the alarm given for the other fire, the material was not ignited.

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August 12-1875

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...of some party, by Joel L. Windsor; the west to the west corner of land now owned by James O. Hill, corner curves and widens thereof, to the center of Creek; these north down said creek, the road along the south side of said lot to the center of said town of Sterling; turning from the west corner of the southeast corner of lot in the town of Sterling, County and state aforesaid, by survey, begins at the southeast corner of lot in the town of Sterling, County and state aforesaid, as follows: All that tract or parcel of land situated in the town of Sterling, County and state aforesaid, described as follows: Said premises are described in said mortgage aforesaid as follows: at 10 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, the Court door of the Court house in the City of Auburn, New York, at the public auction, at the premises therein described, a sale of the said mortgage was effected by a sale of the

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CITY TAXES, 1875
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE TAX ROLLS OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, FOR THE YEAR 1875, ARE NOW OPEN FOR EXAMINATION AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, IN THE CITY HALL, FROM THE 1ST OF SEPTEMBER TO THE 1ST OF OCTOBER, 1875.
AND THE TAXPAYER'S OFFICE.
AUBURN, OCTOBER 21, 1875.

DONALD KENNEDY
Price, \$1.00 per bottle. For sale by Druggists.
Solely in Auburn, by Richard Steel, W. J. Sutton, Joseph Osborn, J. L. Elliott and M. L. Walley.
Xours truly,
DONALD KENNEDY.

MEDICAL VERERY
In the treatment of diseases, the cure, with good old powder, is an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

PILES
How many thousands of poor women are suffering from this disease, and pining away a miserable life, and their next door neighbor does not know the cause! I wish to impress on you, mind the cause! I wish to impress on you, mind the cause! I wish to impress on you, mind the cause!

CURE
Your food disagrees with you, and you can only get rid of it by the use of our medicine. It cleanses the system, and even of that your system is completely renovated. It is not a cathartic, as the common notion is, and does not become loose, habitually, and your best day is gone. For want of a little care, your system becomes relaxed. The and the fibres of your body become relaxed. The follow a train of diseases which the Medical covers is peculiarly adapted to.

RAW AND INFLAMED
Your stomach is creating a sinking zone of feeling, and an intense, even to the gates of your family.

KIDNEYS
which is nothing but cancer on the stomach; it extends to the stomach, causing

DYSPEPSIA
In the more advanced stages of the disease, your husband and household, and the health of the household, is stored in his natural sweaters, a continent

BULLETIN, SATURDAY

August More Incendiarism.
28 — 1875
The Van Vechten & Lyon Block Fired—
Damage to Property in the Vicinity—
Arrest of the Supposed Incenditary.

Soon after 2 o'clock this morning, fire was discovered in the barber shop of Mr. F. J. Stupp, over the store of Messrs. Van Vechten & Lyon, Genesee street. The firemen were soon on hand and succeeded in saving the building, which, but for their well directed efforts, must have been burned to the ground, with adjoining premises, owing to the peculiar location and progress of the flames, as the fire had been set in such a position as to almost defy the efforts of the department. Its location was in a coal bin, or small store room, between the rear of the shop and the office of Messrs. Heazlit and Storke, on the second floor. The flames worked up through the joists and under the

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August 12 - 1876

Jan 2^d 1896

Last Run of the Year.

The fire department was given a long run, Tuesday night, by an alarm from box 42, corner South and Elizabeth streets. The fire was in the chimney of the house occupied by Louis S. Cornell street. Of course the damage did not amount to much.

Jan 3^d 1896

AGENTS AND ABSENTEES.

They Occupy the most Attention at the Fire Wardens' Meeting.

It was a dull meeting which the board of fire commissioners held, last evening. The enlivening features were the calls of various agents and the exhibition of patent devices which the board was requested to purchase.

President Moore reported that the addition to the building of Hose 3, was completed and the bills were all before the board to be audited. Mr. Smith of the supply committee reported the purchase of chairs, shades and matting for Hose 3. Then came the report of Chief Engineer Jewhurst in regard to fires during the month of December and a report of the short-comings of the members of the department in regard to absence from duty. There was a long string of these delinquents who had absented themselves from fires and quarters without permission of the captains or proper excuse. On motion of Mr. Speares this latter matter was laid over until later in the evening.

When the subject was again taken up, Mr. Speares said that for several previous meetings the chief had reported these delinquents and nothing had been done about the lapse of discipline. Instead of the matter growing better it was constantly growing worse, until he believed that the time had come to take a decided stand in the matter.

Mr. Smith did not think that the matter was thoroughly covered by the rules and regulations of the department and he therefore moved an amendment. As the amendment did not seem to meet all the requirements of the case and a section of the regulations, which pretty thoroughly comprehended the trouble having been found, the amendment and further discussion of the subject was laid over until the special meeting of the board to be held next Monday evening.

John F. Shay a callman belonging to Hose 3, presented his resignation which was accepted.

Henry Rusco, Burt Pitcher and Frank P. Coffee, applied for appointment to the call force. The appointment of a man to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shay, was deferred until the special meeting, that the committee might have an opportunity to investigate more thoroughly the merits of the applicants. Mr. Speares was the instigator of this wise delay. The board should be very careful, he thought, in appointing to see that they were em-

The salaries of the volunteer companies, the callmen and the assistant chief were ordered paid.

J. L. Graham, general agent of the Reserve Fund Live Stock Insurance company was then given the floor and made a proposition to insure the department horses against sickness, accident or death. In case of sickness or accident the company provided veterinary's services and medicines of every description free of all cost to the commissioners. The matter was laid over for further investigation and consideration.

The board then adjourned to meet next Monday evening.

Jan 4^d 1896

A CHANCE TO ECONOMIZE.

Exempts Offer to Take 6's Place Without Charge.

Just at present there seems to be a slight disagreement between the Exempt Firemen's association and the fire commissioners. As the trouble is reported, it seems that some time ago a proposition was made to the commissioners that Alert hose 6 be disbanded and their quarters in State street be turned over to the Exempts. The commissioners were to also provide a hose reel and the Exempts would form a company of thirty active men to run with it. Of course the Exempts declined to agree to drag the cart all over the city in answer to alarms, but they did agree to answer the alarms in a district of reasonable dimensions, and to always turn out in response to a general alarm. The veterans were not to receive any pay from the city for this work. They would pay for their own light, heat and water and make all necessary repairs to the building.

The proposition was looked upon with favor by the commissioners, so the promoters declare, in fact, the first suggestion in regard to the proposition was given by the board. It was intimated, so the Exempts say, that if thirty able-bodied members of the association would agree to assume the duties of again fighting fires, that the proposition would be accepted. The thirty signatures were obtained with the addition of fifteen more, making forty-five in all, who were willing to again go into the harness. These men had each served five years in the department as volunteers and were acquainted with the duties of a fireman and were the best kind of volunteers because experienced by years of service. That there might not be any hitch the mem-

Well, all this having been so torily settled the commissioners were again approached. The promoters were met by an entire change of front. The commissioners stated that the people at that end of the town demanded that a change was made that a team of horses be put in commission and so the Exempts would have to look elsewhere.

At present the matter is in statu quo while "influence" is being brought to bear.

The quarters of Hose 6 are the only ones in the city which the municipality does not own. The building is the city's but the real estate belongs to the Central Railway company. It remains in the possession of the city, however, so long as it is occupied by a fire company. It is the aim of the commissioners to retain possession of this valuable piece of real estate at all hazards. It is claimed by the Exempts that their company would have fulfilled all the requirements: performed equally as much and as efficient service to the city as the present company and that the commissioners would have been saved between \$400 and \$500 which it at present costs to maintain the volunteer organization.

sales stated about...

Jan 9th 1896

A LITTLE RAISE.

That's What the Fire Fighters Get For the New Year.

The fire commissioners held a regular adjourned meeting, last night, and made the permanent members of the department happy by an increase of salary all around. It isn't a very large increase but none of the men have as yet refused to accept it on that account. The men are entitled to this increase, and deserve even more salary which will probably be given to them as soon as the commissioners can see their way clear to such a course. There is not a class of public servants in the world who give so much time and expose themselves to so much danger for so little pay, as the firemen. Another matter settled at last night's session, was the troublesome one of discipline among the call men.

When the meeting was called to order Clerk Ramage read a communication from volunteer Hose 2, asking that six new badges be purchased at the company's expense to replace an equal number which had been lost. The request was ordered granted.

A number of bills which had been presented since the last meeting, together with some which were laid over from a previous session, were ordered paid.

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A long schedule of bills was then taken up and the claims were all passed with the exception of P. M. Herron's bill which was sent back for correction and the bill of S. H. Barrett & Son which was laid over until the next meeting.

An exhibition of a patent weather strip was then given. The committee approved of the patent and praised its utility, but they did not feel called upon to purchase.

Stock l... p... s... e... n... h... old o... th... l... Is... ney, l... t of... isine... Ma... Stock... R. I. l... nated... r... State... all b... spen... good c... South... oyed... stock... estate... and ha... '94... [74 S... l year... ss \$70... ty, ar... cially... [322... us... d hal... 94 sal... South... us... eans... nd h... outh... 00, it... mean... one... Davc... \$150... 00, it... ve a... sales... [Pre... heir

from 20 to 25 as E. S. Brown & O'Co

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The quarters of Hose 6 are the only ones in the city which the municipality does not own. The building is the city's but the real estate belongs to the Central Railway company. It remains in the possession of the city, however, so long as it is occupied by a fire company. It is the aim of the commissioners to retain possession of this valuable piece of real estate at all hazards. It is claimed by the Exempts that their company would have fulfilled all the requirements; performed equally as much and as efficient service to the city as the present company and that the commissioners would have been saved between \$400 and \$500 which it at present costs to maintain the volunteer organization.

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When the meeting was called to order Clerk Ramage read a communication from volunteer Hose 2, asking that six new badges be purchased at the company's expense to replace an equal number which had been lost. The request was ordered granted.

A number of bills which had been presented since the last meeting, together with some which were laid over from a previous session, were ordered paid.

Mr. Smith then moved the adoption of an amendment to the by-laws, which he presented, in regard to the discipline of the call men. The amendment depended in full:

Members are required to sleep in quarters of their respective companies unless otherwise excused (failed to give a satisfactory excuse will subject such members to a fine of \$1). All members shall report at their respective quarters not later than 11 p. m.

By unanimous consent the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Speares suggested that the captains of the several companies be at once notified of the new rule and that they be instructed to inform all the call men in their companies and see that they thoroughly understood the new regulation and that it would be enforced. He further recommended that the captains report to the chief engineer all violations of the rule immediately.

Then came the introduction of the resolution of the meeting, at least so far as the firemen were concerned. It was read by the clerk and was fathered by President Moore. It is as follows:

Resolved, That beginning January 9, 1896, the salaries of the permanent members of the Auburn Fire department shall be as follows:

- Captains \$600 a year.
- Drivers \$550 a year.
- Department carpenter and lineman \$550.
- Superintendent of hose \$550.
- Chemical engineer \$540.
- Hosemen and ladder men \$525.
- Salaries to be paid weekly.

The resolution was unanimously adopted. John C. Winsor of Hose 1, was designated as superintendent of hose, and E. L. Mead of the Truck company was made department carpenter and lineman. Robert Nolan is the chemical engineer.

Frank P. Coffee, the substitute callman at Hose 3, was made regular callman to fill a vacancy, and Burt Pitcher was elected substitute.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported that the drainage pipe at the quarters of volunteer Hose 6, had become obstructed and the water had leaked through a poor joint into the cellar. He was directed to have the trouble repaired. Hose 6 is in State street, on the line of the new brick pavement put down last fall. It will be a serious matter if this new pavement has to be torn up so soon to repair a drain of the city's own property.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst was also directed to procure a kip of chamois skins.

The application of Charles M. Miles, formerly a member of volunteer Hose 1, for a discharge was granted and a certificate was ordered issued to him. The board then adjourned.

only a fair location; buys mainly of one Provid

J. H. BYRNE. [Central St.] James F \$2,800, including furniture; outstandings \$580 real estate worth \$1,000, clear; work on the Providence P. I. house; outside credit ad

Jan 11 1896

A Small Fire.
An overheated stove ignited the wood-work in the branch office of Lanehart & Garrett in their coal yards in lower Clark street last evening. Fortunately it was discovered in time and a message was sent to the quarters of Hose 3 adjacent. The men responded and succeeded in subduing the fire with one of the small extinguishers carried on the hose wagon. A hole was burned in the wall but the damage was very slight.

JOHN J. HERSCHOVITZ. [Clothing, "Stock valued \$8,000 (shoes \$300), ins. \$4,000 the stock is covered by a mortgage held by a depending upon the profits of the store to pay t

JOHN NEWTON. [Dexter St.] [Gent ready-made and gents' furnishings in '82. State

Jan 18 1896

The Exempts Elect and Deny.

The Exempt Firemen's association held a regular meeting, last Thursday evening and elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

- President, W. H. Moon.
- Vice-President, Pietro Mowry.
- Recording secretary, D. F. Lane.
- Financial secretary, S. S. Allen.
- Treasurer, Herbert Walsh.
- Trustee, 3 years, Fred Bunnell.

During the meeting, action was taken on the article published in the ADVERTISER of January 9. Said article stated that just at present there was a slight disagreement between the Exempts and fire commissioners; also that the Exempts made a proposition to the commissioners to disband Hose 6 and turn over to them their quarters, and they would furnish thirty active men to work at fires when required. It also stated that the thirty signatures were secured and with the addition of fifteen more, making forty-five in all.

Now in the first place there was never any action taken in regard to forming a company to work at fires when required. Therefore such a proposition to the commissioners could not have been made and no disagreement exists, neither were there any signatures obtained to do such work at times required.

Hereafter, if the reporter will call on the recording secretary when such reports are current, he can ascertain their truth and reliability, and not be misinformed by maliciously inclined persons or those who like to hear themselves talk. D. F. LANE, Sec'y.

There was nothing "malicious" in the ADVERTISER article. The facts were obtained from reliable sources and the ADVERTISER is not yet convinced that they were erroneous, except in some minor details.

["The Common People"]

Began May, '92, previously worked twelve years in factory manufacturing start \$700; stock \$800, ins. \$1,000; outstandings \$90; sell mostly for e notes to one Providence house; rent \$180." Reputed industrious and confine hi

[Dry s to us: dness, no

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Central States indebted habit

[Clothing, "Stock valued \$8,000 (shoes \$300), ins. \$4,000 the stock is covered by a mortgage held by a depending upon the profits of the store to pay t

ly in this line in Providence, 1,500, give some notes; "Good character and location poor; chances

ros., who bought out A. 00; mdse. indebtedness y in bank. Young man, es stated \$7,000.

George R. Stetson, Pres., : "Mdse. stock \$24,000, ses; the stockholders are he debts of the company, ct integrity, good ability,

r for several years. States dness \$200, partly notes; puted honest, industrious,

oe store. States to us: ings \$175; discount most and his business; well out \$50 a week.

in '93, formerly clerk in mdse. indebtedness \$100, furnished by his mother;

ence Co., R.I.

, '95.

in factory manufacturing outstandings \$90; sell mostly for is stated \$2,500.

brother-in-law of J. ll for cash; mdse. ind nd industrious, but in 1 sales stated \$8,200.

: "Stock \$3,500, ins. otes; rent \$254; own ; buys mainly of one

States to us: "Stock \$3,500, clear." Store in ted. '94 sales estimated

es in '92. States to us: lehtedness \$2,000; rent '94 sales stated \$8,000

in '66, in '92 admitted, ins. \$11,000; outstand- al estate valued \$4,000,

s, in '93. States to us: ness \$4,000; rent \$480; o outside means, and is)

om maker in '81, added), ins. \$3,000; outstand-

THE INSURANCE TAX.

Where Will it Go If All the Volunteers Disband?

The season of the year has nearly arrived when the volunteer firemen of the city will make their annual "divy" of the two per cent. fire insurance tax. This annual cash donation of the insurance companies is one of the prerequisites attached to the position of a volunteer fireman. This assessment of two per cent. is levied on all foreign insurance companies doing business in New York, and the tax is turned over for fire protection purposes, to the cities in which the companies have branch offices. The manner of disposing of it is as varied as there are cities, but as a general thing this money is devoted to some form of bettering the condition of the firemen. In some places it goes into the pension fund, in others it provides for private rooms in hospitals for sick and injured firemen, in still other cities it is used as a benefit fund in case of permanent injury or death of a fireman. In not any case, however, is this money placed in the general fund of the department.

Case 24-1896

In the days of the old volunteer service this insurance money was turned over to the Relief association of the Auburn fire department. This association had for its object the care of the sick and a small weekly allowance was made in case of disability with occasional appropriations of considerable amount when the exigencies of the case demanded it. There was also a generous death benefit attached to the membership in the association. But to be a member of this association and receive its benefits it was requisite that the beneficiary should be a volunteer fireman. Of course this clause debarred the men employed in the paid portion of the department. Although they had formerly been members of the volunteer service and of the Relief association itself, the fact of their having gone to fire-fighting for a living instead of a pastime, they were precluded from receiving any benefit from the fund.

The tax in this city varies from year to year, but amounts to something like \$700 annually. This amount since the disbandment of the larger number of the volunteer companies has been divided each year as soon as it was received among those still in service. As there are about sixty volunteers the amount per capita is not large, still it has been one of the greatest incentives in holding the volunteers together. Every year just previously to this "divy," certain members predict that the companies will disband of their own accord immediately after the distribution, but every year they hang on until the next tax is due.

In the event of the volunteers carrying into effect the wishes of a large number of the members and retire from the service, what would become of the insurance tax is a question asked many times. The Exempt firemen's association, another product of volunteer fire service days, has its eyes upon this yearly income. The members of the Exempts are required to have an honorable discharge from the department after five years of active service, and there is a sick and death benefit attachment connected with the organization, to which it is proposed to devote this fund providing they can get hold of it.

An attempt was made by the Exempts a year or two ago to get a bill through the legislature turning over the fund to them. A Weedsport newspaper man who is devoted to volunteer fire department matters, used his personal endeavors to get the bill passed. In the press of business the bill was lost in committee.

The members of the paid department of course are anxious to have the fund given to them. They possess neither the members nor influence to secure legislation favorable to themselves and as yet the heads of the department have not taken any interest in the matter for the under-paid men who, if anyone, deserve this bonus.

States to us: "Stock \$500, ins. \$500; buy Reputed industrious, but lacking in ability; n

SHARTENBERG & ROBINSON. [D '87. State to us: "Stock \$100,000 (shoes \$

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ESCAPING ELECTRICITY'S WORK. A Pyrotechnical Display of Wondrous Brilliancy.

Many Buildings in the Central Part of the City Threatened With Destruction - Damage Done by Flames Caused by the Subtle Fluid.

Electricity was out for a high old time, last night. It wanted to paint the town red and came within an ace of doing it. The frisky current came from the electric light plant and just what was the trouble in a mystery. At the office, this morning, it was said that Superintendent McCabe was out of town for the day and as usual the employes placed the blame on the trolley company, alleging that an electric light wire fell across the deadly trolley at the corner of Genesee and State streets. Whatever the cause it came very near precipitating one of the most terrible conflagrations ever known in the city. Good luck and a practical fire chief with a few well trained men, saved the town.

The trouble commenced early in the evening. Shortly before 7 o'clock the incandescent lights in the City hall declined to shed any further light on the Shimer jurv. This strike of the lamp was preceded by a sudden burst of varicolored flame from the cupola of the City hall which flashed on the heavy clouds with great brilliancy. The light as suddenly left the cupola as it had appeared and again sprang into existence on the roof and cornice of the building along which it danced in a fantastic manner.

For three-quarters of an hour the municipal building was in total darkness excepting for the pale and sickly glow of a few dingy oil lamps. Then employes of the Electric Light company repaired the trouble, which they said was caused by the burning out of the supply wires. The lamps did their duty all right until 8:45 when they again took occasion to go out.

About this time a number of electric motors burned out, causing more or less damage. The heaviest sufferer was the Grand Union Tea company in Genesee street. The watchman in the store of W. B. Hislop & Co. became aware of smoke in the building at 8:50 o'clock. Soon after, Patrolman Malone also noticed smoke and assisted the watchman to search for the flame. Failing to find it and the smoke continuing to increase, the policeman telephoned for the fire department. Chief Jewhurst soon located the fire in the basement of the Tea company's establishment and it did not take him long to put out the blaze. Afterward it was found that the fire had its origin in the electric meter which measures the current used by the motor which turns the coffee mill. The sparks had communicated to the inflammable material which surrounded the meter and a pretty brisk fire was in progress when the firemen appeared.

ght watchman for eight
of store. State to us:
bbing house; rent \$144;
lapted to the business;

nsurance office.
ne from Moosup, Conn.
\$24,000. (?)

Island State laws, Octo-
d failed September, '93.
eas.; Frank H. Borden,
; at inventory, February,
3,878.59; bills receivable
90; mdse. indebtedness
\$6,000), fully insured;

Murphy. Began in '83,
'95, \$27,406.46 (shoes
ness, discount most bills
Murphy, real estate worth
and are in good credit.

he had been employed
location, and ill kept; no

ns. \$1,000, on stock and
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tged \$150." Reputed
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500; trade mostly cash;
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for some years, and was
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"The Standard Boot and
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ly; sales for '94 less than
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about \$7,000.

eady-made in '89. Stock
ted industrious, and good
; means limited, but not

arles F. Henry, manager;
estimated \$2,500, fully in-

ates to us: "Stock \$600,
the business." Reputed

ooney. In '90 succeeded
uses here; enlarged store
\$19,000; sell mainly for
ood character and habits,

repairing in Providence.
means all in the business."

arry Robinson. Began in
cash; outstandings \$2,500;

mdse. indebtedness small, take all discounts; capital increased, our own means; Robinson owns residence worth \$4,000, mortgaged \$1,600." Carry an attractive stock; reputed pushing, enterprising men, of good character, habits and business ability, and are in fair credit. '94 sales stated (all departments) \$270,000 (shoes \$10,000). (?)

ATTLEBORO, Bristol Co., Mass.

County seat at Taunton. Population 7,775. Investigated March, '95.

Jan 24 1896

A Card to the Fire Department.

I have not time nor space to express my disapproval of city methods which leave open the way for fires such as Auburn, at four different points in the center of our city, barely escaped last night. I do, however, wish to express my gratitude to the Fire department for the saving of property to the Grand Union Tea company, and also to express my highest appreciation of the way they did their work, proving clearly their ability in their chosen profession, not only to extinguish flames but to do so at the least possible loss of property. I ask these gentlemen to accept my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Respectfully,
COURTNEY C. AVERY.

W. McCaffery, manager and part proprietor. Succeeded C. P. Dutton, five years for San Souci & Co., here, this line. States to us: "Capital a silent partner; stock \$3,000, ins. \$2,500; sell for cash; mdse. indebted in the business." Reputed capable and attentive; store in fair condition, to whom they should be left for credit. (?)

'86 as Farmer, Cooney & Co., dissolved in '90, moved to present location. ins. \$1,500; my own capital \$1,000; outstandings \$75; mdse. indebtedness \$1,800. (?)

Enterprise Shoe Co., and gone to Taunton, Mass.

[Fishing Goods, etc.] Albert M. Began in '65. States to us: "Stock outstandings and mdse. indebtedness small; rent \$312; own residence cost \$1,200, ins. \$800, clear; employ no clerks, expenses light; reducing price." Reputed of strict integrity, and is in good credit. '94 sales stated as follows: "Stock \$1,000, ins. \$1,000; sales \$75 a week." (?)

J. H. Nerney. Last statement to us: "Stock \$600, ins. \$1,000, on stock and fixtures; outstandings \$150; mdse. indebtedness \$500; rent \$360." Reputed honest and industrious, but has not been successful; past due claims continue to press for collection. His statement shows no basis for credit. '94 sales estimated \$800. (?)

J. O. SAN SOU

N
C

ol Co., Mass.

Investigated March, '95.

BANK AND ATTORNEY

BARDEN BROS.
Thomas A., in '55, sons v to us: "Stock \$15,650 (take advantage of all disc cash balance on hand; W excellent order; reputed \$26,000.

GEORGE E. HAV
established in '65. States \$360; own no real estate some notes; have no bond and store in good order,

A. W. HIXON. S

R. KNAPP & CO.
old-established and reliable in separate store; handle master and trustee in Sa always maintained a pron and credit. '94 sales sta

ROSENBERG BROS. [Dry Goods, etc.] Adianam State to us: "Stock \$28,000 (shoes \$2,000), ins. \$25,000; outstandings \$2,800; mdse. indebtedness \$10,000; owe the bank \$2,000 borrowed money; rent \$1,000; own no real estate." Occupy two large connecting stores, in good location; reputed of correct habits, attentive and economical, and are in fair credit. '94 sales stated about \$40,000.

Jan "Striker's" Death. 2 1896

The big yellow dog which was known to many Auburnians as "Striker," has passed to the great beyond, leaving a numerous progeny and an untarnished reputation for faithfulness. When the Second Separate company of this city quelled the war at Buffalo in '92, the members brought home, along with other trophies of their prowess this huge yellow dog. The canine had been christened "Striker," and he seemed to appreciate the appellation to the fullest. The military soon tired of the big dog and after wandering about for a time, without any fixed master or home he took up with the members of Hose 3, where he became a feature of the neighborhood. Recently he contracted the distemper and as a merciful way of ending his misery the old dog was chloroformed.

E. Business was established by their father, rden & Co., the senior withdrew in '80. State ns. \$15,000; outstandings twenty-five per cent.; ever given a note for mdse., and have a large ttagged \$2,000; employ one clerk." Stock in ttentive, and in good credit. '94 sales stated

his death in '76, by whom the business was es- tandings \$800; mdse. indebtedness \$800; rent ouses, with whom I have dealt for years; give eputed of excellent character and habits; stock \$12,000 (thought overstated). (?)

A. W. Hixon & Co., Boston, Mass.

George W. Waterman, Eugene B. Follett. An (shoes \$2,000), ins. \$20,000; have groceries this line. Knapp, the main capitalist, is post- 0, clear, and other outside investments; have their command, and are in excellent standing

Meyer. Began in '76, added shoes in '86. outstandings \$2,800; mdse. indebtedness \$10,000; "Occupy two large connecting stores, and are in fair credit. '94 sales stated

BROOKLINE, Norfolk Co., Mass.

County seat at Dedham. Population 12,000.

Investigated March, '95.

BANK AND ATTORNEY. See Boston, Mass.

BOYNTON BROS. [Dry Goods, etc.] George F. and John F. Business was established by George F. in '70, brother admitted in '74, added shoes in '81. State to us: "We discount every bill, and do not owe a

Jan 30 1896

THE SYRACUSE MONEY TO FIGHT FIRE.

Commissioners Will Probably Ask for \$125,000.

RELIEF FUND'S LARGE DECREASE.

Insurance Agents' Returns to City Treasury Small Enough to Warrant Investigation.

The Board of Fire Commissioners informally considered the proposed budget for Fire Department expenses for 1896 at a special meeting yesterday afternoon, besides clearing up much of the business for the fiscal year of 1895, which will end Saturday.

The commission talked over the matter of expenditures necessary for 1896 and President White and Commissioner Schwarz were named to draft the annual department report and prepare estimates for submission to the Common Council. The board partially decided to ask for \$125,000 for the coming year, as against \$105,000 appropriated for 1895, making the figures on a basis of \$1,000 for each 1,000 population, the ratio adopted in a majority of cities. Commissioner Ryan suggested that while the board needed the sum named it might be well to ask for less, but a majority favored the large budget.

RELIEF FUND DEFICIT.

The firemen's relief fund received much attention and its consideration is pertinent apropos to Assemblyman Bondy's bill to establish a firemen's pension fund. The Commissioners were surprised to receive from City Treasurer Allen a statement that the receipts from the foreign insurance tax collection for 1895 were but \$892.12. The receipts for 1894 had been \$6,957.30, one-half being back taxes, and the Commissioners hold that this amount ought to increase from year to year. It was evident that the insurance men were taking advantage of the laxity of investigation to make small returns. On account of the decrease of receipts the report of the fund shows a deficit of nearly \$2,500, which if maintained will soon exhaust it. The Commissioners disclaim all responsibility for this, and take it as an argument in favor of the old recommendation for the appointment of a treasurer of the Fire Department, so that the insurance agents' returns may be properly investigated.

The statement of expenses for the year shows a small balance on hand. The figures as they will be submitted to the Common Council are approximately as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Cash in City Treasury February 1, 1895	\$160 50
Cash in Clerk's hands	502 21
Appropriation	105,000 00
Miscellaneous receipts	1,032 05
Total	\$106,703 76

Population 7,500. Investigated March, B. Endicott, Pres.; E. A. Brooks, Cash.

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Salaries to January 1, 1896	\$98,370
Apparatus repairs	1,200
House repairs	400
Furniture and bedding	1,200
House rent	4,000
Horses	1,200
Horse feed and bedding	1,200
Horseshoeing	1,200
Horse doctor and medicine	4,000
Harness and repairs	900
Fuel	1,900
Gas and electricity	277
Miscellaneous expenses	1,470
Hose	855
Storeroom and sundry accounts	3,016
Total	4,083

Balance in City Treasury	\$613 06
Cash in Clerk's hands	608 83
January expenses (estimated)	1,121
Total	7,211

The figures of the firemen's relief fund will be compiled as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Balance February 26, 1896	\$15,292
From foreign insurance tax	892
Total	\$16,184

EXPENDITURES.	
For relief of members	\$1,275
Funeral expenses Chief Reiley	800
Medical attendance	100
Chief Reiley to Engineers' Convention	200
Total	\$3,175
Balance	13,009
Total	\$16,184

In the annual report a statement the needed improvements to the service will be made. Three new houses with equipments and apparatus together with an appropriation to the water tower and provide a house and men for the reserve hook and ladder truck, will be asked. The Common Council committee, of which Alderman Ballard is chairman, appointed Monday for the purpose, will confer with the Commissioners on the matter.

The report will show that there are eighty-nine men in the department, eight engines, six hose wagons, two hose reels, three hook and ladder trucks, two chemical engines and a water tower. The department has lost five men during the year, three by resignation, one by death and one by dismissal, and six men have been added to the force. Eight new horses have been purchased, making total of fifty, of which five are unfit for service. Extensive repairs to engine house No. 1, minor repairs to other houses and an increase in the fire alarm system will be required during 1896. The department has purchased 5,000 feet of cotton hose and 400 feet of chemical hose during the year, has received \$80 in fine from men and has placed in service sixteen new fire alarm boxes.

MANY ROUTINE MATTERS.

During the session of the board it was decided to delay the purchase of a steamer to replace steamer No. 7 until after February 1. Chief Engineer Ecker asked that two men be added to the department, one to Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, which is short handed, and one to Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 to replace Patrick Gallagher, whose duties as aid to the Chief take him from active service as a ladderman. The former request was left until another meeting, and the Board of Municipal Service Examiners was asked for the names of three candidates for an appointment to Company No. 1.

President White stated that Special Agent O. R. Casey of the S. P. C. A. has repeatedly advised that three horses be attached to hook and ladder No. 1 and that it was time to make this provision. It was decided to purchase a three-horse hitch for truck No. 1, and by a transfer of horses barn room was provided for the third horse.

Thomas Cahill of Engine Company No. 3 was promoted to be engineer of that company in place of Thomas Harvey, promoted.

William A. Sweet asked to have a fire alarm box located at his manufactory in West street at his expense, and the matter was left to President White.

Informal applications for a new horse for Second Assistant Chief Ryan and another sliding pole for engine house No. 7 were referred back for transmission in

the proper form through Chief Ecker. Other minor requests for supplies to companies were referred to committees.

The Commissioners went into executive session and Assemblyman Bondy's firemen's pension bill was considered. None of the Commissioners would talk concerning the executive session.

C. C. Avery, the manager of the Tea company places the loss at \$500. It might be less than that or more, but Mr. Avery was sure it would not be far from that figure. He was emphatic in his praise of the paid portion of the fire department, which confined the fire to such small compass and stopped it with so little damage.

The stores adjoining the Tea company establishment were filled with smoke and it is probable more or less damage has been done in them.

A short time before the fire at the tea store the meter in the printing office of Fred A. Mohr, in the third story of the block at the corner of Genesee and North streets, burned out and set fire to the surrounding woodwork. Mr. Mohr chanced to be in his office and discovered the flames before they had made much progress. A few pails of water did the business without the aid of the fire department. The damage consisted only of a charred ceiling.

About the same time as the Mohr fire, the meter in the market of Butcher Froitzheim, near the Genesee street bridge, burned out. His loss was very slight also, but would have been large if he had not been in the place when the conflagration started.

The last of the series was the meter in the job printing office of H. B. Stevenson in Exchange street. The smoke from the burning insulation was first discovered by John Stickle who has charge of the Seward free reading room in the same building. After failing to locate the fire, Stickle called Patrolman Malone to his assistance. The policeman could not find the cause of the smoke so he telephoned Chief Engineer Jewhurst, who had by that time returned to department headquarters after the tea store fire.

The chief, policeman, a fireman, an ADVERTISER reporter and half a dozen people who either live or have their business places in the block, searched for two long hours for the cause of the smoke, but without success. Stores, the proprietors of which were not present, were broken open by the searchers in their efforts to find the fire. Several business men thought that burglars had been through their stores, on beholding the confusion which the fire hunters had left. It was not until this morning, when an attempt was made to start the presses in the printing office, that the origin of the smudge was ascertained.

for cash about \$100 on books no in \$2,0

A Leap-Year Leap.

While the fire was in progress in the Grand Union Tea store, last night, a woman who had her eyes fastened on the interior of the store walked into the cellar window area. It so happened that Pipeman Hughson of the Chemical company was in the area on all four trying to direct the chemical stream to the blaze.

Fireman Hughson is not easily frightened but when one hundred and forty pounds of live girl fell on him, without just cause or provocation it sort jarred on his nerves. He thought part of the building had fallen on him and he yelled and twisted accordingly. This frightened the woman worse than the fall and the way she struggled to release herself was a caution. Neither the woman nor the fireman was hurt, but both of them sustained a peculiar feeling of embarrassment.

Feb 4th 1896

A HORSE, A HORSE!

That's What the Fire Commissioners Are After Wanting.

For nearly a year the fire commissioners have been contemplating buying a horse for the use of the chief engineer. For nearly a year they have had a certain sum of money laid aside to pay for the horse, but the commissioners are still contemplating. When it became known months ago, that a horse was wanted for the fire department people with equines to sell have besieged fire department headquarters.

There are all kinds of horses in this world and representatives of each separate class have been paraded before the commissioners. There have been big horses, little horses, and medium sized horses, sound horses and diseased horses, logy horses and spirited Mazeppas, kind horses and fractious horses, black horses, white horses, bay horses, brown horses, and spotted horses, old horses and young horses, in fact all kinds of horses, and still the commissioners are contemplating purchasing a horse.

Besides the horses which have been shown at headquarters, representatives of the commissioners have visited nearly every part of this and the surrounding counties in search of the right horse. They have not been successful in their hunt and the commissioners are still contemplating.

The splendid driveway in Franklin street, in front of the department building has become a veritable Rotten Row for horses, from having been used so much as a show-ground of animals which their anxious owners hoped to sell to the contemplating commissioners. It has reached a point now when it is said that not a horse passes the department building without trying to put on airs and to cut up capers. It is even said by residents who live in the vicinity that the old hacks attached to the garbage wagons attempt a skittish playfulness when in the vicinity of the fire department, hoping to fall under the eye of the commissioners and be favorably noticed. Still, the commissioners are contemplating.

The contemplative attitude of the commissioners has driven any number of horse-jockeys to the verge of distraction. The horse dealers have appeared at all hours of the day and night with equines which they were confident were just what the commissioners wanted, but which on examination proved to be just what they did not want, and only aroused them momentarily from their contemplative condition.

The trouble has not been that the horses were all at fault, but that if the horse was right the price was wrong. As one of the commissioners pathetically remarked, "Whenever they bring around a good horse they ask a high price for him."

The commissioners have resolved not to exceed the sum set aside a long time ago and they don't want an inferior animal, and there you are. They are still contemplating.

There are still several horses left for the commissioners to choose from, despite the large number which they have examined. The handsome exhibition horse at Wills' carriage factory, and a patent clothes-horse at Richardson's have not been contemplated. Both are cheap and have good points. And the commissioners are still con-

Feb 6th 1896

A Horse Bought. - 96

The fire commissioners ceased contemplating, yesterday and purchased a horse for the department. It is probable that, hereafter, in passing department headquarters horses will drop into their accustomed paces and not attempt any more coltish capers with a view to captivating the horse buyers.

The horse which the commissioners purchased is a handsome gray, six years old and was owned by Burt Lewis, just north of the city.

Feb 7th 1896

HIS LODGING PLACE FIXED.

The Assistant Chief to Room With Hose 3 - That New Horse.

Hereafter the assistant engineer of the fire department will have to sleep in some one of the department quarters which will be designated by the commissioners. Beginning February 10, Assistant Chief Kinsella will be required to spend his nights at the quarters of hose 3 in Clark street. This was the important item of the regular meeting of the fire commissioners which was held, last night.

After the regular program of opening exercises had been concluded, President Moore reported that it had been decided not to insure the department horses. "We've a pretty healthy lot of horses in the department and we've concluded not to insure them—not just at present," explained Mr. Moore.

Commissioner Smith declared that all necessary supplies had been procured for fire station No. 3.

The purchase of a horse for the use of the chief engineer was reported by Commissioner Speares. The animal had been purchased of Burt Lewis for \$137.50, and in the opinion of Mr. Speares it was an excellent acquisition. The horse would be placed in service as soon as some necessary repairs could be made to the house.

Clerk Ramage announced that he had received the metal badges the commissioners had directed him to procure for volunteer hose 2.

Chief Jewhurst then made his regular monthly reports. Among other things he reported the purchase of a kip of chamois as directed by the board. The matter of the water in the cellar of the quarters of volunteer hose 6, which was referred to him at a previous meeting, had been investigated. The water had vanished as mysteriously as it had appeared and nothing further had been done. Superintendent Grant of the water board had notified him that the water meter in the house had been twice changed and if another meter had to be put in it would be charged to the commissioners. The trouble was caused by the back flow from the hot water tank which injured the mechanism of the meter. The chief was directed to make such repairs as would put a stop to further damage to the meter.

The chief had only three fires to report for the month of January. His report of the presence of the men at quarters was a decided improvement over the previous months. Commissioner Speares' new rule having worked a radical change for the better in that

A communication was received from volunteer hose 2, asking for exempt certificates for the following members who had served five years in the department: E. J. Sandford, Thomas Woods, E. L. Perrigo, George W. Houser, John Farrar, Ernest Reukland, Joseph Wahl, William Corfield, P. A. Ryan and John Willman.

The regular monthly schedule of bills was audited.

"I understand that everything is now ready for the assistant chief to sleep at the quarters of Hose 3," said Mr. Speares interrogatively.

"Yes," replied Mr. Smith, "There is a room with a bed all made up."

Then I move that the assistant chief be required to sleep at the quarters of Hose 3, the order to take effect February 10," said Mr. Speares, "and I further move, that the matter may be fully understood, that the assistant chief come under the rule's governing call men and subjecting him to the same restrictions in regard to sleeping in the quarters every night, reporting not later than 11 p. m. and be subject to the same fines for violations of the rules."

There was a brief discussion of the latter part of the resolution, President Moore seeming to think that it was unnecessary as the assistant chief was a call man, but Mr. Speares insisted that there was nothing in the rules which made the assistant subject to the same restrictions as the other call men and he wanted the matter fully understood. So the resolution was adopted.

President Moore reported that a old harness had been sold by F. A. Brooks for \$25 and the money would be applied on the new harness for the extra horse

Genesee street. George Jenkins was endeavoring to melt some paraffine over the kitchen stove. The paraffine became overheated and caught fire, with the result that the room was soon filled with a dense smoke which took on a lurid hue from the blaze which caused it. The inmates of the house were terribly frightened and telephoned the firemen. Before they arrived the danger was all over. The walls and ceiling of the kitchen were blackened by the greasy smoke. Beyond this there was not any damage as a result of the miniature conflagration.

The run of hard luck which has followed E. L. Mead of the Truck company for some time past received another impetus, this morning. He is the assistant driver of the truck, and when the call came in, today, Driver Hamilton was at dinner and Mead had charge of the team. In hitching the big horse Buck, whose disposition is not lamb-like at any time, the animal became excited and bounded around in a decidedly unpleasant manner. In his cavortings he struck Mead's left leg, tearing the rubber boot. The hoof landed on Mead's foot bruising it frightfully and as was afterwards ascertained breaking one of the small bones. Mead's clothing was torn and he received other injuries of a less serious nature. The horse then dashed against the door of the house and broke a pane of glass. Despite his injuries, Mead heroically climbed to his seat on the truck and drove to the scene of the fire. He was relieved on reaching the Jenkins' residence, and was taken to his home in North street. Dr. G. A. Gwynn, attended him there.

It is only a few days since Mead's wife and baby were overcome by gas and he has been the victim of several other turns of ill-luck.

...Children are bought," continued
Professor Cook, "when zeal overbalances
discretion. The missionary does not stop
to think that, having begun to buy chil-
dren, he will be expected to continue.
Perhaps some board or society has great
expectations which he is anxious to sat-
isfy, and in his report he wants to show
a goodly number of scholars in his
school.

running custom shop; added
indebtedness; pay cash; rent

Feb 17th 1896

GOOD DAY FOR A FIRE.

A Small Smudge in Genesee Street—
Telephone Mead's Injures a Bone.

A telephone call for the fire department was sent in at about noon, today, from the home of Dr. J. M. Jenkins, in Genesee street. George Jenkins was endeavoring to melt some paraffine over the kitchen stove. The paraffine became overheated and caught fire, with the result that the room was soon filled with a dense smoke which took on a lurid hue from the blaze which caused it. The inmates of the house were terribly frightened and telephoned the firemen. Before they arrived the danger was all over. The walls and ceiling of the kitchen were blackened by the greasy smoke. Beyond this there was not any damage as a result of the miniature conflagration.

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March 3rd 1896

This Morning's Fire.

The first alarm of fire in several weeks was turned in, this morning, at 11:15 o'clock from station 71, corner of North Division street and Perrine avenue. A house in Perrine avenue, belonging to the Beardsley estate and occupied by Peter O'Connor, caught fire from a defective chimney and before it was discovered the entire roof was in a blaze. Volunteer company 5 responded to a call from this station and the members were given the first opportunity to work for the salary paid by the city in many and many a long period. They responded to the call and succeeded in getting the first stream on the conflagration, although Hose 3 of the paid portion of the department was so close behind them that there were not half a dozen shingles burned in the interval.

The roof was destroyed by the fire but the lower portion of the building was saved. The damage will amount to about \$500. Connors had moved into the house only a few days previously and as his household effects were still unpacked, they were removed without loss.

Hose 1 at headquarters does not respond to an alarm from this station, excepting at a second alarm. A large crowd gathered about the company's quarters and audibly wondered why in Halifax the firemen did not go out.

Watered 4-1896

FIRE AT OSBORNE'S.

Efficiency of the Paid Department Prevents Much Damage.

There was the commencement for a roaring conflagration in the factory of D. M. Osborne & Co., this morning which was only stayed by the knowledge and executive ability of Chief Engineer Jewhurst, assisted by the thoroughly disciplined firemen of the permanent portion of the department.

A huge vat of blue paint in the basement of the wood shop of the factory in Mechanic street, caught fire in some mysterious manner. If anyone knows how the blaze started, the information is kept with a fidelity which even the board of health fails to preserve in regard to some of its executive sessions. A somewhat singular reticence is observed about the affair. After all the fire-fighting appliances in the factory had been tried and still the fire increased, a telephone call was turned in for the firemen. The task of extinguishing the fire was a serious one, for the place had been flooded with water, which, instead of smothering the flames had only served to spatter and float the blazing paint about the room. Two streams from the chemical engine were turned on and at first not the slightest impression was made because of the vast quantity of water previously thrown, but finally the chemicals commenced to work. Seven tanks were used in all before the fire was conquered.

When the blaze had been confined to the tank, Chief Jewhurst ordered a quantity of sand wheeled to the place and the firemen banked the flames with dirt and gradually confined the fire into a narrower space, until with the aid of the chemical streams it was smothered.

The damage from fire, smoke and water will amount to \$500.

The vat in which the fire started is used to dip wood and metal portions of harvesting machinery, thus coating them with paint much cheaper than it can be done with a brush.

The firemen were a sight when they emerged from the building. They were covered from head to foot with paint, and the uniforms they wore were ruined by the mixture.

March 5th 1896

Thanks to the Fire Department.

The following appreciative note came in Chief Jewhurst's mail, this morning:

D. M. Osborne & Co.,
Manufacturers of
Harvesting Machinery, Farm Implements and
Binding Twine.
AUBURN, N. Y., March 4, 1896.
Mr. Edward J. Jewhurst,
Chief Engineer, Auburn Fire Department,
City:
DEAR SIR: We desire to thank your department, through you, for the promptness with which they responded to the still alarm, today, and the energy and judgment displayed by them in our factory.
Every manufacturer and owner of buildings in the city of Auburn have reason to congratulate themselves that we have so efficient a fire department.
Yours very truly,
D. M. OSBORNE & CO.,
By EDWIN D. METCALF,
Treasurer.

March 6th 1896

BOARD OF FIRE WARDENS.

The Chief's Annual Record of Fires and Happenings.

The fire commissioners, last evening held their last meeting of the fiscal year. There wasn't much business, but the members of the board lingered over it, for there is not any certainty but a new commissioner may be elected. President Moore hopes to succeed himself and he has not only the best wishes, but the political support of his colleagues for his return to the board. Mr. Moore feels confident that his conservative course since he has been in the board will meet with an expression of approbation by his re-election, but still there is a chance and so the members didn't hurry any to conclude the meeting.

There was one interesting fact came out during the session which the commissioners did not allow to go unnoted. This was the saving of \$200 in gas and water bills during the past year. The members of the board have considerable reason to feel proud of this bit of economy.

The most important item of the evening was the annual report of Chief Engineer Jewhurst. Like all previous reports of the chief it is an interesting and comprehensive document. It is appended in full.

When the meeting had been called to order Mr. Smith of the supply committee reported repairs and additions to the bedding at station 3, in Clark street. The chief engineer reported the completion of repairs previously ordered, at the quarters of volunteer hose 6. He also made reports of the contingent fund and the monthly record of fires, all of which were approved. Then he submitted his annual report, which was also approved with the addition of complimentary remarks by the commissioners.

An application was received from Lewis J. Burns, a call man assigned to Hose 1, requesting to be given a position on the permanent force. His name was ordered placed on the waiting list.

A communication was received from H. T. Dayton, attorney for the estate of the late H. J. Cheney, asking for an immediate settlement of a bill for twenty cents which he had found on the books against the defendant. The matter was referred to Commissioner Smith.

The following schedule of claims was then audited and checks were ordered drawn in favor of the several claimants:

E. D. Clapp, Mfg Co. coal.....	\$30 45
Auburn Gas Light Co.....	30 89
M. S. Goss, coal.....	8 70
John Hollhan, plumbing repairs.....	1 84
C. A. Porter, lumber.....	2 10
C. H. Smyth, suoptes.....	1 57
D. A. Smith & Co., hardware.....	12 79
P. Devitt & Son, supplies.....	2 25
Cossum & Cuykendall, stationery.....	2 87
Choate & Bro., hardware.....	6 17
T. J. Bell & Co., coaches.....	9 00
Healy Bros., coal.....	26 10
Auburn Gas Light Co., fixtures.....	3 60
Shallish & Rich, hardware.....	2 03
Dunning Hardware Co., hardware.....	76
Race & Larzelere, repairs.....	90
Walter Bray, horse blankets.....	4 50
T. A. Cameron, repairs and supplies.....	8 58
P. M. Herron, hardware.....	3 25
Orlando Lewis, bran.....	10 80
H. R. Wait, carpets.....	13 20
Benjamin Hutchings, horse shoeing.....	2 70
W. O. McGeer, repairs.....	2 85
W. R. Keyes, stationery.....	70
James J. Carr, repairs.....	80
Barrett & Son, plumbing.....	15 73
O. C. Hall, coal.....	4 35
J. H. Pearson, coal.....	30 45
Lanehart & Garrett, coal.....	66 55
M. A. Backman, coal.....	26 10
F. Dobson, material and labor.....	3 75
D. McKay, saddlery supplies.....	2 85
W. A. Dean, mgr., drugs.....	3 00
Kerslake & Spencer, plumbing.....	11 22
Brixius & Chapman, bedding.....	53 55
Howland & Clark, lumber.....	9 14
Barnes & Son, labor and material.....	1 73
Manro & Hugg, coal.....	39 15
Douglas Beardsley, coal.....	37 45
Empire State Telephone Co.....	57 00
Auburn Water Board.....	16 50

Mr. Smith brought up the matter of reading material for the firemen. On a recent trip to Boston he had visited several fire department stations and had been greatly impressed with the extensive libraries in each house. He had been informed that the books were all donated by residents of the city. He thought, perhaps Auburnians would also give of their store of books if they knew that the firemen would like them. President Moore thought that the reporters would be glad to inform the people and forward every good cause, so anyone having more books than he wants can send them to the fire department buildings with the assurance that they will be appreciated.

Mr. Speares moved that \$10.10 remaining in the horse fund be transferred to the contingent fund. The motion was adopted and the board adjourned.

Chief Engineer's Report

To the Hon. Board of Fire Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN—The annual report of the chief of the fire department for the year ending Feb. 29, 1896 is hereby respectfully submitted to your honorable body, which embraces a statement in detail of the work performed during the year.

MANUAL FORCE.

During the year the paid force has been strengthened by the addition of one permanent man to the Truck company. Every man added to the permanent force greatly tends to its effective work at fires at a time when most needed.

The very general use of telephones in dwellings, business and manufacturing establishments, and the frequent calls for the department through this medium requires that a working force of permanent men shall at all times be in readiness to answer.

The department under its present organization, while effective to a certain extent, is not what it should be considering the population of the city and property requiring protection.

At present the force consists of 94 officers and men comprising seven companies, viz: Two hose, one chemical and one hook and ladder company paid, and three volunteer companies, classified as

(Continued on Fifth page)

BOARD OF FIRE WARDENS.

Continued from Fourth page.

follows: Permanent force; one chief, four captains, four drivers, one hose superintendent assigned to Hose 1, one fire alarm battery man assigned to Truck 1, one chemical engineer, six hose and ladder men a total of eighteen permanent men; one assistant chief and eleven hose and ladder men comprise a paid call force, making a total of thirty paid men and sixty-four volunteers.

The following changes were made in the paid companies during the year: John Willman, permanent man, Hose 1, resigned August 1st. A. E. Hemrick call man promoted to vacancy, August 1st. J. Fosbindder appointed call man, Hose 1, August 1. J. D. Tyne appointed permanent man, Hook and Ladder, September 5. J. Fosbinder, call hose man, resigned October 3. L. Morris appointed to vacancy October 3. J. E. Shay, call man, Hose 3, resigned January 1. F. P. Coffey appointed to vacancy January 9.

Once during the year death invaded the ranks of the department. Thomas Corcoran, a member of volunteer hose company, No. 6, died May 2. He was a young man of excellent qualities and ever ready to discharge the duties of a fireman.

With one or two exceptions but little sickness has occurred among the members and, though at times the duty performed has been dangerous, few accidents have occurred, among them the following were disabled so as to unfit them for duty for the period of one week or more:

- Hoseman, John T. Mansfield, Hose 1.
- Hoseman, James Bresnan, Hose 3.
- Truckman, E. L. Mead, Hook and Ladder.

The discipline during the year has been most excellent. The men without exception have performed their duty in a manner highly creditable to the organization and service they have engaged in.

There are connected with the permanent force mechanics who have during the year by their industry performed labor about the department in repairs to buildings, fire alarm telegraph, hose, apparatus and equipments in addition to their regular duties making in the aggregate 465 days extra duty, thereby saving a large expense to the city. The increase in salary of the permanent men, though small, was appreciated. When it is considered that a fireman is required to devote all his time and energies to the demands of the department the present salaries are not large. This is the only occupation in the city where men are required to devote 24 hours each day to their duties; from its peculiar nature it cannot be otherwise; a fireman lives and sleeps at the station denying himself of the comforts of home and family, which most men are permitted to enjoy. He is not in idleness, only when performing fire duty, as many unacquainted with the service believe he is; fire duty is a small consideration to the daily and extra work each man is required to perform, which occupies his time the greater part of each day, giving him but little chance for idleness; and it is a pleasure to note that the service rendered by the department fully meets with the approval of your honorable body, as has been shown by your acts.

FIRES AND ALARMS.

The fire loss for the year has been exceptionally light as compared to some of the previous years, and the number of small losses are noteworthy from the fact that early discoveries were the general rule, and the prompt and rapid work of the department in extinguishing the fires. During the year there were 63 fires and alarms classified as follows: Bell alarms 32; telephone alarms 9; still alarms 22. The department responded to 48 of the above.

LOSSES.

Losses on buildings and contents.....	\$4,345 04
Insurance paid on same.....	2,893 32
Total loss over insurance.....	1,451 72

The causes of alarms responded to by the department may be classified as follows:

Unknown.....	11
.....	2

Hot ashes.....	2
Chimney.....	4
Gas jet.....	1
Benzine.....	1
Brush fire sparks.....	1
Fire crackers.....	1
Defective chimney.....	1
Electric light wires.....	1
Outside of the city.....	1
Gasoline.....	1
Falling lamp.....	1
Burning rubbish.....	1
Locomotive sparks.....	1
Spontaneous combustion.....	3
Supposed incendiary.....	1
Smoke mistaken for fire.....	3
Oil stove.....	3
Wooden cuspidor.....	2
Overheated stove.....	1
Defective smoke stack.....	1
Electric metre.....	1
Burning grease.....	1

The department performed 39 hours labor at fires during the year. The Chemical worked at 20 fires, the truck at 23, Hose 1 at 13, and Hose three at 11 fires. There were 24 chemical engine charges from hand extinguishers used, 598 feet of ladders raised, and a total of 13,300 feet of hose laid; of this amount, Hose 1 laid 4,850 feet, Hose 3 laid 2,950 feet, and the Chemical laid 4,500 feet. The three volunteer companies have a clean record for the year; not a single fire occurred where their assistance was required, the four paid companies performing the entire work of the department.

HOUSES.

The extensive improvements and repairs made in the house occupied by Hose Company No. 3, comprising the erection of a two story addition to the north side of the building, enlarging and renovating the sleeping room, fitting up bath and locker rooms, repairing the stables with improved flooring, a new boiler and piping for steam heating purposes all of which has so completely improved the house as to make it comfortable and convenient in every respect.

Changing the stalls in Hook and Ladder quarters and a complete renovation in the apparatus room, fitting up accommodations for the extra horse and the chief's wagon, putting in modern stall floors in the stables of the chemical, hose 1, and hook and ladder companies generally improved the sanitary condition of the building and also making it more convenient for the occupants.

The above work so far as possible was performed by the men of the permanent force; minor repairs were made in the other houses of the department. The tin roofs of Nos. 2, 5 and 6 hose houses are in a rotten condition and ought to be replaced with new tin as they are not worth patching. The building at present used for storage purposes is a valuable improvement to the service, it is conveniently located and ample room is provided for the storage of a large supply of hay, straw, grain and articles of various kinds belonging to the department.

APPARATUS.

The apparatus of the department, as shown in the inventory, numbers the same as last reported, and the general condition is reasonably good. Few minor repairs have been made incidental to the service. A new exercise wagon was furnished Hose 3, and the wagon formerly used by this company was made over for the use of fire alarm telegraph work and light carting and has many times proved its usefulness. No very extended repairs will be required to the apparatus during the ensuing year unless some unforeseen accident occurs.

HORSES.

There are in the service of the department nine as good horses as any city can boast of. Their general condition has been excellent, no sickness of a serious nature has occurred among them during the year. The drivers are quite familiar with horses and they have first class care and training. The purchase of a spare horse fills a required need for the general work of the department and filling the place of a regular horse in case of sickness, lameness or when at blacksmith shop.

WATER.

The supply of water has been ample during the year. I am pleased to report the water board has greatly improved the service by the addition of a number of new hydrants and relaying the mains in different localities with new and larger pipe, and I have the assurance of the board that they will continue the good work commenced. Seventeen new hydrants have been set during the year making 320 public hydrants and 55 private, a total of 375 available hydrants.

In this connection, I would respectfully call your attention to a subject of much importance to the fire service.

During the past year it was discovered that electrolysis was dangerously affecting the iron water mains in this city as well as in other cities where the single trolley system of electric railroads are in operation. The experiments of the water board showed conclusive evidence of its evils and if allowed to continue the mains may become so weak that they will not stand a required fire pressure and fail at a most critical moment which would completely paralyze all efforts to stay the progress of flames as the department is not provided with other means for extinguishing a large fire.

HOSE.

Six thousand four hundred fifty feet of fire hose good, bad and indifferent is the sum total of the equipment in this department.

A general overhauling of hose was made and 4,900 feet of the best quality was selected for the hose wagons and the remaining 1,550 feet was placed in charge of the volunteer companies.

I would recommend the purchase of additional hose as soon as the financial condition of the department will permit as the amount of reliable hose on hand will hardly meet the requirements in case of the unexpected.

The 200 feet of hose purchased for the chemical engine placed this apparatus in a serviceable condition.

FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH.

This valuable auxiliary to the successful working of the department has performed its functions more satisfactorily than during any year since its construction. Not a willful false alarm has been given from a box during the year, a circumstance not previously within the history of the department. No part of the system has been injured by contact with high pressure currents and only one break in the lines has occurred; one mixed or irregular alarm was caused by the key holders not fulfilling the instructions.

In connection with the regular work of the care of the batteries, instruments, signal boxes, and keeping the lines clear a large amount of outside work was performed during the year in the way of changes and repairs all of which occupied nearly the entire time of one

man, and oftentimes a detail was made to assist.

To a great extent, the department is indebted to the city wire inspector for his careful watchfulness of all electrical wires in keeping them completely insulated from the wires of the fire alarm, also for valuable assistance rendered the service without expense to the department.

I renew my recommendation for the addition of at least four new signal boxes to be located in parts of the city in need of protection.

PARADE AND INSPECTION.

The annual parade and inspection of the department took place September 25, and was a success in every particular.

CONCLUSION.

I desire to tender to your honorable body my sincere thanks for the many courtesies received during the year. To the members of the department for the very satisfactory manner in which they have, under all circumstances, performed their duties. I wish to bear evidence of their faithfulness. And to the police department which has worked in harmony, and by its timely aid in giving notice of fires rendered valuable assistance, I wish to express my kind consideration.

All of which with the accompanying papers is respectfully submitted.

E. J. JEWHURST,
Chief Engineer.

AUBURN, March 1, 1896.

March 7th 1896

Driver Resigns
317
J. Edward Perkins, who has been the driver of Hose 1, tendered his resignation to Chief Engineer Jewhurst, this afternoon, to take effect, tonight. Driver Perkins' record in the fire department has been an enviable one. He has secured a more remunerative position with the New Birdsall company.

March 10th 1896

GOOD SERVICE RECOGNIZED.

Tried and True Public Servants Re-appointed.

ATTORNEY PIERCE TOPS THE LIST

The New Board Makes Wise Selections for City Officials—Commissioners Moore and Wheeler Also Retained in Office.

- City Attorney—Lavern A. Pierce.*
 - Fire Commissioner—Edward J. Moore.*
 - Water Commissioner—C. Wheeler, jr.*
 - Commissioner of Soule cemetery—Rev. William Searls, D. D.*
 - City Surveyor—George W. Perry.
 - Sealer of Weights and Measures—N. B. Ford.
 - Keeper of the City hall—James Hanlon.
 - City Sexton—Charles M. Cooper.
 - Wire Inspector—John W. Hulbert, jr.*
 - City Scavenger—Robert Hazlitt.*
 - Council chamber janitor—Alonzo M. Hurd.*
- *Reappointed.
- Commissioners of deeds:
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| First ward— | Sixth ward— |
| Miss Clara Bennett | W. G. Ramage |
| Second ward— | Seventh ward— |
| Irving E. Brigden | H. N. Goodrich |
| Third ward— | Eighth ward— |
| Clarence Q. Day | P. W. Quigley |
| Fourth ward— | Ninth ward— |
| M. M. Pomeroy | J. H. TenEyck |
| Fifth ward | Tenth ward— |
| J. Henry Kerr. | R. J. Burritt. |

The biennial ceremony which marks the most interesting feature of a new board of aldermen, is the bestowal of the patronage within the gift of the common council. The mayor and the aldermen who were inducted into office, yesterday noon, met according to custom, last evening, and distributed the plums in the presence of an unusually large audience. The result of the two hours' labors is shown in tabulated form at the head of this column.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Republicans had seven votes, to four votes for the Democratic members, the most earnest effort to hold a Republican caucus was unavailing. The Republican members were called together in conference, late in the afternoon, but when the word "caucus" was uttered a few of them protested so strongly that the proposition was abandoned. Just how much difference the effect of a caucus would have had upon the general result is only a matter of speculation. Undoubtedly, the seven officers who were re-appointed—as shown in the list by an asterisk—would have been the choice of the caucus. It is believed that the vote for the other four officials would have been different, if the members had been bound by a caucus, and it is here that the Democratic members claim to have assisted in the work.

The return of City Attorney Pierce is a matter of congratulation to a large majority of the people. His conduct of the legal department has been such that the utmost confidence has been reposed in his ability and faithfulness.

Another act of the council which is deserving of praise was the re-appointment to the water board of ex-Mayor Wheeler whose devoted and painstaking application to the duties of the office is appreciated by every taxpayer. The selection of E. J. Moore as fire commissioner to succeed himself was also a merited compliment. In fact, although some well laid plans of the members failed in a few particulars, the list of officials as selected by the board will give general satisfaction. Here is the way in which the good work was accomplished:

At 8 o'clock the mayor's gavel rapped sharply three times and the new aldermen promptly took their seats.

Upon motion of Alderman McCarty all ex-aldermen were invited to seats within the rail and several old-time solons responded.

Alderman Schicht moved to suspend the regular order of business and proceed to ballot for city officers, and it was carried.

Alderman Roach moved that the council proceed to ballot for fire commissioner and the first partisan move of the new body developed.

Alderman Schicht amended that the ballot be for city attorney, and it was carried by a strictly party vote.

The first vote for attorney was awaited with interest. It was announced as follows. Whole number of votes cast, 11; necessary for choice, 6; L. A. Pierce, 3; W. M. Collier, 2; T. M. Hunt, 2; F. E. Cady, 1; Louis Newgass, 1; Porter Beardsley, 1; F. S. Coburn, 1.

Again did Alderman Roach attempt to shunt the proceedings and vote for fire commissioner, but the alderman from the First again interposed and another ballot was taken for city attorney. The names of Beardsley and Cady were dropped on the second ballot and they were not again taken up. On the seventh and eighth ballot ex-city Attorney Burby received one vote and then his name disappeared. At frequent intervals Alderman Roach would move to digress and ballot for some other officer, but his efforts were not successful until the twelfth ballot had been announced. Then with the Democratic votes and the aid of Aldermen Goodrich and Ramage it was agreed to vote for a fire commissioner.

The first ballot resulted in the re-appointment of Commissioner Moore. Instead of a triangular contest with M. J. Carmody in the race as had been expected, the struggle had narrowed down to the present incumbent and ex-Commissioner J. Had Pearson. The vote was 6 for Moore to 5 for Pearson.

Then the balloting for a city attorney was resumed and a study of the sub-

joined table will show the variable temper of the members. After the announcement of the fourteenth ballot and still no result, Alderman Roach tried some new tactics. "I move we take a recess of ten minutes," he said, "so that they can get together."

This was voted down and the next ballot showed that "they" had "got together." The votes as announced after the first ballot until the final declaration of the success of Mr. Pierce, are appended:

Pierce	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Collier	4	4	4	5	2	2	5	3	3	4	5	5	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Newgass	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hunt	1	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coburn	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Ex-city attorney claims he withdrew from the race early yesterday afternoon.

A ballot for city surveyor was then ordered with the result that DeWitt F. Austin who has held the office for four terms, since March, 1888, was beaten by a new-comer in town, George W. Perry, an employe in the New Birdsall works. The vote was 6 for Perry and 4 for Austin. One member did not vote.

Upon motion of Alderman Roach, the clerk cast the ballot of the board for the several commissioners of deeds as handed in by the aldermen. The list is printed at the beginning of this article.

Some surprise was created when upon the next ballot Lewis C. Remley, the efficient veteran janitor of the City hall was turned down by a vote of five to six for James Hanlon. The successful candidate is a brother of ex-Alderman Hanlon.

The next event was a long drawn out contest for position of sealer of weights and measures. There was a flood of candidates for the place, and during the twenty-six ballots necessary to effect a choice, the names of fifteen applicants received one or more votes. The first ballot started off with eleven names each receiving one vote: A. B. Whipple, T. H. Peacock, N. B. Ford, Isaac Richardson, William Crayton, William L. Boyle, John Reicheneker, G. S. Ramage, Michael Murphy, James Dennis and James A. McDowell. After that the names of Jerry Quill B. F. Barney, W. Drake and Michael Otis receive more or less attention. Jerry Quill of the Ninth ward, started in on the second ballot with two votes and continued in the race till the finish. Napoleon B. Ford, who started with one supporter was off the score card more than he was on it, but upon the twenty-fourth ballot he came on with three votes and he ended with a rush, on the twenty-sixth ballot with six votes to his credit, to five votes for Jerry Quill. The rest of the field had been distanced.

After the twelfth ballot for sealer a motion by Alderman Roach to ballot for a city sexton, prevailed. On the first ballot, one member did not vote and the result was a tie, five for R. T. Blakely, the present sexton, and five for Charles M. Cooper. On the next ballot the missing vote was cast for Cooper who was duly declared appointed.

Then Alderman Goodrich moved that inasmuch as there was only one candidate for the position of city scavenger, the clerk cast a ballot of the council for Robert Hazlitt, the incumbent, which was carried.

Upon motion of Alderman Burgess a vote was ordered for choice of a water commissioner to succeed President Wheeler. The result was another party division, Mr. Wheeler receiving the seven Republican votes, while David Wadsworth, jr., received the support of the four Democratic members.

Upon motion of Alderman Schicht, the clerk was directed to cast the vote of the council for the Rev. Dr. Searls, as commissioner of Soule cemetery, to succeed himself.

Similar action was taken in the re-appointment of Alonzo M. Hurd, as janitor of the council chamber, upon motion of Alderman Ramage.

For wire inspector, there were four candidates, John W. Hulbert, jr., the present inspector, who was reappointed by six votes; Edward O'Hara, who received two votes; L. H. Kirkpatrick, two votes, and John C. Willman, one vote.

Then the voting was resumed for sealer, which resulted as announced heretofore.

Alderman Roach moved that the regular meeting nights of the council be upon the first and third Mondays of each month, the same as heretofore, and the motion was carried. Then the council adjourned.

After the meeting, there were many excited discussions in public places throughout the city, in which the defeated candidates took leading parts. With such a swarm of would-be officials there necessarily was a large number of disappointed people who submitted some of the most entertaining arguments as to why they all didn't get there.

An incident of the selection of a sealer of weights and measures, was the interest displayed by Mrs. W. W. Crane in the candidacy of Isaac Richardson. Notwithstanding her earnest efforts among the members Mr. Richardson received only one vote during the evening and that was on the first ballot. Mrs. Crane was present at the meeting and was an interested spectator of the proceedings until the end. She was greatly disappointed at the failure of her first attempt in politics.

March 13th 1896

A POLITICAL SENSATION.

Grave Charges Preferred by a Defeated Candidate.

AFFIDAVITS SHOW CROOKEDNESS.

J. Had Pearson Claims He Was Deliberately Counted Out of the Fire Commissionership - Six Aldermen Make Oath They Voted for Him but the Council Only Reported Five - A Mysterious Affair.

The most sensational story of political intrigue ever divulged in Auburn, transpired, last night. It was nothing less than the announcement that J. Had Pearson, who was a recent candidate for appointment as fire commissioner, had been deliberately counted out of his election. Although Auburn has been the scene of the most diplomatic political engineering on record, the direct charge of crookedness has never before been openly made. Friends of all the persons interested are loth to believe that anything wrong has been done intentionally and while some one has made a mistake it was rather of the head than of the heart. It is probable that for the sake of all concerned a searching investigation will be made of the matter.

It appears that Mr. Pearson had the pledges of six of the aldermen to vote for him for fire commissioner previously to the meeting of the council, last Monday night. Three of the aldermen were Democrats and three were Republicans. Previously to the election, Alderman McCarty the other Democratic member of the board, had pledged himself to support E. J. Moore for the office, so it is said, and to this pre-election promise was largely due his successful candidacy. Up to the time of the meeting it was conceded that Mr. Pearson would be the choice of the council, and when it was announced that Mr. Moore had received six of the eleven votes of the members of the aldermanic board, the surprise was unbounded.

Mr. Pearson was deeply disappointed, as much, he says, to learn that one of the councilmen had ruthlessly broken faith with him, as at his defeat for the office to which he had aspired. In subsequent conversations, all of the six who had pledged themselves to support him avowed that they had kept their word. Determined to ascertain just which one, if any one, was the falsifier, he concluded to ask each one to make affidavit to the statement, believing that the guilty one would refuse to take oath that he had carried out his agreement and he would then know exactly who was so careless of his honor.

Accordingly the six affidavits were drawn by Mr. Pearson's attorney, A. J. Parker and they were presented to each of the six aldermen who very willingly consented to sign them and make oath to their correctness before Louis Newgass, justice of the peace.

The affidavit is appended:
State of New York, } ss.
County of Cayuga. }

Ransom R. Cross being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he is an alderman of the city of Auburn. That he was a member of the common council held Friday evening, March 9, 1896 and participated in and voted for fire commissioner at said council meeting. That on the final ballot for fire commissioner and the one in which the election was declared, he voted for J. Had Pearson.

Sworn to before me this 13th day of March, 1896.
RANSOM R. CROSS.
LOUIS NEWGASS,
Justice of the peace.

Similar affidavits were subscribed to by Robert Schicht, William C. Burgess, Dennis O'Neil, Jerry Corcoran and George Roach, a total of six, all making solemn oath that they voted for Mr. Pearson. These six votes constitute a majority of the council and would have elected Mr. Pearson.

These affidavits must of necessity cast a serious reflection upon City Clerk Ives who counted the votes and announced the result of the ballot, from which he will clear himself when the proper time comes. It may then appear that one of the aldermen has committed perjury. Clerk Ives declined, today to make any statement for publication, until officially notified of Mr. Pearson's action in the matter and of the contents of the affidavits. He did go so far as to say, however that Mr. Moore certainly received six votes for fire commissioner.

Not the least suspicion of anything wrong is attached by anyone to Mr. Moore, whose honesty and fairness are acknowledged by every one. To an ADVERTISER reporter he said, this morning:

"I believe that I was honestly elected as the votes show. I don't think that there was any crooked work at the time of the appointment. If anyone has done wrong since I am heartily sorry for them. Personally, I have been perfectly honest in the matter and whatever develops later I have nothing to fear. I have already taken the oath of office and shall continue to discharge the duties until I am compelled to resign."

Mr. Pearson was disinclined to talk about the matter, but after some hesitation he said: "Six of the aldermen were unequivocally pledged to vote for me for fire commissioner previously to the meeting of the common council. I had confidence that they were all men of honor and would keep their pledges. When the result was announced I deter-

mined to find out which one had falsified. Believing that the traitor, if there was one, would refuse to make a voluntary affidavit, I sought that way of learning who had committed treachery. My surprise can be imagined when every one of the six, without any hesitation took oath that he had kept his pledge and voted for me. I shall demand a confirmation of my appointment at the hands of the council. If necessary I shall carry the matter to the courts. So far as my opponent, Mr. Moore is concerned, I do not believe that he had any hand in any wrong-doing and I do not doubt that he believes himself honestly appointed."

Mayor Lewis said, this afternoon that he had not the slightest idea of what the outcome of the affair would be, but he had the utmost confidence in Clerk Ives. "I saw the votes counted," said his honor, "and there were eleven of them and only eleven. From my position I could not read the names on the ballots, but I saw that there were six on one pile and five in the other."

March 10th 1896

THE VOLUNTEERS MUST GO.

Commissioners Recommend Replacing Them With a Paid Co.

Among the many interesting reports which were submitted to the common council, yesterday and which were filed without being read, was the report of the fire commissioners. The recommendations appended are made in the report and demonstrate that after a year of service in the board, the commissioners have learned the value of a paid department over the old volunteer system:

At present our total salary list, including permanent and call men, volunteer companies and clerk, amounts to \$12,142 16 leaving only \$3,857 84 for all other expenses of the department. We would respectfully recommend that the charter be amended in order that this department may receive a sum not to exceed \$20,000 per annum. This increase in the appropriation is asked for the following reasons, viz: It is not to be expected that volunteers will leave their work in the day time, or their bed at night, to go to an engine house in order to drag a hose carriage to a fire, when they know there are men paid for doing such work, and horses to draw the apparatus. As an example, will call your attention to the Rublee & Son fire on Genesee street. One volunteer company did not respond until thirty-eight minutes after the alarm. Therefore, we think that by the disbandment of the three volunteer companies and the addition of one more paid company, the efficiency and discipline of the department will be increased. We would further recommend that the houses now occupied by hose 2 and hose 5 be sold, the proceeds to be used toward the erection of a new house suitable for a paid company.

March 13th 1896

Smothered in Snow.

A kettle of tar which was being heated in the rear of the store house of the Auburn Dressed Beef company in Chapel street, caught fire, this afternoon, and created quite a blaze. It was too far away from any building to do any harm. Snow was heaped on the blaze until it was smothered.

Unfortunately the ballots were not preserved. As soon as they were counted they were thrown into the waste basket which was emptied by Janitor Hurd the next morning.

The affair has been almost the sole topic of conversation upon the streets, today. Wherever a group of citizens was gathered, particularly if they were identified in any way with politics the subject has been discussed with great animation, and there was nearly as much diversity of opinion as was possible. The future developments which are sure to come out are awaited with eager interest.

Editorial by Harry John Cathoon

March 14th 1896

MYSTERY OF THE BALLOTS.

Clerk Ives Produces Six Votes for Commissioner Moore.

The paper ballots alleged to have been cast by the members of the common council for fire commissioner, at the meeting held, last Monday night, were produced by City Clerk Ives, today. There were eleven of them, six for E. J. Moore and five for J. Had Pearson. Three of the ballots were written with a lead pencil. One of these has been identified by Mayor Lewis as the ballot which he cast.

It appears that after he had counted the ballots and had recovered from the surprise attendant upon the result, which was contrary to what he expected, he twisted the ballots together and threw them into the waste basket. The other ballots taken for other appointees were thrown on top of them, but on account of having been twisted together the fire commissioners' votes remained together. The production of the ballots by City Clerk Ives does not as yet, cast any light upon which of the aldermen it is who has made a false affidavit or a grave mistake.

Clerk Ives said, this morning that he thought that the production of the ballots clearly and conclusively vindicated him from any stigma which the affidavits of the six aldermen might have cast upon him in the eyes of the general public.

"I counted the vote three times. I was surprised at the result the first time I counted them, because I had understood that Mr. Pearson had secured pledges from six aldermen. So I counted them again. Then, to be absolutely certain, I counted them over the third time and handed the result to the mayor who had watched me during all the counting. There was absolutely no opportunity for me to do anything wrong, even had I been so low down. The table was clear of everything. The box containing the votes was placed on it in sight of everyone and the ballots turned out. Then I counted them in sight of everyone. There were five aldermen who had a clear view of me and the table and could have seen the least move towards any sleight of hand or juggling of the votes on my part. The mayor, too, watched me all the time. I did not have any interest in the fire commissioners. Both candidates were my friends and I had never spoken to either of them about their candidacy. If there was any crookedness I was not a party to it."

The story of the complications which have been developed over the appointment of fire commissioner has continued to be the great theme of conversation today. Of course public opinion is divided. Every politician has a theory in regard to the matter, how J. H. Pearson, the defeated candidate, received only five of the six votes pledged to him. It follows of necessity that every man's solution is the only correct one.

The most popular explanation, that is, the one which has the most supporters, is the one which is given by a city official who is a power in his own ward. He first told his version of Mr. Pearson's defeat, Tuesday morning when it was being discussed with great surprise by a coterie of kindred spirits in the City hall. This official declared that when the ballot was taken for fire commissioner he stood directly behind an alderman, whose name he then refused to divulge. The alderman had a ballot in his hand with Pearson's name on it. A friend called his attention and whispered "put this in for my sake," at the same time slipping him a piece of paper with E. J. Moore's name written upon it. The alderman took the Moore ballot and dropped it in the box. "It was done," said the official in recounting the affair, "quicker than that," snapping his fingers. "The alderman asked me not to say anything about it."

This version would place one of the aldermen in a very uncomfortable position, making him not only a liar, but a perjurer as well, if it should turn out that he is one of the six whom Mr. Pearson had pledged to him.

Another theory, the most charitable one which has been advanced is, that in the hurry and excitement attending the ballot one of the aldermen became confused and made a mistake, of which he is as yet unaware. This is possible, but the vast majority do not believe it probable.

There does not seem to be any well defined action mapped out by the aldermen in regard to the matter as yet. Mr. Moore's supporters say that they have nothing to do. Their candidate was appointed and they have the utmost confidence in City Clerk Ives. So far as can be learned the six aldermen who made the affidavits that they had voted for Mr. Pearson have not agreed upon any line of action, and it is not known that they can or will combine to do anything.

Another complication may be added to the affair. Jerry Quill of the Ninth ward, who was a candidate for appointment as sealer of weights and measures declared, today that he had received the assurance of six aldermen that they voted for him on the last ballot. He has not, as yet, procured any affidavits, but maintains that he can secure them when he wants them. As there were a dozen or fifteen candidates for the office of sealer and many ballots were taken, it will probably be difficult for Mr. Quill to establish his claim.

Incorporated by Daniel Fitzgerald, Treas. and Mar. Pres.; comprise the directors; have one hundred,000; outstandings \$800; indse. indebted

March 17th 1896

WITH SCARCELY ANY FRICTION.

Annual Meeting and Election of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Mr. Smith Elevated to the Presidency and Clerk Ramage Retained—A Driver and a Call Man Elected.

President, Goldsborough C. Smith; clerk, William G. Ramage, is the way the roster of officers of the fire wardens will read for the ensuing year.

The atmosphere arising from the stables underneath and which wafted through the transom of the office of the fire commissioners, last evening was laden with a fragrant aroma, suggestive of a dog in a tanyard, and it was also surcharged with weighty deliberation. It was ten minutes after the hour when the menials below stairs hold their nightly seance, when the guardians of the department came together.

Chairman Moore stated that it was the annual meeting for the election of a president and clerk. Then silence reigned.

Mr. Moore: "If there is no objection the board will proceed to the election of a president."

Clerk Ramage, who acted as teller, declared the result: Speares 1, Smith 2.

Commissioner Smith was declared duly elected. The new president thanked the board for the honor and hoped the future of the board would be as pleasant as the past.

A ballot for clerk was next ordered with the result that W. H. Moon received 1 vote and William Ramage 2. William Ramage, the present incumbent, was declared the choice of the board for clerk.

The resignation of J. Edward Perkins, driver of Hose 1, was read, accepted and filed. A motion was made to proceed to ballot to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Perkins' resignation.

The clerk read the applications of the following law-abiding citizens who would like to serve the city through the fire house: Joseph Antone, Burt Pitcher and J. E. Crawford. Mr. Crawford's application was indorsed by E. W. Rounds, N. H. Rounds and Porter Beardsley.

Commissioner Moore amended the motion by inserting that the appointment be on probation. This was accepted. Joseph Antone received three votes and was declared chosen.

The clerk was instructed to procure a record book for each of the four paid companies.

The committee appointed some time ago to prepare the printed report of the board for the past two years was granted further time with the object of including a three years' report.

President Smith stated that the bill of Harry T. Dayton, attorney for Horatio H. Cheney, against the board for twenty cents had been dropped.

The name of Samuel Rice of Hose 3, who is absent from town was ordered dropped from the roll and the name of Burt Pitcher was added as a permanent call man. A ballot was taken to fill the vacancy of a call man for Hose 1, created by the promotion of Joseph Antone. Richard Armstrong was unanimously selected.

President Smith stated that he wished the old committees to hold over till next meeting.

The session then adjourned.

March 17 1896

WAS AMICABLY ADJUSTED.

A Good Way Out of the Fire Commissioner Entanglement.

STANDING COMMITTEES NAMED.

The New Council's First Business Session—Two Health Commissioners Appointed and Confirmed—The Consolidation of Elections Discussed.

The vexed question of the appointment of a fire commissioner at last week's meeting of the common council has been settled out of court. It was done upon the supposition that a mistake had been made by some one, and that it would kindle an inextinguishable flame of suspicion to keep fanning the embers. So it was decided to ratify the selection of E. J. Moore and it was done by resolution of an alderman who unquestionably voted for J. Had Pearson for the office. A peculiarity of the vote was displayed by the partisan position taken by the members. The Republicans all voted for the resolution of amicable adjustment and the Democrats were all opposed, although Ald. McCarty had originally voted for Mr. Moore. On the other hand, Aldermen Schicht, Burgess and Cross who declare they had previously voted for Mr. Pearson, now voted for the ratification of Mr. Moore's appointment.

The matter was the first thing to be considered at the regular meeting of the council, last evening. As soon as every member had answered to the roll call Alderman Schicht rose and moved that the proceedings open under the sixth order of business, which was carried. Then he said:

I have asked you to open under the sixth order of business that I might offer a resolution of a somewhat privileged character and which I believe is for the best interest of the city.

Last Monday evening we balloted for fire commissioner and the result was a disappointment to me as well as to others, and charges of corruption have been whispered about when, as I believe the matter was the result of an unintentional error on the part of some member who still honestly believes that he voted for Mr. Pearson.

However, as the ballot was canvassed and announced and the officer elected has been sworn in, we believe that further contention is useless. Therefore, as I voted for Mr. Pearson, writing the ballot with my own hand which ballot I believe has been found and fully identified by both the mayor and the city clerk [am I correct?] asked the alderman, addressing the mayor and clerk, and upon receiving a reassuring nod, he continued:]

I offer the following resolution and hope to get its unanimous support by all members of the council:

Believing that the vote as cast for fire commissioner, last Monday night was honestly counted and reported and that the misunderstanding growing therefrom is due to an error on the part of some member and not to corruption, and that the interests of the city will be best served by our devoting our time and energies to the proper transaction of the business intrusted to us rather than to a protracted contention over the vote for fire commissioner; therefore

Resolved, That we hereby ratify the appointment of E. J. Moore as fire commissioner.

As soon as Alderman Schicht had concluded he demanded the roll call.

Alderman Roach asked if the other ballots had been preserved, and upon being informed in the affirmative he continued: "I would like to have the other ballots recognized by the aldermen as well as by the alderman from the first ward."

The mayor remarked that the ballots were locked up in the safe in his office. "I should like to see them," insisted Alderman Roach.

Alderman Schicht denied that he had ever seen the ballots, but he had been informed by those who recognized his handwriting, that his ballot was in the bunch.

Alderman McCarty thought it was due to every member of the common council that an investigation be made of the disputed matter before further action was taken and he moved that it be referred to a special committee of three, with the mayor and city attorney added, to report at the next meeting.

This amendment was voted down as follows:

Ayes—Aldermen Corcoran, McCarty, O'Neil, Roach—4.

Noes—Aldermen Burgess, Cross, Goodrich, Ramage, Schicht, Wiggins—6.

The original resolution of Ald. Schicht was carried by a reverse vote, but not until Alderman Corcoran had referred to the declaration of a prominent politician, who had been quoted in the newspapers as having stood behind a certain alderman on the night of the appointment, and as having seen that alderman cast a ballot for E. J. Moore. Although the names had not been used, Ald. Corcoran felt called upon to deny that he had done any such thing. He had written the name of J. Had Pearson on a ballot and he was positive he had placed it in the ballot box.

Alderman Roach did not believe it was right to leave a reproach upon any member of the board, but the resolution of Alderman Schicht was considered to be the better settlement of the subject and it was accordingly passed by a strictly partisan vote.

Then the crowd which had assembled behind the rail in anticipation of an exciting session retired, and the regular business of the council was resumed.

The mayor's announcement of standing committees for the ensuing year was made, as follows:

- Claims and finance—Aldermen Burgess, Cross, Ramage.
- Legal proceedings—Aldermen Ramage, Burgess, O'Neil.
- Lamps and lighting streets—Aldermen Cross, Burgess, Wiggins.
- Streets and bridges—Aldermen Roach, Corcoran, Wiggins.

Drains and sewers—Aldermen O'Neil, Schicht, McCarty.

City buildings—Aldermen Schicht, Cross, O'Neil.

Water mains and hydrants—Aldermen Wiggins, Roach, Corcoran.

Fire department—Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, Ramage.

Police and license—Aldermen McCarty, Goodrich, Roach.

Poor accounts—Aldermen Goodrich, McCarty, Schicht.

Burying grounds—Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, McCarty.

The mayor further announced the nomination of Daniel M. Bennett and Henry J. White, to be health commissioners to succeed Dr. J. M. Jenkins and John Rosecrans. Upon motion of Alderman Roach the appointments were confirmed.

Another important feature of the meeting was the revival of the proposition to consolidate the spring and fall elections, and it was favorably considered by the Republicans and opposed by the Democrats. It was broached by City Attorney Pierce who announced that Senator Wilcox had asked him to prepare a bill changing the charter election from spring to fall but he had declined unless given authority by the common council.

"There's time enough for that," remarked Alderman Roach.

"Well, go ahead," said the mayor. He nodded his head to the clerk.

Later in the session Alderman introduced a resolution that the attorney draft an amendment to the charter abolishing the spring election.

Alderman Roach moved to lay the resolution on the table for thirty days. It was lost by a party vote and the original resolution with an additional provision that the attorney submit the prepared draft of a bill at an adjourned meeting next Monday night was carried unanimously.

Some discussion arose as to whether the mayor or the aldermen should be elected on the even years, but the entire matter was left for consideration a week hence.

The annual report of the fire commissioners, asking for an increase in appropriation from \$16,000 to \$20,000 was referred to the fire department committee upon motion of Alderman Roach.

A resolution by Alderman Burgess that the electric lamp removed from the corner of Florence street, be returned, was referred to the lighting committee.

Permission was given to Fred C. Beecher to erect a frame building at No. 1 Hulbert street and the council adjourned.

From the clerk several adoptedness \$450, and father of my convenience have

March 21 1896

The volunteer firemen of the city have made their annual divvy of the two per cent. foreign insurance tax. It netted something like \$12 for each member of the Relief association, this year. This money could be secured for the use of the paid portion of the department, and thus lessen the burden of taxes in some slight measure if the municipal authorities would exert themselves in the matter.

ASS.

March, '95.

ash.

rtles, originally began in '84; moving into a new store. '94

, Joseph Saunders. Began in good; discount all bills, no state valued \$12,000, clear; thought doing well, and are

both several years previous \$13,000; trade mainly cash; \$,000; both Wass' and Ford's t all purchases; employ one ht doing well, and are in good

Hall & Son. States to us: ; rent \$500; no real estate stock in good order; locally

April 11th 1896

Cards Were Not Issued.

The announcement of the marriage of Robert H. Nolan, engineer of the Chemical company at fire department headquarters and Miss Mabel A. Wells of 13 Perry street, will be a surprise to many of their friends. They were very quietly united in the bonds of wedlock by the Rev. W. L. Swan, pastor of the Immanuel Baptist church in Owasco street, Wednesday evening last. The young people had been engaged for a long time but owing to the opposition of the young lady's father, the wedding had been deferred. The cause of this paternal objection was the fact that his daughter's suitor was a member of the Roman Catholic church, while his own belief was unequivocally Protestant. After waiting a reasonable time to secure parental approval and finally concluding that their love was strong enough to bring happiness without the regulation "bless you, my children," and trusting that time, the healer of all wounds, would bring about a reconciliation, they concluded to secretly unite their fortunes on the matrimonial sea.

Mr. and Mrs. Nolan will have the best wishes of a host of friends for their future prosperity.

April 18th 1896

A BIG FIRE AT LAST.

After Long Immunity, Auburn is Visited by a Serious Loss.

The most disastrous conflagration that has visited Auburn since the great prison fire nearly three years ago occurred, early, this morning. The large sash and blind factory of Everts, Sheldon & Co., was totally destroyed. The loss will amount to between \$20,000 and \$25,000, upon which there is not any insurance.

The factory building was of wood and it was filled with highly inflammable material. Its location on the west bank of the Owasco river, near the big dam made it difficult of access to the firemen and a successful combat with the flames was impossible. The fire caught in the boiler room, precisely in what manner is not known. The flames were not discovered by the watchman who was at work in another part of the factory until they had broken out of the roof. Patrolman Holmes saw the fire from his beat in Owasco street at about the same time, and he at once turned in an alarm from box 31, corner of Fulton and Owasco streets at 3:40 o'clock. The fire department answered at that box and were compelled to go on up to Lizette street, across the bridge and down Mechanic street to get at the fire. Considerable valuable time was lost by this long detour, but it did not make any difference with the result, as the building could not have been saved even had the firemen gone directly to it when the alarm was sounded.

Finding it impossible to save the building, every effort was put forth to save the valuable lumber piled around it. In this the firemen were successful, and lumber worth more than the factory was saved.

Letchworth hose ran a line of hose across the foot bridge over the dam, at least Patrick Ryan, the foreman of the company did, but he did not have enough to reach the blaze and he was compelled to wait until the paid men had strung their lines and then he borrowed enough to throw a stream on to the fire.

It was not until noon, today that the fire was entirely smothered and it was considered safe to shut off the streams of water which had been constantly playing upon it.

While the firemen were still fighting the fire at daylight, the Everts brothers, Charles and George, provided the workers with a generous luncheon of sandwiches and coffee.

THE FIRST ALARM.

Previously to the large fire, this morning the department was called out at 11 o'clock, last night by an alarm from box 62 in State street. A lamp exploded in the Globe hotel and a hole was burned in the stocking of a female employe of the hostelry. The flames were extinguished before the arrival of the department, without any more serious damage resulting than the hole in the stocking aforesaid.

April 20th 1896

The Big Fire.

The work of clearing up the debris of the big fire of Saturday morning has already commenced. It is the universal hope that Everts, Sheldon & Co. may be enabled to rebuild on the site of the burned structure and soon be in condition to resume business.

The fire department was given another run, yesterday morning at 8 o'clock. The smoldering ruins of the Everts, Sheldon & Co.'s factory showed faint signs of life and it was feared that the embers would again break into a blaze.

CARD OF THANKS.

We desire to express our sincere thanks to Chief Jewhurst and the fire department for their heroic efforts, in trying to save our factory from fire on Saturday morning, April 18.

EVERTS, SHELDON & Co.

April 21st 1896

CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTIONS.

The Common Council Accepts the Legislative Act.

An Increased Appropriation to the Fire Department Does Not Meet with Favor—Railroad Companies will Not be Required to Place Gates at Crossings—Many Important Measures Considered by the Council.

There was a full attendance at last evening's regular meeting of the common council and a mass of business was transacted. Among the more important matters considered were the following: A claim of \$3,000 was presented by Edward J. McCormack of Lewis street, for injuries received, March 16, by falling on an icy sidewalk in front of the premises, No. 50 Franklin street. The claimant sustained a fracture of the ankle and declares that he has since been confined to his bed with the prospect of being incapacitated for work for many months to come. He avers that the city had been previously served with notice of the dangerous condition of the sidewalk in question.

Alderman Roach moved to refer the claim to the legal committee. He announced his belief that the city was at fault in the matter and that the committee might arrange some settlement. The claim was so referred.

The resignation of Robert J. Burritt as commissioner of deeds was received and accepted, and upon motion of Alderman Wiggins, Frank S. Wright was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In the report of City Attorney Pierce he said that gates had not been placed at any of the railroad crossings in the city and that the companies would resist any effort to compel them to take such action, upon the grounds that gates are not needed at all of the crossings. The companies hold that the city had once instituted legal proceedings and enforced the placing of the flagmen at all crossings and that it cannot now require gates except as at such crossings as there can be shown a changed condition, making a necessity for gates to protect life, that did not exist then. The attorney asked for instructions before commencing the proceedings which had previously been ordered.

Mr. Pierce also reported that the action of Ida L. Bench against the city for diversion of the water at the upper dam had been discontinued and settled by the water board's purchase of the water rights of the plaintiff. He further reported that a proposed bill of exceptions had been served upon him by the plaintiff in the case of Margaret Hughes as administratrix, against the city which is pending on appeal at the appellate division of the supreme court. The case was tried before the administration of the present city attorney and he asked for authority to procure the stenographer's minutes of the evidence.

The matter of gates at railroad crossings was first considered. The privilege of the floor was given to Attorney Harris of Rochester, of counsel for the Central-Hudson company who said there was not any public clamor for the gates. He told of the council's previous action in compelling the placing of flagmen at the crossings, and since that was done there had not been any serious accident except in the case of William Clark, who was killed at the Cottage street crossing through his own reckless carelessness.

Mr. Harris said there were two sides to the question of the advisability of gates: A flagman is more of a protection than gates would be at a crossing where there are many tracks and considerable shifting. A gateman could only be in one spot where he can operate the machinery while a flagman may go where he is most needed. The speaker said that gates are sometimes a source of positive danger and he cited an illustration showing how a man and his rig were pinned on the track by a rattled gateman and were struck by a train.

He said he believed there was not any desire to put the company to the expense of erecting gates at crossings unless there were some compensating benefits, but he considered that the present system was as good as could be adopted and that the flagmen were efficient as shown by the record. So long as railroads are run as at present, there will be accidents, said Mr. Harris, and it is as much to the company's interests as to the interests of the city to guard against all accidents, as it is the company and not the city which foots the bills for damages.

He said the Lehigh company had arranged to erect gates at two crossings where the people would have an opportunity to study their operation. He believed that there would soon be a demand for a removal of the gates. He concluded by requesting the council to instruct the city attorney to abandon further action in this direction.

Ald. Roach immediately moved that so long as the Lehigh company is going to experiment with gates that the city attorney be directed not to proceed in the matter until receiving further instructions from the board, and it was unanimously carried.

Alderman Goodrich called the attention of Mr. Harris to the multitudinous duties of the flagman at the Seymour street crossing, who was only at his post during the passage of passenger trains and who was at other times engaged as a member of the shifting crew. Mr. Harris promised to investigate the matter. The aldermen further declared that if the city ordinance regulating the speed of trains were enforced there wouldn't be any need of gates. So the subject was dropped.

By resolution of Alderman Burgess the city attorney was authorized to procure the stenographic minutes in the Margaret Hughes case, according to his request.

The city surveyor reported that it would be necessary to take one-twentieth of an acre of land belonging to John Kavanagh, to make Pulsifer street of uniform width and he suggested a change in the grade according to map and plan submitted by him. The report was received and filed; the map was adopted and a hearing was ordered upon motion of Alderman Corcoran for Monday evening, May 4.

A communication was received from the board of health recommending an investigation of the feasibility of flush tanks for sewers and the use of traps in place of the present style of catch basins. The communication was ordered filed without further consideration.

A petition from six residents of Morris street asking for a sewer in that thoroughfare, was referred to the committee on drains and sewers.

The public hearing on the two legislative bills of local interest did not attract any speakers, pro or con. The measure to consolidate the spring and fall elections was accepted on motion of Alderman Burgess and it will be returned to the governor for his signature. Although considerable opposition developed against this bill, at first, it was unanimously indorsed, last evening.

The act authorizing the city to raise by bonds a sum not exceeding \$10,000 for contingent purposes, was similarly accepted upon motion of Alderman Ramage.

Alderman Schicht moved that the council proceed to ballot for a sidewalk inspector at a compensation of \$2 a day. Alderman Cross said it would be a saving to the city if there were an inspector in winter to see that snow and ice were removed from the sidewalks. The motion of Alderman Schicht was carried and the eleven votes of the council were cast for John Helfer, for inspector.

Upon motion of Alderman Goodrich the council balloted for inspector of the Frazee and Canoga streets sewer, at a compensation of twenty-five cents an hour. Charles F. Guion was appointed by eight votes to three votes for Charles N. Tallady.

The selection of a dog catcher in place of Phil Handy, deposed, next occupied the attention of the councilmen for several minutes.

Alderman Burgess moved, if there were not any objections, that the clerk cast a ballot for Henry Bremer, "the special policeman at North street cemetery, and a white man," explained the alderman.

Alderman Roach moved as an amendment that the matter be laid on the table.

Alderman Burgess insisted that the people who had paid their money for dog licenses were entitled to protection.

Alderman Goodrich thought the best protection to be offered was to abolish the office of dog catcher and he referred to the disgusting spectacle of public catching of dogs.

Alderman Burgess agreed that former methods were reprehensible, but he intended to follow up the matter with a provision for a more humane way of doing the work.

Alderman Roach then withdrew his amendment to table the motion, and moved that the matter be referred to the committee on burying grounds to ascertain if the nominee were a capable man. This was lost and the council proceeded to ballot for a dog catcher under the Burgess motion. As a result Henry Bremer received nine votes, and two were blank.

The city surveyor reported that Contractor Hulbert had completed a certain section of the West side sewer and was entitled to 70 per cent of the price, or \$971.81. By resolution of Alderman Cross the mayor and clerk were directed to issue a bond in the sum of \$1,235.53 to pay the claim and interest.

94 sales stated \$35,000. (?)

The committee on city buildings to which had been referred the proposition of Alderman Roach to remodel the old Hardenburg house for the occupancy of the board of education and the water board, reported that the council had no jurisdiction over either board. It would be impossible for the council to compel these boards to occupy offices in the building if offices were fitted up for their use and as the building is under the charge of the fire commissioners and is now used as a store house by the fire department, the committee considered that it would be useless to incur any expense for ascertaining the cost of remodeling the building. The report was received and filed.

The sewer committee to which was referred the proposition of Alderman Goodrich to change the route of the Canoga and Frazee streets sewer, reported that the contract was awarded some time ago and that the contractor refused to consent to any change, which rendered it impossible for any amendment.

The report was received and filed, against the protest of Alderman Goodrich who said he understood some of the cellars along the proposed route could not be drained into the sewer. There was a deep and expensive rock cut, yet it was not sufficiently deep for the purpose. He asked Surveyor Perry for information on the subject but the surveyor replied that his predecessor in office had not left any data to indicate the depths of the cellars. Alderman Goodrich criticized the sewer committee for not making an effort to ascertain if an error had been committed, but Alderman O'Neil replied that the committee relied upon the surveyor for such information.

The committee on legal proceedings reported that the county tax assessed on the Hardenburg property recently purchased by the city was void; also, that the petition of Ellen H. Goodrich for a tax deed of property purchased at tax sale in 1892 should be granted. The report was accepted and by resolution of Alderman Burgess the mayor and clerk were instructed to execute a tax deed of the property.

The fire department committee to which had been referred the request of the fire commissioners for an increase of the annual appropriation from \$16,000 to \$20,000 for the purpose of making a complete paid department, reported adversely on the proposition. The committee declared that it was not in favor of abandoning the present system, and upon motion of Alderman Ramage the report was laid on the table till next meeting.

By resolution of Alderman McCarty the surveyor was directed to prepare plans and specifications for a sewer in Garrow street and Fitch avenue.

Polling places for the school election May 19, were designated as follows by resolution of Alderman McCarty:

First district—Recorder's court room, City hall.

Second district—County court house.

Third district—Hose house No. 6, State street.

A joint resolution introduced by Aldermen Ramage and Wiggins was passed, directing the Auburn City railway company to restore the roadbeds in the Sixth and Tenth wards along the trolley route, to their previous good condition.

By resolution of Alderman Burgess, permission was given C. D. MacDougall, to remove a frame building from 15 Mac Dougall street to a point across the street.

By resolution of Alderman Wiggins the dumping of rubbish at the East Genesee street dumping grounds will hereafter be prevented. Adjourned.

out \$20,000.

Mdsc.] Alonzo A. Wicks, Co. nominally a sea captain. States to us: "Stock; own real estate valued \$34,000, mortgage trade; keeps a fair bank account, and o"

May 5 1896

A Barn Burned.
The fire department responded to an alarm from box 17, corner of Franklin and Lewis streets, last night at 11:30 o'clock. The firemen were upon the scene of action in short order. The alarm was tardy, however, and the blazing structure, a barn belonging to James McKeon at No. 10 Button street, was half destroyed before the firemen's appearance. All that remained for them was to protect the neighboring buildings. The barn with its contents, a horse, wagon, harnesses, grain and hay was soon reduced to ashes, amid the wails and lamentations of the owner and his family. The origin of the fire is unknown.
Losses stated \$12,000.

May 8 1896

THE FIRE WARDENS.

Little Done Except to Award Patronage to the Dept's Sworn Enemy.

The fire commissioners were compelled to meet, last night, without President Smith. The official head of the fire department is on a business trip to the Hub, and so Commissioner Moore presided over its destinies at the regular business session. Nothing of unusual importance came of this change of presiding officers. Business went right along at the old stand, although there was not any attempt at innovation. In fact, nothing outside of a routine character was done. The vacations of the paid men were ordered; the full amount of the appropriation for the fire department was demanded of the common council, and proposals for coal were ordered advertised.

After the record of proceedings at previous sessions had been approved, Mr. Spears reported that necessary repairs to the buildings had been made. Chief Engineer Jewhurst made his regular monthly report of fires, and condition of the department. The chief also presented proposals for printing the annual reports of the board for the past three years. The Auburn Bulletin company proposed to do it for \$40 85; Knapp, Peck and Thomson asked \$49, and M. J. Schicht's bid was the same. Later in the meeting, on motion of Mr. Spears, the work was given to the Bulletin company.

The clerk was directed to notify the common council that \$16,000 would be needed to run the department next year.

The annual vacations of the paid men were ordered to commence Wednesday, May 20. The time allowed each man was ten days. The arrangements were left to the chief. The matter of donning summer uniforms was also left to the discretion of the chief. The board fixed a date for them to be worn, last year, but weather turned so cold at that time that fur caps and overcoats were far more comfortable than straw hats and dusters. So this season there will not be any date fixed for putting on summer toggery lest it give the weather a chill.

The clerk was directed to advertise in the daily papers for proposals for furnishing the department with coal, next year, the bids to be before the board not later than May 20.

A discharge certificate was ordered issued to S. Curtis Cooley and after auditing the monthly schedule of bills the board adjourned.

MUSTER AND INSPECTION.

May 13th 1896

An Electrical Disturbance.

There was a beautiful pyrotechnical display in the window of the Postal Telegraph office in Genesee street, at 8:20 o'clock, last night. The base ball magnates were endeavoring to fling to the breeze across Genesee street, in front of the Dunning Hardware company's store, a banner advertising the games. The advertisement was to be suspended on a wire cable, but it sagged across the trolley wire, a messenger call wire of the Postal and some telephone wires. The heavy electric current at once put in its work. The switch board in the Postal office was burned out, two telephones were ruined and slight damage was done to the telephone switchboard.

Some one in the crowd who saw the burning switchboard in the Postal turned in a call from box 32, for the fire department. This was unnecessary as the fire went out as soon as the wires were disconnected. The damage to the Postal will amount, probably to \$30.

May 15th 1896

Built a Bonfire.

A small building on the premises' 44 West street was set on fire, yesterday and the fire department was needed to extinguish the blaze. The building was used as a carpentry shop and for repair purposes and the floor was covered with shavings and other inflammable material. A small son of the household, aged four years, conceived the original idea of having a bonfire all by himself in the shop where no one would find it out. He kindled the bonfire, but somehow everybody found out about it and sent for the firemen. The building was owned by James Flannigan and the damage will amount to about \$200.

May 18th 1896

Damaged by Lightning.

During the thunder shower, yesterday morning, there was one little gleam of electricity which did a heap of damage to the fire alarm telegraph system. Three gongs and four boxes were burned out. The trouble caused the Wheeler to strike once, giving notice of the difficulty. Chief Engineer Jewhurst and a force of men worked all day on the line to repair the damage. This is particularly unfortunate on account of the commissioners, who will be compelled to spend some money.

C. HOSBACH, [224 Bergemann] States to us: "Stock \$9,500, ins. \$8,000 occupancy, worth \$13,000, belongs to my family, under mortgage, which is being reduced by regular payments; pay no rent; employ one workman, wife assists in store; have no outside means." By repute of good character and habits, attentive; buys mostly in New York market, where, although a little slow, is well regarded, and in good credit. Sales stated \$13,000.

May 23rd 1896

A Little Fire this Afternoon.

There was a small fire, this afternoon, in the house, 65 North Division street, owned by Kate Kirwin and occupied by C. D. Clark. Flames were discovered in the attic about 1 o'clock, and a call for the fire department was sent from box 15, corner Wall street and Aurelius avenue. The fire was put out with the Babcock extinguishers. The damage will amount to \$30. The fire is supposed to have caught from a spark from a tinner's furnace. A knight of the soldering iron was at work in the garret and on the roof, this morning, and his little furnace is the only fire which has been in the upper part of the house in a long time. Hose 5 which is supposed to "protect" the west end wasn't in it.

Began here in '92, previously mentioned

May 26th 1896

An Early Morning Fire.

Fire was discovered in the cellar of the grocery store and saloon of James Heffernan, at the corner of State and Cottage streets, at 2:15 this morning. A call for the fire department was turned in from box 16 and the fire was put out with very little trouble. The blaze originated in a barrel of sweepings in the cellar. The stove was filled with smoke and the principal damage from the fire will be to the stock. Frank Hughson, the chief's driver fell through a trap door into the cellar while searching for the flames. His knee was cut on a projection in the floor and he will be laid up for several weeks.

Volunteer hose attended the fire, but the members did not get there in time to assist in extinguishing the blaze.

May 27th 1896

Explosion and Fire.

A gasoline tank attached to an ironing machine in the laundry of W. H. Johnson in Dill street, burst this morning, and for a short time it looked as though, if the proprietor survived he would have an opportunity to realize on his insurance policies. The blazing fluid spattered about the room, setting fire to the clothing in its vicinity. Some of the blaze fell upon Mr. Johnson's left arm, inflicting a painful burn. The side of his face was also burned. The fire department was summoned by telephone, but the employes of the establishment had the flames extinguished before the firemen arrived, prompt as they were. The damage will amount to about \$25.

May 28th 1896

A FRACAS AT A FIRE.

An Unrecorded Incident Now Made Public—The Police Censured.

There was an episode at the Heffernan fire the other morning, which, for various reasons has been kept very quiet. It appears that a gang of drunken toughs arrived on the scene almost as quickly as the firemen and hindered and impeded the work of the department in every conceivable way. The loafers crowded about the entrance of the place, jostled the hose-men and resorted to every species of aggressiveness known to thugs to annoy the workers. These acts were but a small part of what the firemen had to bear from this crowd, for imprecations and the vilest of epithets known in the English language were hurled at the firemen.

One of the loafers finally made a grievous mistake. He applied one of his insulting remarks to Chief Jewhurst and was promptly knocked down. This decisive rebuke had a salutary effect upon the gang.

The affair has engendered considerable feeling between the police and fire departments, as the members of the latter allege that Patrolman Parker stood within a few feet of the loafers at the time that they were hindering and insulting the firemen and yet did not attempt to check them. The firemen further say that this is not the first time they have had to suffer such annoyance and indignity. At the burning of the Gorham & Wilcox shoe factory, a year ago they were subjected to the abuse of the gang while the police failed to afford the protection to which the firemen believe they are entitled.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst has been in consultation with City Attorney Pierce in regard to the matter and has had his official powers defined as designated by the state law. In the future such scenes will not occur without rebuke or the police commissioners will be called upon to officially investigate.

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June 4th 1896

BEER TO BURN.

The Cold Spring Brewery Devoured by the Flames.

The plant of the Cold Spring brewery was entirely destroyed by fire, last night. The loss will amount to \$10,000, only partially covered by insurance. The plant was owned by William Wildner, and was located in York street, just inside the northern boundary of the city.

The fire was discovered by Mrs. Wildner who was returning from the business portion of the city. Small jets of flame were breaking forth from the brewery building as she approached the house. She hastily entered her home and aroused her husband, who was asleep. He attempted to extinguish the flames with chemicals, but the fire had obtained too much headway to be thus stopped and Wildner hastened to the nearest fire alarm telegraph station, which is nearly half a mile away, at the corner of State and Union streets and sent in a summons for the fire department. During his absence neighbors formed a bucket brigade and attempted to stay the progress of the fire, but they could not make any impression on it. Abandoning this mode of procedure they then turned their endeavors in another direction, that of saving the contents of the buildings. In this they were more successful, getting out four horses, several cows and the household furniture.

The alarm was turned in at 10 o'clock and the firemen responded promptly. They were hindered considerably on the way by the army of cyclers who surrounded the apparatus and who refused to heed the warning shouts of the drivers and the clang of the gongs.

The nearest water supply to the fire was a single-way hydrant at the corner of York and State streets. It took 1,450 feet of hose to carry the water from the hydrant to the blaze. At first there was not sufficient pressure to throw the water to the roof of the building and this, of course impeded the efforts of the firemen.

The brewery building, barns, storage sheds and residence of the proprietor were all frame buildings, constructed in close proximity to each other and for the most part connected by covered passage ways. After having obtained the start it was almost an impossibility to stay the flames until there was nothing more for them to feed upon. After getting to work, however, the firemen saved the greater portion of the house.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been in the furnace beneath a brew kettle. The place caught fire some months ago, from the same source, but it was extinguished before serious damage was done. The brew furnaces were then overhauled and repaired and it was supposed that a repetition of the fire had been obviated.

The fire made a brilliant illumination, lighting up the dark sky and the surrounding country with a brightness which the electric light company has never rivaled. A large crowd gathered at the scene of the conflagration. If any of them hoped that the famous brew of the establishment would be on tap, free of charge, they were disappointed, for not a mouthful of the product was given out. In fact it couldn't be had, for what was not burned up was in the cellar under the burning building and must have been a beer. The crowd was very re-

June 5th 1896

TRICKS OF THE LOWEST BIDDER.

Fire Commissioners Find that the Cheapest is Not Safest and Best.

Their Arch-Enemy, the Bulletin, Filibusters the Board—A Just Retribution for Ingratitude—Firemen Fined.

"Economy is wealth," said some ancient philosopher who knew more about the matter by theory than practice. The fire commissioners have been endeavoring, during the last two years to demonstrate the truth of the axiom, and it has been a hard road to travel and not at all profitable. The most recent failure of the fire board to prove the truth of the adage came out at the regular meeting of the commissioners, last night.

At the regular meeting of the board in May, proposals were received for the printing of the annual reports of the board for the last three years. The ADVERTISER'S bid was to do the work for \$49. The Bulletin proposed to do it for \$40.89, with a foot note, that an extra charge would be made for extra pages over a specified number. The commissioners awarded the work to the lower bidder, notwithstanding the fact that the Bulletin has been the bitter antagonist of the paid fire department from its incipency. During the month, the work was done and, last night, just before the meeting was called to order the bill was presented. It called for the modest sum of \$57.15, or \$8.15 more than the ADVERTISER'S bid for the work.

Mr. Moore, who in the absence of President Smith, is the acting head of the board was very much disconcerted. The bill was compared with the proposals. The ADVERTISER'S bid was square-toed, to do the work for a sum certain, while on the Bulletin proposal was the foot-note for extra pages which had been overlooked by the commissioners in their anxiety to get the cheapest. Mr. Moore could not understand it, neither could his colleague, Mr. Speares. Chief Jewhurst could not explain it and so at the suggestion of the acting chairman, the bill was laid over to see if something could not be done in the matter. It is possible that the other old saw about "the cheapest not always being economy" will occur to the board next time.

The board fined three firemen for infractions of the department rules and dereliction of duty, declared a vacancy in the force of call men, filled the vacancy thus created, and did considerable routine business. It was announced that the discipline of the department was to be maintained and that there was not any better time to begin to check a growing tendency to disregard the rules, hence the fines.

When the minutes were read it appeared that the contracts for coal for the department for next year had been awarded at a special meeting held May 20. All the coal dealers in the city had bid the same price and the board, not having any one to give a cut price as did the board of education, was powerless, and so ordered that the supply needed be divided as equally as possible between all of the bidders.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst presented his regular monthly report of fire alarms and loss of time by the men. In the latter report a number of call men had failed to report at fires without other excuse than that they did not hear the alarm. Two call men had been absent from quarters all night without leave; several had been absent an hour or two without leave and the driver of Hose 1 had failed to go to a fire with the apparatus, although he reported later.

"Something ought to be done with these men who are absent without leave," said Mr. Speares, when the chief's reports had been received and filed. "It won't do to let this matter run any longer. I don't think that the alarm is very good, either."

"Perhaps it would be better to let a discussion of the matter come up under the head of miscellaneous business," said Mr. Moore and the board proceeded with routine business.

Samuel J. Rice, a former member of the call force, who resigned some months ago on account of absence from the city petitioned to be reappointed. The schedule of bills was then passed and ordered paid.

Then it appeared that B. J. Pitcher, a call man doing duty with Hose 3, had signified his intention of resigning and for some weeks past had been represented in the company by a substitute. The actual resignation had not been presented to the board, but the commissioners took the will for the deed, and declared the position vacant. S. J. Rice was then appointed to fill the vacancy by a unanimous vote.

The case of Joseph Anton, the delinquent driver of Hose 1, who failed to go to the recent Heffernan fire in State street with the apparatus was then resumed. The chief said that not any excuse had been offered by the delinquent. Mr. Speares thought the case was one which called for an investigation. Mr. Moore was of the same opinion. So Driver Anton was called before the board, or as the firemen expressively term it, "he was brought up on the carpet."

In reply to Mr. Moore's questions the driver said that he was in bed and sound asleep when the alarm came in. In throwing off the bed clothes they fell on top of his boots and became so entangled with his trousers (the firemen make a combination of their boots and trousers so that when they pull on the boots they are also in their trousers) that the apparatus had gone when he reached the lower floor. He went out and climbing on a passing hack followed his company to the fire.

"You are the driver," said Mr. Moore, "and should be the most prompt man to reach the apparatus as you are one of the most necessary." Anton was then excused. After he had left the room Mr. Moore said: "This seems to be a plain case. We can't have this going on, men right in the house and the apparatus going without them in answer to an alarm. Something has got to be done and we might as well make an example now as any time. If a man isn't quick enough to get out with the others we'll have to get some one who is."

"He was a call man long enough before he was appointed, so that he ought not to get excited when an alarm comes in," said Mr. Speares.

"I don't want to be severe," said Mr. Moore after a discussion as to what penalties the board might inflict, "but I want the men to understand that they must do their duty."

Mr. Speares then moved that Driver Anton be fined \$1 and this meeting the approbation of the chairman it was so ordered.

William Barrett, a call man in the Truck company and L. J. Burns, call man in Hose 1, were then each fined \$1 for absence without leave.

It was stated that Volunteer Hose company, No. 2, wanted some more chairs and the matter was left to the committee on supplies.

A representative of the Mineralized Rubber company of New York city then tried to induce the commissioners to purchase some hose, but his efforts did not meet with a cordial reception. Even when he explained that the company would wait for its pay and wanted the board's patronage more than cash, could the commissioners be induced to place an order.

June 8th 1896

Gallant Work at a Henry Fire.

The chicken coop of David Sprague of Moravia street, caught fire, this afternoon, and a still alarm was sent for the fire department at 3:15. Of course they put out the flames and the pompier corps did great work rescuing lives from the flames.

JACOB FRANK. [1112 Summit Ave.]

July 3rd 1896

A Little Fire.

There was an alarm of fire at 6:45, last night, from box 16, corner of State and Cottage streets. Some debris which had been dumped into the disused quarry in Perrine street, was set on fire by boys. The flames were extinguished with a few pails of water.

July 10th 1896

HOSE 3 CALLED DOWN.

The Fire Commissioners Insist on Better Discipline.

An adjourned regular meeting of the board of fire commissioners was held last evening with all the members present.

As the board proposed to purchase new hose, and as a representative of the Revere Rubber Co. of Buffalo was present to tell of the merits of his goods, the reading of the minutes was deferred, and the hose man was given the floor. He exhibited several samples ranging in price from 60 cts. to 70 cts. per foot.

After he had concluded, the reading of the minutes was begun and there were minutes upon minutes, as for several meetings back the reading of the record had been omitted.

President Smith said that the smoke which came from the electric light works when a south wind was blowing, was a nuisance and it should be abated.

On motion of Commissioner Moore the clerk was directed to notify the common council of the existing nuisance.

Commissioner Smith reported that an oil stove had been purchased for Hose 3. Chief Jewhurst said that the captain of Hose 3, after it had been purchased said that he didn't care for it but the boys had since found use for it. Chief Jewhurst said the tin on the roof of Hose 3 was in bad shape and repairs would also have to be made on Hose 2's house.

On motion of Commissioner Moore, the matter was referred to the committee on department buildings.

The chief reported that \$33 had been overdrawn from the contingent fund.

The various reports were received and filed.

The following bills were ordered paid:

- Charles E. Barry.....\$3.00
- John W. Hulbert, Jr.....38.25
- Genoa Citizens Band.....42.50

Commissioner Moore then asked when more money would be received from the city treasurer and Chairman Smith said he thought the latter part of the month.

Chief Jewhurst said he had a bill of \$6.08 from the Utica Fire Alarm and Telegraph company which he didn't think had been paid. The bill was referred to Clerk Ramage.

Commissioner Moore said that some action should be taken on sending the chief to the convention of fire engineers at Salt Lake City. Mr. Moore moved that the chief be sent by the board and this motion was carried.

President Smith said that he had been to Hose 3's house and a number of times he had failed to find anyone on the carriage floor but had found the men upstairs in the sitting room where, if a train should happen to be going by they could not hear the telephone. He thought that this was wrong and it should be corrected.

Both Commissioners Spears and Moore agreed with him. Commissioner Spears said that it was only yesterday morning that he went down there and no one was in sight. He walked in and down cellar and no one heard him. President Smith thought there were a good many defects in the by-laws and they needed overhauling and at his suggestion a motion was made that the chief be instructed to notify the captains of the various companies that at all times during the day one man had to be on the carriage floor. President Smith thought the discipline in the department headquarters and in Hose 3's house was noticeable. He didn't think that the boys of Hose 3 had any interest whatever.

Commissioner Spears spoke about buying hose jackets. He thought that three jackets should be procured.

Commissioner Moore said that they had to work very close this year, as new hose had to be purchased and he thought only two should be procured now. Commissioner Spears agreed to this and on his motion, two Cooper hose jackets were ordered, and the meeting adjourned.

After the adjournment and the retirement of the press representatives the fire commissioners ordered 1,000 feet of Columbia Jacket knit hose of the Revere Rubber company of Boston, and at 65 cents a foot. Mr. Reilly, the company's representative was present and was the only one of the large number of hose agents there who were in the city during the meeting of the board.

June 11th 1896

Purchased by Penn Yan.

The fire commissioners have sold the hose carriage formerly used by Volunteer hose 7, to the Penn Yan fire department. The price paid was \$75. The Auburn department has several more hand carriages for sale.

to us: "Stock \$600, ins. \$100; sell for ca

June 20th 1896

6/20 TO-DAY'S FIRE.

An alarm of fire from box 54 called the department out this noon to the house at No. 49 Fitch avenue, owned by the Fort Hill Cemetery association and occupied by Thomas Short. The fire was in a shed in the rear of the house and was caused by the explosion of an oil stove. It was extinguished with an extinguisher from hose 3 without any trouble and with but slight damage.

L. GOODMAN. [144 Pavonia Ave.]

June 24th 1896

June 24 A Pole Put Out.

The first conflagration to result from firecrackers, this season, occurred, this morning. Some small boys had great fun for a time exploding crackers in a hole in a telephone pole at the corner of East Genesee and Sherman streets. When their supply became exhausted the youngsters left the place. The pole caught fire from the sparks of the crackers and was soon blazing merrily. The fact was communicated to fire department headquarters and Hoseman Winsor of Hose one, was dispatched with a Babcock chemical extinguisher to subdue the blaze which threatened destruction to the pole. Of course the fire was put out when "Skimmy" arrived.

June 23rd 1896

A Breather for the Firemen.

The fire commissioners, this morning, ordered a Loeb respirator for the firemen. It will be given a through trial before it is finally accepted. This is one of the most practical inventions ever made for use in buildings filled with smoke. It is something which has long been needed. Several of them are necessary to properly equip the department, but the commissioners could not see their way clear to purchasing more than one at the present time.

July 4th 1896

Little Fires on the Fourth.

There were only two alarms of fire on the Fourth, and neither fire was of much consequence. The first call for the department, was about 10 o'clock in the morning, just when the firemen had completed the last finishing touches to their preparations for taking part in the parade in the afternoon. The fire was in a little tumble-down rookery in what is known as the quarry in Perrine street. Fire-crackers were said to have caused the blaze. The fire had not gained very much headway when it was discovered. It was easily extinguished by the small chemicals on the wagon of hose 3, which was the first to reach the place. The alarm was from box 71, which is in the district of hose 5. The company did not respond to the summons. Fire was again discovered in the same house, yesterday afternoon, and a detail of men from headquarters was sent to extinguish it. A couple of charges from the hand-extinguishers accomplished the object without attracting a crowd and before any more

Concluded on Eighth Page.

THE EAGLE'S LUSTY SCREAM.

Concluded from Fifth Page.

serious damage had been done the place.

The second alarm on the Fourth came in at 12:04, from box 5, corner of North and Seymour streets, before the firemen had completed polishing their brass work on their apparatus, after the first alarm. The last summons was a small spark of fire in the house at 7 Chapel avenue, owned by Joseph Nichol. The blaze was put out with a pail of water before the department arrived. Like the first blaze the cause of the trouble was a fire-cracker.

July 10th 1896

A Fire and a Bicycle Accident.

The car house of the Lehigh Valley Railway company at the corner of Clark and Monroe streets caught fire, this morning, from sparks thrown out by a locomotive. A call for the fire department was turned in at 9:45, from box 12 in South Division street. Hose 3 extinguished the blaze before the arrival of the companies at headquarters. The damage did not amount to a great deal.

As usual a number of bicycle riders clustered around the apparatus on the way to the fire. One young colored man who was behind the companies, took a terrible header in Clark street. He was scorching down the street when a dog started to go across and there was a collision. The front wheel of the cycle was smashed, and the rider was jarringly by striking his head on the macadam roadway. The young man used language, when he picked himself up, which showed an intimate acquaintance with prominent characters in the works of Josephus. The dog joined in and cursed the scorcher roundly in the canine dialect, in which he appeared to be a fluent speaker.

Both Commissioners Spears and Moore agreed with him. Commissioner Spears said that it was only yesterday morning that he went down there and no one was in sight. He walked in and down cellar and no one heard him. President Smith thought there were a good many defects in the by-laws and they needed overhauling and at his suggestion a motion was made that the chief be instructed to notify the captains of the various companies that at all times during the day one man had to be on the carriage floor. President Smith thought the discipline in the department headquarters and in Hose 3's house was noticeable. He didn't think that the boys of Hose 3 had any interest whatever.

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July 14th 1896

7/14 Two Blows.
 The fire alarm telegraph system was tested, this morning, and the "Wheeler" was struck two blows. There was considerable hustling on the part of the regulars at department headquarters to get out as quickly as the Texas rangers, in case it proved to be a genuine alarm.
 CH. ZECHER. Out of business.

July 16th 1896

7/16 A Blazing Coach.
 A passenger coach standing on a side track in the Lehigh Valley railway yards, near Clark street, caught fire, last night. Sparks from a passing locomotive are supposed to have started the blaze. The roof of the car was blazing brilliantly when the fire was discovered. The Texas Rangers were notified and extinguished the flames with the hand-extinguishers. The damage will amount to about \$25.

July 16th 1896

A Sick Horse.
 The fire commissioners seem in a fair way to suffer another loss. The large brown truck horse, Rounce, is nearly dead with a complication of diseases, the most serious of which is pneumonia. The horse caught cold in a shower while on parade, July 4, and has been growing worse ever since.
 Several days ago the animal was removed from fire department headquarters to a nearby barn. Last night, while left alone for a short time the animal staggered to its feet and broke out of the barn and returned to the department building. The horse was returned to the hospital and lay down since which time it has not risen. The medical experts say that the animal is doomed.

July 17th 1896

7/17 Rounce Renounces Life.
 The sick truck horse at department headquarters died, late yesterday afternoon, and there is mourning among the firemen because of the loss of a valiant companion, and there is deep grief among the fire commissioners because of the financial loss. Rounce did not possess a cheerful disposition, but he always did his duty, despite an occasional kick about minor matters.

I. BLUM. [123 Mulberry St.]
 tom work across the street. States to us: "Stock \$1,500, ins. \$1,000; sell for c
 rent \$420; have no outside means, and no borrowed money; employ one wor
 limited to receive credit. '94 sales stated \$3,500.

V. BOLLENBACH. [61 Bowery St.]
 as usual, declines any information. Stock estimated \$700. Reputed steady and
 the bench, but means too limited for credit. Sales estimated \$1,400.

July 23rd 1896

A Horse, A Horse!
 There was the beginning of a conflagration in the house, 253 State street, owned by the Stupp estate and occupied by a family named Brundstetter, yesterday afternoon. A small boy and some matches in an upstairs room caused the trouble. A call for the department was sent in from box 46, corner of State and Union streets. The firemen extinguished the blaze before any great damage had been done. The chemical did not respond to the alarm. One of the team which draws it is recovering from an attack of colic and was unable to run. What with one horse having died recently and two sick the department is quite seriously crippled.

95. 111
 at \$16,000, real estate all
 " Of good personal and

'86. States to us: "Stock
 ney; own building in occu-
 attentive; pays satisfactorily,

'95.
 ash.

Business was established
 d managed the business for
 good; mdse. indebtedness
 valued \$60,000, mortgaged
 range valued \$12,000, mort-
 habits and ability, and it is

ry, '94, the failed stock of
 lose May 1. States to us:
 his exception all bills have

Emma A. Succeeded her
 "Stock \$1,000, fixtures \$150,
 estate." '94 sales stated \$500

umberger, Felix Fuld, Henry
 Craig; Bamberger came from
 myer for O'Neill & Co., dry
 State to us: "Stock about
 ent \$9,000. '94 sales about

Stock \$20,000, well insured;
 00,000 at any time; employ
 a large and fine stock; caters
 ated \$6,000. (?)

rly a cooper. States to us:
 in occupancy worth \$2,000,
 s and ability small, and basis

July 19th 1896

7/19 A Fake Fire Alarm.
 There was an alarm of fire, last night, from box 21, corner of Clark and McMaster street, at 11:46 o'clock. It was a false alarm. Someone had secured a release key, and after pulling the box, last night, closed and locked it, which would be impossible without a release key.
 The Truck company was a little late getting out. The hired horse which is doing duty in the truck team until the commissioners can purchase an equine, became frightened at the men sliding down the pole. In its gyrations the horse knocked the harness down and delayed the men seriously in righting the tangle. *July 12 - 96*

July 25th 1896

**Why the Fire Department Was Bc-
 lated.**
 The electric feed wire which supplies light for Bennett's bakery in lower State street, set fire to the ceiling of the building, last night. A call was sent in for the department from box 41, at the prison gate. When the apparatus reached the Central railway crossing in State street the 9:22 passenger train was strung across the street. The department was compelled to wait four minutes for the train to get out of the way. Meanwhile the fire had been put out. The damage was very slight.

July 27th 1896

Fire in a Closet.
 A call from box 21 corner Clark and McMaster streets, summoned the fire department to the home of Robert Moxley, 12 Church street, late Saturday afternoon. The fire had caught in a small closet filled with clothing. What caused the flames is not known. The house was filled with a dense smoke when the fireman arrived, and the Loeb respiration which was recently purchased for the department was given a practical test. Pipeman Hughson with the respirator and a line of chemical hose, was enabled to go right into the thickest of the smudge without experiencing any serious discomfort. The stream from the chemical engine soon extinguished the fire. The damage to the building did not amount to a great deal, but the loss on the clothing which was ruined by the flames, smoke and chemicals will be considerable.

Over Sea and Steamboat Point.
 Is: "Stock \$1,500, ins. \$1,000; sell for c
 Stock \$1,500, ins. \$1,000; sell for c
 Stock \$1,500, ins. \$1,000; sell for c

May 11th 1896

BOSS PLATT IN AUBURN.

He is Appointed Acting Assistant Chief of the Fire Department.

Somehow the offices of the various departments of the city government seem to be the hottest places in town when there is a meeting. The office of the fire commissioners wasn't any exception, last night. The commissioners didn't meet, last Thursday night because the members of the board, or at least a majority of them attended the session of the Central New York Firemen's association at Waterloo, and the regular session was deferred until last evening. Gracious, but it was hot and every one who was compelled to be present was glad that there was nothing important to be discussed.

Outside of routine business, the only thing done was to appoint an acting assistant chief, during the absence of Chief Jewhurst at Salt Lake City. Assistant Chief Kinsella cannot be present during the day and an authoritative head is needed for the department all of the time, so the commissioners appointed Captain George Platt of the Truck company as the acting assistant.

The building committee reported through Mr. Moore that the repairs to the quarters of the various companies was well under way and various repairs suggested during the evening were referred to the building committee.

The reports of the nine fires, last month and the time lost by the men, were read by Clerk Ramage in the absence of Chief Jewhurst. They were received and filed as usual.

Clerk Ramage reported the receipt of the 1,000 feet of hose ordered by the board at its last meeting. The hose had been at once placed in commission. Two Cooper hose jackets, recently ordered had also arrived and had been placed in service. These jackets are a recent invention intended for use in case there is a burst in a line of hose while in service. The jacket is placed over the broken place and saves all delay in putting in a new length of hose. The clerk also announced that he had received the badges which the commissioners ordered for volunteer hose 6.

A communication was received from Letchworth hose 2, requesting exempt certificates for James Lattimore, Peter Hahn, Nicholas Hahn and Edward Corfield. The request was granted and the certificates were ordered issued.

A number of regular bills were audited and ordered paid. The new hose cost \$650 and the hose jackets \$50. The payment of the water bill caused an involuntary sigh to escape the commissioners. The volunteer companies are very careless about the use of water. Ross hose 5 is especially neglectful and several times the commissioners have found all of the faucets wide open and the precious fluid gushing forth as freely as though it didn't cost a cent. In view of this state of affairs Mr. Spears offered a resolution, directing the clerk to notify the foreman of the company to post a notice duly and officially signed, over the faucets, to remind the members to turn off the water when it was not in use. During the informal discussion of this resolution it transpired that Chief Jewhurst, at the suggestion of the commissioners, had

once posted similar notices in the house. The next day the water had been found running as usual and the notices had been torn down. Mr. Spears' resolution was adopted, to see whether the foreman of the company had any more authority with the members than the chief of the department. Captain Platt was then appointed acting assistant chief and the board adjourned.

May 24th 1896

STOPPED THE PROCESSION.

That's What Chief Jewhurst Did Way Out in Utah.

Among the many happy recollections which Chief Engineer Jewhurst has brought back from his recent trip to Salt Lake city, none is more pleasant than his reception by the head of the Mormon church. The chief is always in the swim, wherever he goes, but at Salt Lake he stopped the whole procession while the ruler of the Mormons paid him honor. The chief tells it something like this:

"You see there is some feeling in Salt Lake between the Mormons and the Gentiles, but we didn't see any of it. It was the first convention of any magnitude which had ever been held there and the citizens generally did everything possible to entertain us and advertise the place as a convention town. In this the Mormons did their full share. One night, President Woodruff and another high church dignitary named Cannon, whom they also call president, gave a reception at the Knutsford, one of the finest hotels in all the great west. It was a very swell affair and I did not intend to go, as I had not taken my Tuxedo with me. The hotel was the association headquarters and during the evening our little party from Central New York walked over to headquarters to see some of the fellows who were stopping there. In the lobby we met Chief Devine, the head of the Salt Lake department, and he insisted that we should go up in the reception. I begged off, pleading as an excuse that I was not in conventional attire, but Devine insisted and as an extra inducement, told of a huge punch bowl which could be attacked without becoming very conspicuous. Some of the others in the party wished to go up and so I said I'd go, too.

"Well, it was a beautiful scene up there in the great reception parlors. The men were in evening costume and the women were gorgeous in jewels, and the most charming toilets imaginable. The women were handsome, too. I don't think that I ever saw such a lot of beautiful women together before in my life. We found the punch bowl and some cigars and were introduced to a number of Devine's friends who were among the most prominent people in the city. Devine was called away after we had enjoyed the pleasures of the smoking room for a short time and we thought that we would make our escape while he was gone, but at the head of the stairs he met us. We were excusing ourselves when Devine interrupted by asking: 'Have you shaken hands with the presidents?'

"No," I replied.

"Well, you don't want to miss that," said Devine, "it's a great honor, let me tell you, for you Gentiles to be entertained by the head of the Mormon church. The Gentiles here appreciate it and a great many of them are taking advantage of the opportunity. You had better go back and shake hands with the presidents."

"I said I didn't believe that I cared to seek the honor, but Bob Blackburn said he'd rather return to Oswego with the honor of having shaken hands with the head of the Mormon church than with a presidential candidate. Bob was quite stuck on the Mormons and their thrifty ways. The boys all sided with Bob and urged me so hard that I concluded to go, too. The chief of Atlanta, who had previously shaken hands with the presidents, held my hat and I followed the rest in and marched around to the place where the dignitaries were sitting. They were very old men. Pres Woodruff, I should think, was nearly 90 years old, and President Cannon, who is the father of Senator Cannon, is over 70.

"It was a purely Mormon affair and the Gentiles, of course didn't have anything to do but look pleasant. So Devine turned us over to a Mormon bishop to be presented to the presidents. The bishop took our cards and presented each in turn. When he came to me he announced my name and added, 'He is the chief engineer of Auburn, N. Y.'

"Auburn, N. Y.," repeated President Cannon, "Auburn, N. Y., did you say?"

"Yes," said I, "Auburn, N. Y."

"Did you know that Brigham Young, the great leader of our church, once lived in Auburn, N. Y.?" he asked still holding my hand.

"Yes, sir," said I, "it is a well known fact."

"Did you know," he continued, "that the great Secretary Seward who also lived in Auburn, and Brigham Young were close friends?"

"I have understood so," I said.

"Did you know that Brigham Young assisted in the construction of the handsome residence of the great Secretary Seward at Auburn?"

"I said that it was a matter of common report that Brigham Young was a carpenter and had worked on the Seward residence."

"Did you know," he said "that just a short time before his death the great Secretary Seward visited Brigham Young here and that it is still remembered with pleasure?"

"I said I had heard about it. The he asked me if I would like to meet one of Brigham Young's daughters. I was in for it, I saw that plainly and I might as well die for a sheep as a lamb and do the thing gracefully, so I said I should be delighted. So Cannon took me by the arm and escorted me through the parlors to where a bevy of elegantly

dressed women were sitting. You can imagine my feelings going through that throng of elegantly attired people, escorted by the head of the Mormon church. I thought everybody was looking at me and saying that I might have had sense enough to have put on a boiled shirt.

"My conductor paused before a magnificently attired woman who might have been fifty years old and calling her by her given name, he presented me. She offered her hand and we chatted very pleasantly about Auburn and Brigham Young's connection with the city. Well, all the time that I was receiving this attention, the whole of the reception had stopped and the whole

line of guests was waiting for the president to come back. He didn't seem to be in any hurry, but I finally thought I ought to get away and suggested it. Then the lady to whom I had been introduced and whose name I had not caught, invited me to visit her at her home—not for a formal call, she explained, but for a visit to talk about Auburn and the changes which had taken place since her father's time. I accepted the invitation conditionally, upon my being able to get time from the convention. I did not find time to call. One of the ladies in our party said that I missed it. She accepted an invitation to call on one of the Mormon ladies and besides being delightfully entertained, she was presented with a fine amethyst ring as a souvenir of the occasion. She said I would probably have been given diamonds!

"President Cannon, escorted me back and after shaking hands with me again he let me go. The boys were standing in a corner with mouth and eyes open, like living pictures of surprise. They had been watching me and were better posted on the honor which had been done me, than I was myself. An ex-sheriff, who was the only one of a family of fourteen children who had proselyted from the Mormon to the Gentile churches, had posted the fellows. He, of course knew everyone and the lady to whom I had been introduced was President Cannon's second wife. When we got out the boys declared that I always had the luck. Bob said he thought he had been honored pretty highly to be allowed to shake hands with a man Mormon, to say nothing of a woman. Texas Jack, you remember him, the chief of the Dallas, Tex., department, who was here a few years ago, said that whenever he went with our party, he always fell right in with the push."

Sept 4th 1896

A NEW EXERCISE WAGON.

One is Needed by Hose 3—"And Still the Cry is More Hay."

The fire wardens held a regular meeting, last night, at which Commissioner E. J. Moore was the only absentee. John Mansell of Hose 3 was fined \$1 for absence without leave.

Chief Jewhurst reported two fires since he last made his report. The chief then read his report of the Salt Lake City convention. It was a detailed record of everything that transpired while the chief was in the convention city and several things were commended for the betterment of the Auburn Fire department.

Chief Jewhurst reported that the department had a clean record this week so far as the loss of time was concerned.

The following bills were reported and were ordered paid:

Benjamin Hutchins.....	\$ 9 40
Standard Oil company.....	2 88
C. Rivers, agent.....	1 50
William A. Dean.....	6 30
Henry W. Durnford.....	39 10
Robecker's Disinfectant company.....	5 25
S. H. Barrett & Son.....	1 13
Water board.....	22 33
Auburn Gas Light company.....	21 41
Globe Respirator company.....	75 00

Commissioner Spears said that his attention had been called to the need of rubber coats, especially by Truck 1 and on his motion an order for six coats was placed with Hollister and Noble.

Commissioner Spears said the exercise wagon used by Hose 3 was liable to fall to pieces at any moment and he thought a new one should be procured. Commissioner Smith seemed to be in favor of this idea, as did also Chief Jewhurst and on Commissioner Spears' motion plans and specifications for the proposed new wagon will be drawn up and submitted to the board, at a special meeting to be held in the near future. Bids for the construction of the wagon will then be invited.

Chief Jewhurst brought up the matter of procuring hay for the horses. He said that he had talked with several men and the lowest quotation he had received was \$13.75 for baled hay. He was authorized to procure from twenty to twenty-five tons at that price.

The session then adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

CHIEF POINTS OF INTEREST.

Engineer Jewhurst Gives an Interesting Resume of His Trip.

Auburn, Sept. 3, 1896.
To the Board of Fire Commissioners:
Gentlemen—I most respectfully submit my report as your delegate to the 24th annual convention of the international Association of Fire Chiefs, held at Salt Lake City, Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13, 1896. The convention was held in the Continental Market Hall which was handsomely decorated. Chief Routiti of Augusta, Ga., president of the association called the convention to order and in a neat speech introduced Gov. Wells of Utah, who welcomed the chiefs to the young state. The governor is a fine speaker and his welcome was a warm one. In his address he paid the chiefs many compliments. The association also had the honor of being welcomed by the first governor of the state of Utah and the first who as an organization to be welcomed by him to the borders of the new state. Mayor Glendinning extended a welcome on behalf of the people of Salt Lake City in a way which plainly showed that the city fully appreciated the importance of the meeting. Chairman Varian also tendered a hearty greeting and welcome for the fire commissioners.

Chief Humphries of Pittsburg, Pa., and Chief Taylor of Richmond, Va., made appropriate responses in behalf of the association.

After the preliminary business was over the reading of topics and papers was taken up. They were numerous and lengthy and I will not attempt to give any extended account of the same. The subjects were of a variety compiled and discussed by the experts of the country on fire matters.

Tool wagons for a fire department was a topic which caused much discussion. Many of the chiefs spoke from actual experience and their suggestions had great weight; it was the general opinion that a tool wagon was a useful and necessary part of a fire department equipment. The wagon should be equipped with small extinguishers, water proof covers, extra large hose and siamese, shovels, brooms, chains, ropes, crow-bars, axes, extra nozzles, lanterns and everything of that description that usually loads down the hose wagons and trucks. The topic was considered of such value that it was decided to take it up again at the next convention.

How can a private fire service be properly organized, drilled and made a useful adjunct to city fire departments was a topic assigned to the chief of the private fire department of the Pennsylvania railway company. He is well qualified to write on the question and his paper covered the ground so thoroughly that few chiefs had little to say on the subject. To sum up the topic the following suggestions were adopted:

Private fire service or departments should organize on the principle that they are to extinguish fires in their incipient stages and not to put out conflagrations. No chances must be taken with a fire; if it looks at all dangerous the alarm should be promptly sent to the city fire department. The man in charge should have full control of the apparatus and be on good terms with the city department, consulting frequently as to the details of his service and having his appliances come as near the city standards as possible. The employes selected to handle the apparatus should be young and active, drills should be had weekly but at no set time just as fires are liable to occur, so that the men would respond promptly with apparatus ready for duty.

Should the fire chief have the authority to control the setting of poles and stringing of all electric wires, was a subject which did not take long to decide that for the good of the fire service the chief should look after his own department and that other city authorities should attend to the setting of poles and stringing of wires.

Continued on Fifth page.

but in all cases the city wires have preference over all others.

The best and safest plan for fighting fires in grain elevators was a subject which caused a lively discussion and was participated in by chiefs who contributed valuable and interesting information gained from actual experience. The subject did not directly pertain to the work required of our department, as we have no elevators to speak of but so far as the safest method in fighting an elevator is concerned, about the same rules apply to other buildings as well.

The topic "How can the modern tall building be best protected by the fire department," brought out the fact that the fire service was not keeping up with building construction.

Local fire insurance agents and their relative position to the fire service, was a topic which proved to be one of the most interesting of the meeting.

The agent was censured for some acts and complimented for others. It was plainly evident from the lively debate that the association considered it the duty of local agents to keep in close touch with the fire department and to give their active and moral support to those having the same in charge in maintaining the fire appliances at their highest state of efficiency.

Nov 29th 1896

FIRE IN DUNN & McCARTHY'S.

The Large Shoe Manufactory Threatened With Destruction.

At a late hour this afternoon fire was discovered in the button shop of Dunn & McCarthy's large shoe manufactory in Washington street.

An alarm was sent in from box 4, and the department responded promptly. When the firemen arrived on the scene the building was enveloped in dense smoke and huge tongues of flames were licking up the inflammable contents.

Fortunately the shops were not in operation, or many lives would have been imperiled. The employes are enjoying an outing today, at Cayuga lake park, and the works were shut down, in consequence.

The Firemen Save the Building.

At the hour of going to press the fire fighters had obtained control of the threatened conflagration. The blaze started in the pearl button shop in rear of the factory. The building was owned by Dunn & McCarthy, but was leased by Walter Arnold. The loss will not exceed \$1,000.

The topic "What should be the qualifications for a fire chief" occupied a good portion of the time of the convention. The subject was a delicate one for the chiefs to handle and many humorous remarks were made; a number of delegates thought the only one qualified to handle the subject properly was the curbstone fire critic, but the substance of the debate went to show that a fire chief should thoroughly understand his business through information gained by actual experience and to be able to conduct the affairs of his office for the highest and best interests of the people he serves. With these qualifications he should be able to render the most efficient service possible.

Topics on fire proof buildings, electrolysis, danger of fire from electric light wires, fire department drills, water service and many others were presented which covered a wide range of valuable and instructive subjects which were full of interest.

Ample accommodations were provided for the exhibits in a large hall near the convention building and every facility was placed at the command of the exhibitors to display their goods or to test them if desired. Owing to the distance and cost of transportation there was not as large a display as at previous conventions, but the display was a creditable one.

On the third day of the convention the exhibitors were given an opportunity to explain the best points of their exhibits and the gain to be derived from their use and some very practical tests were given of many new and useful appliances. This was one of the most interesting features of the convention. Among the many articles shown was the latest improvements in fire alarm telegraph with a full system in operation swinging harness, ladder, nozzles cellar pipes, smoke protectors, hose, hydrants, firemen's clothing, hose jackets and about everything else used in the equipment of the fire service, except apparatus rolling stock and that was conspicuous by its absence. Auburn was represented among the exhibits by an automatic ratchet screw jack invented by L. O'Hara, of this city. The jack is made for fire service and received favorable commendation.

The tests of smoke respirators were thorough and practical, your delegate was one of a committee having charge of that part of the exhibition. Airtight houses were constructed and filled with smoke and gas into which the various inventors went with their respirators. The Loeb respirator test gave general satisfaction and was highly commended for its practicability, and it is a pleasure to note that both the Loeb respirator and the Cooper hose jacket, recent additions to the department of this city, were highly endorsed by the leading chiefs of the association.

My attention was called to the Baker cellar pipe, a test of which proved an unqualified success. Also a new chemical nozzle having combination features for extinguishing fire between partitions and ceilings. The favorable comments upon these new appliances was constantly noticed and I believe them a valuable addition to the fire service, and would recommend their adoption in our department.

The report of the secretary showed a total membership of the association to be 532. Since the last meeting 32 new members have been received.

The attendance at the convention was not so large as heretofore, but what it lacked in numbers it made up in enthusiasm and interest, as the meeting in all respects was fully up to the standard of other years, and I do not believe there was a delegate present but felt that he had benefited through information received at the meeting.

The trip to Salt Lake City was a long journey but a most delightful one. During a stop over at Chicago a number of chiefs were handsomely entertained by Ezra Hamilton, ex-assistant chief of the Auburn department and his brother Walter, an old time member of Neptune Hose company. Both are holding important positions with Swift & Co, and through their influence the chiefs were shown through the great stock yards and buildings.

At Chicago 172 delegates gathered from the northern and eastern states, and were furnished with a special train to Salt Lake City and return; the train consisting of six sleepers, a dining and baggage car and was said to be the

The visit to Salt Lake City was a most interesting as well as an enjoyable one. Both Mormons and Gentiles vied with each other in tendering their hospitalities and they are entitled to much praise for the manner in which they entertained the visitors. On the return trip the party was entertained at Colorado Springs by the fire department. An invitation was accepted from the fire commissioners of Denver to stop over in that city a day and review the parade of the fire and police departments. The party was handsomely cared for during their stay and George D. Kimbark, formerly of this city, and a member of old Cayuga hose No. 4, assisting largely in the entertainment. New Haven, Conn., was selected as a meeting place for next year.

Thanking you for favors conferred I respectfully submit this report.
E. J. JEWHRST,
Chief Fire Department.

Sept 18 1896

The fire department was called to Barber street, last evening in response to an alarm sent in from box 4. Some one saw the blaze of a bonfire and thought a building was burning.

Sept 14 1896
TWO FIRES IN ONE DAY:

Rascally Barn-Burners Seem to be in Their Element.

After several weeks of waiting for something to turn up, the fire department was given two runs yesterday. The first one was at 2:23 in the morning. An alarm was turned in from box 17, corner Lewis and Lansing streets. A barn belonging to Owen Flanagan, at 103 Lewis street, was blazing merrily when the firemen were called. The flames were first discovered by neighbors of the Flanagans, who were aroused by sparks from the burning buildings blowing in their open windows. At the time the entire structure was enveloped in flames and it was with the greatest difficulty that a horse and cow were taken from the building. The horse was seriously burned and it was believed that it would have to be killed. The remainder of the contents of the barn, consisting of hay, grain, wagon and tools was consumed. The loss will amount to about \$500, on which there is an insurance. The firemen on their arrival could not do anything toward checking the fire, as it was under too great headway, but they prevented the spread of the flames to adjoining buildings. Volunteer hose 3 arrived at the fire twenty-five minutes after the paid men. The fire was unquestionably of incendiary origin, so those who discover it affirm.

The Flanagans seem to be particularly unfortunate in the matter of fires. In January, 1888, a barn on the premises was burned at the same hour in the morning as that of yesterday and in '91, the department was called to extinguish a blaze in the house, caused by an exploded lamp.

The second run for the firemen was at 3:18 yesterday afternoon. A call was sent in from box 26, corner of Logan and Mary streets. The barn at 150 Mechanic street, owned by the Thomas Flynn estate was found to be burning, as cheerily as the Flanagan building, in the morning. The fire started in a quantity of provender stored near the door. The building was occupied by Meyer Cooper. He is a confirmed cigarette smoker and the fire is supposed to have been caused by a spark from one of the pipe-sticks. So rapidly did the fire gain headway, that it was impossible to remove a horse stabled inside, and the poor beast perished in the flames. The loss will amount to \$350. Volunteer hose 2 made a record at this fire, getting there as soon as the Chemical company, being the first company to lay a line of hose. This is the first time in many moons that the company has wet its hose. The building was destroyed by shooting himself, some years ago.

Sept 18 1896
A Still Alarm.
There was a sickly fire started this morning, in the cellar of the hotel Schuch. Sparks crept between the bricks of the chimney of the adjoining store, occupied by John Gruner as a music store, and set fire to the sawdust packed about the hotel cooler. Fire department headquarters was notified by telephone and a detail of firemen with chemical extinguishers was dispatched to put out the fire. The flames were smothered before any particular damage had been done.

Oct 12 1896

AUBURN FIREMEN LIBELED.
A Chicago Sheet Which the Auburn Laddies Would Like to Wet.

In a recent issue, the Chicago Journal gives columns of space to the recital of a plot by members of the fire department of Blue Island, a suburban town, to force a paid department on the village. The more prominent members of the volunteer organization, it is said, conspired to cause so many fires that the residents of the village would see the necessity of organizing a paid department in which the plotters had planned to hold fat positions. In the course of the story the following reference is made to Auburn:

The only known case resembling this was at Auburn, N. Y., several years ago. There were not nearly so many implicated, however, in that conspiracy as there apparently were in this.

So far as can be learned, this statement is a fiction, a base libel on the loveliest village and her gallant fire laddies. The only happening in Auburn which in any way resembles the atrocities of the Blue Island fire bugs was way back in the seventies. The fires then were not set for the purpose of securing the organization of a paid fire department; such a thing was not dreamed of in those days. The incendiarism was caused by pure mischievous deviltry.

The principal part in the Auburn trouble was taken by Old Eagle hose 2 which was nicknamed by the rest of the department, "Erysipelas hose." This company had quarters at the Five Corners in the eastern part of the city. Its members were ideal fire laddies of "Mose, the fireman" type. A number of its members is still in the city and can, on occasion be induced to tell of the doings of the old organization. During the last years of its existence the company grew very tough. Some of the members lived in the quarters, not even leaving it to eat. It was the proud boast of the members that a quarter of ale, (lager was an almost unknown quantity in those days,) was always on tap in the house.

The fire department was directly under the control of the common council at that time, and as an additional stimulus to the volunteers to get to a fire, the aldermen ordered that \$15 should be paid from the city treasury to the company getting the first stream on a fire and \$10 to the second company. It perhaps is needless to say that Eagle hose usually captured the first prize. Legitimate fires, however, failed to supply money enough for the expenses of the

Oct 13th 1896

MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.
The Fire Board Has Oats Enough - Routine Business.

The fire commissioners held a sociable session, last evening and decided that they had oats enough. The price of hay was discussed and was found to be seventy-five cents a ton cheaper than it was at the beginning of the season. Various other matters were referred to committees, but, really, there wasn't anything of importance considered, unless it was the request of the city attorney that the board take some decided action in regard to the ordinance relating to the construction of buildings in the inner fire district. At present the law is a dead letter and some decisive action should be taken and brought before the common council. This matter was laid on the table to be considered at a future meeting, probably a special to be called by the president of the board.

Well, when the board was ready for business, the regular opening formula was gone through. Then Chief Jewhurst made his monthly reports. There had been five fires since his last report, the last of which occurred Saturday. A telephone pole along the line of the Lehigh Valley railway caught fire from locomotive sparks. The blaze was extinguished by Hose 3, before any damage had been done. None of the other companies was notified of the fire.

Several of the call men were reported as having been absent from quarters without leave. None of them was fined, probably because the time lost was so short. The vacation season was declared ended and the men were all back at work. The rubber coats ordered at the last meeting have been received and distributed among the companies. The chief was directed to procure a half-dozen more coats and to negotiate for a supply of mittens to be used during the winter months. Then the discussion of the hay and oat problem was taken up with the result given previously.

Peter O'Mara and Edward Burns made application for appointment to the call force. Their names were ordered placed on the waiting list.

The schedule of claims, which included many bills, but none of large amount, was ordered paid. The schedule showed a large decrease in the amount of water used by volunteer hose 5. The bill for water for this company last month was only \$1, while the previous month it was \$9.52. The members of the company seemed to think for a long time that water didn't cost anything and so they let the faucets in the company quarters run night and day. In spite of the orders of the chief and the commissioners, the water continued to run until finally the volunteers decided to turn it off excepting when in use. The volunteer companies still continue to do about as they please as they did in the good old days before a paid department was dreamed of, regardless of the heads of the department.

The quarterly salaries of the call men, the volunteer companies and the officers of the department were ordered paid.

The matter of purchasing a forge for the department which was urged by President Smith was left to the supply committee. The matter of new steam coils in the different quarters was referred to the building committee with power.

A smoke respirator, the invention of a Syracuse woman, Mrs. J. B. Miller, was examined and will be given a trial—perhaps. It is a very simple device and does not inspire great confidence. Then the meeting adjourned.

Oct 15th 1896

FACTS AMONG THE FIREMEN.
Contract for a New Wagon-Houses and Horses Discussed.

The fire commissioners have given an order to George F. Wills, the carriage manufacturer for a new exercise wagon. The price to be paid for the vehicle has not been made public, but it is said that the commissioners did not accept the lowest bid.

A handsome pair of horses from Elmwood stock farm was offered to the commissioners, yesterday at a reasonable price. The animals were said by experts to be just the thing for a truck team. The commissioners decided not to purchase yet a while. They have a rented horse in the service which costs \$1 a day. It has been hired since July 10, last.

Now that the rush of fall work is over, C. E. Smith to whom the horse belongs, is willing to rent it for less, but during the busy season he claims that the horse was worth even more than a \$1 a day to work. Perhaps now that the horse can be hired for less the commissioners will not care to purchase at all.

It is said that the commissioners are also figuring to see how they can get rid of two of the houses occupied by volunteer companies, and get enough money to build a new house for a paid company. A society in the western part of the city is anxious to purchase the quarters of old Ross hose at a fair price. Ex-Alderman Hazlett who was at one time one of the most ardent supporters of the volunteer system, is now said to favor the sale of the property to the social organization.

Wedded at Noontide

Oct 17th 1896

A New Team in Town.

The fire commissioners, today purchased a pair of horses for the department. It has taken them a long time to select what they wanted, and it is to be hoped that they have succeeded in getting something better than common. The horses are black geldings, seven years old and weigh 3,000 pounds. The price paid was \$350. They were purchased of C. E. Parsons who resides at Baptist Corners, and they will be put in service on the truck, next week.

Oct 23rd 1896

A Team in Training.

The pair of horses recently purchased by the fire commissioners for the Truck company, was put into service, yesterday afternoon. The team will be instructed in their duties as fire horses at once, but it will be some weeks before their education is finished. Nora, one of the white team which has drawn the wagon of Hose 1 so long will be given a vacation and old George, formerly of the truck team will take her place.

company and so it is said that the members took to setting fuses. It is only justice to the members to say that the charge was never proved. The suspicion was strengthened, that they had previous knowledge of the conflagration by the fact that in a number of instances the company would have a stream on a fire before an alarm had even been sounded.

During this time there were several really disastrous fires, although for the most part the fires were of small account. The stables of the New National hotel and the Street Railway company's barns were among the largest of these fires. It is told, with how much truth the old members can best tell, that having run short of material for a fire, excepting among personal friends of the members, notes were sent to these friends telling them that on a certain night they had better let their cow run loose, as a fire was liable to occur in their neighborhood. The residents of the eastern part of the city were for a long time in a state of deadly terror, hardly daring to go to bed at night for fear the roof would be burned over their heads before morning.

Finally, the orgies of the company became so rank that a nearby resident took his life in his hands, so to speak, and made a complaint to the police. This was a daring thing to do because if the name of the complainant became known it was not expected that his property would be worth a farthing. Well, some one ran the risk and the police made a raid on the hose house. The policemen had to break in the doors, which the firemen refused to open. Fourteen members of the company were arrested and marched to police headquarters. The next morning they were arraigned in police court upon a charge of disorderly conduct. They pleaded guilty and were fined \$10 each. The fines were paid by the treasurer of the organization who remarked, "We'll have plenty more next week."

The company finally became so lawless that even the aldermen, who were under political obligations to the members couldn't stand it and it was decided to disband the organization. The members learned of the intended action and the night before the meeting of the aldermen the firemen removed all their belongings from the hose house and smashed all that belonged to the city, locked the door of the hose house and turned the key over to the mayor. The next night the common council formally disbanded the company, but the force of the official act was lost through the previous measures taken by the firemen.

Later, after the disbandment of the company a man named Dunn, who had been a member, was convicted of setting fire to the barns of the late Charles Standart. This act of incendiarism was caused by a desire for revenge because of Mr. Standart's firmness while a member of the board of excise.

Since the publication of the Chicago item, Chief Engineer Jewhurst has been besieged by correspondents of newspapers to learn about the conspiracy in this city. Some of these enterprising writers have brought the information that a man was once lynched here for having fired a house in which there was a family living. This of course is nonsense. The nearest approach to such a sensation was the conviction of Dunn as previously detailed.

Oct 27th 1896

First Run for the New Team.

It was a real novelty to the firemen to have a run, last night. It was the first in several weeks. A lamp exploded in the apartment house, 9 William street, of which Miss Alice Smith is the lessee. Some one telephoned police headquarters of the fact, evidently with the idea that the fire should be arrested. The police turned the matter over to the firemen who responded with their usual promptitude. The blaze had been extinguished before their arrival, however, so there was nothing to do but jog home after the pleasant ride. This was the first run for the new truck team. The horses went out like old veterans. There has never been a team in the department which learned the duties of fire horses so quickly as this pair. They seem to be veritable mines of intelligence and docility.

Nov 4th 1896

In the Heat of Election.

Draperies caught fire from the McKinley heat at H. A. Tallman's house in Elizabeth street, at 5:10 o'clock, last evening and the fire department was summoned to box 42. The flames were quenched with little damage without the aid of the firemen.

Nov 5th 1896

Mail Carrier Coutant's Loss.

The fire department was given a run at 12:15, this morning. The barn belonging to Mail Carrier Coutant on Maple street, was burned, together with a horse and other contents. The loss will amount to several hundred dollars. How the fire caught is a mystery. Mr. Coutant was in the barn with a lantern during the evening, but he is positive that he did not leave any fire behind him. He is loth to believe that the blaze was of incendiary origin and so the cause is left to speculation.

John Mansfield of hose 1, was seriously burned on the hand by a hot cinder which fell upon it, and his face was blistered by his rubber coat which was heated nearly to the melting point by the fire.

A coat and a pair of mittens were lost from the wagon of hose 1. The finder will confer a lasting obligation to the owner if he will return them to fire department headquarters.

Nov 6th 1896

THE FIRE WARDENS.

Some Business and Considerable Discussion at Last Night's Meeting.

The first thing, last evening, after the board of fire commissioners had business under way, President Smith explained that in the matter of the wooden building ordinance, he had consulted with Alderman Corcoran of the council committee and Mr. Corcoran had decided that after election, probably next week, he would be ready to confer with the commissioners in regard to the subject. With the question of revising and making stronger the ordinance, the city has made an

addition to the wooden sheds on the city lot in Franklin street. The addition was covered with corrugated iron, but Chief Engineer Jewhurst has declared that iron covering does not render a building fire proof by any means. When the city authorities erect a combustible building within the inner fire district a stronger ordinance is certainly needed.

The building committee of the fire board, which has in charge some unimportant repairs and changes at the hose houses, asked for further time before submitting a report. The request was granted.

Mr. Speares, who is chairman of the supply committee, reported that a contract had been made with George F. Wills, the carriage manufacturer for an exercise wagon which, in case of an emergency could be used as a hose wagon. The contract price was \$245, and the wagon was to be ready for service next month. The committee had also purchased a pair of horses for the truck company, for \$350. The team was giving the best of satisfaction.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst submitted his monthly reports. There had been only three alarms of fire since his previous report.

"Did the assistant chief attend that fire?" inquired Mr. Speares of the chief referring to the recent burning of the Coutant barn.

"I did not see him there," answered Chief Jewhurst with a smile. "The alarm was outside the district of hose 3."

"Don't he attend fires outside the district of that company?" persisted Mr. Speares.

"I haven't seen him at any, lately," was the reply.

"Well," said Mr. Speares, "I think that the assistant chief ought to attend all fires, especially at night. Supposing several houses had caught from that barn, the other night. The chief could not have been everywhere and the assistant would have been needed."

"That's true," said President Smith.

"If we expect the assistant chief to attend fires where the apparatus does not go, we'll have to provide him some means of transportation. That fire the other night was a big two-mile walk from hose 3, and by the time he could have got there his services would not be needed."

This ended the argument, for the funds of the commissioners are not in condition to supply a special rig for the assistant chief engineer.

John A. Colbert made application for appointment as a call man, and his name was placed on the waiting list. Pietro Mowry was appointed a substitute call man for duty with the Chemical company, and Edward Burns was appointed a substitute for duty at hose 3.

The monthly schedule of bills was passed and checks were ordered in payment of the several amounts.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported repairs to the telegraph system and the meeting adjourned.

... (store and residence), clear; the many years; close and saving; makes a living; carries too much stock, 94 sales stated \$2,500.

... [Began here in '90, is a shoemaker by trade, and still k about \$1,100, ins. \$2,500 (with furniture); outstandings \$500; mdse.

Nov 13th 1896

THREE LITTLE BLAZES.

The Paid Fire Department Was Receiving Calls, Last Evening.

Happenings seem to be coming to the city in blocks of three. Wednesday night there were three burglaries and last night there were three fires. Really, with Parkhurst Christianity dispensed from the pulpit of the churches, fires, burglaries galore, Auburn is getting to be as metropolitan as Greater New York.

The first call for the fire department was at 8:44 in the evening. A bale of excelsior in the cellar of the hardware store of Shallish & Rich, next to the ADVERTISER office in Genesee street, caught fire. The blaze was discovered by workmen in the tin shop, in the rear of the store and a stream from the chemical soon extinguished it. The damage was very slight, and was confined almost entirely to the excelsior and the floor of the tin shop, which had to be chopped open to get at the blaze.

The second fire was discovered by Constable Wallace who communicated his find to the firemen at headquarters. At the corner of East Genesee and Sherman streets, there is a telephone pole which is hollow. Some one set the interior of the cavity on fire, last night and it was blazing merrily when the constable found it. A detail from Hose 1, with Babcock extinguishers put out the fire before the pole was entirely ruined. The pole has been set on fire several times previously.

The most serious of the three fires occurred early, this morning. The dwelling house at No. 3 Owasco street, occupied by H. B. Stevenson, the printer, and owned by J. H. Owens, caught fire in the rear from a defective chimney. The fire was discovered by neighbors who aroused the inmates of the house. About the same time the flames were seen by Patrolman Shaw on the East Genesee street beat and he turned in a call for the department from box 25 at the Osborne factory. The rear of the house was burned off, destroying the culinary department of the Stevenson household. The damage will amount to several hundred dollars.

... formerly for seven years a boss h for stock; own real estate at both mortgaged for \$1,600."

... Daniel, Jose and John. All one for men's goods and the industrious; pay satisfactorily,

... \$25; retiring from business.

... Lydia, continues under same ing discounts, mdse. indebted- estate will remain unsettled."

Dec 4 1896

12/4 THE FIRE WARDENS. Without Much to Do, They Did It Well and Adjourned.

The fire commissioners held their regular monthly meeting, last night. Department matters seem to be very quiet, at least the commissioners didn't have very much to do. The steam heating apparatus at the quarters of Hose 3, was reported to have been repaired and placed in perfect working order. The new wagon for the "Rangers," Mr. Speares said would be ready for service in about two weeks.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported four fires since the last meeting of the board and the usual amount of lost time by the call members of the department.

S. Wright Milk, an old-time volunteer made application for appointment to the permanent force. His name was put on the waiting list.

The hot water boiler at headquarters was reported in a dangerous condition. This is the second boiler that has been placed in headquarters within two years. Both of them were cheap affairs but the two have cost more than one good tank which would have lasted for years.

There were not very many bills to be audited. Among them was the claim of C. E. Smith for \$78 for the use of a horse for the truck, last fall. Mr. Smith claimed a dollar a day for the use of his equine, but finally a compromise was reached on seventy-five cents.

Various supplies for the comfort and preservation of the houses were discussed and referred to the committee whose duty it is to purchase such trifles.

Mr. Smith reported the purchase of a forge, an anvil and other blacksmithing appurtenances. Then the meeting adjourned.

After the meeting, there was an informal discussion of the building ordinance. New boundaries for the fire districts were proposed and it was decided to make a recommendation of the changes to the common council at its meeting Monday night.

L. C. B. A. Election.

Dec 10 1896

The Fire Was in a Stove.

That mischievous somebody who is always creating trouble, wandered into the palatial "shaunti" of Thomas Curren at the corner of Paul and Seymour streets, last night, and poured kerosene on the fire. There was a blaze which made a passer-by believe that the whole place was on fire and a call was turned in for the fire department from box 15, corner of Seymour and Holly streets. The blaze had burned out without doing any material damage to the moquette carpets and inlaid furniture, before the arrival of the firemen.

The crowd which went with the fireman was treated to an interesting dialogue between Curren and his house-keeper as to who was to blame for the

man \$6,000. until some further success is assured, caution

Dec 12 1896

A HOTHOUSE.

Fire Destroyed One for E. L. Thornton With a Loss of \$1,000.

The firemen had an unpleasant experience, last night. At four minutes after midnight an alarm was sent in from box 31, corner of Parker street and Fuch avenue. The greenhouse of E. L. Thornton, in Thornton avenue was on fire. Somebody who didn't know much about sending in an alarm pulled the box and he kept the "wheeler" ringing long enough to have announced the destruction of the whole city.

The department had to pass through a portion of the west side sewer districts to reach the fire and the streets are in a horrible condition. Seemingly not the least attempt was made by the contractors who put down the sewers, to put the streets in even a safe condition, let alone one easy to drive upon. Great hummucks were left where the house connections were made and in a great many other places there were deep pitch holes where the earth had settled in the excavations. Speed was impossible under such conditions. The Chemical engine and the wagon of Hose 3, were both stalled at different times and had to be pried out of the holes.

The fire caught in the front part of the greenhouse, from the hot air furnace. A large portion of the building was destroyed and the whole of the contents was ruined. There were several hundred dollars worth of blooming plants in the building, besides quite a large amount of vegetables which were ready for market. There were also thirty-five tons of coal in the place which caught fire and had to be all raked over by the firemen before the embers could be extinguished. This, together with the zero weather made the blaze a most disagreeable one for the department to tackle. The loss will amount to nearly \$1,000 upon which there is not any insurance.

Platt climbed on to the roof and extinguished the blaze. The high wind which arose late in the evening had fanned the charcoal in the furnace into a blaze and it was roaring like a blast furnace when it was extinguished.

Dec 21 1896

Hughson to the Rescue.

While hastening up Walnut street, early last evening, Frank Hughson, Chief Engineer Jewhurst's driver, heard cries of alarm from the Maywalt home opposite Gaylord street. He hastened to ascertain the cause of the trouble and found a large lamp on fire. The fireman promptly fired the fiery illuminator into the street, leaving two young ladies in darkness and a relieved state of mind. Had it not been for the prompt action of Fireman Hughson a serious conflagration would probably have resulted.

Dec 26 1896

The Firemen's Christmas.

The firemen at headquarters had a very pleasant Christmas. The men who live so much in each others' society grow into an intimacy which is almost like that of a family, and little tokens of esteem are exchanged among them as is done in all well regulated households. Besides these, Commissioner Smith sent each company in the department a box of choice cigars, and as Mr. Smith smokes none but the best and he gave the firemen the best brand he smokes himself, they were really choice. Then W. J. Dewitt, the cigar manufacturer, also presented the men with a box of his best make. Harry Guisberg, the shoe black who is the department mascot gave each member from Chief Jewhurst, down to the department cat a gift, which was as highly prized as though bestowed by President Cleveland. Captain Burghdoff of Hose 1, remembered each of his men with a monogram silk handkerchief, and altogether the men who are sworn enemies to the fire king were jolly.

Dec 19 1896

Fire in a Furnace.

The tin roof on the First Methodist Episcopal church in Exchange street, sprung a leak recently. Yesterday, workmen were engaged in repairing the damage and when they had put in eight hours' time, there still remained something to do on the job. So they left the charcoal furnace in which they heat their irons.

At half past ten o'clock, last night, a stream of brilliant sparks was discovered whirling into the sky from the roof of the church. The sparks were so large and so bright that they made a really fine display of pyrotechnics and nearly frightened into the owners of the buildings in the immediate vicinity.

The matter was reported at police headquarters and Roundsman Callahan started out to investigate. On his way to the church he met Captain Platt of the Truck company, who was taking a night off, and explained to him the trouble. The pair conducted a still hunt for the conflagration and finally found it. Captain

properties worth more than the trade; no complaints, and

work in '89, added ready-cashings); sell for cash, mdse. a living on the bench." Re-credit. '94 sales stated \$400.

Stock \$8,000, ins. \$5,000; (oms); own real estate worth ring the day." Reputed of 4 sales stated \$11,000.

to us: "Stock \$1,000, ins. cy worth \$6,500, mortgaged 4 sales stated \$1,800.

in '95, who succeeded Hage- valid. States to us: "Stock character and habits; but ?)

Dec 30th 1896

INTERESTING FIGURES.

Table Prepared by Chief Jewhurst Showing the Number of Buildings in Auburn. Chief Jewhurst, of the Fire department, has completed his table of statistics of the buildings of all kinds in the city. This is the first of its kind that has ever been prepared by the fire department in Auburn and gives some very interesting figures. The list of buildings is divided into factories and workshops, dwellings, barns and storage buildings, mercantile and office, hotels and public buildings. The materials of which the buildings are made is also given and the number of buildings in each ward with a total is set down. Following is the table which the chief has prepared:

Wards.	Factories and Work Shops				Dwellings.				Barns and Storage Bld				Mercantile & Office Hotels				Public Buildings.				Total	
	Brick	Stone	Frame	Iron	Brick	Stone	Frame	Total	Brick	Stone	Frame	Total	Brick	Stone	Frame	Total	Brick	Stone	Frame	Total		
1st ward.	9	3	7		19	20		683	703													
2d ward.	14	3	16	3	36	66		522	591													
3d ward.	28	45	4	4	77	32		158	190													
4th ward.	19	6	6		25	11	1	363	375													
5th ward.	1	1	21	1	20	31		278	309													
6th ward.	7	3	3		4	11		1	502	544												
7th ward.	6	4	17		27	10	1	421	514													
8th ward.	28	7	49	3	87	23		468	465													
9th ward.			1		1	57		470	511													
10th ward.	10	7	1		18	41																
Total.	122	18	172	12	324	332		3,430	4,612	65	6	1,884	1,935	294	35	188	427	32	25	26	89	7,437

In the First ward there are 1,076 buildings, 958 in the Second, 571 in the Third, 585 in the Fourth, 498 in the Fifth, 812 in the Sixth, 665 in the Seventh, 798 in the Eighth, 666 in the Ninth, and 808 in the Tenth, making a grand total of 7,437.

The buildings are divided as follows: Brick, 761; frame, 6,577; stone, 87; iron, 12.

The chief has also made a careful survey of the hydrants, old and new, and has a map, in course of completion, which will give the location of each one. This was done because of the many new hydrants which have been placed in the city during the past year. The map is complete in every detail and will be of great benefit to the department.

Stock for sales, continues in good...

Mrs. J. KENNEDY. [2823 Kensi to us: "Capital \$265; stock \$500, no ins in occupancy, and I get rent free." An h stated \$800.

Jan 8th 1897

The roof of Schutt's carpenter shop in the old Dispatch building in Dill street, caught fire, this morning, from a defective chimney. A still alarm was sent to headquarters and the firemen responded with their usual promptness. The blaze was soon extinguished and the damage will not amount to more than \$25.

Mrs. A. KLAISS. [2503 North Fro he having confessed judgment to J. L. Wri \$2,800 (with furniture); no outstandings; ness poorly managed, means small, slow p '94 sales stated \$1,500.

HENRY KLAUS. [1637 North Sec \$1,100, ins. \$1,000; outstandings \$100; n pancy worth \$3,000, encumbered \$1,350. Principally at home, where he is given a li

D. KLEIN. [1351 South St.] De in name of L. Goodman until '91, then in

Jan 12th 1897

Firemen Have a Smoker.

The firemen were not particularly busy, this morning, so they tested the smoke respirators in use in the department. They obtained the use of Butcher Froitzeim's smoke-house for the experiments. A delightful smudge of rubber and feathers was made in the smoke-house and then the firemen went in and remained twenty minutes. Captain Burghduff used the Loeb respirator and Ladderman Mead the Syracuse invention. Both fulfilled all that had been guaranteed.

'94 sales stated \$9,000.

Feb 6th 1897

Might Have Been Worse.

Fire was discovered in the closet on the third floor of the Smith block, corner of Genesee and Exchange streets, at 7:30 o'clock, last evening. The fire department was telephoned and the flames were extinguished by a stream from the chemical engine before serious damage had been done. The fire is supposed to have originated from a carelessly thrown, lighted cigar or cigaret stub.

Loss Adjusted

Feb 15th 1897

A Short Session.

The fire commissioners didn't have very much to do, last night at their regular meeting. It has been a long time since there has been so little official business to come before their consideration. After the formal preliminaries the supply committee reported having placed some automatic weather strips on the doors of the department buildings, which worked to perfection in keeping out the cold and so the chief was ordered to procure more of the same kind of weather strips for the smaller doors which had not yet been provided.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported four fires during the month of January. He also made his monthly report of time lost by the various members of the department. Both reports were received and ordered filed.

A. S. Heal made an application for appointment to the call force of the department and his name was ordered placed on the waiting list.

The bills were ordered paid. They were few and of small amounts.

Clerk Ramage reported that the fines imposed at a previous meeting, for violation of the department rules, had been collected. The clerk was directed to renew the insurance policy on the contents of the store house, for the sum of \$600. Then the meeting adjourned.

Jan 8th 1897

BILLS AND BILLS.

Fire Commissioners Pay a Few - New Call Men on the List.

When the hue and cry for reform was raised against the board of fire commissioners, some years ago, great stress was placed on the fact that the commissioners then in office did not keep the department bills paid--that they allowed debts to accumulate for months before paying them. A reform board was elected which, after struggling for a year to correct the faults which had been so glaring and in such need of reformation, finally dropped gracefully back into the old rut which had caused such need of amendment in its predecessors. Last night, the commissioners met and about all they did was to pass bills. The schedule amounted to a little less than a \$1,000. Some of these bills had run since early last summer and that, too, so soon after the retirement of the old board!

Well, when the meeting was really started, for the members had to examine the bills previously, and that was not a small job by any means, Commissioner Spears reported that the new wagon ordered of George F. Wills was ready for service, and a new sleigh had been purchased for the chief for \$35.

Chief Jewhurst reported in detail regarding three fires since his last report. He also reported the time lost by the paid men. Three men had been absent without leave, two on one occasion only and one on two occasions. On motion of Mr. Spears the delinquents were fined a dollar for each offense.

R. P. Armstrong, a call man detailed with the Truck company presented his resignation which was accepted. George F. Smith presented a petition for appointment as call man. His name was placed on the waiting list.

Drafts were ordered in payment of the salaries of the department officers, the call men and the volunteer companies. Pietro Mowry was appointed a call man to fill the vacancy in the Truck company caused by Armstrong's resignation, and S. Wright Milk was appointed a substitute call man and was detailed to the Chemical company. Then the board adjourned.

Feb 8th 1897

A Hunt for a Fire.

The firemen were given a short run at 1 o'clock Sunday morning, to 8 Seminary avenue. The call came by telephone. Smoke was pouring from the windows and doors of the house and some late pedestrian thought the building was on fire and he sent a telephone message for the department.

"Where's the fire?" demanded an officer of the department as the apparatus dashed up. A blousey woman was leaning from the second story window. "Fire is it, yer afther, look in me stove thin, bad cess to yez. Sure ye bether go back to yez loafin' place thin be pother-in honest people. Gwan now."

The firemen went.

Feb 9th 1897

A House Affair.

The fire department was called out at 4 o'clock, this afternoon by an alarm of fire from box 13. The fire was in one of the factory houses in North Division street. The premises were occupied by Mrs. Everts. The damage amounted to \$25. The blaze started from an overheated stove.

Feb 19 1897

Firemen's Relief Monies.

The volunteer firemen have made their annual divvy of the two per cent insurance tax. It amounts to something over \$13 for each member. It seems a little tough that the volunteers should have this money and the sick members of the paid portion of the department should not have any of it. One paid man has been sick five weeks, and not a cent can he draw from this so-called Firemen's Relief association.

Feb 22 1897

EXERCISE FOR FIREMEN.

Two Insignificant Blazes and One Short Run.

A cute little blaze in the shoe store formerly occupied by Ingalls in North street, attracted the attention of Patrolman Anton, last night. With the aid of the janitor of the Burtis the policeman extinguished the fire before any damage resulted. It is said that the fire was due to a carelessly thrown cigar stub.

A still alarm called the fire department out at 12:20, this afternoon, to one of the Shimer estate rockeries in Geneva street, in the opera house block. The alarm was caused by smoke. A fire had been lighted in an old furnace in the building, by workmen who are making repairs. The chimney was stopped up and refused to convey the smoke outside, and the smudge filled the entire building, giving the impression that the structure was burning. The firemen put out the fire in the furnace and went back to quarters.

Feb 25 1897

LOCAL FIRE RECORD.

Chief Engineer's Report for the Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the fire department ended with the meeting of the commissioners, last night. In the ordinary course of events it would have been the last meeting at which Commissioner Smith would have been present, officially, unless re-appointed by the council. As it is, Mr. Smith will continue in office until next January. The principal business of the session was the auditing of the schedule of claims. It was announced that every bill against the department was included in the schedule. The annual report of Chief Engineer Jewhurst was presented. President Smith seemed to voice the sentiments of the other members of the board when he said: "Chief, that's an excellent report, and you are to be congratulated."

The chief made his usual reports of time lost by the men, fires, and the condition of the contingent fund. Applications for appointment to the department were received from Fred A. Brooks, an ex-volunteer fireman, who is also a harness-maker, with a full kit of tools; and John Willman, a telegraph lineman, who has been in the department previously. Clerk Ramage reported having renewed the insurance on the contents of the store house.

The Chief's Report.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst then submitted his seventeenth annual report and the eighteenth annual report of the department. The organization of the department was first explained. It consists of two paid hose companies, one paid chemical company, paid truck company and three volunteer hose companies. There are 18 permanent men; 1 call men, making 30 paid men, and 5 volunteers making 89 members in all. There have been four resignations and four appointments during the year.

Under the caption of "promotions" the chief pays the men under him a high compliment as having "sustained their reputation for efficiency and discipline." The only serious accident of the year happened to Frank B. Hughson the chief driver, whose knee was injured at a fire May 26. Many of the number were sick during the year, the total number of days being lost through this cause being 192.

The largest fire during the year was that of Everts & Saeldon's sash and blind factory, loss \$20,000; Wildner's brewery in York street was next, loss \$8,000. Outside of these two fires the loss for the year was only \$4,212.98. There were 32 bell alarms, 13 telephone alarms and 27 still alarms, a total of 72 fires and alarms, of which the department responded. This is about the average number of fires for cities the size of Auburn, as is shown in the last published report of fire statistics for all cities in the United States compiled by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The records show that it cost this city less than any other city of the same size to maintain its department for the year, by several thousand dollars. The loss on buildings and contents was \$32,212.98; insurance paid, \$5,773.91; loss over insurance, \$26,439.07.

The several companies have worked at fire as follows: Hose 1, fifteen; Hose 2, three; Hose 3, fifteen; Hose 5, one; Hose 6, one; chemical, 19; truck, 24. The total number of hours of fire duty performed was 237.

The chief says: "To place the department in a condition to properly perform the service that may at any time be required, I fully concur with the recommendation made by your honorable body last year, in the establishment of at least one more paid hose company, as the present number of paid companies I believe to be entirely too small for the amount of territory they have to cover, also for another reason which I deem to be of the utmost importance. The general use of the telephone in dwellings, business and manufacturing establishments and the many calls for the department through this medium shows the necessity of having in readiness at all times a stronger force of permanent men with additional apparatus. In answering a telephone call only the permanent men can be relied upon, and as the early stage of a fire is the critical moment, enough men and apparatus should be on hand to meet any emergency."

The chief recommends that several smoke protectors be procured in addition to the two purchased last year. He condemns the present fire helmets as worn out and suggests that they be replaced with aluminum fire hats which are much stronger and more serviceable. The fire alarm telegraph has done excellent service during the year. Two miles of wire will have to be replaced next year. More signal boxes are needed. There are districts in the First, Second, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth wards which are half a mile from the nearest station. The water supply is highly commended and the chief gets in his little cry on electrolysis: "I again call your attention to the destruction of our water pipes by the electric current from the street railroad as it is a subject of much importance to the fire department. The past year many leaks were discovered in the underground pipes, caused by being corroded through by electrolysis. Should a break occur in a water main during a fire it would cause a serious loss as this city depends entirely upon the pressure of the water system in forcing water for fire purposes and a break is liable to occur unless something is done to relieve the pipes of the electric current."

The horses have been kept at an average expense of \$57 a head. Veterinary visits numbered 106 during the year. The department has 3,000 feet of first class hose, 3,000 second class, 1,200 unreliable. The chief recommends the purchase of more hose to guard against an emergency.

Nearly all of the work of the department in the way of repairs and alterations has been done by the permanent men, as well as the laundry work, etc. In commenting on this the chief says: "When it is considered that all the above work was done by the permanent firemen in addition to the regular work required, which occupies a good share of their time and that the men are on duty 21 hours each day, the above statement shows that the firemen devote more time and labor in serving the city than the employees of any other department."

The cost of the labor thus performed by the permanent men and which has been a clean saving to the city, was \$1,003. The chief dwells at some length upon the enumeration of buildings in the city, made by the department some time ago and the result of which was published in the ADVERTISER at the time. He suggests that the commissioners recommend the framing of an ordinance requiring a building permit to be issued for all kinds of buildings constructed.

In conclusion he extended thanks to the commissioners for their support and kindness during the year.

Feb 25 1897

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

An Admirable Resume of the Municipal Year.

TO BE DELIVERED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL, THIS EVENING BY MAYOR ORLANDO LEWIS—MANY IMPORTANT TOPICS TOUCHED UPON—SOME WISE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE GUIDANCE.

To the Honorable, The Common Council:

At this time, the close of my first term as executive officer, of the city and as your presiding officer, permit me to thank you for your kind and considerate treatment during the past year. In consideration of the fact that our relations are to be continued for another year I will not further review the past year's work.

The charter directs the mayor to make at this time a statement of the financial condition of the city and to lay before the council such other matters as he may consider important to the well being of the city.

The most important item in this respect will necessarily be

The Bonded Debt.

From a report made by the city treasurer I learn that the city is bonded as follows:

Local improvement bonds	\$ 120,654 41
Southern Central R. R. bonds	287,000 00
Water bonds	333,000 00
Quarry fund	4,000 00
Charity fund	4,000 00
Total	\$ 808,654 41

By comparison with the debt of a year ago which was \$846,193 76, we are able to show a reduction of \$37,538 35. By further examination we find the following changes:

	Increase.	Decrease.
R. R. bonds		\$ 52,000 00
Water bonds	\$ 23,261 65	12,000 00
Local improvement	4,200 00	4,000 00
Charity and quarry		4,000 00
School	\$30,461 65	\$88,000 00

to assist him at any time; makes

It is gratifying to note the continued reduction of the railroad and water bonds. The matter of local improvements lies entirely within the discretion of the council and I earnestly hope this body will not increase that already too large debt. This item \$120,000 now represents more than ten per cent. of our total valuation and I am of the opinion that provision should be made to pay for future improvements of this character, without issuing additional bonds. I am aware of the fact that some will maintain that these debts are payable by local assessment, but it is also true the bonds of the city are issued for their payment, and that the city guarantees their payment, and that the burden of excessive taxation is just as irksome to property holders whether it be for local or general purposes. Residents of the locality drained by the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth ward sewer have not yet felt the cost of that improvement because it was not completed in time for last year's assessment and I am fearful that the increased taxes for that district this year will be severely felt.

On March 1, 1897, the balances in the various funds as reported by the city treasurer were as follows:

Contingent fund.....	\$ 7,199 35
Bridge fund.....	47 11
Park fund.....	16 64
Quarry fund.....	110 44
Fire department fund.....	5,091 23
Street fund.....	1,039 67
Street contingent fund.....	318 95
Soule cemetery fund.....	459 79
G. A. R. relief fund.....	224 24
Paving fund.....	1,001 17
Police fund.....	6,031 31
Salary fund.....	5,209 11
Dog tax fund.....	204 25
Interest on deposits fund.....	441 15
Health fund.....	492 90
Light fund.....	2,306 87
Pulsifer St. improvement fund.....	2 85
Frazier and Canoga Sts. fund.....	722 82
Washington St. fund.....	269 02
Orchard St. and Orchard Ave. fund.....	10 88
Lower Wall St.....	315 80
Special sewer deposits fund.....	3,041 31
Sewer district No. 1 fund.....	3,552 04
Sewer district No. 2 fund.....	432 67
	\$41,111 01

For comparison I submit a table showing assessed valuation for the past three years:

Year.	Real.	Personal.	Total.
1894.	\$2,324,065	\$3,283,194	\$12,667,341
1895.	2,410,280	2,079,004	11,479,284
1896.	2,513,625	1,684,671	11,270,000

This tabulation shows a steady increase in the valuation of real property and a steady decrease in personal property and the decrease in the personal is so much greater than the increase in the real, that the total for 1896, is more than \$1,400,000 less than in 1894. The tax rate for 1896 was \$15.74 as compared with \$17.66 for 1895.

Water Department.

Each member of the council will be furnished with a copy of the annual report of the Water board. It will be seen on its examination that the receipts for the year were \$61,206 78.

Cash on hand January 1, 1896.....	\$ 23,187 81
Total on hand January 1, 1896.....	\$ 89,391 59
Total disbursements.....	67,774 91
Cash on hand January 1, 1897.....	21,616 65
Total.....	\$ 89,394 59
There has been expended in the two and one-half years past, in laying 32,052 feet of water mains and hydrants.....	\$ 23,800 59
For additional water rights.....	14,000 00
Original cost of plant.....	425,000 00
Cost of plant to date.....	\$ 438,800 59
The water debt, December 31, 1895, was.....	\$ 495,000 00
Paid of this, May last.....	12,000 00
The debt at present is.....	\$ 333,000 00
This will be reduced by paying May 1, 1897.....	12,000 00

The city now has over thirty-seven miles of water mains and 338 hydrants, and the hydrant service has been further improved by changing twenty-six single ones to double ones.

This is an admirable showing and has been made with a schedule of water rates, over twenty-two per cent. lower on an average, than the rates in force when the city took possession of the plant; rates which if continued in force to this time, would have yielded over \$32,000 more than was received under the reduced rates. The result has clearly demonstrated the advantages of a water supply for this city, under municipal ownership.

Board of Health.

Expenses of the board of health for the past year:

Health officer, salary.....	\$ 500 00
Collecting and disposing of garbage.....	3,850 00
Sanitary inspector, acting clerk, registrar and meat and milk inspector, salary.....	966 67
Postage, printing, supplies, etc.....	193 53
Expenses of two commissioners to Buffalo, N. Y., to attend the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association.....	50 70

Plumbing inspector, salary.....	\$5,566 90
	\$ 900 00
	\$6,466 90

Marriages, births and deaths recorded during the year:

Marriages.....	193
Births.....	485
Deaths.....	435

Contagious and infectious diseases quarantined, surroundings inspected and proper precautionary instructions given:

Scarlet fever.....	253
Diphtheria.....	32
Typhoid fever.....	35
Sanitary inspections made.....	972
Plumbing inspections made.....	1,922

Charities and Police.

During the year ending Oct. 31, 1896, this board issued bonds to the amount of \$13,733.76. The number of applicants for relief was 294, representing 714 persons. A comparison with the previous year shows a decrease of \$2,798 94 in the amount disbursed. During the four months succeeding Oct. 31 the number of applicants has greatly increased and it has been found necessary to operate the quarry for the relief of the poor. This will entail an expenditure not incurred last year.

The report of the chief of police will show the council in detail the work of that department. The number of arrests made was 845. The amount of fines collected was \$1,159. The force has maintained the usual good order and has sustained its reputation for efficiency. The quality of service is indicated by the absence of disorder and peace is the result of unremitting vigilance.

Fire Department.

The manual force of the department consists of thirty paid men and fifty-nine call men. The members during the past year have sustained their reputation for efficiency and discipline. The losses by fire have been \$12,212 98. Insurance paid \$5,772 91. Loss above insurance \$26,430.07.

The financial statement of the department is as follows:

Balance on hand Feb. 29, 1896.....	\$ 5,409 50
Appropriation.....	16,000 00
Received from other sources.....	505 50
	\$21,915 00
Disbursements.....	16,203 77
Balance March 1, 1897.....	\$ 5,091 23

Education.

The public schools of the city, so far as I can learn, have continued their usual high standard of merit. The expenses of the department for the year ending July 31, 1896, were considerably more than for the previous year.

Expenditures 1896.....	\$107,052 92
Expenditures 1895.....	92,703 14
Excess 1896.....	\$14,349 78

I am unable to say whether the amount required by the board, for the coming year, will be greater or less than last year. Superintendent Snow, in his report to the board of education, says in relation to the Fulton street school building: "Enough money has been expended upon the building during the past twenty years in the way of repairs and changes to pay the cost of a good building of modern style of architecture. It would be sound economy to demolish this building and erect a suitable structure in its stead."

He informs me that the cost of the High school bonds was paid in October and that the James street building is entirely paid for. He further says: "As at present organized the minimum cost of conducting the schools for a year is from \$75,000 to \$90,000. This does not include any appropriation for building or other extra expenditures. Deducting the state appropriation of about \$15,000 there remains the sum of from \$60,000 to \$65,000 to be raised annually by tax."

I find by examination that during the past ten years the city has paid for new school buildings, including sites, furnishing, etc., but excluding repairs to old buildings, a little more than \$150,000. Considering this fact in connection with the present dull condition of all business I sincerely hope the board will be a little slow to adopt the policy outlined in the first quotation, but in its stead will give us a few years' experience with the \$65,000 appropriation.

Street Department.

The financial statement of this department is as follows:

STREET FUND.			
Balance March 1, 1896.....	\$ 3,495 21		
Receipts from sundry items.....	71 23		
Appropriations.....	1,259 00	\$16,000 47	

DISBURSEMENTS.			
Pay rolls.....	\$ 11,358 55		
Material, repairs and tools.....	2,698 81		
Transfer to street contingent.....	879 44	\$14,936 80	
Balance.....			\$ 1,069 67

STREET CONTINGENT.			
Balance March 1, 1896.....	\$ 292 80		
Appropriation.....	3,500 00		
Dirt sold.....	431 32		
Street fund transfer.....	879 44	\$5,103 56	

DISBURSEMENTS.			
Including the cleaning of streets, gutters, cross-walks, roller watchman, office supplies, etc.....	\$ 4,781 01		
Balance.....			\$ 318 95

The work of the department has been quite general in its character and was distributed over one hundred and one streets. On many of these streets considerable time was devoted to removing surface mud and cleaning up generally, while on others the regular macadam was applied. The amount and character of the work requires no extended comment from me since it is all in sight and all our citizens are capable of forming their own judgment in the matter.

Paving.

The sum of five thousand dollars was last year raised by the council for the purpose of paving with brick. This amount together with about five hundred dollars that remained in the paving fund from the year before has been expended for the purpose for which it was appropriated. The work was so thoroughly inspected by our citizens generally that anything I could say would not afford them any additional information. I may say, however, that judging from the best information I can get as between vitrified brick and asphalt I am decidedly in favor of brick. I am of the opinion that a vitrified brick pavement well put down will outlast two asphalt pavements, besides being much more easily and cheaply repaired. The difference in the first cost of the two pavements is so small that it is not worth considering on a job that is expected to be first class. The matter of paving South street is being strongly agitated and will probably come before this council for decision. While I should very much like to see the street paved my strong aversion to additional bonds makes me hesitate. I should very much prefer to pay as we go.

Natural Gas.

A committee of this council is now considering the application of several companies who seem to be impressed with the idea that natural gas in quantities sufficient for fuel, and perhaps lighting purposes is concealed beneath us. I am of the opinion that if any of these applicants have sufficient faith in their convictions to demonstrate to us whether or not gas can be found, it would be advisable to give that company the right to pipe the streets and to furnish consumers gas at 25 cents per thousand feet. If after a fair test is made, I believe it would be advisable to allow it to be piped in and sold at the above rate. I would under no consideration allow gas to be piped here from another place until we are pretty sure it cannot be produced here. It seems that if a franchise of this description is not worth the expense of a test well here, we had better wait until some one else comes along or drill a well ourselves.

The present condition of all active against the city is shown in the following report of the city attorney:

In answer to your request for information as to the actions commenced against the city and disposed of during the fiscal year of 1896, together with pending litigation, and a general statement of litigation disposed of during your term I submit the following: My last report made on March 16, 1896, for my preceding term, which commenced on October 21, 1894, and ended on March 8, 1896, a period practically of seventeen months, shows thirty-two actions and proceedings commenced and pending, of which twenty seven had then been disposed of and five were yet pending. In twenty-five of the actions disposed of the city was successful; the other two settled at less than half the amount claimed.

The five actions then undetermined were No. 1, Margaret Hughes as administratrix, against the city, then pending on appeal to the appellate division.

No. 2, Grayson & Knapp pending for trial; No. 27, Frank D. Wright against the city, pending on reference to Hon. John D. Feller; No. 31, Kana against the city, pending for trial, and No. 32, Bench against the city, in which issue was not then joined.

I have since then disposed of No. 2 in which Mr. Knapp paid the city \$428.71; No. 31, which was tried at the October, 1896, trial term and the plaintiff nonsuited, and No. 32 in which the complaint was withdrawn and the action discontinued.

Since March, 1896, the following actions have been commenced in the supreme court, and the following disposition made of them.

Edward J. McCormack vs. the city, action to recover \$2,500, for a personal injury; settled on July 6, 1896 at a cost to the city of \$126.55.

Oscar Miller vs. the city, an action to recover \$--- for an injury to plaintiff's horse claimed to have been sustained by reason of a defective bridge; tried and the complaint dismissed at the October 1896, trial term.

Margaret Cuddy vs. the city, action to recover \$1500, for a personal injury pending for trial.

Edwin L. Thornton vs. the city, action to recover damages to plaintiff's property, Thornton's pond, by the construction of a sewer; complaint withdrawn and action discontinued on Dec. 10, 1896.

The Rose Valley Woolen company vs. The City, action to recover \$10,000 damages for alleged pollution (by sewage) of the water of the Owasco river, and to perpetually restrain the city from discharging any sewage into said river. Shortly after the commencement of this action the plaintiff's affairs went into the hands of a receiver, who has not as yet caused himself to be substituted as party plaintiff. The cause of action is however contained as an asset in the inventory filed, of the value of \$10,000.

John M. Devore vs. The City action to recover \$1,000 for personal injury, tried at the January, 1897, trial term and complaint dismissed. Now pending on appeal to the appellate division.

SUMMARY.

Actions pending at my last report	5
Commenced during fiscal year	12
Finally disposed of	7
Pending for trial (of which one is the Rose Valley Woolen Co. action)	3
Pending on appeal	2
	12

Several claims for damages alleged to have been sustained by reason of the negligence of the city, have been rejected on which actions have not as yet been brought.

The sewers constructed, streets extended and widened, franchises prepared, legislative acts, charter amendments, committee work and other work in my department, are so well known both to yourself and the common council that I shall not refer to them specifically until the close of my term.

Respectfully submitted,
L. A. PIERCE,
City attorney.

March 3, 1897.

In reviewing the general municipal situation we find all the departments in good order and doing fairly good work. The water department particularly is deserving of praise for the admirable manner in which their business has been conducted. The fire department has been wonderfully successful in extinguishing and preventing the spread of fires. I believe our losses by fire during the past five years have been less than those of any city of our size in the country. The different departments are supplied with sufficient funds to carry them through the year and at the present time and under existing conditions I do not see the necessity for any increase during the coming year.

The city is fairly well lighted and upon the completion of the sewer jobs and the relaying of the water pipes the streets can soon be put in good condition. There is a bill now in the legislature authorizing the city to construct stone walls along the sides of the street between North street and State street with convict labor, the city to furnish and place all material, together with surveys, engineering and superintendence. I am extremely doubtful if the advantage derived from the mere laying of the stone will sufficiently recompense the city for the new issue of bonds required by this project.

Another proposition of great importance is the annexation of a portion of the towns of Fleming and Owasco to the city. The corporate limits of this city are now sufficiently large to admit a population of more than double the present number. When we consider the expense of making and maintaining the miles of additional streets, electric lights, police, bridges and schools for

this additional territory at so great a distance from the city we may well think more than once before acting. I am informed that the principal projector of this measure estimates the additional assessment at \$150,000. Assuming this to be true the additional tax received from this territory would be less than half the expense of maintenance. I trust this matter will be deferred until the city has a more pronounced need of additional territory than at present.

The question of a public park has been agitated of late. Differences of opinion in regard to the location and also in regard to the propriety of putting a large amount of money into a park at this time seem to exist. The council has very wisely decided to refer the matter to a vote of the taxpayers at the coming school election. The will of the people is law.

March 10 1897

HERRLING AT THE HELM.

First Meeting of the Council—Important Topics Discussed.

The city fathers held a short but business-like session, last night. The evening's program was all cut and dried before the mayor's gavel rapped for order. Several important matters were transacted, to wit:

The mayor's message which the aldermen so gracefully set aside at noon was read for the benefit of those who had not seen it in the evening's ADVERTISER. William F. Wait was re-elected a water commissioner.

Ed J. Costa was made a commissioner of Soule cemetery to succeed himself.

The contract for the Park avenue sewer was awarded to Frank E. Cady.

The question of a public park as acted upon at last meeting was reconsidered, last night and the matter further postponed until the fall elections when it will go before the electors in the shape of a legislative act.

No nominations for health commissioners were made by the mayor, last night as was expected. It was twelve minutes past eight before all the aldermen were seated and answered to City Clerk Herrling's effort at the roll call.

"My annual statement of the city's financial condition was prepared and ready, this morning, began" his honor, "and taking it for granted that it would be read at noon I released it for publication. As it has appeared in print and you have all probably read it, maybe you don't want to hear it again. A motion that its reading by the clerk be dispensed with will prevail. Just the matter to the satisfaction of us all."

"I move the clerk be directed to read it," said Alderman Burgess. "It ain't very long, is it," suggested Alderman O'Neil, to which his honor pleasantly replied: "Oh I guess it's long enough." Alderman Cross remarked that as it had only appeared in one of the evening papers the clerk had better read it.

Clerk Herrling forthwith began the able document which was published in full in last night's ADVERTISER through the courtesy of the author, his honor, Orlando Lewis. The reading consumed just twenty two minutes.

Alderman Ramage moved that it be received and filed, Alderman Roach amending that 100 copies be published. The motion with its amendment was carried unanimously.

The report of the city attorney on his trip to Syracuse, where he appeared before the state railroad commissioners and urged the granting of a franchise by that honorable body to the Auburn & Western railroad, was read by the clerk. Mr. Pierce stated that the hearing after lasting only a few hours had been adjourned indefinitely owing to unavoidable circumstances, and he asked for instructions as to his action in the future.

Upon motion of Alderman McCarty the city attorney was instructed to attend the next meeting or meetings of the state railroad commissioners and, using his judgment and discretion, act for the best interests of the city in sustaining the plea of the Auburn & Western railway in its fight for a franchise.

The clerk reported that the gas franchise awarded to E. C. Munro had been received and filed.

Upon motion of Alderman Burgess the report of the city officers was deferred until the next regular meeting.

Ed J. Costa was then proposed by Alderman Corcoran as a commissioner of Soule cemetery and as there were no other nominations the alderman from the Fifth moved that the clerk cast a ballot for Mr. Costa. Carried.

Alderman Schicht rose to nominate William F. Wait for water commissioner to succeed himself, making a motion that the clerk cast a ballot for Mr. Wait.

Alderman Roach interrupted the alderman from the First, saying he was out of order and that the charter called for a vote by ballot. He was sustained by the board and a ballot was taken for water commissioner. It resulted in eight votes for William F. Wait and three for Daniel W. Kellogg. Mr. Wait was declared elected.

The committee on drains and sewers recommended that the contract for the construction of the Park avenue sewer be awarded to Frank E. Cady. Upon motion of Alderman O'Neil the report was adopted.

Upon motion of the alderman from the Second, an invitation was extended to E. D. Metcalf, ex-mayor of Springfield, Judge Underwood and Joseph C. Anderson to occupy seats inside the rail. Judge Underwood in behalf of the invited, thanked the board for its courtesy but begged to be allowed to retain their present seats. Upon motion of Alderman Corcoran the matter of city parks as acted upon at last meeting was reconsidered and thereupon the following resolution, submitted by the alderman from the Fifth, as a substitute for the resolution of Alderman Roach, was carried by a vote of 9-1, Alderman Goodrich alone dissenting.

Building in occupancy and the fair credit. '94 sales stated

Resolved, That the city attorney be and is hereby directed to prepare a legislative act and submit the same to the common council, authorizing the common council to purchase lands for a municipal public park at an expense not exceeding \$20,000, and issue its bonds therefor, payable at such times and in such amounts as the common council may direct, and include in its annual tax budget such amount as is necessary to pay the principal of the bonds maturing that year and both principal and interest are fully paid. The city attorney is further directed to include in said act a provision that the question of whether the city shall or shall not have such public park, issue its bonds therefor and include the same in the tax budget, shall be submitted to the electors of said city at the municipal election to be held in November, 1897, and that the act shall not become operative or have any validity unless a majority of the votes cast at that time shall be in favor of such project.

Upon motion of Alderman Wiggins the street superintendent was directed to repair the sewer crossing Capitol street at No. 43. Alderman O'Neil called for ayes and nays. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned.

Fire Department Visited.

Immediately after adjournment, on the invitation received from Chief Jewhurst the aldermen proceeded to the quarters of the fire department on a tour of inspection. They were accompanied by a few other invited guests and the fire commissioners. After the quarters had been inspected Chief Jewhurst rang up a day alarm. The men were at their stations and the three

teams in their harness in less than ten seconds.

The chief then sent his men to bed, all lights were doused and headquarters assumed the quietness of midnight. Suddenly the deep tones of the big gong sounded, the house was ablaze with lights from top to bottom, agile forms in different stages of undress dropped from the regions above, the horses were in the harness and the carts in the street before the first alarm had ceased. The ADVERTISER reporter, who was in the chemical quarters had a watch on Capt Jewhurst's men. The blacks were pulling the heavy engine out of the house in just twenty seconds after the first stroke of the gong.

Horses and men evinced perfect training and only those Auburnians who have seen the drill of their fire department can form any adequate idea of its wonderful efficiency.

March 31st 1897

3/31

Had Pearson's Kettle of Tar.

A still alarm at 1:40, this afternoon took the fire department to the home of ex Fire Commissioner J. Had Pearson, 10 Lincoln street. Mr Pearson was engaged in patching the roof with tar and had placed a kettle of tar on the kitchen stove to soften it up. The tar boiled over the side of the kettle and flowed out on the stove and floor, igniting the woodwork about and overhead the stove. The blaze was discovered by J. Had Pearson, jr., who sent in an alarm. The chemical was the first on the scene and succeeded in extinguishing the fire. The extent of damages will reach about \$75.

Farmer Badgley of Fosterville tied his horse to a hitching post in Exchange street just before the fire this afternoon. The horse had been unhitched from the wagon and was prancing about when Hose 3 dashed up the street on the way to the fire. Frightened by the appearance of the truck, the equine broke the tie strap and dashed up South street and turned into Grover. Half way up the street, the animal slowed up and was cropping grass on the side of the street when it was caught and returned to the bewildered owner, who declared that the driver of the hose truck should have seen the horse acting

April 2nd 1897

A WOMAN CREMATED ALIVE.

Shocking Fatality at a Little Fire. This Morning.

SOME MYSTERY ABOUT THE CASE.

Nobody Can Tell Precisely How It Happened--Bedclothing and Her Own Clothing in Flames but no Knowledge as to How They Caught Fire.

Another of those heart-rending accidents occurred, this morning, in which a woman was roasted to death. The victim was Ann Healey, 65 years of age, who resided at 98 Washington street. It is a little singular that so many of these horrors have happened in this city, within the past few years. Within a short period there have been half a dozen of these accidents and in nearly every case a woman has been the sufferer.

The scene of this last frightful cremation was the double house, 98 and 98 1/2 Washington street. No 98 was occupied by two families. John A. Moore lived in the apartments down stairs and Mrs. Healey lived alone up stairs. No 98 1/2 is occupied by a family named Cox.

Mrs. Healey was for years a domestic in the Fosgate family. Some months ago she retired from active work and since January 1 she had been living in the rooms where she was fatally burned, this morning. She did not have any relatives in this city and little is known about her, as she made few friends, and even to them she confided very little of her affairs. She is known to have been married once, but she was estranged from her husband and little else is known of the matter. Mrs. Healey was well supplied with money. She was known to keep a considerable amount about her person, besides having a bank account. Quite a sum was found in her room after the fire had been extinguished. The woman was of a very religious turn of mind, and her regular attendance upon the services of her church was the remark of the neighbors.

It is probable that until the great day when all secrets are revealed, no one will ever know how the accident happened. Only the victim can tell what occurred when the accident first befell her. Mrs. Healey was alone in her part of the house; Moore had gone to work in the shoe factory and his wife had gone to church. At 8:20 o'clock, Mrs. Cox was alarmed by smoke pouring into her apartments from the other side of the house. She rushed into Moore's side and found a volume of smoke issuing from the upper story. So dense was the smudge that she was driven back when she tried to ascend the stairs to learn the cause of the fire. Mrs. Cox ran to Guilfoil's grocery across the street screaming "fire" at every step. Guilfoil has a key to the fire alarm telegraph, and he turned in an alarm from box 53, corner of Seymour and Washington streets.

As soon as he had done this, the proprietor of the grocery and his son rushed to the blazing room. They heard muffled groans upstairs, and despite the suffocating smoke they went up to the second story. In the doorway to the rooms sat Mrs. Healey feebly moaning. Her clothing was blazing from head to foot. The men assisted her down stairs and then drew back in horror from the sickening sight.

The woman was a pitiable object. Every rag of clothing had been burned from her body. The flesh was literally cooked. The skin was browned and in many places it had cracked from the heat, leaving dreadful fissures. Not even the face had escaped the fire fiend, which had blackened her lips and singed her eye brows and hair.

As soon as possible, a mattress was procured and the woman was laid upon it. Particles of cooked flesh clung to the hands of those who assisted in placing her in a more comfortable situation.

Dr. Hoskins administered as far as possible to the comfort of the woman until the arrival of the ambulance when she was taken to the city hospital. It is thought that she was conscious when first taken from the burning room, but she soon lapsed into merciful insensibility.

The fire was confined to the one room. The firemen were enabled to enter it only by the aid of the smoke respirators. The flames were in the bedding on a cot, and the dense smoke was caused by a feather bed which had taken fire. It is not known whether the woman's clothing caught fire and she endeavored to smother it by rolling on the bed and thus setting that on fire also, or whether the bedding caught fire and in her endeavors to extinguish it, her own clothing was ignited. Besides the bedding, the woodwork of the room was slightly charred.

Mrs. Healey was apparently in good health, this morning, as she was seen by Mr and Mrs Moore at an early hour. She called on them to borrow some household articles.

The victim died at the City hospital at 1 o'clock this afternoon, without regaining consciousness.

Ins. \$2,500 (with household neat stock and doing a fair

April 3rd 1897

Fires Come in Clusters.

There was another call for the fire department, yesterday afternoon at 4:57 o'clock. Two alarms in one day is rather more than the firemen crave. Fortunately at the second fire the department was not called upon to render any service. The summons was sent in from box 45 at D. M. Osborne & Co's rolling mill. The roof of the building was ignited by sparks and burst into flames. The employes went to work to extinguish the blaze and succeeded so well that there was nothing for the firemen to do upon their arrival.

his widow, Mrs. Sarah Paul; (tures); sell for cash; mdsc. 000, and another for which I good, and she is doing but a value claimed. '94 sales es-

April 16th 1897

A WOMAN'S BRAVERY.

She Saves a Child From a Horrible Fate.

The bravery and cool courage displayed by aged Mrs. Dickerson, today would have put many a young man to the blush. Her forethought undoubtedly saved her little grandchild from being burned to death.

Mrs Dickerson resides with her son, Dr. Dickerson in John street. She was alone in the house, this afternoon, with her little granddaughter. The child was up-stairs playing by herself. How she did it is not known, as the child is too frightened to tell, but she set fire to a large easy chair in which were piled several cushions. The grandmother heard the child scream, and hastened up stairs where she found the child's clothing on fire and the blaze leaping high from the chair. She smothered the fire on the child's dress with her hands and then dropped the little one out of a window to a neighbor who had been attracted by the cries.

Mrs Dickerson then threw the blazing chair down the front stairs where it set fire to the carpet and the front door and casing about it.

A telephone was sent to the fire department headquarters and the firemen reached the scene quickly, but not before the fire had been nearly extinguished by neighbors. The house was filled with dense smoke and as the firemen dashed up, the crowd shouted that a woman was upstairs suffocating.

Captain Jewhurst of the Chemical company followed by Engineer Nolan, Pipemen Hughson and Frost dashed into the fog of smoke, but were unable to find Mrs. Dickerson, who had gone down a back stairway, and fallen exhausted upon a couch.

The child was slightly burned and Mrs Dickerson was seriously burned on her hands and face and her hair was singed. The damage to the house was estimated at \$1000.

April 22nd 1897

This Morning's Fire.

The fire department was given a run at 7:12, this morning. A call was turned in from box 42, corner of South and Elizabeth streets. The roof of the house at 8 Janet street caught fire from a defective chimney. The fire was put out before the arrival of the department. The occupant of the building is Fred C. Bucknam, a mail carrier. The owner is Michael Carroll. The damage will amount to only a few dollars.

Several persons from other cities interested in fire department matters, were at the Hotel Brunswick when the "Wheeler" struck and they rushed into the street to see the apparatus at headquarters start out. After waiting several minutes one of the visitors impatiently demanded:

"What's the matter with 'em? They're dead slow! Why don't they get out?"

"What is the matter?" demanded a man, approaching the group.

"Waiting for the fire department to answer the alarm," was the reply.

"It's gone," said the

"Gone," repeated the stranger in surprise. "Why, it can't be gone, because I was on the street at the first stroke of the bell."

"Can't help it, they're gone," insisted the native.

"Well, then they're chain lighting, that's all I've got to say," mused the stranger.

The firemen had a telephone call and were on the street when the summons was sent in from the box

April 23rd 1897

AUBURN'S PARK AFIRE.

Burt's Woods Endangered--Incidents on the Way to the Scene.

The fire department was given a second run, shortly after 5 o'clock, yesterday afternoon. A large hollow tree in Burt's woods was discovered to be on fire and residents in the vicinity feared that the proposed city park would burn up, so a call was sent in for the firemen from box 42, corner of South and Elizabeth streets. The chemical company extinguished the fire and put an end to the fears of the householders. It is not known how the fire originated, but it is supposed that some boys were endeavoring to smoke a chipmunk out of his nest in the tree.

A miracle alone saved D. E. French from being seriously injured while going to the fire. He was one of several hundred cyclists who insisted upon acting as an escort to the fire apparatus. The wheelmen literally surrounded the firemen, getting in the way and exposing themselves to danger and injury, and delaying the firemen. Mr French chanced to be in front of Chief Jewhurst's wagon and in South street, he found his sprinting abilities were not equal to those of the chief's horse. In order to save himself from being run down he had to take a header into the gutter.

When the fire department was called out, last night, Frank Parsons who formerly owned the truck team, was one of the spectators on the street. He became very much exercised because the truck team had to work so hard, and declared that he would swear out a warrant for someone, just who he didn't seem to know, on a charge of cruelty to animals. He was of the opinion that the load was too heavy for two horses and that three were required.

"I raised one of them hosses an' I n' to stand an' see it abused" he said, "I got another team at just right for the fire department. I won't sell 'em to the commissioners will undoubtedly." Mr. Parson's advance.

Henry M. Bach, owner

April 27th 1897

This Afternoon's Fire

There was a small fire at the Lehigh Valley paint shop this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Hose 3 was notified by telephone and extinguished the blaze with a hand extinguisher. A large hole was burned in the roof, but no other damage resulted. The cause of the fire was spontaneous combustion.

April 29th

April 30th 1897

Hot Paint. There was another fire in the Lehigh Valley railway paint shop, at 2:30 o'clock, this afternoon. The blaze was caused by sparks from a passing locomotive. Hose 3 extinguished the flames so quickly that very little damage resulted. The paint shop also caught fire yesterday afternoon and Hose 3, put out the flames.

April 1st 1897

Couldn't Fool "Bill."

Two boys who wanted to see the fire department turn out, secured by fraud a key to the fire alarm box at the corner of Logan and Mary streets, at 7:30 o'clock, last night, and were about to pull it, when W. H. Hagan happened along. He inquired why they were going to send in an alarm and was told a chicken house in Moravia street was in flames. As Mr. Hagan had just passed the place and had not seen any flames he refused to allow the youngster to send in a call for the firemen. Mr. Hagan notified Assistant Chief Kinsella who was on duty and he went up and released the key.

Grounds for Complaint.

A member of Hose 3, named Frank Coffee, was knocked down by a cyclist in Clark street, yesterday afternoon. The wheelman took a header and was so much worse injured than Coffee that the latter assisted the rider to brush the dust from his garb and proceed on his way, more slowly but none the less surely.

Again the Lehigh.

A box car on the Lehigh Valley railway caught fire, yesterday afternoon, while it was standing near the plant of the Clapp Manufacturing company. The car was hauled into the freight yards where the fire was extinguished.

April 7th 1897

UNLOOKED-FOR RESIGNATION

Fire Department Surprised by Assistant Chief Kinsella.

There was considerable of a jolt at the meeting of the fire commissioners, last night. Without any preliminary talk about the matter, Assistant Chief Engineer Thomas F. Kinsella resigned his connection with the department. Chief Kinsella has been for many years a fireman, although he is not by any means an old man. He began as a torch boy with the old volunteers and rose to be assistant chief engineer of the department. Mr. Kinsella is well liked both by the firemen and by those who know him. He is a good fireman and the department will go many a long day before it finds any better man for the position.

Just why he resigned is not known, but it is suspected that Mr Kinsella felt himself placed in a wrong position with the fire commissioners, by the actions of his friends. It is well known that Chief Kinsella and Alderman Corcoran are warm friends. It is also known that the alderman has taken a very aggressive stand toward the fire commissioners. Mr. Kinsella, it is said, became impressed

with the idea that the commissioners believed that he was the one who was egging Corcoran on and was supplying him with department information to use in his war on the head of the fire department. On the contrary, it is said that the assistant chief did not approve of the tone adopted by the alderman. He was placed in a peculiar position, and decided that the easiest way out was to leave the department.

The assistant chief's position is what is known as a "call man" and pays a salary of \$200. The assistant chief has to bunk at hose 3, excepting when the chief is absent from the city, when he takes his place at headquarters. There is expected to be a grand rush and any amount of wire pulling for the position.

The commissioners did considerable business, last night. After the usual minor reports, the members listened to the reading of the resolution and recommendations recently adopted by the common council relating to the fire department. There was not any comment made. The resolution was received and filed and the recommendations were referred to the building committee.

Then came the resignation of Assistant Chief Kinsella, which requested his immediate release from duty. On motion of Mr. Moore the resignation was accepted and a check was ordered drawn paying the assistant chief to date.

Mr. Spears asked if the assistant chief had turned in all the department property in his possession. Chief Jewhurst said he had with the exception of his box keys.

Mr. Moore said he believed that it had been customary in the past to give the retiring assistant chiefs the box key, but not the release key. He requested that the usual courtesy be granted the retiring official and it was so ordered.

There was quite a schedule of bills to be paid. The bills of C. H. Smyth and the Hayward Supply company, were referred back for correction.

On motion of Mr. Spears the annual vacations of the paid men will begin May 19. Each man will be allowed ten days.

The clerk was directed to notify the common council that \$16,000 would be necessary to run the department next year. The clerk was also directed to advertise for proposals for supplying the department with coal next year, price to be given both for delivered and in the yard.

A discharge was granted to William Vanston, a former member of the volunteer department. There was considerable discussion in regard to the failure of the street department to notify the fire department of dangerous streets caused by repairs or other causes. A city ordinance makes it obligatory upon the street department, to inform the firemen of any dangerous thoroughfares. If the ordinance is not complied with in the future the city attorney is to be asked to prosecute.

The clerk was ordered to obtain necessary stationery and the board adjourned.

Call 98 2/1897

STRANGE SIMILARITY.

Curious Coincidence by Which the Coal Barons Bid Alike.

The fire commissioners held a special meeting, last night, to award the contracts for coal for the department for next year. There were twelve proposals, one more than last year. Each bidder made the same figures, which created the impression that there was collusion between the dealers. The price was larger than that given the commissioners, last year. The commissioners advertised for prices delivered and in the yard. The bidders offered stove, nut and egg, at \$5.10 a ton delivered and \$4.85 in yard. Last year the price was \$4.85 delivered. Next year it will probably be \$5.85 a ton unless

As soon as President Smith had called the meeting to order, Clerk Ramage opened the bids. They were from Manro & Hugg, T. H. Garrett, jr., Douglas Beardsley, W. D. Slee, O. C. Hall, M. S. Goss, Healy Bros., James M. Cullen, M. A. Backman, J. Had Pearson, E. D. Clapp Manufacturing company, F. J. Stupp and company.

On motion of Mr. Moore each bidder was awarded a contract for an equal share of the coal required by the department, so far as it was possible to divide the full amount. Then the board adjourned.

\$1,800, ins. \$1,500 - sell for cash

Call 98 2/1897

A Run In the Rain.

There was a small fire in the Globe hotel, corner of State and Water streets last night, and a call was sent in for the department at 11:43, from box 62, near the hotel. It wasn't much of a blaze. A catch-all closet under the kitchen stairs, which was stored full of rubbish, was discovered burning. The explanation of its origin is the usual one of spontaneous combustion. The firemen extinguished the flames with pails of water. The damage was very small.

It had been four weeks to a day since the firemen had been called out by an alarm and of course the run was on one of the worst nights imaginable.

Driver T. R. Frost of the Caemical company, is enjoying his vacation which will be spent at Indian Cove on Owasco lake. He will endeavor to catch the Owasco sea serpent.

THE PASSING OF THE VOLUNTEERS

THEY ARE LEGISLATED OUT OF OFFICE.

Fire Commissioners Resolve That a Wholly Paid Department is More Efficient -- Their Action Caused a Sensation in Firemen's Circles.

With the passing of the month of June, the volunteer portion of the fire department will become only a memory. The fire commissioners so decreed at a special meeting, held at department headquarters, last night. The volunteers entered into a state of innocuous desuetude some years ago, but by reason of pulls, political, social and otherwise, three companies have managed to maintain their organization until this time. The present board of commissioners was elected mainly because of their belief in the volunteer service and because of their outspoken opposition to the disbandment of the volunteer companies, which had been commenced by their predecessors. Soon after their selection, in fact, almost their first official act, they reinstated Ross hose 5, which had been ordered disbanded by a former board. Now, after several years of such observation of the practical workings of the department as can only come to those who are in a position to study its workings or make a special effort to become proficient in its details, they have determined to carry out the plan inaugurated by the former board.

All honor to the volunteers! It is with deep regret that the citizens of Auburn will see them pass away. It is with feelings of sorrow that the residents of the loveliest village deplore the fact that the time has come when, in the natural course of advancement and consequent improvement, the volunteers must make way for a better system of fire fighting. To the brave men who in years gone by risked their comfort, their health and even their lives, for the property and lives of others, too much praise cannot be given. Money could not repay them for their services and would be scorned if offered. What those brave men did, they did freely. The least that a grateful public can do is to cherish their memory.

Auburn had one of the finest volunteer departments in the whole state of New York. That was never questioned; even that could not prevent the demonstration at every call for their services of the immense superiority of the paid system over the old way, and so the change has come.

Dear, dear, how the memories of the old volunteer days come back, for frankly, the volunteers have degenerated since the introduction of a partial paid system. But in the old times, before horses and improved apparatus were known to the department, what times the volunteers used to have! There was the excitement of dragging the hose cart to the fire, the work in subduing the blaze, and after the fire had been extinguished, there was the jolly time at the hose house where the adventures of the night were recounted, while refreshments calculated to remove the taste of smoke from the throat, were partaken of at the company's expense. Then there were the annual banquets given after the annual election. What jolly nights those were! The little spreads in the hose houses--the more elaborate dinners at the hotels, nothing could be more congenial. As for the great day of the year to the volunteer, the annual parade and inspection of the department, they were occasions which will never be forgotten. What true and lasting friendships were made in the old volunteer days, as night after night the boys gathered at company quarters and made merry. The ADVERTISER man has shared, as a guest, in many of these pleasures and he knows how hospitable were the old volunteers. His work as a newsgather made him acquainted, too, with the hardships they endured and the dangers they braved, and no one can appreciate more keenly their good qualities; none can feel deeper regret that stern necessity has demanded their retirement to give place to a more modern department, one more in keeping with the size and wealth of the city.

It was the meeting of the commissioners at which this important action was taken that the reporter started out to tell about. It was a special session called for the transaction of regular business, as for private reasons the members did not wish to meet at the regular time. All the members were present. Chief Engineer Jewhurst presented his regular monthly report. There had been only one fire since the last meeting of the board. The chief also reported that L. J. Burns, a call man of hose 1, had been absent from quarters an hour without leave on four different occasions. The chief's report was received and filed. Action was not taken on the Burns' case, but after the meeting the commissioners explained that the rules of the department would be enforced. The regulations provide a fine of one dollar for each offense.

The chief also reported the receipt of \$26.69 for junk from the battery room. This junk has previously been thrown away as worthless but the chief has found a way of profitably disposing of the refuse. The chief also reported a receipt of \$5 from the sale of an old wagon to F. A. Brooks.

The building committee reported that the department buildings had been repaired in compliance with the mandate of the common council.

Clerk Ramage reported that he had made requisition on the common council for \$16,000 for the expenses of the department for next year, in accordance with the direction of the board. He had also communicated to City Attorney Pierce the fact that the law requiring that notification be given the

MRS. B. KANE. [51 Columbia St. fire department when any street was obstructed by reason of excavation or repairs was not observed.

The schedule of bills was then audited and checks were ordered for the several amounts.

Then came the surprise of the evening--the resolution to disband the three remaining volunteer companies. It was a surprise, for while it was generally believed that the action would be taken ultimately, nobody expected it so soon. At least one reporter had palpitation of the heart ere the clerk had finished reading the following resolution:

Whereas, It appears after due and careful deliberation that the services of Letchworth Hose Co. No. 2, C. N. Ross Hose Co. No. 5 and Alert Hose Co. No. 6 can be dispensed with and the money that it takes to maintain said companies can be used to better advantage in other branches of the fire department. Now, therefore,

Resolved, That on and after July 1, 1897, said Letchworth Hose Co. No. 2, C. N. Ross Hose Co. No. 5 and Alert Hose Co. No. 6 shall cease to be a part of the Auburn fire department.

Resolved, Further that the foreman of said companies be requested to turn over to the chief engineer of the Auburn fire department all property belonging to said department in his custody or under his control on or before said first day of July, 1897.

Resolved, Further, that the clerk of this board serve upon the foreman of Letchworth Hose Co. No. 2, C. N. Ross Hose Co. No. 5 and Alert Hose Co. No. 6 a copy of these resolutions.

This resolution was supplemented by another which is appended:

Resolved, That the exercise wagon at hose 3, shall be converted into a supply wagon for the department; said wagon shall be equipped with hose and such paraphernalia as may be necessary. The extra horse stationed at hose 3 shall be used to draw the same; said wagon shall be required to respond to those boxes which may hereafter be designated. Further,

Resolved, That Robert J. Otis be and he is hereby appointed driver of the supply wagon.

There was not any provision made as to where this wagon should be stationed, but it is understood that it will be in the western part of the city to give additional protection to the large manufacturing interests in that end of the town.

There was still another resolution to come:

Resolved, That ten additional men be appointed, who shall be known as extra call men, the same to be under all rules and regulations governing call men, with the exception that they will not be required to sleep in the hose houses. The annual salary of an extra call man shall be \$30 a year.

After thus providing for ample protection for the city for the present, the board rested. Mr. Moore moved that when the board adjourn, it be to Tuesday, June 29, and an adjournment was taken.

Previously to the adjournment Capt. George A. Platt of the Truck company was appointed acting assistant chief engineer, until a permanent appointment is made. Capt. Platt is one of the oldest members of the department in point of service and his selection is deserved.

The Volunteers Will Meet.

The three volunteer fire companies of the department which were retired by the commissioners will hold meetings, this evening. Most of the members take their retirement philosophically.

The two per cent foreign insurance tax which has formerly gone to the volunteers will now go to the commissioners to be used for the department purposes. The law provides for the disposition of this tax in such emergencies.

June 5th 1897

DID NOT MATERIALIZE.

A Meeting to Boost the Volunteers is Called Off.

The monster indignation meeting of First warders which was to have been held, last night, in the quarters of hose 2, in Fulton street, to protest against the action of the fire commissioners in disbanding Letchworth Volunteer hose, did not carry their design into execution is not known. It is said that the First warders are not so deeply interested in maintaining the volunteers as some people would have it believed, and a large number of them were prepared to attend the meeting and protest against any interference with the action of the fire commissioners. Hearing of this and fearing that the supporters of the fire board might be in the majority, the scheme of a meeting was abandoned. John Helfer, the sidewalk inspector, was stationed in front of the hose house door to inform all comers that the meeting would not be held but that petitions would be circulated through the ward for signatures to be presented to the common council, next Monday night. These petitions were in the hands of Thomas Hoyle, superintendent of the charities department, Michael McCartin, ex-fire commissioner, and John McAlpine who was a volunteer fireman before advancing years and a superfluous amount of adipose tissue compelled him to abandon all but the lighter duties of attending banquets, etc.

It is confidently asserted by the friends of the fire commissioners that the action of the board will be sustained by a majority of the aldermen.

The members of Letchworth Hose 2 and Ross Hose 5, are ready and willing to retire from duty. Alert Hose 6, which is a power in the Fourth and Fifth wards is loth to disband. The company hasn't done any fire duty in three years, but its social features have been rivaled only by the clubs.

June 12th 1897

Disbanding the Volunteers.

There was not any official result from the joint meeting of the special committee of the common council and the fire commissioners to consult on the disbandment of the volunteer fire companies. After a long evening had been spent in talking over the situation an adjournment was taken until next Tuesday evening, when another meeting will be held in the common council chamber.

It is confidently announced that those aldermen who at first favored removing the fire commissioners from office, are in such a large minority that nothing so rash will be attempted. The present bluff to induce the head of the fire department to rescind its disbandment resolution. This the fire commissioners positively refuse to do and there seems to be nothing for the council to do, but let matters take their course. A majority of the aldermen are more than willing to do this.

At the meeting, last night, Alderman Corcoran mislaid his temper several times and was unable to completely master it at such times as it was not in his grasp. Alderman Goodrich was afraid that the action of the commissioners was not strictly legal. He was informed that the city attorney had declared it legal. Mr. Goodrich wanted more authority than the city attorney but the committee did not vote to employ more counsel. The general sentiment of the committee so far as can be learned is toward a favorable report.

June 19th 1897

Volunteers Will Fight for Life.

It was given out today, that the minority of the common council in the effort to retain the volunteer fire companies in service, have retained E. C. Aiken to plead their cause.

Mr. Aiken contends that the fire commissioners cannot disband the volunteers as they are incorporated organizations. The fire commissioners can, however, stop their salaries. Mr. Aiken also contends that the volunteers can retain the use of the hose houses if the common council so wills. The two per cent foreign insurance tax, too, belongs to the volunteers until a change in the present law shall have been made by the legislature. The subject promises to make the regular meeting of the council next Monday night, a very lively session.

June 22nd 1897

FIRE COMMITTEE GIVES UP.

Unable to Agree on Disbandment of Volunteers.

THROWN BACK ON THE COUNCIL.

Where the Subject Will Die and Receive a Decent Burial--West Side Sewer District Changed--Several Streets to be Paved with Brick.

The common council did a whole lot of business, last night. Clerk Herring was quite exhausted when he had concluded reading the reports and consequent resolutions which were heaped upon his desk. Despite the immense amount of work performed by the aldermen, there was really nothing of great importance passed upon. The fire department matter, which had been expected to cause an exciting debate was hardly mentioned.

The special committee to which the matter had been previously reported, presented a report that it could not agree and had therefore referred the matter back to the council for final disposition. The report was received and filed, and that is supposed to permanently end the matter so far as the council is concerned. It was rumored about the City hall, last night, that Alderman Schicht had a resolution directing the fire commissioners to turn the several hose houses over to the council, which would then continue the volunteers in service at its own expense. If any such peculiar proposition was ever dreamed of it was not propounded to the council.

A committee of the volunteers was present during the session. Attorney E. C. Aiken was also present. He modestly admitted, after the session, that if given an opportunity he would have spoken a few words in behalf of the volunteers. Mr. Aiken said he could not tell what action the volunteers would take to retain their organizations nor did he know, at least not for publication, if they could take any action to prevent their permanent retirement.

What the council did was to make another determined raid on the long-suffering contingent fund, through the medium of crosswalks and repairs.

The boundary of the west side sewer district was changed, the Division street cemetery matter was again taken up, sewers were ordered constructed and well, really that was about all of importance. The aldermen were dilatory about getting together, they always are and it was 8:20 and Mayor Lewis had impatiently rapped with his gavel several times before the councilmen took their seats. Reports and resolutions galore had to be drawn after the session was commenced. Alderman Roach who is in the south, was the only absentee.

The residents of Pulsifer street to the number of twenty presented a protest against the construction of a sewer in that thoroughfare. The document was received and filed.

Mr. Donovan of Owasco street, presented a petition for an expressman's license which was granted.

F. B. Gorham's petition for permission to erect a wooden tenement house at 29 1-2 Franklin street, was granted.

A memorial was presented by Eliza S. Sheldon of 202 Genesee street, setting forth that when the Jefferson street sewer was constructed she was assessed for its payment; that at great expense she constructed a private sewer from her property to connect with the Jefferson street sewer; that she is amply provided at present with necessary drainage and that the west side sewer system, in which her property is included, is not any benefit to her; furthermore, the assessment for it is a grievous burden. She proposed that if the boundary lines of the system be changed so as to exclude her property, she would pay the assessment this year, and would give the right of way to the city for the construction of a sewer across certain lands in Ross place. The memorial was referred to the sewer committee which, later, presented a report recommending compliance with the request on condition that Mrs. Sheldon and her husband, C. L. Sheldon, execute an instrument agreeing never to drain any of the buildings at present on the property, or which may hereafter be constructed on it, into any sewer of the west side system, now constructed or to be constructed in the future and also including all the propositions made by Mrs. Sheldon.

A map, plans, profile and specifications for a sewer in Morris street, were presented by City Engineer Austin. The plans were adopted and a hearing was ordered. The city engineer also presented a plan for renumbering Seymour street from Washington to Division street. The plan was adopted.

Street Superintendent Jennings reported that Wood, Arch and Garrow streets, and Fitch avenue, were now in as good condition for travel as they had been before sewers were constructed in them. City Clerk Herrling presented a report certifying to having done a whole heap of work ordered by the council at previous sessions. A. P. Lamey presented a report of the completion of the census of the city, which has been published in the ADVERTISER. The request of the Auburn Telephone company that the aldermen designate where city phones should be placed, was referred to the building committee.

There wasn't any one present who wanted to say anything either for or against the construction of sewers in Arch and Garrow streets, the hearing for which had been advertised to take place at this meeting. As there was nothing against the proposition, Arch and Garrow streets, and proposals for the work will be received by the mayor.

Fire Committee Couldn't Agree.

The committee which has had in charge the fire department matter presented its report which was to the effect that it could not agree and threw the subject back for the whole council to decide.

"I think we ought to do with that committee as the judge did with the Sheldon jury," said Mr. McCarthy, "keep them out until they agree."

"We're satisfied to stay out if you'll furnish our meals," returned Alderman O'Neil, and the report was then received and filed.

The proposition of M. S. Goss to furnish the city building with anthracite coal at \$5 a ton, was cheaper than any other dealer would supply it, so a contract was ordered made with him. A contract was also made with T. H. Garrett, jr., for Loyal Sock coal at \$4.35 a ton.

The sewer committee reported that there was a private sewer in Pulsifer street, into which residents could drain by paying a reasonable compensation and it was decided not to construct a public sewer at present.

Mr. Goodrich presented an exhaustive report on the Division street cemetery matter, which set forth that all right and title to the property is vested in the city. The report was referred to the legal committee for appropriate action.

On motion of Mr. Wiggins the city engineer was directed to prepare plans for sewers in Lawton avenue, Foote and Mann streets.

The committee on burying grounds was empowered to employ an assistant for the sexton at North Street cemetery, for one month at a cost not to exceed \$40. The committee was also empowered to purchase necessary tools.

Two men and a team were ordered employed to flush the sewers. Mr. Goodrich voted aye on the matter although he explained that he thought that the fire department should do the work. It was done by the fire departments in other cities and without expense.

The final ten per cent. on the contract price for sewers constructed by S. C. Adams & Son, in the west side sewer district, was ordered paid.

The Auburn City Railway company and the Auburn Electric Light company were requested, upon the payment of a reasonable compensation, to allow the Auburn Telephone company to use their poles for the stringing of their cables and thus obviate the placing of more poles in the streets.

Hereafter the sewer committee will determine and approve of the subletting of municipal contracts, instead of waiting for the entire council to approve.

The city engineer was directed to prepare plans for sewers in Auburn avenue and Aurelius avenue and also to renumber the houses on the west side of Mc Master street.

More Brick Pavements.

The mayor was directed to advertise for bids for paving with brick the north side of East Genesee street from John street to Seminary avenue; between the Central railway tracks and the bridge in State street; from State street to the Central railway tracks in Chapel street; from Genesee to Exchange street in South street. His honor was also empowered to make the necessary contracts for the work.

An adjournment was then taken.

June 23 1897
ONE WAY OUT OF IT.
June 23 1897
Leave Hose House to Volunteers for Club Purposes 6/23

Just what to do with the volunteer firemen is still agitating the city officials. The fire commissioners are still firm in the position which they have taken that the volunteers must give place to a more efficient paid force. The volunteers want to remain in the city's service. They do not have to do any work; the hose houses form splendid club rooms in which to spend social evenings; the rooms are heated, lighted, furnished and kept in repair at public expense; each company receives \$200 a year salary, to which is added annually the two per cent. foreign insurance tax of about \$350 for each company. Then Rose hose 5, adds a little more to its income by sub-letting the hose house to a fraternity society or two, the rent from which is placed in company treasury. The city of course pays for the heat and light used by the societies and from which the firemen receive rent. Truly, why shouldn't the volunteers wish to remain in service?

The commissioners are discussing the advisability of leaving a reel of hose in the quarters of Hose 2, for the use of residents in the neighborhood in case of emergency, until a paid company is established there. It is only a question of a short time when a paid company will be placed in that portion of the city. There is talk that the aldermen may assume the responsibility of the volunteers and provide for their maintenance. One of the aldermen has announced himself in favor of renting the hose houses to the volunteers, if they wish to retain them as meeting places for their organizations.

June 26 1897
THE FIGHT IS ON IN EARNEST

Volunteers Will Contest the Disbandment of Their Clubs.

APPEAL TO COURT FOR REDRESS.

Three Old Fire Fighters Obtain a Writ of Certiorari--Judge Davy Will Review Proceedings of the Commissioners--Fire Board Will Maintain Its Position.

The members of the volunteer companies of the fire department, decline to accept gracefully their retirement by the fire commissioners. They will fight to retain their positions in the courts, having failed to secure their demand at the hands of the common council.

A writ of certiorari was served this morning on the members of the board of fire commissioners, G. C. Smith, E. J. Moore and T. W. Spears. The writ was granted by Justice Davy at Rochester, and is returnable within twenty days to County Clerk Adams. The writ acts a stay of all proceedings by the commissioners in the matter of dispensing with the services of the volunteers until further order of the court.

The accompanying order requires the commissioners to place before his honor all their proceedings in the matter and later he will set the time to hear the arguments of counsel. Rich & Aiken represent the volunteers and City Attorney Pierce will appear for the commissioners.

The claim of the volunteers is that the commissioners haven't any authority to dismiss them from service; that having been appointed by the common council, that body alone can dispense with their services. The volunteers propose to continue to imbibe from the city's financial fountain whether the tax payers are willing or not.

The petitioners for the writ are Charles L. Sanford of Letchworth hose 2, John C. Healy of Ross hose 5, and George Van Dyke of Alert Hose 6. They set forth in their petition that Letchworth Hose company was organized in 1873, by the common council and the members of the company were appointed by the common council, prior to 1879, when the fire department was made a separate branch of the municipal government, and its direction was vested in a board of fire commissioners. C. N. Ross hose was organized in 1869, and was incorporated in 1879, and its members were appointed previously to that date by the common council.

Alert hose was organized in 1878 and was incorporated in 1881. Its members were also appointed by the council. John C. Healy sets forth that he has been a member of the department since 1875; Charles L. Sanford since 1881, and George Van Dyke since 1879. Each of the companies is declared to be composed of about twenty-five men, part of whom were appointed by the council and the remainder by the fire commissioners. They further declare that they are active firemen!

The fact that notice was not served on the companies by the commissioners of their intended action of dismissal and that charges were not preferred against any of the members is also recited.

They also show upon information and belief that the common council has not given the commissioners any authority for their action and that a committee of the aldermen has recommended the retention of the companies.

The commissioners have the assurance of City Attorney Pierce that their action is legal and they do not propose to recede from the position which they have taken.

June 28 1897

THE SUING FIREMEN.

The Trustees Are Said to be at the Bottom of the Trouble.

It is said, but with how much truth cannot be learned, that the act of procuring the writ of certiorari by the volunteer firemen, was a surprise to the members of the three companies and was not sanctioned by them. The action emanates from the board of trustees. This body has control of the relief fund of the department. It is this body which has the handling of the two per cent. foreign insurance tax. For several years past the funds have not been doled out for sickness or death but the fund has been divided among the members as soon as received from the insurance companies. The fact that the trustees and not the companies themselves, have sought to defeat the betterment of the fire department, puts

the members in a very unpleasant light before the public. The natural inference is that the volunteers seek to remain in the service from mercenary motives solely, instead of through a desire to promote the best interests of their fellow citizens, as they have all along pretended.

Popular sentiment is decidedly against the action which has been taken in the matter. Citizens generally deplore that the volunteers, who have previously had the highest regard of Auburnians, should enter upon such a course. After the recent action taken by the common council and the fire commissioners, the volunteers cannot help but understand that in the end they must leave the city's service, despite any long and costly litigation in which they may plunge the municipality.

SALARIES STOPPED.

Volunteers Will Not Receive a Penny After July 1.

Whatever disagreement there may be among lawyers regarding the right of the fire commissioners to dismiss the volunteer firemen from the city's service, it is probable that there will not be any question as to the right of the commissioners to fix the compensation of the firemen. This is specifically prescribed in the charter as a part of the duty of the fire board. The commissioners held a special meeting, last night, and the most important thing done was to regulate the compensation of the volunteers according to their merits. On motion of Mr. Moore the volunteers will not be paid any salary after July 1.

The meeting was a regular adjourned session, and regular business was transacted. After the usual opening preliminaries, Clerk Ramage reported that he had served certified copies of the resolution of dismissal, adopted at a previous session, upon the foreman of each of the volunteer companies, as directed by the board.

"Yes," replied President Smith, "the board has had a substantial demonstration that you have performed your duty," and he drew from his pocket a copy of the supreme court writ which the volunteers recently procured.

John Armstrong, jr., a former volunteer fireman made formal application for appointment as an extra call man as provided in a resolution adopted at a previous meeting. Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported that a large number of applications had been made to him for similar appointments. The following resolution was then introduced by Mr. Moore and was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the clerk notify the foreman of Letchworth hose company No. 2, Ross hose No. 5, and Alert hose No. 6, that on and after July 1, 1897, the salaries of said companies will cease.

The salaries of the volunteers to July 1, were ordered paid and \$10 extra was given to each company for cleaning the hose houses after election. The salaries of the call men and clerk of the board were also ordered paid to July 1.

The committee on apparatus was directed to have the extra wagon at hose 3 placed in perfect repair that it might be depended upon for service in case of emergency.

of John H., who began in \$400, take most discount; here, but clerk in charge record and credit; has an sales estimated \$6,000.

orks on the bench. States ailed; own store and resi-ndustrious; of moderate-erate wants. '94 sales esti-

2, who began in '91, wasy insured; sells for cash; he purchase price of his in moderate home credit.

nch store at 3 Woodhullk (in both stores) \$5,500, clerk; have no borrowed all interest in tenement- ed for \$2,850." Reputed market, and should not

There was a pleasant discussion of the vast improvement which the metallic ceiling, recently placed in the quarters of hose 1, had effected. The decorations by the members of the company also received favorable comment.

Several small bills were ordered paid and then the board adjourned, subject to the call of the president.

The recent action of the volunteers-- the attempt to force themselves upon the city by means of litigation, was r discussed.

States to us: "Stock no outside means; rent th one man, family assist d about \$8,000 (thought

J., a short time; removed dness \$500; own building ; means." Character and ales stated \$200 a week.

in '80, has carried a stock ness \$100; have \$50 bor- ch with one man; buy all t no basis for credit. '94

e stands in Williamsburg, s to us: "Stock \$12,000, uilding in occupancy cost e largest and best arranged iness; is considered "real he is not a desirable credit

to us: "Stock \$2,200, ins- sixty days; rent \$275 (in- ore." Reputed steady, in- credit. '94 sales stated \$30

hand store. States to us: 300 in Savings Bank; work who can watch the account.

...ed in the press room of at
... which a kerosene
... been left burning by the editor,
... and, while at supper. The
... the fire is attributed to this fact
... lamp must have exploded and
...attered the burning oil about the
...partment with the result related. This
...theory is substantiated and confirmed by
...Mr. Bundy whose place of business is op-
...posite, who reports seeing a sudden flash
...of light which afterwards subsided par-
...tially and was then followed by the fire
...itself. Mr. Mulford's loss is heavy and
...will be in the neighborhood of \$3,500
...with no insurance.

The apartment in which the fire orig-
...inated and the composing room in the
...rear contained, in addition to the usual
...paraphernalia of a printing office, his
...principal press, (a Washington hand press)
...used in striking off the editions of the
...*Press* and on which the forms of his in-
...side pages printed yesterday were stand-

...ing and of course utterly destroyed. He
...thinks the press can be repaired and
...placed in running order. Beneath the
...composing room the editorial rooms were
...located, in which a considerable quantity
...of paper and type was kept and also a
...hand press, which were also almost to-
...tally destroyed. In fact the entire
...*True Press* establishment was completely
...gutted of its contents and almost com-
...pletely ruined.

This is a severe blow to the young edi-
...tor who had just become nicely settled
...here, but with true American pluck he
...is determined to rise Phoenix-like from
...the ashes, and announces his intention to
...resume business as soon as time will per-
...mit, on Exchange street, in rear of the
...Seward block.

Across the hall on the third floor was
...located D. Gough's cigar manufactory
...which was also utterly ruined by fire and
...water. He reports a loss of something
...like \$400 with no insurance. Across the
...hall on the second floor was C. C. Bod-
...ley's tailor shop which suffered a similar
...fate.

On the first floor were Wm. Cooley's
...grocery and D. Hubbard's fruit and nut
...store, both of which were flooded and
...stock badly damaged. Both parties were
...fully insured, each having a policy of
...\$2,000. W. H. Carpenter's hat store and
...Hibbard & Ives' crockery store were
...slightly damaged by water.

The building was owned by Anthony
...Shimer, the millionaire, who calculates
...it will cost him \$1,000 to repair the struc-
...ture. He had no insurance, and this
...morning was hard at work in person, with
...an ax, fixing up things.

July 6/1897

THE FIRE WARDENS.

Nickle-Plated Harnesses For the Fire Horses.

The midsummer meeting of the fire commissioners, last night, was without incident. The regular reports were made, the schedule of claims was audited and that was about all there was of it. It was reported from the supply committee that President Smith had nickle-plated all the metal portions of the harness in the department without charge. Mr. Smith, with his usual modesty requested the reporters to keep his name out of the report as having made any gift to the department. The reporters will decline to tell a soul about it, of course.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst made his regular monthly reports. There had not been a call for the department since the last meeting. Driver Frost of the chemical company had been absent thirteen hours without leave, a second offense, and the contingent fund had been overdrawn \$8 86.

A check was ordered drawn in favor of the chief for \$18 86, to make good the deficit and replenish the contingent fund. Driver Frost was fined \$1 and the time lost was deducted from his pay and he was warned that another infraction of the rules would be cause for the infliction of a serious penalty.

Volunteer Hose 2, reported that the resignations of A. Hemrick and J. A. Bain had been accepted.

George B. Parks, P. F. Morrissey, Charles Raesler and Pietro Mowry made application for appointment in the department.

Chief Jewhurst was directed to attend the convention of the Chief Engineers' association which will be held at New Haven, Aug. 17.

The clerk was directed to procure estimates for the cost of printing the report of the board for last year and report at the next meeting. The board then adjourned.

July 20 1897

FIRE-WATER.

These Two Elements Caused Dissension in the Board.

VOLUNTEERS-SEWER OVERFLOWS

An Effort to Purchase a Site for a New Paid Company is Defeated-- Inadequate Sewerage for Surface Water Must be Remedied--Suits Against the City.

Fire and water were the disturbing elements at last night's meeting of the common council. The subject of fire came up in several different ways and its every appearance was marked by more or less acrimonious debate. The proposition to purchase a new plot of ground in the First ward upon which to erect a hose house, failed of passage for lack of the requisite number of seven votes. Six aldermen favored the scheme. Protracted discussion followed a resolution directing the city attorney to represent the board of fire commissioners in the certiorari proceedings instituted by members of the disbanded volunteer fire companies but the resolution finally prevailed.

The subject of water did not provoke any heated debate, but it caused the aldermen a great deal of bother. The recent hard rains had caused overflows of sewers all over town and complaints come in thick and fast from people who had been damaged by the backwater. The matter was considered in executive session after the regular meeting.

Another subject, of interest to wheelmen was the proposition to amend the ordinance so that bicycle lamps will not be required to be lighted until the city lamps are lighted. The city attorney was instructed to prepare an amendment in accordance with this recommendation.

Although the common council had not met in five weeks, a half hour's delay was occasioned by the dilatoriness of the members in getting their business in shape for the session. When at 8:30 the mayor's gavel fell, every alderman was present except the representative from the Fourth ward, who was not in town.

An application was received from William Wildner, proprietor of the Cold Spring brewery for permission to lay a two inch pipe from his brewery, across the road to the spring. Upon motion of Alderman Goodrich permission was granted for a year.

Sixteen residents of Foote street presented a remonstrance against the construction of a sewer in that street, which was received and filed.

A petition was received from Mrs. Mary E. Noole asking for relief from taxation for the west side sewer, and for the exclusion of her premises, No. 192 Genesee street from the sewer district. The property, which is of the assessed valuation of \$20,000 is on the extreme eastern limit of the sewer district several rods east of the crest of the hill which marks the eastern limit of the watershed. The petitioner stated that her premises were now drained to the east, and the matter was referred to the legal committee and the sewer committee, upon motion of Alderman McCarty.

Another claim for damages against the city cropped out last night. The amount demanded is \$1,000 which Charles F. Race asks for injuries alleged to have been received on the night of April 13, in an excavation in front of 55 Franklin street, that was not properly guarded. Upon motion of Alderman Burgess, the claim was referred to the legal committee.

A communication was received from City Attorney Pierce, which told of the certiorari proceedings brought against the board of fire commissioners concerning its recent action in disbanding the volunteer fire companies, and which asked for instructions as to what course he should pursue in the matter. Upon motion of Alderman Burgess the communication was referred to the committee on fire department, with power, to direct the city attorney. Later in the session this action proved to be a stumbling block to the members, out of which grew a lengthy and confused series of parliamentary gymnastics.

City Surveyor Austin who at a prior meeting had been directed to prepare a map, plan and specifications for a sewer in Westlake avenue, reported that he had found an old sewer running through Pop Shop lane into which a number of the premises were not drained. Five or six pieces of property were not provided with sewerage, but the existing sewer could be deepened so as to furnish relief to all. A difficulty presented itself if this were done in the refusal of the owners of property already drained to share in the expense.

Upon motion of Ald. McCarty the matter was referred to the sewer committee, and upon motion of Alderman Schicht the surveyor was instructed to prepare plans for a sewer along the Pop Shop lane route, providing the committee favored the proposition.

The surveyor submitted maps, plans and specifications for sewers in Lewis street, Lawton avenue, Foote and Mann streets, and in Sherwood and Aspen streets and Warren and Dexter avenues. The report was adopted and a hearing of interested property owners was put down for the next regular meeting.

A communication from S. Fred Harris of 20 Wright avenue, announced that the trunk sewer in Division street was not low enough to drain his cellar and he asked for exemption from taxation on his premises. The petition was referred to the legal committee and the sewer committee.

A request from F. C. Surber & Son to erect a sign in front of their store, No 17 Genesee street, was referred to the legal committee.

Judge Hart, as attorney for the owners of the store building Nos. 10 and 12 Genesee street submitted a communication declaring that the sewer in front of the premises, was inadequate to carry off the water and that during the recent rains, the goods of Brixius & Chapman, occupants of the building had been damaged by the overflow. Upon motion of Alderman Schicht the matter was referred to the street committee with power.

Clerk Herrling reported the collection of \$51.05 for dog and bicycle licenses and for the monthly license of the Cosmopolitan concert hall.

A. P. Lamey submitted a supplemental report, in which he gave the population of Auburn as 28,708.

An invitation for the council to participate in the coming emancipation celebration, August 5, was presented by H. T. Johnson and Robert H. Griffin, and upon motion of Alderman Burgess it was accepted.

The quarterly report of the fire commissioners showed a balance to the credit of the board of \$267.87.

Several city officers submitted reports, including City Treasurer Jaekel who gave the balances standing to the credit of the several funds, as follows:

Contingent.....	\$20,100 50
Bridge.....	47 11
Fire department.....	267 87
Health.....	14 86
Light.....	183 55
Police.....	2,108 81
Paving.....	946 12
Park.....	11 38
Quarry.....	1 29
Street.....	225 11
Soule cemetery.....	483 82
Salary.....	1,308 22
S. C. R. R. bond account.....	7,630 40
Interest on deposits.....	505 95
G. A. R. relief.....	224 26
Sewer district No. 1.....	2,561 01
" " No. 2.....	464 81
Orchard St., and Orchard ave. sewer.....	233 54
Washington street sewer.....	60 40
Pulsifer street widening.....	21 70
Special sewer deposit.....	2,964 94
Dog tax.....	35 25
Total.....	\$40,844 01

Recorder Clark reported that he had collected \$260 in fines during the past quarter, and that the sheriff had collected \$65, making a total of \$325, covered into the treasury.

A deed executed June 30 by the Sheldon company, which conveyed a street to the city, running from the south line of Clark street to the land of Richard Eccles was accepted, upon motion of Alderman O'Neil.

A hearing on the proposed Morris street sewer was given to interested property owners, but no one responded, and upon motion of Alderman Wiggins the council determined to build the sewer. The clerk was instructed to advertise for proposals to be opened at the next regular meeting.

Bids for the construction of the sewer in Arch and Garrow streets were opened and read as follows:

Hahn & Jerry	
Froitzheim	
Corkery	
Vitrified tile, 8 in. diameter a ft....	\$ 40 \$ 13
Hose drains, 5 in.....	22 00 23 00
Manholes of brick, each.....	3 00 3 25
Concrete a yard.....	12 00 12 00
Lumber, a M. feet.....	3 00 3 00
Rock excavation, a yard.....	

Upon motion of Alderman McCarty the proposals were referred to the sewer committee to report at the next regular meeting.

The committee on finance, and E. S. Newton who had examined the books and accounts of the city treasurer reported that everything was found to be correct.

By resolution of Alderman Schicht the committee on streets and bridges was instructed to investigate the plank-ing on State street bridge and also to make recommendations as to the best plan of putting Lizette street bridge in good condition.

By resolution of Alderman Schicht the Auburn City Railway company was directed to construct conduits for surface water between the rails of its tracks at East Genesee and John streets, in front of the store of Brixius & Chapman, and at the corner of North and Garden streets.

By resolution of Alderman Burgess the sewer committee was instructed to investigate the corner of South and Grover streets, and to recommend some remedy.

A joint resolution was introduced by two members of the sewer committee, Aldermen McCarty and O'Neil, which created debate. It provided for the construction of a fifteen inch tile sewer, over the new trunk sewer from Garrow to Parker streets, the cost not to exceed \$400 to be paid from the contingent fund. Opposition was offered by Aldermen Goodrich, Burgess and Ramage who objected on the ground of charging the cost to the city, as it would form a bad precedent.

Alderman O'Neil contended that the city should take care of its surface water and Alderman Ramage said similar conditions existed in the Sixth ward but he had not thought of remedying that at the expense of the city. Alderman McCarty said the new sewer was not large enough and considerable damage was done every time there was a rain. He believed the city was liable for the injury to property. Alderman Burgess insisted that he didn't propose to vote \$400 out of the treasury in this one case where there were a dozen other similar cases in the city.

Alderman McCarty said he could satisfy the board of the necessity of taking action, if he were to explain the matter in executive session, and upon his motion the subject was laid over to be considered in executive session.

There was a defect in the sewer at the center of State and Cottage streets which caused an overflow, and by resolution of Alderman Corcoran the sewer committee was instructed to investigate and report a remedy.

Then Alderman Schicht introduced a resolution that the city purchase the property at the corner of Owasco and Mills streets, thirty-five feet front by sixty feet deep, for the purpose of erecting a hose house thereon. The limit of cost for the land was fixed at \$150 with \$150 additional expense for removing a frame building from the location.

Alderman Goodrich immediately moved to refer the resolution to the fire committee. Alderman Schicht insisted upon putting the resolution upon its passage. Alderman Goodrich said that he objected to any extension of the paid fire department, which the resolution undoubtedly had in view. He was opposed inasmuch as it had frequently been asserted in committee meetings, that the department as at present constituted was adequate to satisfactorily handle any and all fires in the city. "To increase the expense under these circumstances," said the alderman, "seems to me to be a

useless piece of business. It is a question the taxpayers are looking at with a great deal of interest. If we propose to go on and increase the expenditures of the fire department, they want to know what it is done for. To carry out the plans of the fire board would be to saddle upon the city an annual expense of \$28,000, at the lowest figure. I don't think the fire losses of the city will warrant it. If the present department is efficient I don't see why in the name of common sense we want to extend it."

Alderman Schicht demanded a roll call on the resolution which resulted as follows:

Ayes--Aldermen Burgess, McCarty, O'Neil, Ramage, Schicht, Wiggins--6.
Noes--Aldermen Corcoran, Cross, Goodrich--3.

Absent--Alderman Roach--1.
Mayor Lewis declared the resolution lost as seven votes were required to carry a public improvement.

Alderman Cross said he had vote against the proposition as he desired to have the matter referred to a committee and the motion of Alderman Goodrich to refer, was accordingly carried.

By resolution of Alderman O'Neil, the surveyor was directed to make a map for the extension of Hardenburg avenue from its present terminus to Bak

By resolution of Alderman Schicht, the street superintendent was instructed to examine the old sewer which crosses Seminary avenue at the premises of Frances M. Smith, and make repairs if found necessary.

By resolution of Alderman Corcoran, the burying ground committee was authorized to purchase gates for the North street entrances of the North street cemetery.

A resolution introduced by Alderman Cross instructing the sewer committee to make provision for preventing the overflow of water at the corner of Water and Hulbert streets, was put over for consideration in executive session, at the request of the mover.

By resolution of Ald. Schicht, the surveyor was instructed to prepare map, plan and specifications for a sewer in Seward avenue from Frances street to the limits of the First ward sewer district.

By resolution of Ald. Cross, the Auburn Gas Light company was directed to remove its abandoned lamp posts in front of St. Mary's church and the parochial school building in Clark street.

Then Ald. Ramage introduced a resolution directing the city attorney to represent the board of fire commissioners, in the proceedings brought by volunteer firemen, to review the action of the fire board, in disbanding the three companies. Opposition was raised, as the matter had already been referred with power to the fire department committee.

Alderman Goodrich, a member of the committee, who is openly opposed to the disbandment, declared that he courted the fullest investigation of the fire board's action from a legal standpoint, and for that reason he would favor the assistance of the city attorney. He said the pending resolution was an imputation upon the members of the committee, and he offered an amendment that the resolution be referred to his committee. This was lost, 4 to 5, as follows:

Ayes--Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, McCarty, O'Neil--4.
Noes--Aldermen Burgess, Cross, Ramage, Schicht, Wiggins--5.

Alderman Corcoran then moved to lay the Ramage resolution on the table which was lost, 4 to 5, by the following vote:

Ayes--Aldermen Corcoran, Cross, Goodrich, O'Neil--4.
Noes--Aldermen Burgess, McCarty, Ramage, Schicht, Wiggins--5.

Then a vote was about to be taken on the Ramage resolution, when Alderman Schicht asked that the resolution be withdrawn temporarily while he offered a resolution to rescind the board's action in referring the city attorney's communication to the fire department committee with power.

Alderman Ramage readily acquiesced but a storm of protests sprung up and the point was taken that the resolution was before the board and could not be withdrawn. After a protracted wrangle, the mayor emphatically declared that the alderman from the Sixth could withdraw his resolution and it was done. Thereupon Alderman Schicht's motion to rescind the former action was carried by a vote of 5 to 4 as follows:

Ayes--Aldermen Burgess, Cross, Ramage, Schicht, Wiggins--5.
Noes--Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, McCarty, O'Neil--4.

Then Alderman Ramage reintroduced his resolution authorizing the city attorney to represent the fire board in the certiorari proceedings and it was carried 6 to 3:

Ayes--Aldermen Burgess, Cross, McCarty, Ramage, Schicht, Wiggins--6.
Noes--Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, O'Neil--3.

Another hot argument was caused by a resolution of Alderman Schicht that a special committee be appointed to act with the fire department committee to investigate the necessity of purchasing land of the Woolen company.

Alderman Corcoran was first to object. He referred to the fire commissioners' statements concerning the efficiency of the present department and he also opposed the appointment of additional members to act with the fire department committee.

Alderman Goodrich took the resolution to mean that the introducer didn't believe the regular committee was intelligent enough to handle the subject. He said the resolution was nothing more or less than an insult to the committee.

Alderman Ramage tried to pacify the opposition by saying that the proposed purchase of land would be a good investment.

Alderman Goodrich was not to be pacified in that manner. He said that the cost of running the municipal government was growing more and more expensive each year, and he reiterated that the fire losses of the past would not warrant an increase of expenditures in the fire department at this time.

After a hot discussion, the resolution of Alderman Schicht was finally carried, 7 to 2, the opposing members being Aldermen Corcoran and Goodrich.

Mayor Lewis said that he would announce the special committee later and the stormy part of the session came to an end.

By resolution of Alderman Cross, the city attorney was directed to draft an amendment to the city ordinances requiring lanterns on bicycles to be lighted and extinguished simultaneously with the street electric lamps, instead of between sundown and sunrise as at present; also to restrict the speed of wheelmen between the hours of 6 a. m. and 11 p. m. to eight miles an hour.

By resolution of Alderman O'Neil, the aggregate cost of constructing the Wallace street sewer was determined to be \$989 44, which with interest for ten years will amount to a total of \$1,209 01. The usual resolutions to issue bonds pay the contractor and assess the property of the sewer district, were passed.

By resolution of Alderman Wiggins, the sewer committee was instructed to inspect the sewer which crosses Grant avenue in front of H. F. Horton's premises, and then upon motion of Alderman McCarty the council went into executive session.

The subject of overflow of sewers was considered at the executive session, and the question of the city's liability for damages was discussed. Finally the entire matter was referred to the sewer committee and a special committee composed of Aldermen Cross, Burgess and Ramage, to investigate and report at a subsequent meeting.

As a painter by trademark

FIRE COMMISSIONERS REPLY

Recital of the Reasons for Disbandment of Volunteers.

WERE SLACK AND INEFFICIENT.

The Return to the Writ of Certiorari is Complete Answer for the Action of the Fire Board--It Tells in Detail Why the Taxpayers' Money Should Not be Spent to Maintain Clubs.

The return of the board of fire commissioners, Goldsborough C. Smith, Ed. J. Moore and Thomas W. Spears, to the writ of certiorari granted June 25, by Justice Dunwell was filed, today in the county clerk's office. It is in answer to the complaint of John C. Healey, Charles L. Sandford and George Van Dyke, concerning the action of the commissioners in dismissing the volunteer hose companies, Nos. 2, 5 and 6, from the fire department.

The answer sets forth the condition of affairs existing before the year 1879, during which time the fire department was under the control of the common council. Then the charter was changed and by its provisions a board of fire commissioners was created which had sole power and exclusive control of the department, the existing companies not being retained as members of the department. By this change the common council was divested of all its powers, with the exception of building hose houses, furnishing water for its use and raising an annual appropriation for its maintenance.

The department down to 1893 consisted of eight companies. In this year the National board of fire underwriters made a thorough examination of the department and its workings and reported to the commissioners that it found existing conditions very unsatisfactory where such large manufacturing interests were endangered.

The members of the companies were composed largely of business and laboring men who were engaged during the day at their work, at some distance from their company quarters. The members did not receive any compensation for their services as firemen and they became indifferent and slack in attendance at fires, and in the proper discharge of their duties, and frequently not enough men reported at fires to operate and properly handle the apparatus.

To remedy and improve the service and protection from fire, the National board recommended that the existing volunteer department be changed into a paid department to consist of five companies and a steamer.

The answer of the commissioners then goes on to recite the history of how the suggestions made by the underwriters were carried out. Protective Hose No 3, was dismissed from the service August 29, 1893, Neptune Hose No 1, Chemical No 1 and Logan Truck company, January 1, 1894, and Active Hose 7, on March 1, 1894, and the new paid department was organized. The money at the disposal of the board at that time would not allow additional paid companies and the three remaining volunteer companies were retained as part of the department, their expenses being paid by the commissioners from money in their hands.

The answer then says: "This practical test of the experiment of retaining said three volunteer companies in connection with the paid department, at the expense aforesaid, has demonstrated to us that they are of little practical value to the department, which is fully as efficient without, as with them. For the last three years the record of their service shows that twenty-one fires occurred in the near vicinity of the hose houses occupied by these three companies, at each of which the paid companies, located from one-half mile to a mile away, were first at the fires and extinguished the same without any aid or assistance from said volunteer companies or either of them. At three of said twenty-one fires neither of said volunteer companies took their apparatus out of their quarters, attended the fires, or in any way responded to the alarm."

Then the answer sets forth in detail what work has been done by the volunteers at the 134 fires of the past three years: Letchworth hose No. 2 has worked at five; Ross hose No. 5, at three and Alert Hose No. 6 at five. It further tells of the action of Ross hose, a year ago when it submitted a petition requesting its dismissal from the department. About the same time Letchworth hose disposed of all its property preparatory to vacating its quarters.

Then the facts concerning the distribution of the \$8,000 among the volunteers at the time of the disbandment were set forth. This money, which was only applicable for the purpose of extending aid to indigent and disabled firemen and their families was divided among all the members, each receiving \$55. Since that time the remaining three companies have received the entire amount of money paid by insurance companies, which amounted to about \$300 annually. In '96 the members received \$12 80 each and in 1897, \$14 40 which they have appropriated to their individual use instead of to the purposes for which the money is to be disbursed by statute.

The commissioners further say that the service rendered by the department as a whole, not being satisfactory in furnishing fire protection, they have frequently appealed to the common council for a larger appropriation without success. The sum being limited to \$16,000 was too small to permit of another paid company and retain the three volunteer companies. Experience having proved to the commissioners the benefits of modern fire-fighting apparatus properly handled by trained firemen, on duty at all times day and night, and subject to that discipline which is absolutely necessary to obtain the best service and efficiency which cannot be had or enforced in a

volunteer company, made the dismissal of the three volunteer companies and the substitution in their stead of a paid company. Inquiry and examination developed the fact that the average yearly expenses to the commissioners of maintaining the three volunteer fire companies was about \$1,200. This amount would enable them to purchase an additional hose wagon, and horses to draw the same, and pay two permanent men and a suitable number of call men to man the apparatus. Such company stationed where it would cover the same territory in which the volunteer companies are located, would greatly improve

and make more efficient the service of the department. The answer further says:

"We therefore started to carry out this improvement for the purposes indicated, and, acting, as we assert, under the powers given to and vested in us by the charter of said city of Auburn, and in accordance to what we believe to be our duty, by taking the action complained of at a regular meeting of our board held June 1, 1897."

Then follows a copy of the resolution passed by the board, a copy of the letter of the underwriters to the commissioners and the affidavits of the three members of the board of fire commissioners.

PROVED BY FIRE.

Efficiency of the Paid Men Over the Vanishing Volunteers.

There was a small fire at 39 Lincoln street, this morning. The alarm was sent in from box 25, at D. M. Osborne & Co's office at 3:45 o'clock. The fire started in a small shed connected with the rear of the house occupied by Louis Lipsitz. The flames were confined to the shed and the damage will amount to about \$50. No cause could be assigned for the origin of the flames.

The firemen have had a record-breaking rest, nearly twelve weeks having elapsed since there has been a call for their services. Even the Fourth of July was passed without an alarm.

There was never, in the history of the fire department, a better demonstration of the efficiency of the paid portion and the uselessness of the volunteers, than was afforded, at this fire. The flames were located in a building situated in a cluster of frame tenements occupied by laboring people. When first discovered the flames had enveloped the shed and gave promise of spreading into a serious conflagration, for a fire once under headway in a neighborhood so closely packed with combustible buildings would be sure to consume a wide area before it could be controlled. Even a great plant of the Osborne company, the short distance away might have been seriously damaged.

Before the third round on the gong, the paid men were in the street with the apparatus, galloping madly to the scene of danger. Seven minutes after the alarm had been sounded the hose cart of Volunteer Hose 6 turned from State street into Water. Two lonely weary men were on the drag rope struggling to get the cart along. If it took seven minutes for the volunteers to get their carriage from the company quarters to the corner of Water street how long would it have taken them to get their hose up Mechanic street hill to the fire? How much damage would have been done during the time which elapsed before their arrival? These questions are for serious consideration.

Hose 6 must have been lost in the shuffle through Water street. Anyway none of the members reported for duty at the fire. It is not known whether Volunteer hose 2 left its quarters or not. None of the members of this company reported at the fire.

The work of the Chemical company was as usual, superb and it is due to this company that the fire was checked before greater damage had been done.

Sept 3 1897

A FRIGHTFUL FATALITY.

Two Octogenarians in a Desperate Fight with Flames.

A WOMAN BURNED TO A CRISP.

An Overturned Lamp Sets Fire to Her Clothing and Bedclothing—The Sad Fate of Mrs. Cyria Dwight of North Street.

Death in its most horrible form claimed Mrs. Cyria Dwight of 94 North street, early last evening. She was burned and suffocated until death mercifully relieved her from further suffering.

The precise details of how she caught fire will probably never be known, but from what can be learned there can be little doubt of the origin of the accident.

For many years Mrs. Dwight, who was a widow, lived with her brother, Lawrence White, in the house where she met her end. The brother and sister grew old together, very comfortably. For nearly thirty years he was a keeper on the prison and from his salary he managed to lay aside enough to care for them in their old age. Advancing years finally compelled them to withdraw from active life and for a long time they have lived secluded in their home, forgotten by all the world excepting a few old friends and their immediate neighbors. Recently, the pair became really unable to care for themselves. Mr. White was 84 and Mrs. Dwight only a couple of years younger. Mrs. Dwight failed mentally and needed constant care.

In this emergency a niece, Susan L. White of Fulton street, came to their assistance. She could not give them her entire attention, and at night they were left alone. Mrs. Dwight had one son, Theodore F. Dwight, ex-librarian of a congress who resides near Boston.

It was nearly 7 o'clock, last night, when the niece left the old people after having made them comfortable for the night. Soon after departure, Mrs. Dwight became possessed with the idea that there was a man up-stairs. Both brother and sister slept on the lower floor and she would not consent to retire until a search had been made for the imaginary intruder. Mr. White took a lighted lamp and went up stairs. While he was him with another light. While he was in a front room he heard her cry out and hastened to her assistance from a small apartment immediately in the rear. He went to her side as fast as his feeble condition would permit. She was then enveloped in flames.

Whether she had set her light on the bed and it had been overturned, or whether she had held the flame too closely to the draperies of the bed while peering about is the mysterious part of the affair.

Sept 3 1897

IN THE CITY OF ELMS.

A Chief Was Taking Notes at the National Meeting.

SOME MODERN FIRE APPLIANCES.

Chief Jewhurst's Interesting Resume of the Proceedings of the Fire Chiefs--It Was Read at the Commissioners' Meeting, Last Evening.

There was a vacant chair at the meeting of the fire commissioners, last night Commissioner Moore being out of the city. Commissioner Spears didn't do any more talking than he was actually compelled to, because his jaws were weary from an attack upon them in the afternoon by a dentist who rooted out several disorderly teeth. So President Smith, perforce, had to be pretty near the whole thing.

An invitation was received from the Central Labor union for the commissioners to participate in the Labor day parade. A request was made that the annual inspection of the fire department be appointed for that day and that the firemen form one of the divisions of the labor demonstration. The invitation was accepted and on motion of Mr. Spears the annual inspection of the department was ordered for next Monday, and the paid portion of the department was ordered to parade.

The volunteers were not included in this order. In explaining this seeming oversight President Smith said: "As we understand the situation we haven't any authority to order the volunteers out. We disbanded them last July. They appealed to the courts from our action, and they are at present in the hands of the court. We haven't any authority over them or any power to order them to parade."

Drafts were ordered in payment of the usual schedule of bills and the floors in the quarters of truck 1 and hose 1, were ordered repaired. The chief was directed to procure necessary supplies and Chief Engineer Jewhurst made his regular monthly reports after which the meeting adjourned.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst also made his report of the meeting of the International association of fire chiefs which was very interesting. It is appended in full:

Auburn, N. Y. Sept. 2, 1897.

To the Board of Fire Commissioners: Gentlemen--I respectfully submit herewith my report as your delegate to the 25th annual convention of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, held at New Haven Conn., August 17, 18, 19, 20, 1897. The opening exercises were held in Warner hall. President Divine of Salt Lake City called the convention to order. Mayor Farnsworth was introduced and welcomed the delegates to the city of Elms. His address was a warm and hearty one showing plainly that the city fully appreciated the importance of the meeting.

Congressman Sperry followed then mayor, his address was eloquent and timely, he recalled the fact that the meeting was being held over the spot where Roger Sherman, first mayor of New Haven and signer of the Declaration of Independence resided for years. Ex-chief Hendrick who for twenty-five years was at the head of the New Haven department and a charter member of the association also addressed the convention in his happy style. Captain Cannon of the Kent, England Fire brigade who was present in full regalia, nickel helmet, gold braid, steel shoulder knots, top boots and represented the National Fire Brigade union of Great Britain gave some interesting compar-

After the preliminary business was over the reading of topics and papers was taken up. The quality of papers submitted was both interesting and valuable and the discussion that followed showed that the association was alive to the necessity of bringing fire departments throughout the country to the highest attainable degree of efficiency.

Ex-Chief Damrell of Boston reviewed at length the history of the association in a paper which was of more than usual interest. The three big fires of Portland, Chicago and Boston had suggested the need of advancement in fire fighting methods and the Fire Chiefs association was organized to bring about this improvement, and the present condition of the fire service of the country is due mostly to the efforts of the association, as was shown by facts and figures.

Captain William Brophy, electrical expert for the state of Massachusetts read a paper on organizing and equipping electrical bureaus in cities to supervise the insulation of electric wires. The paper gave a full and comprehensive history of the introduction of electricity and its dangers, and advocated the establishment of such bureaus to supervise new and old insulations of electric wires, motors and generators for the better protection of life and property. After the reading of the paper the hall was darkened and 100 views were thrown on a screen by a stereopticon to illustrate the ideas advanced in the paper.

How should a system of perforated pipes and sprinklers be constructed for the protection of cellars containing oil or other inflammable material was a subject which caused much discussion. The size of pipe and vent holes, quantity of water supply to be drawn, and length of time required to make an effective flooding of cellars of different areas, the liability of the metal of the pipes to oxidize and choke the vents, created a general debate, which was interesting as well as instructive.

The topic on tool wagons was continued from the previous convention. Many chiefs related their experience with this kind of apparatus and cited the advantage of having every implement needed at fires carried on a separate wagon instead of the old custom of overloading hook and ladder trucks, hose wagons and other apparatus with tools. The adoption of tool wagons was recommended in all fire departments.

A paper on the compartment system of constructing buildings was presented together with plans showing the manner of constructing a building so that in case of fire in any room or on any floor that room or floor might be so shut off from the remainder of the building that the fire could not spread from the room in which it originated.

The Control of Fires was a topic which was most favorably received and was generally considered to be one of the most valuable and instructive papers read before the convention. The paper was open for debate and many chiefs related their experiences in fighting various fires of note.

Papers on The Volunteer Service, Self-Propelling Engines, How far can Sparks Carry Danger, The benefits of a National Fireman's Exhibition and many other papers were read which covered valuable and instructive subjects.

An important feature of the convention was the exhibits which were the finest and most numerous ever made; everything in the line of fire department equipment from a hose wrench to a fire engine was shown, and the arrangements made for their display and testing could not have been excelled.

With the great improvements that have been made in the past few years in nearly every branch of the service, it might be supposed that further improvements would be impossible, yet many new inventions were presented. Friday was given over to the exhibits. Nozzles large and small, sprayers, deluge sets, cellar pipes, and every conceivable sort of contrivance for throwing water were tried. Steam fire engines, aerial ladder trucks, chemical engines, hose, chemicalizers, hydrants, relief valves, smoke respirators were also given a trial. Good sized frame buildings were erected and fired for the purpose of giving the chemicals a practical test. One of the most valuable exhibits was

The aged brother hastened to her assistance and tore her blazing dress away with his hands. Finding that this did not lessen her danger, he enveloped her in a light quilt in an endeavor to smother the flames. Instead of subduing the fire the light material seemed too add fuel to the flames. The old man was driven back and from this point in the tragedy his account of the details is very hazy. In her agony, Mrs. Dwight must have risen from the bed on which she had sank, and had endeavored to make her escape by way of the front room. By the door of the front room was another bed, and when this was reached her strength failed and she fell upon it, utterly exhausted. Death must have soon come to her relief, as there were not any signs of a struggle when the firemen arrived later, and the charred imprint of her body was clearly defined on the mattress, while the side board of the bed was nearly burned through where her lower limbs rested against it.

It was at about this time that a neighbor passing by noticed a light up-stairs in the White home. Being acquainted with the habits of the aged pair, her attention was attracted by the sight and she watched it with interest. As the illumination became more brilliant, she was struck with sudden fear of a tragedy as it had been a subject of neighborhood gossip that something direful would eventually happen the lonely old couple. City Judge Hart's residence is next door and thither the alarm was carried. In a brief time other neighbors were aroused. When they attempted to ascend the stairs they were beaten back by the suffocating smoke from the old-fashioned feather beds and the nauseating odor of burning flesh. An alarm had been turned in from box 5, at the corner of North and Seymour streets, for the fire department.

Captain Platt of the truck company and Driver Frost of the Chemicals were the first to make their way into the room. In the blinding smoke they made out the old man standing in the center of the room, evidently too dazed to make his way out. In groping along Platt's hand came in contact with the body of the dead. He drew back in horror. Just then the smoke lifted somewhat and the grewsome sight was revealed to view. Every particle of clothing had been burned from the body. The hair had been burned from the head and the face was contorted beyond human semblance. A small piece of the quilt was still burning on the woman's abdomen. This was extinguished and wrapping the body in a blanket, which was lying folded on the foot of the bed, he carried the charred remains downstairs. Captain Jewhurst followed with the helpless brother. He was taken in charge by friends and was found to be uninjured excepting for the shock and the effects of the smoke. This morning, he was fully recovered from his terrible experience.

The flames were quickly extinguished by the chemical engine. Nothing was burned excepting the beds. Coroner Tripp was summoned and decided that an inquest was not necessary. He issued a permit for the removal of the body and it was cared for by Undertaker Tallman. It will not be exposed at the funeral. Mrs. Dwight was a most lovable woman until her mind gave way with advancing years. She was unusually well informed and she took a deep interest in the young people who delighted to visit her. She was for many years a member of the First Baptist church.

the Gere flush and post hydrants. It was taken from a street in New York and attached to the New Haven water mains. The hydrant is designed to furnish an independent supply of water for fire, street sprinkling and street cleaning purposes; it was pronounced the most efficient hydrant in use. The Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph company made a fine display of their various boxes, gongs, strikers, repeaters all in working order, also a complete storage battery system in full operation. This system is fast taking the place of the gravity battery on account of its reliability and economy. The attendance at the convention was unusually large, nearly 500 delegates being present, together with 200 exhibitors, fire commissioners and others. The citizens were most liberal in contributing funds to meet the requirements in perfecting arrangements of every detail which contributed in making this, not only the most successful but the most interesting and instructive meeting in the history of the association.

Your representative was honored by being elected a director of the association for two years, and also had the honor of serving on two important committees.

Eight cities presented their advantages for the next convention. After a spirited canvass St. Louis was chosen by six votes over Utica, the nearest rival.

Thanking you for favors conferred, I respectfully submit this report.
E. J. JEWHRST,
Chief Fire Dep't.

Sept 11 1897

A DAY OF EXCITEMENT.

Three Calls Sent in For the Fire Department.

Grover and Steel streets were in a mad whirl of excitement, this morning. In the first place a venturesome kitten had ascended a tall tree in front of Undertaker Gross's and, terror-stricken at its own temerity was afraid to come down. The neighbors rallied to the rescue, a boy climbed the tree, a girl in a matinee dress spread out her skirt and pussy was shaken into the net as adroitly as a trapeze performer does the act at the circus. This excitement had no sooner subsided than the cry of fire was raised and the chemical, the hook and ladder truck and the hose wagons came tearing up Grover street to No. 9 Steel street where fire was devouring the kitchen of Widow Haight's house. A large oil stove had exploded. The house is next door to Chief Jewhurst's home and a telephone message was sent to fire department headquarters. The burning oil was scattered about the room and the woodwork was scorched. The ceilings and walls throughout the whole house were blackened by the dense smoke. The fire was put out by the chemical. The damage will amount to about \$75.

A spark from the burning oil must have lodged beneath the boards and tin, covering the roof, for a blaze broke out there at 10:30 o'clock and another telephone was sent for the firemen. Only the chemical engine responded. The fire was extinguished by a couple dashes of the chemical.

While the firemen at the Haight residence the first time, an alarm was sent in from box 26.

At 11:30 the firemen were again called out by telephone. An oil stove in the apartments of Curtis C. Fritz over 26 North street got afire. Men in the sash on in the block reached the scene the excitement before the men and threw the blazing out of a window before it had to ignite anything in the room.

There was therefore nothing for the firemen to do but return to quarters, which they were very glad to do.

There was the start for a good-sized conflagration at the home of Luke Kinsella in Seymour street early last evening. A lamp was accidentally overturned by Mrs. Kinsella. A youthful member of the household dashed a pail of water on the blaze which only served to scatter the flame. The head of the family smothered the fire with a blanket and the fire department was not called.

Sept 13 1897

A Woman Shockingly Burned.

Still another of those shocking casualties occurred, this afternoon. The result may be fatal to Mrs. Menzo Reno, wife of the veteran cartman, who resides at No. 7 Adams street.

Mrs. Reno who is between 50 and 60 years of age, was alone in her home, this afternoon. The woodwork about the stove in the kitchen caught fire, and when Mrs. Reno endeavored to extinguish the flames, her clothing caught fire. The smoke bursting from the windows attracted the attention of Patrolman Roseboom who lives next door. He plunged into the blazing room and found Mrs. Reno helpless, enveloped in her blazing garments. He tore her clothing off and carried her out of the suffocating smoke.

The fire department and a physician were summoned. Every attention was at once given the injured woman but at the time the ADVERTISER goes to press the result of her injuries cannot be predicted. She is shockingly burned about the body and limbs and the shock to her nerves has rendered her incapable of giving any account of the origin of the fire.

The fire was under considerable headway when the firemen arrived. It was extinguished without difficulty. The rear part was gutted. The loss will amount to several hundred dollars.

Sept 14 1897

Mrs. Reno Will Recover.

Mrs. Menzo Reno who was so badly burned, yesterday afternoon, is much improved today. Her injuries were not so serious as at first supposed. She was most seriously burned about the face. Her recovery is only the question of a short time. The property damaged by fire was fully insured.

Sept 15 1897

Hotels Are Hot Stuff

There were two small fires, yesterday afternoon. Neither of them was particularly disastrous, although both blazes started in hotels. The first one was at the New National. The awning in front of the building caught fire in some mysterious manner and was half consumed before it was extinguished. It is said that the discussion of the State league baseball magnates became so hot that the awning was ignited as the argument floated out of an upper window. This may not be so, but there isn't any other way to account for the flames.

The other blaze was at 7 o'clock, and occurred in the Empire house in Dill street. A lace curtain in a sleeping room on an upper floor, blew into the flame of a gas jet and there was a small conflagration right away. The curtain

and several celluloid toilet articles on a nearby dresser were burned before the fire had been extinguished by employees of the house.

The firemen were given a run to this fire although there was nothing for them to do upon their arrival. Some one who saw the blaze from the street turned in an alarm from box 63, in State street near Water.

That the record of the past few days might not be broken, a woman was burned in the fire at the Empire house. Miss Ellen Kirwan, a sister of Mrs. Carey, wife of the proprietor, was the first to discover the fire. In endeavoring to tear down a blazing curtain her hands, arms and face were severely but not seriously burned.

Sept 20 1897

Conflagration in a Candlestick.

A disagreeable smudge filled the home of Charles R. Fay at 54 South street, this afternoon. A hastily conducted search for the origin of the smoke failed to reveal it. A telephone call was therefore sent to fire department headquarters. Captain Pratt and Hoseman Hughson were detailed to find the cause of the smoke which was stifling the members of the household. Just before the firemen arrived, the cause of the trouble was discovered. A candle had been left lighted in a storeroom down stairs, and had burned down into the socket of the candlestick and there smouldered merrily, sending forth clouds of vile-smelling smoke. The candlestick was taken outdoors, the household breathed freer and the firemen returned to quarters.

Sept 21 1897

TELEPHONE TROUBLES.

The New Company Runs Counter to an Ordinance.

The Auburn Telephone company officials are in hot water, because of the carelessness of the linemen of the company. The city has made wise ordinances, for the protection of the fire alarm telegraph system. Heavy penalties have been imposed for any willful disturbance of the system, and a salaried officer, with the title of wire inspector has been appointed to see that the provisions of these ordinances are enforced.

During the summer, Chief Engineer Jewhurst has had considerable trouble with the workmen stringing wires for the new telephone company. Several times they have changed the fire alarm telegraph wires, causing more or less annoyance to the system. Yesterday, a wire at the corner of Division and Wall streets was moved and placed in dangerous proximity to an electric light wire, in case of a severe wind or sleet storm. Wire Inspector Hubert made a formal complaint to Recorder Clark, this morning.

Before the winter closed in last fall, the fire commissioners were compelled to expend \$200 to place the fire telegraph system in condition, as a result of the damage caused by the other electrical companies changing wires without notifying Chief Engineer Jewhurst or the wire inspector. Fully as large a sum will have to be expended this fall, for similar reasons.

Sept 29th 1897

ONE MORE PARDONED.

The Man Who Buncoed Buffalo Out of \$60,000 is Set Free.

Four years ago next Monday, Erie Ontario Van Brocklin, former secretary of the fire board of the city of Buffalo, was received in Auburn prison under sentence of eight years and five months. This morning, just four days prior to the anniversary of his incarceration he was released from Copper John's domain. His term of imprisonment was abbreviated by the act of Governor Black, who signed the man's pardon, yesterday, and the convict with the liquid christian names was set at liberty.

Van Brocklin stole \$60,000 and over from the taxpayers of Buffalo, and it is reported on good authority that he still possesses a large share of his thievings. Four years of penal servitude for \$60,000, or \$15,000 a year is considered pretty fair compensation for speculation, and it also has a tendency to place a premium on larceny.

Van Brocklin's crime was committed while he was occupying a position of trust, as secretary of the board of fire commissioners of the Bison city. His method was to carry on the pay roll of the department a number of dummy firemen, and he would obtain their imaginary salaries by forging false names to the pay warrants. It is known that he obtained in this manner, over \$60,000, and in all probability, the amount was much larger. His scheme was discovered and he made a clean breast of his wrong-doing. Upon his plea of guilty he was sentenced Sept. 15, 1893, to serve eight years and five months in Auburn prison. He was received at this institution twelve days later.

Van Brocklin had been a member of the old Buffalo fire department and was noted for his bravery. He had also made a gallant record in the war of the rebellion, having enlisted at the age of 16 years. These things, together with his former reputation as a good citizen, mitigated the offense, and the sentence of the court was not so severe as it might have been otherwise.

During his four years in prison he had been a model convict. At first he was given a place in the prison post-office, under H. Clyde Johnson, the citizen postmaster. Later he was transferred to the basket shop, where he was engaged as clerk, and more recently he had been employed in the store-keeper's department, under Lyman S Gibbs. He is 51 years of age, and immediately upon his discharge, he started for his old home in Buffalo to begin life anew.

The belated pardons for Joseph Thornton, John Farrell and Thomas Murray, the three men whose innocence was established two years ago, were received this morning. Thornton and Farrell were at once released but as Murray had become insane during his incarceration and had been transferred to Matteawan asylum, his pardon was returned to the governor.

Sept 27th 1897

A Little Burn.

The roof of the Lehigh Valley repair shops in Monroe street, caught fire Saturday afternoon, probably from the sparks of a passing locomotive. The texas rangers at the house of hose 3, responded to the call for aid from the railway people and with a couple of chemical charges extinguished the blaze. The damage was very slight.

own means; stock \$2,000, ins. \$2,000

Oct 28th 1897

Havoc With the Fire Alarm.

As a result of the recent interference with the fire alarm telegraph system, it has become sadly demoralized. At 12:30 o'clock this morning, the firemen were aroused from dreams of an increase in salary, by a blow upon the Wheeler. The alarm was caused by a grounded wire. A search by the linemen, this morning, revealed several displacements in the line which might have caused the trouble.

\$7,000 encumbered \$3,000 a block

Oct 4th 1897

TWO FIRES.

One in Town and Another on a Montezuma Farm.

The galvanizing house of the Auburn Wringer company's plant, in Washington street, caught fire, yesterday afternoon. An alarm was turned in from box 4, at the Lehigh Valley railway station at 1:07 o'clock. The flames were extinguished by hose 3. The fire caught from hot ashes which had been raked from the furnace fires. When discovered the blaze was dancing merrily along the cornice of the building. The damage did not amount to much.

A destructive fire occurred on the Atwater farm in the town of Montezuma, a short distance northwest from the city. The farm is tenanted by Walter Hutchings. A very small boy and several large matches are responsible for the fire. The boy first set fire to some dead weeds and the blaze was so pretty that he let it creep into the straw scattered about the barns. Then the barn caught and the youngster finally became frightened and gave the alarm.

The farmers for miles around turned out and did what was possible to put out the fires, but their efforts with the meager means at hand were not very successful. The flames kept spreading and four large barns, together with their contents went up in smoke. There were 800 bushels of oats in one of the buildings and the others were filled with hay and straw.

The house and carriage barn were saved after the most strenuous exertions. The loss will amount to several thousand dollars. The buildings were insured but the contents is a total loss.

Avg.] August. Began in '77. Stock \$720 (including living rooms); owns and industrious, but means limited, and b

Oct 8th 1897

FIRE ALARM WIRES.

Commissioners Incensed at Interference and Official Supineness.

The fire commissioners discussed the trouble which has arisen over the interference with the fire alarm telegraph wires by the linemen of the Auburn Telegraph company, among other matters which came up at the regular meeting, last night.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst brought the subject before the commissioners, by making a detailed report of what had already been done in the endeavor to secure the proper punishment of the offenders and prevent a repetition of the offence. All this has been published in the ADVERTISER. Continuing, the chief said, that not only was the interference with the wires expensive to the department in the matter of repairs, but it was likely to render the telegraph unreliable. The careless placing of the department wires where, through high wind or heavy storm of sleet or snow, they might come in contact with wires carrying a heavy current was liable not only to burn out the signal boxes but the costly apparatus in the battery room at headquarters. Even human life is in danger, declared the chief. Then he related an experience of his own. It was when the Postal Telegraph company was stringing its wires in East Genesee street. One of their wires was dragged across the trolley cable and a fire alarm telegraph wire. The chief was in the battery room at the time and heard the buzzing in the repeater. He opened the circuit to find out where the trouble was, and received an electric shock which knocked him to the floor. At the same time the lineman who had been at work on the wire received a shock which knocked him from the pole. These workmen were arrested for interfering with the fire alarm telegraph and were locked up in the city jail. There wasn't any question or trouble about obtaining a warrant at that time.

Chief Jewhurst read the section of the ordinances under which a complaint had been made and the commissioners agreed that it was very plain and they could not see why decisive action had not been taken to punish the offenders. It was also stated that the legal and fire department committees of the common council, had held a conference with the chief and Wire Inspector Hulbert. The situation had been discussed, and the aldermen had asked for further time as the city's legal advisor was not positive that the question came within the aldermanic province.

"Under the circumstances," said Chief Jewhurst, "I do not feel like risking my own life or the lives of the men in the battery room. I do not wish to be the victim of anyone's carelessness. We do not know where these men are working or what they are doing and it is impossible to guard against an accident."

The commissioners deplored that such a state of affairs should exist and declared that some decisive action should be taken. It was, however, deemed expedient to wait until the aldermen had decided as to their duty in the matter, before any active steps be taken by the board.

Previously to the meeting, E. L. Parigo, foreman of Letchworth Volunteer Hose company, appeared at headquarters and served a written order for supplies on the chief engineer. "By legal authority," announced the volunteer foreman majestically as he handed the paper to the chief. The order was addressed to Chief "Jewrist." The volunteers want soap, pearly, stove pipe and broom. When the communication was presented to the board there was a broad smile and the requisition was received and filed.

The committee on apparatus reported that the headquarters' supply wagon had been repaired and placed in service. The chief reported that there had been eight alarms of fire since his last report.

Oct 27 1897

Fire Was in the Furnace.

The sexton of the Second Baptist church, corner of East Genesee and Owasco streets, kindled a fire in the furnace at noon, today. There was something the matter with the draft for the smoke, instead of going up the chimney poured out into the cellar from which it found an escape by way of the windows. People at once imagined that the building was on fire and an alarm was turned in from box 52, corner of East Genesee and Fulton streets. Patrolman Keegan and John McAlpin of Hose 2, succeeded in forcing a door just as the firemen arrived. The cause of the trouble was ascertained and it was left for the sexton to regulate it.

When the alarm was turned in, the door of the big Wheeler on the City was broken. It will be repaired, this afternoon. Oct 27-97

to support: thought barely holding his own

Nov 5 1897

THE FIRE WARDENS.

They Meet and Transact Considerable Routine Business.

The board of fire commissioners held its regular meeting, last night. There was not much business of public import although much of minor importance was discussed. Arrangements for purchasing supplies, the payment for uniforms by permanent men and other petty details of the service occupied most of the time.

While making his regular monthly reports Chief Engineer Jewhurst produced a written order from the foreman of hose 6, demanding supplies. The order was pigeon-holed.

Alfred S. Heal, a call man attached to the truck company presented his resignation which was accepted and he was ordered paid the balance of salary due him after taking out what still remained unpaid for a uniform.

Louis A. Gormer made application for appointment as call man and his request was granted. He was given the berth made vacant by Heal's resignation. Gormer was the last applicant on the waiting list but he was the only one mentioned for appointment despite the fact that a number of able and experienced firemen were waiting and had been for some time for an appointment.

Pietro Mowry, a call man, was transferred from Hose 1, to the truck company and Gormer, the new appointee was assigned to Hose 1.

The regular schedule of bills was audited and the committee expressed hope that now the winter season was coming on, the residents of the city would contribute reading matter to the firemen as liberally as they had in the past.

A resolution was adopted, offering a reward of \$20 for information which would lead to the arrest and conviction of any person who maliciously mutilated, or in any manner interfered with the alarm boxes or other portions of the fire alarm telegraph system.

The immediate cause of this action was a report by the chief engineer that a sign containing the names of key holders to a box in Fitch avenue, had been stolen. The chief was directed to have a stencil made of the resolution from which signs are to be painted and posted about the city.

Clerk Ramage reported having collected \$8 in fines, which had been turned over to the department fund.

The subject of the disobedience of the telephone company's was brought up and discussed. It was said that the board was powerless, but the council is to be urged to take some

The New York state telephone company has not obeyed the law by placing a cross arm with two pins for wires, on the top of its poles for the use of the city. The Empire State company which has heretofore obeyed the law in this matter has now struck, declaring that if the new company can violate the law with impunity the old company will try it. The matter of placing and maintaining the cross arms for the use of the city is quite expensive. A hot water heater was ordered for hose 3 and the clerk was directed to procure necessary stationery and then the board adjourned.

SOME FIERY DISCUSSION

It Arises in the Council Over Purchasing a Hose House Lot.

CITY INVESTS IN REAL ESTATE.

A Good Speculation Whether a Building is Erected or Not—Vote of Charter Election Canvassed—Alderman Olmsted's Debut in the Board—City Clerk's Assistant.

The common council met in regular session, last evening after a month's respite. It was a lively and eventful meeting, of nearly two hours' duration. Many measures of more or less importance were considered; some went through with a rush; protracted discussion was necessary to push others to a passage, and some utterly failed of sufficient support for enactment.

The members were moved by various emotions. Aldermen Burgess, Corcoran, Cross Ramage and Wiggins, fresh from their victory of re election, were of course filled with the spirit of elation consequent upon such a triumph: Aldermen McCarty and Roach who were turned down in their respective wards exhibited feelings of varying qualities. The Ninth ward representative flitted in and out of the chamber with a nervous and pre-occupied air; Alderman Roach assumed a gay exterior to disguise his grief. Aldermen Goodrich and O'Neil, who had voluntarily abandoned the race for another term acted about as usual, the one displaying his ruling passion for defending the defunct volunteer fire department; The other, imperturbable as ever to surrounding influences Alderman Olmstead, a new member who succeeded Commission erect Schicht in the First ward celebrated his introduction to the board by precipitating one of the hottest debates of the evening but as it was his first appearance on the floor he discreetly fell back and allowed others to push the resolution along. And above all, Mayor Lewis complacently and benignantly smiled once more from his desk upon the interesting proceedings.

Wrangle Over Fire Matters

By far the most animated part of the session was occasioned by the resurrection of the resolution of Alderman Schicht which had been slumbering in committee for many months, and which provided for the purchase of a plot of ground at the junction of Owasco and Miller streets for the erection of a hose house. First, the joint committee made a report which was favorable to the scheme. Then Alderman Olmstead introduced a resolution directing the clerk to issue a check for \$150, payable to the Auburn Woolen company upon receiving a deed of the premises. It further instructed the clerk to issue a check to the contractor removing the building now on the lot in payment of the work which was to be done under direction of the building committee.

The trouble started just as soon as the clerk had finished reading the resolution. Alderman Corcoran led off with a motion to lay it on the table till the new board of aldermen should be inducted into office. He also gave it as his opinion that the city had all the fire property the people needed just at present.

Alderman Goodrich sparred for wind at first by inquiring why the city should pay for moving the building when there were plenty of people willing to take it away for nothing.

A Good Investment.

Alderman Ramage defended the resolution by saying in substance that the property in question was a good site for a fire-house; a good offer had been made and the present was a good time to buy. He spoke of the liability of a rise in values in that locality in the future.

Alderman Corcoran tried to smite the resolution on the solar plexus by a declaration that if the council appropriated any money other than the required sum used for the maintenance of the fire department or in the erection of hose houses, it would be a violation of the charter.

Alderman Ramage was the first to answer this: "You can't erect a building until there is something to erect it on," said he and the other aldermen who favored the resolution smiled approvingly on the speaker, who also went on to say that the purchase of a site was, anyhow, a part of the transaction of building a hose house.

Alderman Corcoran then wanted to have the charter provision produced in evidence, but after a few minutes' futile research, he gave it up temporarily and amended his own motion to table until a new board came in. He now wanted the resolution put over until next meeting so as to "look the matter up." This was uttered in such an innocent manner that a few spectators might have really doubted that the alderman had been viewing the "matter" with X-rays for several months to find some means to frustrate its ratification.

Alderman Goodrich approved of the delay, and he tried another tack. "Why shouldn't the Auburn Woolen company donate the land to the city in consideration of the protection the company's buildings would receive from fire?" was the argument he made this time. No one replied to this parsimonious plea and the motion to table was put and lost by the following vote:

Ayes—Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, Roach—3.

Noes—Aldermen Burgess, Cross, McCarty, Olmstead, O'Neil, Ramage, Wiggins—7.

Then Alderman Burgess, in deference to Alderman Goodrich's suggestion about the cost of removing the building, asked for a division of the resolution and moved the adoption of the first part relating to the purchase of the lot.

Auburn's Benevolence Attacked.

Alderman Corcoran was against any and all parts of the proposed measure. In his mental vision he saw a structure on the premises in question costing \$5,000 or \$6,000; he saw it equipped as a fire house at an additional expense of \$5,000 or \$6,000 and he thought he saw

an increased appropriation of \$15,000 or \$16,000 to maintain the enlarged fire department. Under these circumstances he was utterly opposed to the project and recommended that the money be put in the repair of streets where it would furnish work to the great unemployed of the city. He made the remarkable statement that half of these poor people in Auburn were starving to death and, strangely enough it must be said, there was not a voice lifted in protest at this calumny on the fair name of the city.

Alderman Cross did say that the question at issue just at present was not one relating to the problem of furnishing work to everybody, but was simply a business proposition to buy a \$150 lot. He said it was improbable that the commissioners would immediately commence the expenditure of vast sums for the erection of a hose house. The lot was cheap at the price and if it were not used for many years it would be a splendid investment for the city.

In Defense of the Clubs.

A desultory discussion ensued in the course of which Alderman Goodrich was heard to remark that every alderman who voted for the resolution would put himself on record as in favor of a large expenditure for the paid fire department. As for him he mourned the loss of the volunteers who rendered valuable aid to the trained firemen. In an eloquent burst of prophetic elocution he said: "The sooner we go back to the part-volunteer system the better."

Alderman Ramage looked pityingly at the former speaker, as he rose and wanted to know who else in all the broad town wanted to go back to that old foggy system, that relic of wayback times.

Alderman McCarty who had been out and in during the debate, tried to cut it short by demanding a roll call. He was partially successful, for after Alderman Roach—who wanted to put off the matter—had enjoyed a little tilt with Alderman Burgess—who didn't want to put it off, the clerk was finally allowed to proceed. The result was that the Olmstead resolution to buy the lot was carried 7 to 3 as follows:

Ayes—Aldermen Burgess, Cross, McCarty, Olmstead, O'Neil, Ramage, Wiggins—7.

Noes—Aldermen Corcoran, Goodrich, Roach—3.

Then upon motion of Alderman Burgess, the latter part of the resolution relating to removing the building was laid upon the table to be disposed of later.

Enter Alderman Olmstead.

The session opened under the head of "special orders" for the purpose of certifying to the election of the city and ward officers. The vote was canvassed in remarkably brief time and the first thing done was to declare George B. Olmstead duly elected alderman from the First ward to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Alderman Schicht, police commissioner-elect. This was followed by a declaration announcing all the other successful candidates at the recent election. Then Mr. Olmstead, who had occupied a seat near the city attorney's desk rose and went to the clerk's desk, where he took the constitutional oath of office and immediately entered upon his duties.

For a time things moved smoothly. A petition for a rebate of a sewer tax amounting to \$18.08 on the premises, 51 Franklin, was referred to the sewer committee and legal committee.

The Electric Train Bulletin company of Ithaca asked permission to string wires from the local railway stations to the hotels and the matter was referred to the street committee. The work of stringing the wires, by the way, had already been commenced.

City Attorney Pierce submitted a report announcing that Bennett Offenbergh who occupied a house on city property, had paid back rent amounting to \$59, which sum by previous order of the council had been turned over to the building committee to pay the cost of repairing the buildings. The attorney further reported that as yet he had been unable to obtain a conveyance of an easement on certain property through which the Parker street and Ross place sewer was to run on account of a recent change of ownership. He hoped to obtain it as soon as the new owner returned to town. It seems that the contract for constructing the sewer had been awarded to Jerry Corkery who had already removed his tile to the ground.

In response to a request of the police board for \$100 a check for that amount was ordered.

The mayor's veto of the resolution preventing the trolley road from crossing the Lehigh track at grade at Genesee street was read and on motion of Alderman Roach it was received and filed.

The clerk reported the collection of \$15 for dog, bicycle and concert hall licenses.

The hearing of people interested in the proposed construction of a sewer in Seminary, Holley and Nelson streets was postponed till next meeting upon motion of Ald. Wiggins.

Dr. Setton spoke in favor of the proposed sewer to relieve the needs of The Pines hospital. He urged its immediate construction, telling at length of the existing conditions. By resolution of Alderman McCarty, introduced later, the council determined to build the sewer, and the committee on sewers was instructed to ascertain the compensation demanded by Dorcas Woodruff and Joseph Hodder whose hands will be crossed by the sewer.

The committee on legal proceedings submitted a report which was adverse to the claim of Mrs. Sarah M. Gilbert and to the change in the bicycle ordinances as proposed by Alderman Roach.

Mrs. Gilbert fell on a sidewalk in Green street some time last winter and for the alleged injuries caused by the fall she asked damages in the sum of \$100. Alderman Roach's resolution was to grant a special privilege to working people between 6 and 7 p. m. each day, by allowing them to ride their wheels without lamps lighted. This was such a flagrant display of class legislation that the committee opposed it; and further more on the grounds that the hour designated is the busiest one in the day when the streets are full of hurrying vehicles. The report was received.

Several resolutions providing for the erection of new electric lamps had been referred to the lighting committee which made an adverse report last night on account of the depleted condition of the lamp fund.

The joint committee appointed to provide for the construction of a surface water drain over the trunk sewer in the Ninth ward from Parker to Garrow streets, reported that the contract had been let to Bahn & Frotzheim for \$330.98. The committee also recommended the construction of two conduits at an expense not to exceed \$50, which was adopted.

Clerk's Hours Lengthened

In a preamble and resolution introduced by Alderman Goodrich, the increased burden which had been placed on the clerk's shoulders was referred to and a new official position—that of assistant to the clerk—was created to relieve him of a share of the labors. The office hours were also lengthened so that more time each day may be devoted to the public business. Hitherto the hours have been from 10 a. m. to 12 m. and from 2 to 4 p. m. By the Goodrich resolution the hours hereafter will be from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. continuously and the assistant clerk will receive \$30 a month.

It was directed that warrants be issued to the city treasurer for the collection of taxes on sewer improvements in Morris street and in Water, West and Washington streets.

By resolution of Alderman Corcoran the burying ground committee was authorized to purchase six chairs and an oil stove at a maximum cost of \$9, for the use of the North street cemetery sexton.

City Half Holiday Proposed.

An effort was made by Alderman Ramage to give the same privilege to the city officers which is enjoyed by the officials of state and county, as regards the Saturday half holiday. His resolution to the effect that all city offices should close at 12 o'clock noon on each Saturday, was prefaced by the remark that there should not be any distinction between city officials and those of the county and state.

Alderman Goodrich sarcastically quoted the mayor's language concerning the board's interference with the state law governing trolley tracks crossing steam roads. "The state law," said he, "governs the matter and why does this council interfere?"

Somebody remarked that the state law only dealt with state and county officers, when Alderman Burgess raised the objection that the board couldn't compel the closing of any office. "If the city treasurer wanted to keep his office open," said the alderman, "why we can't help it."

Alderman Goodrich fell in with this idea, and upon his motion the resolution was tabled till next meeting.

By resolution of Alderman Roach the street committee was instructed to ascertain and report the cost of a new stone crusher of a capacity of twenty-five tons an hour, and the session came to an end.

An Explosion in Court Street.

A lamp exploded in the apartments of Miss Anna A. Keefe, 3 Court street, at 6:16 o'clock, Saturday night. The fire department was telephoned, but before its arrival the blaze had been extinguished by Miss Keefe whose presence of mind prevented a serious conflagration.

A Chimney Ablaze.

After another long period without an alarm of fire the firemen were given a run, last Saturday night. The call was from box 25, corner of Genesee and Mechanic streets at 7:10 o'clock, and the fire was in the chimney of the old house, 53 Mechanic street. The house is at the head of Lincoln street, and is occupied by Silas Adams. The blaze was extinguished before the arrival of the firemen, much to the disappointment of the immense crowd which gathered to enjoy the excitement. There wasn't any damage to the building.

Fire Commissioners Not Appeared With Mere Promises.

The board of fire commissioners did its work expeditiously, last night. Whether it was because Police Commissioner-elect Schicht was a spectator of the proceedings, or whether there was another cause for this unusual speed, deponent saith not. There wasn't any important business to be considered, nothing but department matters uninteresting to the public.

The supply committee reported that a new water meter had been placed in the quarters of Hose 3. A new range and washing machine had been ordered for the laundry.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported that there had been three calls for the department since the last meeting, but neither of the fires had been serious. The chief also reported upon the discipline of the department. The report was received and filed.

The regular schedule of claims was audited, and Chief Jewhurst was directed to fit headquarters buildings with a house alarm system. The present system in headquarters is very crude and cannot be extended. A work shop has been made in the store house building, and the new call system is to be extended there. Recently when working in the storehouse the firemen have been left when a still alarm has been sent in. This new system is to cost only \$10 or \$12, as the work will be done by the firemen. The supply committee was directed to procure necessary bedding for the department.

The trouble with the New York state telephone company was briefly discussed. Mr. Smith had brought the matter to the attention of City Attorney Pierce. He had sent for Superintendent Brace who had declared that the present system of the company was only a temporary construction. Whatever poles were needed by the fire department would be made to conform with the requirements of the charter and the franchise of the company, if application were made to the telephone people. Mr. Pierce had advised that this arrangement be accepted by the commissioners. "I don't take any stock in this temporary construction business myself," said Mr. Moore.

"I don't either," affirmed Mr. Smith. "I don't like the city attorney's idea, either. It puts us in the position of asking the company to please give us what is already ours. I have spoken to several of the aldermen about it and they have agreed to look into the matter. I think they should, for there may be other city departments besides ours which will want to use these poles in the future. The other electrical companies in the city are following in the wake of the automatic telephone people and are erecting poles without putting in a cross arm and leaving a space at the top for the city wires. This will cause an immense amount of trouble in the future if it isn't stopped now. At this point the discussion was dropped and the board adjourned.

State to be \$1,000,000

Dec 7 1897

THE CITY BUYING REAL ESTATE.

NEW HOSE HOUSE LOT PURCHASED.

Considerable Discussion Over the Matter—Holley Street Sewer Question Also Debated Vigorously—Not a Peep About That Awful "Raid on the Treasury."

The aldermen were on their good behavior, last night. It may be a surprise to their constituents to learn the fact, but it is as true as gospel that the members of the common council can be the most dignified of legislators when the spell is on them, and they had one of those spells last night. Perhaps it was because Alderman Pack of Syracuse, was an observant spectator of their proceedings, that things ran with such exceeding smoothness. Whatever the cause, it was effective, and only twice during the evening was there any argument. A large amount of business was done, too, for the session occupied a full hour. As there was the usual delay in getting to work it was 8:20 o'clock before the preliminary roll was enunciated, by the clerk. It was a regular session and every member was present from Mayor Lewis to Lonny Hurd, the venerable messenger.

As soon as the roll call had been completed, Alderman Cross moved that Alderman Pack of Syracuse, be invited to a seat on the council floor. Everybody agreed in extending the honor to the Salt City representative. He was escorted to a seat near the mayor's throne by City Attorney Pierce. Then the regular routine of business was commenced.

Things moved along as deliciously peaceful as pouring molasses out of a barrel in flytime, until the order of notions, resolutions and notices, was reached. Under this head Alderman Olmsted moved to take from the table and adopt the resolution offered by ex-Alderman Schicht, some time ago to purchase from the Auburn Woolen company the lot at the corner of Owasco and Miller streets, for the erection of a hose house, at a cost of \$150 and the expense of moving from the lot the building which at present encumbers it.

Alderman Corcoran was on his feet in an instant with Fifth ward pugacity delineated in his countenance. "Your honor, we'd violate a provision of the city charter if we passed that resolution. The charter says that we mustn't spend a cent for the fire department excepting to build hose houses. We haven't any right to buy land for fire department purposes. If the fire commissioners want a hose house, let 'em buy the lot and then if the council sees fit it can build the hose house."

"The question is on the adoption of the resolution, gentlemen," said the mayor as the alderman took his seat.

"I call for the city attorney's opinion on the question before it's put," announced Alderman Corcoran bobbing up again. "Let's see what he has to say."

"All right" assented his honor, good humoredly. While Messenger Hurd was gone to bring Mr. Pierce from his office, Mayor Lewis leaned over his desk and with the same good natured smile said: "I'm afraid Pierce will decide against you 'Jerry.'"

"Not unless he's in league with the five commissioners, he won't," was the reply. Mr. Pierce did decide against the alderman from the Fifth. The law, the attorney said, held that the right given to a municipal body to erect a building also gave them the right to purchase the necessary land. The court of appeals had held this in several cases.

"That lets me out. I don't understand the law," said Mr. Corcoran. Mr. Roach wanted a more detailed explanation which was given at some length by the city attorney.

"Of course we have the power to buy the land for the building," said Alderman Cross. "Where would you put the building if you didn't buy land? Build it on atmosphere?"

"Let the fire commissioners purchase the land and if the council sees fit, then we can put up a building. They get \$16,000 now and they want to have it increased to \$25,000 or \$30,000. They want to grab this out of our contingent fund."

"I understood the statement to be made on this floor at the last meeting, that the council didn't want to build a hose house on the lot," chimed in Alderman Goodrich.

"Not immediately," amended Alderman Wiggins.

"Well, we can buy the lot to build a store house on, and later we can build a hose house on it, if we want to," said Alderman Cross.

"No, you can't buy it to build a store house on," from Mr. Corcoran. "I'll have it to the gentleman from the First. You can't buy it for such a purpose can you?" turning to Mr. Olmsted.

"We want a hose house there," returned Mr. Olmsted.

"There, I know you couldn't buy it to build a store house. They want it to protect the woolen mill. That's all. They've got a hose house up there amply large enough to protect that end of the city, I tell you."

Then arose a debate as to the exact wording of the charter on the subject. Mr. Pierce produced a copy of the city charter and read the section in dispute. A vote was taken and the resolution was adopted, seven to three. Alderman Corcoran, Roach and Goodrich voting in the negative.

Alderman Burgess moved to take from the table his resolution, offered at the previous session, regarding the removal of the building from the lot and added to it that the work of removal be left to the committee on city buildings. The resolution was carried by the same vote as the other vote, seven to three.

The other discussion was in regard to the construction of a sewer in Holley, Seminary and Nelson streets. Early in the session a hearing was granted to the residents of those streets on the subject Frank S. Coburn of the firm of Coburn & Hunter was the only one to respond.

He announced that he appeared for the residents of Holley street who were opposed to the improvement. He had a remonstrance signed by every property owner in Holley street and he believed in Seminary street. He did not wish to appear as personally opposed to public improvements, because usually he was in favor of them, but in this instance he was compelled to say that he believed a sewer should not be ordered by the council. The residents of Holley street were poor people and it was unnecessary to remind the council that these were hard times. A sewer tax at this time would come very hard on these people. Some time ago the natural water course which drains this district was enlarged by the city and the residents naturally took it for granted that this was to be a permanent improvement. Many of them at large expense had made drain connections with it. If the new sewer was ordered for what they be compelled to pay again for what they already possessed. As a last reason he urged that Holley and Seminary streets had just been repaired. For ten or twelve years Holley street had been in wretched condition. Now, it was one of the finest streets in the city. It would be a shame to tear it up after so much money had been spent upon it so recently. The remonstrance was received by the council.

In the natural course of events Clerk Herring read a resolution by Alderman Ramage, directing the construction of the obnoxious sewer in accordance with plans and specifications preferred by City Engineer Austin.

"Can't you get along without building that part of the sewer in Holley street?" asked Alderman Roach. "I'm not opposed to sewers, I've voted for every one that came along, but I don't want to vote for one in a street where everybody is opposed to it."

"I shall be compelled to vote 'no' on that part of the sewer," announced Alderman Goodrich.

"It seems a pity to tear up that street after it has cost so much," commented Alderman Roach.

Alderman Ramage explained that he did not wish to antagonize his constituents, but the sewer would have to be constructed or the board of health would order it done. The old water course was inadequate to carry off both the house drainage and the surface water, and the sewers backed up into the cellars of the residents of Nelson street. There was at present a bill filed with the council, by one property owner for \$80 or \$90 and others stood ready to file similar claims.

Mayor Lewis didn't see who in Seminary street was going to be taxed for the sewer. The people on the south side of the street had ample drainage into the old water course. In fact they couldn't drain into a sewer in the street. The owners of the property where he boarded had only recently expended \$200 to connect with the sewer in North street and it would be monstrous to ask them to pay for another sewer, and one which he had his doubts about being able to drain into. The old water course was big enough. "Why, you can roll a barrel through the inside of it," he announced, triumphantly. Then the North street sewer was not large enough to carry off this additional drainage. The North street sewer overflowed now, every time there was a heavy storm.

City Engineer Austin was called upon to explain his plans. He declared them to be the cheapest method of remedying the existing difficulty. The matter was laid on the table until the next meeting, that the aldermen might investigate and become more conversant with the question.

In between the discussions permission was granted D. W. Barnes & Son to erect a frame building in Wall street, to be used as a carpentry shop and saw mill, the necessary permission of the adjoining property owners and the five commissioners having been obtained.

The petitions of Frank C. Gove to erect a private telephone line in Augustus street and John J. O'Neil in Monroe street, were referred to committee on legal proceedings. The petition of the Y. M. C. A. and other interested parties for two electric lights in Mary street extension was referred to the lighting committee.

Arthur Whipples protested against paying an assessment for the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth wards sewer system, as his property is a mile from the nearest sewer of the system and it will be years, if ever, before he can obtain any benefit from it. The matter was referred to the legal committee.

City Engineer Austin reported the completion of sewers in the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth wards sewer system by Hahn & Froitzheim and Contractor Corkery.

City Clerk Herring reported the receipt of \$29.59 from bicycle, dog and concert hall licenses. Sidewalk Inspector Helfer presented his report as did also Chief of Police MacMaster in regard to the electric lamps unlighted during the month of November.

Some changes were made necessary in the standing committees by the resignation of Alderman Schicht and the election of Alderman Olmsted. Alderman Olmsted is made chairman of the lighting committee; he also has a place on the building committee and the committee on poor accounts. Alderman Cross is removed from the chairmanship of the lighting committee and is made chairman of the more important committee on city buildings.

The finance committee reported a number of claims which were of course ordered paid.

On recommendation of the committee on drains and sewers a check was ordered in favor of Agnes G. Hogan, to refund her for an unlawful sewer tax. Through a mistake of the assessors her property was included in the Sixth ward sewer assessment when her property is beyond the sewer district limits. The committee also reported that the right of way for the Ross place sewer across private property had been obtained from all but two of the property owners. On recommendation it was determined to make the contracts for the construction of the sewer for only so far as the rights of way had been secured.

A franchise was granted to the company which has already constructed and is operating the electric train bulletin service which connects the railway stations and hotels.

The committee on streets and bridges reported in favor of purchasing a No. 3 Climax stone crusher, several members of the committee and Street Superintendent Jennings having seen one of the machines in operation at Oriskany Falls, where its work was highly satisfactory.

On motion of Alderman O'Neill the street superintendent was directed to open Hardenburgh avenue, lands for which had recently been acquired by the city by condemnation proceedings.

Fred R. Rich was granted a deed of a triangular piece of land at the intersection of Easterly and Westlake avenue, on motion of Alderman McCarty. The condition upon which the deed is given is that Mr. Rich shall bind himself and his heirs, successors and assigns to erect and forever maintain a stone curb about the land.

Michael Nolan was appointed inspector of the Ross Place sewer, on motion of Alderman McCarty. Compensation was fixed at 25 cents an hour.

A Fast Walker—Fast Asleep.

One of the firemen at headquarters had a day off, yesterday. There is nothing peculiar about that because he has called a day off once a week, that is, it is only a day by courtesy, but in reality, this fireman spent the evening at the Y. M. C. A. ice rink. It was his first time on skates this season and he grew very tired before the evening was ended. He turned in as soon as he reached headquarters, and was soon in the arms of Morpheus, if the nasal discord which he produced was a correct symptom.

Everything passed off all right until 4:30 this morning, when he rose and in the fantastic drapery of the night, he wandered about the building. He was finally returned to his cot still fast asleep. The trouble now is, that his fellow firemen have related to him all sorts of strange things which he did during his somnambulist performance. The queer places he visited and the adventures he took part in, according to their story would be sufficient to horrify any man.

Fifteen-One, Fifteen-Two.

The firemen at department headquarters are preparing for a cribbage tournament. Ex-Fire Commissioner J. H. Pearson has offered a handsome prize for the winner and the men are getting ready for the desperate fray.

PIERCE PROMPTLY ELECTED

The Petty Attack Upon His Character Utterly Without Effect.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS RETAINED

Only One Change in the Old Regime—Bids for a Stone Crusher—More Sewers Needed—A \$15,000 Suit Against the City.

The first meeting of the common council under the revised charter, for the appointment of city officers not elected by the people was held, last evening. In every instance save one, the outgoing official was reinstated, the single exception being Napoleon B. Ford, sealer of weights and measures. There were seven aspirants for the place, exclusive of the incumbent and after a lively competition the race was given to George S. Ramage, a brother of the Sixth ward alderman.

Of course Mr. Pierce was reappointed to the office of city attorney. The plot recently hatched by his traducers utterly failed of its intended effect, and Mr. Pierce received the stamp of approval from seven members of the council. Outside of the struggle for sealer which required fourteen ballots to determine the victor, there was not enough strife to arouse interest and the voting proceeded listlessly, until the following list of appointees had been completed:

City attorney—Lavern A. Pierce.
Fire commissioner—Goldborough C. Smith.
City surveyor—Dewitt F. Austin.
Keeper of the City hall—James Hanlon.
Sealer of weights and measures—G. S. Ramage.
City scavenger—Robert Hazlett.
Sidewalk inspector—John Helfert.
Dog catcher—Henry Bremer.
City sexton—Charles Tuxell.
Inspector of electric wires and poles—John W. Hulbert, jr.
Janitor of the common council chamber—Alonzo M. Hurd.

COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS.

First ward—Thomas Hoyle.
Second ward—Frederick M. Hosmer.
Third ward—Kendrick Vail.
Fourth ward—Michael M. Pomeroy.
Fifth ward—J. Henry Kerr.
Sixth ward—Charles W. Bray.
Seventh ward—Howard N. Goodrich.
Eighth ward—Patrick W. Quigley.
Ninth ward—Luke J. Lane.
Tenth ward—Enos B. Ives.

For an hour prior to the assemblage of the members, the corridors of the city hall swarmed with candidates and their friends, who vied with numerous representatives of crusher makers, in an attempt to obtain the support of the mayor and aldermen. The stone crusher men were the most persistent of the lot. Each one of them wanted to sell one of his machines to the city and they were not at all backward in crying the particular advantages of their wares. Each firm represented had submitted a proposal for furnishing a crusher plant, but the council was too busy to consider the matter, last night, and so, at 11 o'clock an adjournment was taken until tonight when the merits of the various machines will receive attention.

Dark hints were thrown out before the session that the aldermen proposed to adopt a resolution providing for the payment of salaries to members of the council—for the mayor \$500 a year and for the aldermen \$350. Owing to vigorous protests of the mayor who declared he would veto any such measure, nothing was said about it at the meeting.

Considerable discussion was also held previously to the session, on the subject of appointing a successor to Thomas Speares, fire commissioner, whose term in office, so it was argued by some, ex-

pealed to and he settled the dispute by saying that Commissioner Smith, who had held over from last March went out at that time and Commissioner Speares' term would be extended until next January according to the provisions of the revised charter. The only officials to be chosen in March are water commissioner and commissioner of Soule cemetery, these appointments being provided for by special legislative acts.

The lobbying ceased at 8:30 o'clock and every solon was in his seat when the mayor's gavel fell. The audience room was filled and the crowd extended out into the hall, where it awaited patiently the outcome of the elections.

A petition from William Fosgate to erect three double dwelling houses on the premises, corner of Grover and School streets and to remove the present frame structure to the rear of the lot, was granted upon motion of Alderman Burgess.

Edward Petty of Chapel street was granted a license as an expressman by resolution of Alderman Coreoran.

A communication was received from 114 taxpayers, protesting against the rumored abolition of the office of dog catcher, and asking that Henry Bremer, the incumbent, be continued in that position. The petition was ordered filed, and, at the proper time, the prayer was answered.

City Attorney Pierce submitted a report on the condition of the two actions pending against the city. The Hughes case, he stated, had been appealed to the court of appeals. In the case of Jones, he recommended a settlement upon terms satisfactory to the plaintiff. The trial of the Van Housen case, a similar action to that of Thomas Jones, had settled the issues in the case, and he urged that the amount of the Jones claim, aggregating \$280, including costs,

Dec 11 1897

Blazing Soot.

Soot in the chimney of the house No. 64 1-2 West street, caught fire this morning, and the Rangers at Hose 3 were telephoned at 7:30 o'clock. Two chemical charges were necessary to extinguish the blaze. There wasn't any material damage. The house is occupied by two families. A woman named King who lives in the basement bewailed the fact that the fire in the stove had been extinguished and the house would get old. She didn't mind a little thing like a fire in the chimney.

Dec 27 1897

One Christmas Dinner.

Among the many Christmas merry-makings which gladdened the merriest holiday of the year, none was pleasanter than the dinner given by Harry Ginsburg, to his friends, the firemen, and incidentally a few others Harry has been a frequent guest of the hospitality of the firemen and now that he is prospering, and has become a real merchant and proprietor of a store, he wished to return the courtesy. Christmas is Harry's birthday and so that was chosen for the entertainment. As the firemen couldn't all leave headquarters to attend the dinner, he determined to bring the dinner to them. So the smoking room at headquarters was decorated for the occasion and the feast was laid there. Miss Dennis was the caterer, and furnished a substantial menu. Roast turkey, roast duck, with all that is necessary to complete a dinner, was spread before the guests at 10 o'clock. Later in the evening, the host entertained the guests with feats of legerdemain. It is said that Kellar does some tricks which Harry can't, while Harry does some that Kellar won't. Harry was given many valuable and altogether the

be settled for \$160 which the plaintiff had agreed to accept in full payment. Later in the session, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Ramage directing that a check for that amount be paid to Rich & Alken, attorneys for the plaintiff, and it was unanimously adopted. Plans for a sewer in Kitchell street were submitted by the city surveyor. They were adopted by resolution of Alderman Ramage and a hearing of interested property owners was ordered for next meeting.

The street superintendent reported that the road beds in Bailey street and Fitch avenue had been restored to a proper condition and by resolution of Alderman McCarty a check in the sum of \$148.60 was ordered paid to S. C. Adams & Son, contractors, in payment of the final 10 per cent of the cost of sewer construction in those thoroughfares.

Clerk Herrling reported receipt since his last report of \$41 for licenses. The report of City Treasurer Jaekel for the quarter ending December 31, was received and filed. It showed the following balances standing to the credit of the several funds:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Contingent	\$ 1,528 78
City tax of 1897	10,282 51
City tax fees	69 11
Bridge	24 48
Fire department	8,500 25
Health	2,451 25
Light	247 24
Police	10,239 41
Paving	127 16
Park	11 38
Quarry	1 79
Street	2,337 17
Street contingent	1,228 12
Southern Central Railway bond	2,515 43
Interest on deposits	618 79
G. A. R. relief	274 14
Sewer district No. 1	3,854 74
Sewer district No. 2	1,227 19
Sewer district No. 3	1,312 49
Worcester and Canoga Sts. sewer	342 24
Morris St. sewer	78 37
Washington St. sewer	85 50
Washington and West St. sewer	25 10
Palsifer St. improvement	122 61
Special sewer deposits, final 10 per cent	621 00
Total	\$58,890 00

The board of fire commissioners reported receipts during the past quarter amounting to \$12,576 81; disbursements \$4,016,55; balance on hand \$8,560 26

The quarterly report of Recorder Clark showed the amount of fines collected by him to be \$238; collected by sheriff the previous quarter, \$39; collected by sheriff the past quarter, \$31; total, \$308.

Threatened With a Big Suit.

Mayor Lewis made a statement at this point in the proceedings. He said that Attorneys Drummond and Hughtitt had called on him to know what conclusion the council had come to in the matter of Patrick Hyland, a laborer who was killed last winter by a blast in the city quarry. The mayor explained that damages in the sum of \$15,000 had been demanded by the widow, upon which the legal committee had reported adversely. The attorneys had said they did not desire to bring an action providing the matter could be settled, or if the city did what was right "if it were not settled right off," said the mayor "they propose to commence a suit." The mayor said the lawyers wanted to know the following day what was going to be done.

Alderman Goodrich asked the legal committee's grounds for rejecting the claim.

Alderman Cross said he didn't think it was proper to divulge the reasons for the committee's action if the matter was coming to trial.

The mayor was not so reticent. Said he: "I've talked with El Hail and some of the men who were in the quarry at the time of the blast and they said it couldn't be helped. I guess it was just caused by the man poppin' his head up from behind a big stone just in time to get pecked. It was one of those unavoidable misfortunes."

The matter was discussed in a desultory way for a time and then it was dropped with the idea that the attorneys could go ahead if they saw fit.

The clerk announced the receipt of a number of proposals for erecting a stone crushing plant in the city quarry. Alderman Burgess suggested that the bids be referred to the committee of the whole to be considered later. Alderman Rosch moved that the bids be opened at once. The motion was lost, 3 to 7, and the subject was deferred until later in the evening.

A report was made by the finance committee and E. S. Newton, which stated that they had examined the books and accounts of City Treasurer Jaekel from July 1 to Dec 31, and that everything had been found correct.

The committee on drains and sewers reported having examined the old sewers in the Sixth ward, running from Holley to North streets, and recommended that it be cleaned out and all closets be removed from over the sewer.

A resolution by Alderman Ramage that the work as recommended be done under the direction of the sewer committee, provoked opposition. Alderman Burgess wanted to know the estimated cost. Alderman O'Neil thought it would be less than \$700. Alderman Burgess said he didn't consider it fair that the other wards of the city should contribute for the benefit of the Sixth ward.

Alderman Rosch moved that the matter lie on the table, but Alderman Ramage said that something must be done immediately for the relief of the people in the territory affected. Then ensued much debate until the question was finally put on the Rosch motion to table. It resulted in a tie of 5 votes and the mayor decided the motion lost.

Then Alderman Ramage called for the original resolution but it was lost by a vote of six to four. Thereupon the alderman insisted that the people were in need of some relief and he moved that the clerk advertise for proposals for building a new sewer according to the recently adopted plans.

A complicated debate followed. The mayor advised delay until spring so as not to damage the roadbeds. Alderman O'Neil said the condition of the streets was of not so much importance as the health of the inhabitants. Others joined with Alderman O'Neil in declaring the present sewer in its urban state, was a nuisance that should be abated. Alderman Cross insisted that there were reasons, which should not be made public why relief should be granted in some form or other, at once. The Ramage motion was then carried unanimously.

By resolution of Alderman McCarty it was agreed to apply for the appointment of a commission to determine the price to be paid for land proposed to be taken in the construction of a sewer from Cornell street across lands of Nathaniel Hodder and Dorcas Woodruff to The Pines.

By resolution of Alderman O'Neil the cost of the Hardenburgh avenue extension was determined to be \$825 76 and bonds were ordered issued the avails of which shall be used to pay the awards made by the commissioners and other expenses. It was also ordered that this sum with interest, aggregating \$875.59 be assessed upon the real property benefited by the improvement.

The bids of the crusher companies were then opened. There was a variety of proposals for crushing plants complete and for parts of the outfit with prices ranging from \$1,500 to over \$3,000. During the reading of the proposals and accompanying specifications, the several agents of the manufacturers were very alert to their own interests and frequently interrupted the proceedings to request the reading of certain provisions in their communications. This was done, until Alderman Burgess became exasperated and made a motion that the men behind the scenes remain quiet and allow business to proceed. The concerns that bid on the crusher plant and the prices are here-with given:

- The Aitman Co., Canton, Ohio, \$1750;
- Dailey & Co., Syracuse, \$1800; Gates Iron Works, Chicago, \$3166, and \$1970; Climax Road Machine Co., Marathon, four proposals, namely, \$1877 63, \$1760 50, \$1558 42 and \$1650 63, with a mass of detailed bidding for lumber, felt roofing etc.

Upon motion of Alderman McCarty the council agreed that the matter be considered in committee of the whole at an adjourned session this evening.

How the Appointments were Made.

Then, after former Aldermen Hanlon and Welsh, and Alderman-elect Emerson had taken seats within the rail, upon invitation of the board, the election of city officers was commenced.

An informal ballot was first taken for city attorney, resulting as follows: Laverne A. Pierce, 7; William Miller Collier, 2; Blank, 2. The formal ballot which followed resulted in the choice of Mr. Pierce by a vote of 7 to 4 for Mr. Collier. Thereafter all ballots were formal.

Goldsborough C Smith was returned to the board of fire commissioners by a vote of 7 to 3 for J. Had Pearson and 1 blank.

City Surveyor Austin was reappointed to the position by a vote of 7 to 4 scattering.

James Hanlon had evidently proved his efficiency as keeper of the city hall, for he received every one of the eleven votes for reappointment.

Then came the tedious competition for sealer of weights and measures. The candidates who received more or less support were: George S. Ramage, who was elected on the fourteenth ballot by a vote of 7 to 2 for John P. Hennessy; 1 for Percy Shea, and 1 blank; N. B. Ford, who received two votes at the outset and quickly dropped out of the race; Daniel J. McCarthy who was in the struggle at one time with four backers; Henry Collins who reached three votes on two occasions; E. C. Soper who led off with two, and clung rather steadily to one vote for several laps until distanced; James Geraghty, who on the eighth ballot carried three adherents and James McDowell, who received solitary recognition in the seventh round.

When the second ballot had been announced the board proceeded to ballot for a city sexton upon motion of Alderman Rosch, and the clerk cast the vote of the council for Charles Tuxell, upon motion of Alderman Goodrich.

Then balloting for a sealer was resumed until the eighth ballot had been declared, when upon motion of Alderman Cross, the council selected the other officers before returning to the more difficult task of the evening.

For dog catcher, Henry Bremer received 10 votes to 1 for Frank Speck.

The choice of a janitor of the council chamber produced the usual amount of facetiousness, two ballots being taken. Hurd was allayed by reappointment. On the second ballot Alonzo M. Hurd received 9 votes to 2 for Frank Speck and the veteran janitor started on his 40th consecutive year as a city official.

Upon motion the clerk cast the ballot of the council for the several commissioners of deeds as designated by each alderman and as printed at the opening of this report.

There was but one candidate for sidewalk inspector, and, upon motion of Alderman Olmstead, the clerk cast the ballot of the council for the present incumbent, John Helfer.

On the ballot for city scavenger, Robert Hazlitt was reappointed by a vote of eight votes, to one for J. H. Hazlitt, one for Henry Collins and one for Percy Shea.

For wire inspector John W. Hulbert, Jr., received nine votes to two for Edward O'Hara.

Then the board took six more ballots for sealer of weights and measures resulting in the choice of G. S. Ramage, when adjournment was taken until this evening.

'94, previously in this line at us: "Stock \$900, ins. \$1,000; property; rent \$300." Seems to basis for credit away from home.

'93. States to us: "Stock \$900, le means; rent \$300." Reputed limited credit. '94 sales stated

Jan 7 1898

STRUCK GAS!

Not at the Well but in the Meeting of the Fire Commissioners.

There is one thing which the fire commissioners cannot understand any more than the rest of humanity. That is, the mysterious workings of the frisky gas meter. The gas bill was one of the subjects discussed by the commissioners at their regular meeting, last night. The bill declared that 5,000 feet more was consumed at headquarters during the month of December than during November. There had not been any increase in the number of lights used and the men had not kept any later hours. When it came to the auditing of bills Mr. Moore protested mildly against the charge. A check was ordered, but Chief Engineer Jewhurst was ordered to investigate and see whether some mistake had been made or whether there was a leak in the pipe.

President Smith was still absent in Greater New York and so Commissioner Speares presided. Mr. Moore said that he might just as well get his hand in as to wait until later. By the rules of precedent, established by the commissioners years and years ago, the honor of presiding over the deliberations of the board is conferred upon each member in turn during the last year of his term. Only once has the rule been violated. That was when J. Had Pearson, Mark Cunningham and George H. Battams comprised the board. When it came to the election there was some little feeling between the members. One of the trio had not agreed with all that had been done. On the surface everything was smooth, but there was a strong undercurrent.

The member whose turn it was to be president never doubted that the rule would be preserved intact, and so when it came to balloting, he modestly voted for the minority member. Just at that time the appointment of committees counted for considerable and the minority member wanted the honor himself so he voted for himself, and was elected. The look of amused surprise on the faces of the other two when the result was announced was something never to be forgotten. M. J. McCartin succeeded Mr. Battams in the board shortly afterward.

There will be nothing of that kind this year. The members of the board are in perfect accord and when the time comes Mr. Speares will be made president. Clerk Ramage will also be re-appointed.

Well, all this ancient history hasn't anything in particular to do with the meeting, last night. Mr. Speares presided as naturally as though he had been all his life governing fire meetings and everything passed off smoothly.

After the usual uninteresting preliminaries, Chief Engineer Jewhurst presented his regular reports, and there was a whole lot of them. First he reported the receipt of necessary supplies which had been purchased by the supply committee. Then he declared the house alarm system had been completed and was in perfect working order at a cost of about \$11. Next he detailed the particulars of the one measly little chimney fire which had occurred since the last meeting. Then he gave a resume of the discipline of the department. A detailed report of the contingent fund in his hands showed that it was overdrawn in the sum of \$143. He finally concluded by announcing that the water pipes in the quarters of Volunteer hose 5 were frozen stiff.

stock and brought the balance here; dealers here, and occupies the ground

John Mansell of hose 3, a call man, who had been absent from quarters without leave, was fined a dollar. A long schedule of bills was audited, during which Mr. Moore entered his protest against the increase in the gas bill. The chief engineer was reimbursed for \$142 deficiency in the contingent fund and a check for \$10 was ordered to replenish the fund. The frozen water pipes of hose 5 were referred to the building committee. The matter of having two cracked gongs re-cast was referred to the chief engineer, who had ascertained that they could be made as well and much more cheaply in this city than in other cities. The salaries of the officers of the board and the call men of the department were ordered paid and then the board adjourned until Monday evening, when the officers will be elected for the ensuing year.

Jan 11 1898

A FIREMAN HURT.

Driver Anton Dragged by His Team and Nearly Skinned Alive.

As the result of an accidental tip-over of the fire department supply wagon this morning. Joseph Anton, driver of Hose 1, was severely injured. Anton was giving his team its regular morning exercise shortly before 8 o'clock. He overtook Fred H. Stout on the way to his duties at the prison, invited him to ride, and the invitation was accepted. When the driver attempted to turn around in front of the prison gate, he did not calculate on the heavy wagon sliding on the icy pavement, and therefore did not greatly slacken the speed of his team. The wagon is rather top heavy and not having any ballast, it slewed around, the wheels struck the trolley track with a bang and it was overturned in an instant. The horses of course started to run.

One of Anton's feet became entangled in the reins and in jumping from the overturning vehicle he was thrown face downward on the pavement. He pluckily clung to the horses and was dragged to the trolley power house, where he succeeded in guiding them on to the sidewalk where they were stopped. Anton was in a sorry plight. A deep gash extended from one jaw to the other, beneath the chin; another cut began at the left eyebrow and extended the full length of the nose nearly severing one side of the nostril; a third wound cut from the lip to the chin, while the left side of his face was nearly denuded of cuticle and his body was covered with bruises and abrasions of a minor character. He was assisted to Dr. Gerin's office where his wounds were dressed, after which he was taken to his home in Mattie street.

Mr Stout escaped more luckily. He managed to free himself from the wagon when it overturned, but this was accomplished at the sacrifice of a large amount of cuticle, principally from his elbows and knees. He also received several ugly bruises. His injuries were not sufficiently serious to prevent his attending to his duties at the prison. The wagon escaped serious wreckage. The seat was broken and an axle was sprung.

Jan 6 1898

A PANIC AVERTED.

A Little Fire in the Cordage Factory Causes Alarm.

There came near being a serious fire and a panic of the employes in the factory of the Columbia Cordage company late, yesterday afternoon. The wires of the electric lighting system are fastened to pine boards which are nailed to the rafters. The defective insulation of one of the wires set fire to one of the boards and a small blaze resulted. The factory is filled with dust which snapped flames ignited the dust which snapped and crackled like Fourth of July pyrotechnics. The workmen turned on several streams from extinguishers and hose reels, and the fire was under control before any material damage had been done.

During the confusion Mary Malone fainted away. She was cared for by companions until she was able to go home.

company (store and dwelling)

Jan 11 1898

A WOMAN ON FIRE.

Fatally Burned in Broad Daylight in the Heart of the City.

Enveloped in a sheet of flame, Mrs. Thomas Allen stood in the hallway of the block at No. 8 Market street, at 11 o'clock this morning and screamed for help. The woman's plight was horrible. Her clothing was blazing in every part and a column of flames shot far above her head. For just an instant the few spectators who witnessed the horrible sight were paralyzed. Then Charles P. Sweet, the artist sprang to the rescue. Doffing his heavy ulster top-coat he threw it around the woman of fire and carried her to the sidewalk where he laid her down and began tearing away her burning clothing and endeavoring to smother the fire. Others quickly followed his example, lending such assistance as was possible. It was not until the woman was horribly burned, almost beyond the semblance of humanity, that the flames were extinguished.

The accident happened opposite police headquarters, and both patrolmen and firemen were among the first to go to the assistance of the unfortunate woman. A call was turned in for the ambulance, but after a long wait for the vehicle, a breathless messenger announced that the wagon was in the repair shop. The woman could not, by reason of her injuries and her delicate condition be loaded into a hack, and she was therefore placed in an express wagon and taken to the City hospital.

It is doubtful if the victim of the accident recovers. Nearly every portion of her body was burned to a crisp while it appeared that she had inhaled the flame. It was a very pitiful sight, calculated to unnerve the strongest, the poor roasted body whose only sign of life was the gasping breath and agonized moaning.

The injured woman was about 20 years old and had been married only about a year. She resided with her husband and his grandmother, Mrs. Russell, 85 years old, in the flat over 8 Market street. Just how the accident happened is not known. Mrs. Russell heard the young woman raking out the fire in the kitchen. A short time later, Mrs. Allen burst into the room where the old woman lay. Her clothing was then a mass of flame which it is supposed caught from the fire she had been fixing. Without stopping she fled through the room and ran down stairs, screaming for aid, and where assistance was given her as before related.

It seems as though Auburn were peculiarly unfortunate so far as these distressing accidents are concerned, for within the past few years there have been not less than half a dozen similar cases, where women have been burned to death.

Mrs. Allen was still alive at the hospital at a late hour, this afternoon, but Dr. Woodruff, the attending physician did not give any hope of her recovery. It is said that if there is any possibility of its success the physicians will perform the Caesarean operation in an effort to save one of the lives.

Jan 15th 1898

AN UNJUST BILL.

Exempt Firemen Endeavoring to Pocket the Insurance Tax.

It has transpired that a most unjust bill has been presented to the local legislative representatives, by the Exempt Firemen's association, which is urging its passage. The bill is to secure to the Exempts the two per cent foreign insurance tax, at least that is its object on its face, but there is an ulterior motive behind the bill, so it is claimed by those in a position to know.

The measure provides that the 2 per cent foreign insurance tax shall be paid to the Exempt Firemen's association of this city; that the association shall retain for its own use seventy-five per cent. of the amount of the tax; fifteen per cent. shall be paid to the Exempt Firemen's home on the Hudson and ten per cent. shall be paid to the Auburn fire department for a pension fund.

The bill is accompanied by a petition, numerously signed. Among the names on the petition are those of two of the commissioners, Goldsborough C. Smith and Thomas Speares. It is only fair to say that they signed it as individuals and not officially, at least the bill has not the endorsement of the board of fire commissioners. The bill was presented to E. J. Moore, the third member of the board and he emphatically declined to give his approval.

The bill was drafted by W. E. Churchill of Weedsport, who holds an office in the State Volunteer Firemen's association. This accounts for the fifteen per cent. divvy to the firemen's home. It is said that the State Firemen's association has guaranteed the passage of the bill through the legislature.

The bill is a preposterous measure. Better let the two per cent. tax go to the volunteers as at present than to be disposed of in the manner proposed. The volunteers, at least, make a bluff at active fire duty, and spend the money of the city, while the bill proposes to send a portion to an institution about which Auburnians know little and care less; an institution to which an Auburn fireman could not by any possibility

secure admittance and which is maintained in the interest of the metropolitan district.

The idea to give the local department only ten per cent. of the tax, which would be only \$50 or \$60 a year, is so absurd as to cause a smile of derision from even the friends of the Exempts. What in the world ever induced the two commissioners to sign the petition accompanying the bill is a mystery, diverting from the department, as it does, \$700 a year.

It may be well to explain that the Exempt Fireman's association is an organization paying a sick and death benefit to its members. One necessary qualification for membership is that the applicant shall have served five years continuously in the Auburn fire department. This is not the only qualification for membership, however. Candidates may be rejected by the ballot and it is charged that there has been much discrimination against certain ex-volunteers on account of their nationality. There are very few members who have served in the department in recent years. Most of the Exempts are old timers who ran with the machine way back when hand engines were the best means known for fighting fire.

The present measure is similar to one which Mr. Churchill attempted to have Senator Saxton introduce several years ago. It is alleged that if this bill is passed it will only be a few years when the state association will seek to secure the entire two per cent tax instead of the fifteen per cent which it asks at present. The modest sum provided for by the bill is only an entering wedge.

Should the bill be allowed to pass another bill is to follow giving the Exempts the tax for this year, and the volunteers, who are making a legal fight for it would be left entirely in the cold.

FIRE BOARD OFFICIALS.

Annual Meeting and Election of the Commissioners.

In accordance with the provisions of the law, the board of fire commissioners held its annual meeting, last night. As predicted by the ADVERTISER, Thomas Speares was elected president and William G. Ramage was made clerk. It didn't take long to finish the business of the meeting.

President Smith called the meeting to order and in a perfunctory way announced that it was the annual meeting of the board when officers were to be elected. Mr. Moore at once moved that the clerk cast the ballot of the board for Mr. Speares for president and the motion was carried.

Before yielding the chair to his successor, Mr. Smith made a little speech in which he said: "I wish to thank the members of the board for their kindness toward me during my term of office, and also to the fire department in general for the courtesy shown me."

Mr. Speares made a very brief speech, thanking his colleagues for the honor conferred upon him and assuring them that he would perform the duties of the office to the best of his ability.

These exchanges of courtesies over, the board proceeded to ballot for clerk. William G. Ramage was unanimously re-elected. He acknowledged the honor, and promised to devote his best endeavors to the service of his patrons.

President Speares suggested that a superintendent of hose be appointed, but this was not necessary under the new regulations of the department adopted previously to Mr. Speares' membership in the board. Mr. Smith moved to re-appoint the present incumbent, J. C. Winsor, but withdrew the motion when Mr. Moore declared such action unnecessary and the subject was dropped. The board then adjourned.

Jan 18th 1898

PAY FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS.

Mayor and Aldermen to Receive Compensation for Services.

TWO OTHER SALARIES INCREASED

Plans of the Council to Suitably Remunerate the City's Servants—A Raise of \$300 for Treasurer and \$200 for Clerk—Mayor Threatens to Disapprove, in Which Event the Measures May be Passed Over His Head—Council Purchases a Stone Crusher.

In an executive session of the common council, last evening, the aldermen voted a salary of \$500 to the mayor, \$250 to each other, an increase of \$300 to the city treasurer and \$200 to the city clerk. The council also delegated to a committee, power to purchase a stone crusher for use in the city quarry and after brief deliberation the committee entered into contract with the Altman company of Canton, O., for a \$1,750 machine.

As all of these proceedings were conducted behind closed doors, much that is of interest is of necessity withheld from the public. After the session, the clerk's minutes were laid open for inspection, but all they showed was the bare facts as before stated. Nevertheless, there is in the clerk's brief summary, enough to arouse a feeling of satisfaction at the long-delayed spirit of progress displayed by the councilmen.

There may be some alleged taxpayers whose antipathy to the city's advancement is manifested in anonymous posters on the dead walls of the town, who will lift up their voices in howls of indignant choler, at the thought of paying a public official for his time and services. These are for the most part the same people who oppose advancement in all municipal institutions; who protest against a paid fire department on the question of economy; who object to a public playground where the working people may enjoy themselves, and all for the same penurious reasons.

These are the same fellows who delight in calling the men who perform the arduous duties of administering the city's affairs, "the people's servants." This is their pet phrase and yet they unblushingly ask these servants to work for nothing. The laborer is worthy of his hire whether he be professional man, workingman or alderman; whether his efforts are given to running an engine or running the affairs of a city. To say, as an excuse, that there are men who are willing to serve without compensation is a sentiment unworthy of an honest employer. It is a relic of English customs where the aristocracy governed the people without pay.

Mayor Lewis has taken an unselfish stand in opposing a salary for himself. Yet no one will deny that the services he has given to the city have been valuable. One of the aldermen who voted against the measure, last night, has been quoted as saying that he would not serve again for \$500 a year. Why should he ask other men to perform the duties of the office for nothing?

By comparison with sister cities of the state, the salary roll of Auburn is, indeed moderate. In looking about for an answer to the mooted question of "what is the matter with Auburn," perhaps it might be found in the parsimonious treatment of its public officers.

After the routine business of the evening had been disposed of, the council went into executive session upon motion of Alderman Olmsted who said that the matter of sewers in the First ward should be considered in secret.

Members then proceeded to discuss, behind closed doors, the complaints of property owners in Sheridan and Gaylord streets, who object to paying for new sewers in the district, unless they are reimbursed for expenditures made before the creation of the sewer district. The matter was referred to the legal committee and the sewer committee to propose a means of relief.

Then the members turned their attention to the subject of salaries and for an hour the noise of a most animated conversation was wafted through the cracks of the council chamber. Finally after an hour's debate, the members came out and the clerk gave out the following resolutions which had been passed:

By Alderman O'Neil:

Resolved, That the city attorney be and is hereby directed to prepare an amendment to the charter for the payment to the mayor of a salary of \$500 per year and to each alderman of \$250 per year, (such salaries to commence at the termination of the present term of office of said mayor and aldermen) and report the same to the council at its next regular meeting.

The resolution was carried by the following vote:

Ayes—Aldermen Corcoran, Cross, McCarty, Olmsted, O'Neil, Ramage, Roach, Wiggins—8.

Noes—Aldermen Burgess, Goodrich—2.

The mayor has threatened to disapprove of this resolution, but as eight votes are sufficient to re-pass it over the mayor's veto, and as just eight members favor the proposition, it would appear that it will prevail.

By Ald. Olmsted:

Whereas, The duties of the city clerk have increased largely within the last few years, and the responsibility increased in proportion, and it appears after thorough investigation that the city clerk of the city of Auburn is receiving a much smaller salary than the city clerks of other cities in this state of about the size of Auburn, for performing the same duties, be it therefore,

Resolved, That the city attorney be

W. C. WILKEISON. [Dry Goods, Feb. 1898. States to us: "At inventory, real estate \$8,718.21; real estate \$2,800; cash \$1,500; two sons assist in store; never a capable dealer; at home is in good credit."

W. C. WILKEISON. [Dry Goods, Feb. 1898. States to us: "At inventory, real estate \$230; note F. B. Rouse, net indebtedness, due C. B. Rouse, \$2,731.60; total liabilities \$7,121.81; net worth, and entitled to a fair credit."

and he is hereby directed to prepare an amendment to the city charter, making the city clerk's salary \$1,200 per year and submit the same to the common council at its next meeting.

The members recorded as voting against this resolution were Aldermen Burgess, Cross and Goodrich. By Ald. Wiggins:

Resolved, That the city attorney be and is hereby directed to prepare and report to the council at its next regular meeting, an amendment to the charter and by which the board of supervisors of Cayuga county shall cause to be paid to the city treasurer the sum of \$300 in each year for his services in receiving and paying over county taxes, and at their annual meeting cause to be levied, collected and paid the sum of \$300 as a town charge upon the town of Auburn, in like manner as other town charges are levied, collected and paid; such sum of \$300 to be in addition to the salary now received by said city treasurer under the provisions of the charter.

The only opponent to this resolution was Alderman Cross. This completed the business of the executive session and the doors were re opened.

Another measure of importance was the purchase of a stone crusher. When the subject was broached, Alderman Roach inquired which of the four bidders had presented the lowest proposal. The clerk announced that the bid of the Altman company of Canton, was \$1,750, while that of the Climax company of Marathon, was \$1,867.

Ald. Roach then moved that the mayor and clerk enter into a contract with the Altman company for the purchase of a machine.

Alderman Ramage favored the Climax crusher and he amended that the contract be awarded to that firm. Then ensued a spirited debate as to the relative merits of the two machines. Alderman Roach said the Altman crusher was the cheapest and was guaranteed to crush twenty tons of rock an hour, while the guarantee of the Climax machine, was from "fifteen to thirty" tons, an uncertain amount.

Alderman Wiggins said that among the many good things in favor of the purchase of the Climax crusher, was the fact that the factory was not far distant and it would be easier to get extras when needed. He believed that the climax machine would be cheaper in the end, and for the best interest of the city.

Alderman Goodrich said he had carefully inspected the plans of both machines and had found the Altman crusher to be much simpler in construction than the Climax and therefore less liable to get out of order. Besides being simple and strong in construction it was cheaper than the Climax and he therefore favored its purchase.

Then after a running fire of talk, Alderman Corcoran moved that the entire matter be left to a committee of three, with the mayor added as chairman, which should be clothed with power to purchase a machine. The members were quick to avail themselves of this opportunity and the motion was carried unanimously.

The mayor hesitated long before appointing the committee. Once he attempted to escape the task by appealing to the board to name its own committee, but Alderman Burgess insisted that the mayor could do it as well as the board. So, after another season of meditation he announced with a gulp the following names: Aldermen Corcoran, Roach and McCarty. "Everyone of 'em is a Democrat," exclaimed Ald. Roach, and then without any show of false modesty he declared, "that's the best committee ever appointed in this board."

The crusher matter, after that was a short horse soon carried. The committee met in secret, following the adjournment of the executive session of the board and after consulting with representatives of the two companies, it was announced that the Altman crusher had been selected.

The transaction of routine business, early in the evening was accomplished in the incredibly brief period of ten minutes. Here is what was done:

Henry Gowers and James Core were granted licenses as expressmen.

Permission was asked to erect a wood-chapel street and upon motion of Alderman Roach the petition was referred to the fire department committee.

Clerk Herrling reported the receipt of the assessment rolls in the matter of the Hardenburgh avenue extension and by resolution of Alderman O'Neil, the mayor and clerk were instructed to issue a warrant for the collection of the tax.

Street Superintendent Jennings reported that Wallace street had been restored to a proper condition by the sewer contractors Hahn & Froitzheim. and by resolution of Alderman O'Neil the clerk was instructed to issue a check for 72.29 to the contractors, it being the final ten per cent of cost of construction.

The mayor's veto of the proposition to construct a sewer in Nelson, Holley and Seminary streets, was read, and was accepted without dissent, upon motion of Alderman Wiggins.

A hearing was offered to persons interested in a proposed sewer in Kitchell street, but there was no response and by resolution of Alderman Ramage the council determined to build the sewer. Sealed proposals for doing the work will be received and opened at the next meeting.

The report of the finance committee contained the claims of a number of physicians who had grasped the opportunity offered by a recent enactment which grants a fee of twenty-five cents to persons filing certificates of birth with the board of health. The several claims were as follows and they were all audited.

F. D. Putnam, \$0; Caroline Eiger, \$5.75; W. R. Laird, \$5.50; W. M. Gwynn, \$3.25; Amelia W. Gilmore, \$2.50; S. E. Austin, \$2.50; D. F. Armstrong, \$1; W. H. Coe, 75 cents. The law was passed by the legislature last year and went into effect March 30.

After this business had been cleared away, the stone crusher question was taken up, followed by the executive session on the subject of salaries.

DRIVEN FORTH BY FIRE.

Thrilling Midnight Adventure of a Grant Avenue Family.

The attractive new cottage of Samuel M. Eddy, 18 Grant avenue, was considerably damaged by fire shortly after midnight, Sunday morning. The loss to the owner will approximate \$600. This was the first alarm which the department has answered this year, and consequently it was the most disastrous.

It is not known, but it is supposed the fire originated, but it is supposed to have caught in a small apartment used as a dark room. Mr. Eddy dabbles in photography as a pastime and is one of the most clever amateurs in the city. He had been at work in the dark room Saturday night, and he cannot remember whether or not he extinguished the lamp he had been using.

The fire was not discovered until it had broken through the roof. Mrs. T. M. Lauren, mother of Mrs. Eddy, who resides in the next house was awakened by the crackle and glare of the flames and gave the alarm. Mr. and Mrs. Eddy and two children were asleep in a front room upstairs. They were aroused and finding smoke in the hallway outside their door they were deterred from venturing down the stairway, although there wasn't a particle of danger, as the fire was entirely in the rear.

A quartet of young men who were passing by saw the flames about the same time that they were seen by Mrs. Lauren. The men ran to the Five corner department from box 14, and then went to the assistance of the inmates of the

house. They found them on the roof of the porch. A ladder was procured and down it the frightened family was conducted in safety, finding shelter from the terrible storm, in the house of Supervisor Firth across the street.

The alarm came in just at the hour when the saloons were being closed and the crowd which hangs around them was on its way home. Of course the larger part of this crowd went to the fire and in the brief time before the arrival of the firemen and policemen it did a great deal of wanton damage. A large plate glass window was smashed without any provocation and when Chief Engineer Jewhurst put in an appearance a small army of semi-intoxicated young men was as busy as ants carrying small articles of bric-a-brac to the front door and throwing them as far as possible into the street. When the chief interfered with the pleasant pastime, a proposition was made to give him the same treatment accorded the household decorations. Nothing more serious was attempted than to make the proposition. Fred Young, an ex-member of the Volunteers was arrested by Patrolman Titus and charged with public intoxication. He was said to have been very active in the work of saving(?) the furniture.

The fire was confined to the rear of the house. There wasn't any damage by water owing to the good service of the chemical engine, and the care exercised by the firemen. In a bedroom next the dark room where the fire was fiercest nothing was injured excepting by smoke. The flames found their way from cellar to garret and a large portion of the roof and rear wall of the building was burned.

The house was constructed last summer and it was late in the fall when Mr. Eddy took possession. It will have to be redecorated throughout on account of the smoke. The house was insured. Mr. Eddy presented the firemen at headquarters with two boxes of cigars, yesterday.

The loss was amicably settled with the insurance adjusters, today, Mr. Eddy accepting \$531 in payment of damages. The property was insured in companies represented by Ray Meaker.

Feb 4th 1898

MORE PAY, LESS WORK.

That's What the Paid Firemen Want and Deserve.

The paid members of the fire department, that is, the permanent men, want more pay. They also want more time off from duty. They presented a formal request to this effect to the commissioners at their regular meeting, last night. The firemen were not the only ones with wants. The residents of numerous localities about the city petitioned that fire alarm boxes be placed in their neighborhoods. Unfortunately, it is considered by the commissioners to be beyond their power to grant these modest demands, owing to the limited amount of money which they are allowed to expend.

Commissioner Smith was not present at the meeting. There was another informal discussion in regard to the gas bill of December, '97, which had been scouted at a previous session. The bill was paid, of course. Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported that in accordance with the instructions of the board, given at a previous session, he was having two new gongs made for the house system

The time lost by members of the department was reported. S. J. Rice, a call man of hose 8, had been absent three hours without leave and he was fined a dollar.

There had been only one fire since the last report of the chief, the residence of S. M. Eddy, in Grant avenue.

The petition of the firemen for more pay and less hours of work was then read by Clerk Ramage. It is appended:

Auburn, N. Y., Jan. 10, 1898.
The petition was received and filed.
To the Board of Fire Commissioners:
Gentlemen—We the undersigned would respectfully ask you for an increase of salary as we consider the hours long and the pay small. We would also ask for more regular time off.

- Yours to command,
J. F. Mansfield,
T. J. Hamilton,
John D. Tyne,
Wm. H. Bohn,
Robert Otis,
James Bresnahan,
A. E. Hemrick,
E. L. Mead,
W. R. Strong,
J. L. Jewhurst,
Charles Burghdust,
G. H. Platt,
T. R. Frost,
J. Anton,
F. Hughson,
John Winsor.

Mr. Moore said he would be most happy to grant the request, but— That "but" spoke volumes, and was as significant as a library of explanation in the negative.

Col E. D. Metcalf on behalf of the Columbia Cordage company, petitioned the board for a call box to be connected with the fire alarm telegraph. The residents of Court street, Linden place and Westlake avenue petitioned for a box to be placed at the corner of Court street and Westlake avenue. A similar request was made by the residents in the vicinity of Walnut and Maple streets; a box was also wanted at the corner of Hamilton avenue and Steel street. The petitions were all referred to the committee on fire alarm telegraph. Mr. Moore declared that the board would be only too happy to put in the additional boxes if it only had sufficient money. It would seem from this casual remark that nothing will be done with the petitions further than the reference.

Chief Jewhurst thought it important that more boxes should be added to the system. There is only one box in the Tenth ward, two in the Second, and two in the First ward.

The schedule of claims was then audited and checks were ordered drawn for the following amounts:

Auburn Gas Light Co	\$94 51
C. Rivers	1 50
J. Had Pearson	20 20
Auburn Gas Light Co	1 10
Sylvester Elster	99 48
George H. Lamb	1 00
E. D. Clapp	25 50
Water board	15 62
Dunning Hardware Co	20
Empire State Telegraph and Tel. Co.	1 75
Utica Fire Alarm Telegraph Co	29 10
W. H. Moulton & Co.	8 00

President Speares announced the following standing committees for the year:

- Apparatus and horses, Moore and Speares.
- Furniture supplies and fixtures, Speares and Smith.
- Department buildings and fire alarm, Smith and Moore.

The board then adjourned.

ed January, '95, the business now being conducted by his wife alone; no mdsc. indebtedness; take all paying discounts; no borrowed money; has an old-established family trade, and is in good credit.

States to us: "Stock \$5,500, ins. \$3,000; no mdsc. indebtedness; no borrowed money; son assists in store." By repute manager; has an old-established family trade, and is in good credit.

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313
help; have no outside means; industrious, but habits criticized credit away from home. '94

Feb 28th 1898
Feb 29th 1898
Present to the City.

The Auburn Woolen company through President Metcalf has presented to the city of Auburn, the lot at the corner of Owasco and Miller streets, on condition that the municipality erect a fire station there. It will be remembered the Woolen company made a proposition to the city some time ago to sell the lot for \$150 provided the city would remove the buildings at present on the land to adjacent property. The matter was left to a committee of councilmen with power. The matter was neglected by the committee until a few days ago when it was learned that a real estate dealer was negotiating for the lot. The committee then went to work. It was discovered that it would cost \$600 to move the buildings. This would make the cost of the lot \$750 which the committee deemed too high a price.

This decision was communicated to President Metcalf and Saturday, Superintendent Clark received directions to offer the lot to the city on conditions that the buildings were removed and that a fire station be erected on the property.

States to us: "Stock \$11,500; no mdsc. indebtedness; no borrowed money; son assists in store." By repute manager; has an old-established family trade, and is in good credit.

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March 1st 1898

COUNCIL FAVORS INCREASE

Fire Department Appropriation to be Swelled by \$4,000.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION INVOKED

Only One Alderman Opposed to the Measure—Council Also Purchases Land for a New Hose House in the First Ward—Tenth Ward People to be Relieved by the Building of a Sewer

Fire department matters formed the chief business considered, last evening by the common council in adjourned session. In accordance with the request of the fire commissioners the aldermen indorsed a proposed amendment to the charter for the increase of the annual appropriation to the fire board from \$16,000 to \$20,000. This was done upon the recommendation of the committee on fire department, which submitted the proposed legislative act. By resolution of Alderman Ramage it was approved and the local representatives in the legislature were urged to obtain its speedy passage. Alderman Cross was the only member who opposed the measure. Seven votes were recorded in favor of the increase and two members, Aldermen Goodrich and Roach, were absent.

The proposition to buy a plot of ground at the corner of Owasco and Mill streets, upon which a hose house will ultimately be erected, was brought up in a new form, last night. The former plan of purchasing the premises and then removing the building to another location, was abandoned, and by resolution of Ald. Olmsted the council determined to purchase the land from the Auburn Woolen company without the building on it, for a consideration of \$492. This is the estimated cost of the removal of the building which will now be done by the company instead of the city. As stated in these columns yesterday, this will virtually be a gift of the property to the city. The only member to oppose this plan was Alderman Corcoran. The premises in question have a frontage of thirty feet on Owasco street and extend back sixty-five feet along Mill street.

The commission appointed by the court to determine the price to be paid to owners of land to be traversed by the proposed sewer from Cornell street to the Pines, made a report which recommended award of \$150 to Dorcas Woodruff and \$100 to the Hodder estate. No action was taken on the report.

A hearing of property owners interested in the construction of a sewer in Lewis, Foote and Mann streets and Lawton avenue was announced and John Robert Moore of Mann street spoke in favor of the improvement. No one opposed it, and upon motion of Alderman Wiggins, the council determined to construct the sewer and instructed the clerk to advertise for sealed proposals to be opened March 21.

Surveyor Austin reported the completion of the sewer in Aurelius avenue, Clark and Brookfield streets, and by resolution of Alderman O'Neil, the cost was determined to be \$2,437.19 which with the addition of \$529.48 for interest, was ordered levied on the property in the sewer district.

By resolution of Alderman McCarty, the city surveyor will prepare a plan for re-numbering the houses in Court street. Adjourned.

March 2nd 1898

This Afternoon's Fire.

A boy and a cigaret are said to have been the causes of a fire in Franklin street this afternoon. The blaze was in a barn owned by Lewis Paddock in the rear of the tenement block at the corner of Franklin and Lewis streets. The building was rented by Joshua Burrick a marketman. The damage will amount to about \$10.

March 2-98

March 3rd 1898

GINSBERG'S GONE.

The King of the Shoe Black Trust Skips the Town.

Fast company is ascribed as the cause of the downfall of Harry Ginsberg, the Russian-Jewish youth who has polished shoes about the city for the past four years. Harry has left the city and like Owen Moore of the fable, "ownin' more than he could pay."

Nearly every one in Auburn knows Harry's story, how he tramped into the city one hot afternoon some years ago, a bony skeleton enveloped in rags, carrying a shabby basket of cheap notions. He was taken under the protection of the firemen at headquarters. Other good friends came to his aid, among them the late Col. Storke. Harry dropped peddling and went into the shoe-blacking business. He was smart and soon became very popular. He became sleek and fat in time, well-dressed and possessed a bank account.

Through the persuasion of a number of his race who worked upon his religious prejudices he forsook prosperity and went to Syracuse, where he was soon relieved of all his cash and most of his flesh and clothing. Then he returned to Auburn. His friends forgave him this slip, realizing how strong the pressure had been and believing that the lesson had been enough to last a lifetime.

Harry was once more taken into the confidence of his friends. He worked diligently and saved money. Then he became a monopolist. He purchased all the shoe blacking stands in the city and he bought new ones of fancy design and added them to those already in operation.

When the cold weather set in last fall Harry hired a store in State street and became a real store-keeper, which was the ambition of his life. A stock of tobacco and cigars was added to the polishing business and it looked as though Harry was on the high road to prosperity. Alas, a serpent crept into this Eden. Harry became enamored of the pugilistic branch of the sporting fraternity. He neglected his business to be at the ring-side every time there was a "go" anywhere in this vicinity. Besides this it is said that the "pugs pulled his leg." Harry found, as many wiser men have before him, that business will not run itself. Trade fell off. People did not like to patronize a place filled with the class of hangers-on that Harry kept about him.

[Also Jewelry.] Began here
\$4,500 (shoes \$2,500), ins. \$2,000;

Harry's credit has been as good as that of the Bank of England up to yesterday. He saw the crash coming and stood from under. Tuesday he sold his shoe blacking paraphernalia to a man named Williams, drew his surplus in the bank and taking his clothes he left for Syracuse, last night. He owed two months' rent for the store, \$20, for which A. W. Lawton is agent; L. Marfor clothes; half a dozen cigar and tobacco dealers have bills against him and a large number of citizens have his promise to pay borrowed money in various sums ranging from \$1 to \$15.

Harry's friends will be more grieved at his downfall than at their own losses.

March 4th 1898

CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Record of the Year and Some Valuable Recommendations.

NEW REGULAR AND TWO CALLMEN

Lionel Morris, a Brother of the Dead Chief, Promoted to the Permanent Force—Full Text of the Annual Report of the Chief Engineer.

The fire commissioners held a tedious session, last night. It was only after a long conference that they commenced business and then things dragged woefully. Several matters were discussed of more or less importance. The most interesting to the public was the annual report of Chief Engineer Jewhurst. It is like his reports of previous years in that it bristled with good points. It contained many important recommendations which will probably never be acted upon, until after the city has been visited by some great conflagration, when the inefficiency of the department in many matters may be demonstrated. The blame will then be thrown on the chief and firemen, by the public, but firemen cannot work without proper appliances any more than a machinist can ply his trade without tools.

Another feature of the meeting was the appointment of Lionel Morris of 10 Lawton avenue to fill the vacancy in hose 1 caused by the resignation of John T. Mansfield. The appointee is a fireman of many years experience in the volunteer service having served since a boy, and he is now past the half century mark of his age. At the present time he is confined to his home by illness.

When work had finally been commenced a report was made that the water meter in the quarters of volunteer hose 6, was broken and the service water pipe of the house of volunteer hose 5 had burst. The chief engineer was directed to attend to the necessary repairs.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported the resignation of Samuel J. Rice, a call man of hose 3. The resignation was accepted as was also the resignation of John T. Mansfield, a member of the full paid force.

M. L. Olmsted, a tinsmith of 36 Grant avenue, applied for a position, either as a call or regular member of the department. William Slater wanted to be a callman attached to hose 3, and John Tennant, a machinist, who stated in his application that he did not have any vicious habits, desired a position as call man.

There was a long schedule of bills to be audited, but none of the accounts was for large amounts, excepting the veterinary surgeon's bill.

The old Glason and Bailey truck caused some discussion. The city having sold the old store house a new place for the storage of the truck will have to be obtained. The advisability of selling the useless piece of apparatus, was suggested and the idea met with great favor. The committee on apparatus was directed to make an effort to sell the truck.

The board then proceeded to the appointment of a man to the permanent force. Lionel Morris oddly received the unanimous vote of the board for the position, a high compliment as he has arrived at an age when most men are ready to retire from active duty, at least in the fire service.

William Slater was appointed call man at hose 3, in place of S. J. Rice resigned.

For the vacant place of call man in Hose 1, caused by the advancement of Morris, John Colbert received two votes and John Tennant one. Colbert was declared elected.

On motion of Mr. Moore these appointments were made subject to a probationary term of six months' service.

The committee on buildings was directed to at once begin some necessary repairs on the house of Hose 3, and then the board adjourned.

The annual report of Chief Engineer Jewhurst is appended in full:

To the Honorable Board of Fire Commissioners:

Gentlemen—Pursuant to the requirements of your honorable body I hereby transmit the annual report of the chief of the fire department for the year ending February 28, 1898, giving the particulars of the work performed, fires and losses, a schedule of all property in charge together with recommendations and suggestions calculated to further increase the efficiency of the service.

Force.

Concerning the paid force of the department it is practically the same as last reported. The addition of one more paid hose company and the necessary equipments and apparatus for same is needed and the proposed plan of organizing such a company for the Eastern part of the city ought to be put in operation as soon as possible, as the strength of our present force is not sufficient for the amount of territory that has to be covered in protecting the 7,000 buildings within the limits of the city. The expense of a well equipped and effective fire department is but a trifling matter when compared to the loss which must of necessity result where a department is embarrassed by lack of sufficient force and apparatus.

The discipline of the department, I am pleased to say, is first class, the members displaying great interest in the proper discharge of their duties.

The following changes occurred in the membership during the year:

Appointments—A. E. Heal, call man Truck company, October 7, 1897; L. A. Gaumar, call man Hose company No 1, November 4, 1897.

Resignations—T. F. Kinsella, assistant chief, May 6, 1897; J. H. Clark, callman Truck company, June 30, 1897; A. E. Heal, call man Truck company, November 1, 1897; S. J. Rice, call man Hose company No. 3, February 11, 1898.

Transfers—P. Mowry, call man from Hose company No 1 to Truck company, November 9, 1897.

Sick and Accidents

The following members have been off duty on account of sickness:

C. A. Burghdoff, captain No 1 Hose company, 34 days
J. T. Mansfield, hoseman, No 1 Hose company, 45 days
L. Morris, call hoseman, No 1 Hose company, 9 days
C. S. Hamilton, driver Truck company, 19 days.

W. J. Barrett, call ladder man, Truck company, 4 days
A. E. Heal, call ladder man, Truck company, 3 days.
Only one member met with accident during the year. While the team of Hose company No. 1 was exercising on State street, January 11, Joseph Anton, the driver, was thrown from his seat and was badly injured by being dragged on the pavement in his efforts to control the frightened team. He was off duty twelve days.
The total time lost caused by sickness and accident was 126 days.

Fires and Alarms.

Our city has had another fortunate year as regards loss by fire, for which the department deserves a great show of credit for promptness in extinguishing fires in their incipency. But good fortune in the past furnishes no good ground for a continued report of small losses, as we may at any time expect a serious fire in spite of all the earnest efforts of the department, through the possibility of securing alarms only after fires have gained good headway.

There were during the year 47 fires and alarms of all classes. Fires in brick buildings, 9; fires in wooden buildings, 31; other than building fires, 7. With one exception all of the above fires were confined to building or place of origin. Losses to buildings, \$1,607 21; losses to contents, \$1,671.76; total loss for the year, \$3,278.97. Insurance losses on buildings, \$1,534.91; on contents, \$1,773.96; total loss over insurance paid, \$566.70.

Casualties.

The following were fatally burned at fires during the year:

April 2, 8:21 a. m., the department was called to No 98 Washington street where Mrs. Ann Healey was found frightfully burned from some unknown cause. She was taken to the City hospital where she died a few hours after.

September 3, 7:25 p. m., Mrs. Cynia Dwight was found burned to death on a burning bed, by the department at No. 34 North street. At the same fire Lawrence White was found nearly suffocated and was assisted to a place of safety by the firemen. Cause of fire unknown.

January 10, 11:15 a. m., Mrs. T. Allen was fatally burned through the ignition of her clothing from a stove at No 3 Market street. The firemen at the central station assisted her to the city hospital where she died the same day.

Apparatus

The apparatus of the department with the exception of the hook and ladder truck is all in a good state of repair. The truck is badly in need of paint and I would recommend that next winter, if occasion happens requiring the use of the ladder sleigh, that the truck be painted at that time. The exercise wagon stationed at the quarters of No. 3 hose company has been fitted for a nose and supply wagon. It is made to carry hose, extra pipes, ropes, in fact, tools of all kinds used by the department at fires and will be a valuable addition to the department. I would recommend that new tarpaulins of an improved style to those on hand in use be procured. Our tarpaulins are too heavy and bulky to be of practical benefit in protecting exposed property. I would also recommend the purchase of more smoke protectors. By their use the firemen are greatly benefited in their work.

Horses.

There are at present 10 horses in the department, nine of which perform active service and one being held in reserve. During the year there has been an increased veterinary service, but fortunately no loss has occurred through disease or accident. Some of the horses are gradually becoming unfit for the reliable requirements of the department and will have to be replaced before long with horses better adapted for the service.

The accustomed care has been given to the purchase of hay, oats, straw and feed. It has only been made when prices were lowest and the best that could be procured. The average cost for forage and shoeing per horse for the year was \$59.75. The total cost for veterinary service and medicine was \$121.85.

Water Supply.

Our excellent system of water supply upon which the department is obliged to depend entirely has been fully equal to all emergencies. The increased efficiency of the system by reason of recent improvements is fully appreciated. The department used only 49,980 gallons of water during the year in extinguishing fires, considerably less than the number used for the same purpose the year previous, which was 49,220 gallons.

There are 368 public hydrants and sixty-one private hydrants scattered about the city making a total of 429 hydrants available for fire purposes, thirty new public hydrants were added during the past year. I would recommend the placing of a hydrant in front of the station occupied by the paid companies.

The hydrants so placed would not only serve the needs of the department in the care and testing of hose and various other appliances which is often required of the department, but they would also add materially to the hydrant service for fire protection.

Fire Alarm Telegraph

During the year much trouble was experienced in keeping the wires of the fire alarm telegraph free from trouble through the interference of linemen of the Auburn Telephone company in stringing their wires regardless of the requirements of the city ordinance relating to the stringing of wires, etc.

In various sections of the city the fire alarm wires were changed and shifted in such a careless way to suit their convenience, to the great detriment of the fire alarm system and the great danger of burning out the repeater and rendering the system useless, that it required constant vigilance on the part of the department in keeping the fire alarm wires in working order and free from dangerous wires. Efforts were made to stop the interference and to enforce the penalty provided by law, but nothing was accomplished.

One new box will be added to the system in a few days, it will be located at the Columbia Cordage factory, Cottage street. The box is the Gamwell non interference pattern and is the latest and most improved box made. There are at present thirty signal boxes connected with the system, ten additional boxes would not be any more than what is needed in furnishing proper protection to parts of the city not provided for. I would also recommend that all new boxes be of the non-interference pattern and that the old boxes of which we have four different styles, be replaced with non-interference boxes as soon as the financial affairs of the department will permit.

Our repeater was a second hand instrument when purchased and is old in style and arranged for only three circuits and the time is not far distant when the department will be compelled to replace the same with a modern six circuit non-interference repeater that will work in harmony with a non interference box. The outside lines ought to be divided into four circuits, we have at present only two outside circuits and both are loaded to this limit and it would be dangerous to add many more boxes, also the more boxes added to the present system the greater will be the chances for two boxes being pulled at the same time which would cause a mixed alarm and could not be understood. In my opinion the first move in improving the system would be to procure a new six circuit interference repeater. The department would then have a foundation for a modern fire alarm telegraph.

Our present system is only suitable for small towns, where it is mostly used. By placing all electric wires underground in the business portion of the city it would greatly relieve the department of a dangerous nuisance. The necessity for a general underground ordinance is convincing.

General Repairs.

The repairs and improvements to the houses, apparatus, equipment and fire alarm telegraph have been quite numerous the past year most of which was done by the members of the department. The department work shop has been enlarged and made more convenient for general repairing. The shop is fully well supplied with tools, which enables the department to do nearly all its repairing and much new work, which proves quite an item in regard to cutting down the expense. A drill is about the only new tool needed. In addition to their regular work the men were employed 2106 hours on extra work as follows:

Replanking stall and apparatus floors at headquarters and No. 3 station, new metal ceiling and painting apparatus room No 1 station, alterations at store house and work shop, blacksmith work, stall irons for chemical and No. 1 station, paving at No 1 and Truck stations and hose tower, painting and papering chief's office, general harness repairs, fitting up supply wagon with hand rails, step and other attachments, plumbing at headquarters and No. 3 station, laundry work, blacksmith work for fire alarm telegraph and general iron work repairs, telegraph line construction making battery supplies and many other jobs. All the above has been done in the most economical way and costing department only for material.

The most important building repairs needed is painting and repairing the apparatus room and painting the exterior of the building occupied by No. 3 Hose company.

Annual Parade.

The annual parade of the department took place September 6, joining with the labor organizations in their Labor day parade. The department was the most attractive feature of the procession.

Building Laws.

In my previous reports I have called your attention to the need of a building inspector and a proper building law.

The duties of the inspector to be the examiners of buildings in course of erection and see that the builders conform to the law, thus preventing dangerous and improper construction.

Building Improvements

During the past year the department has kept a record of new buildings which show in addition to extensive improvements and enlargements there were erected a total of 167 new and complete buildings of all classes. Of this number 106 were dwellings. At present there is a total of 7604 buildings in the city, classified as follows:

Dwellings	4748
Factories and work shops	334
Storage and barns	1997
Mercantile offices, hotels	433
Public	92

For the purpose of keeping a correct record of new buildings and general building improvements I would beg to renew my suggestion of last year that an ordinance be framed requiring a building permit for all buildings erected within the boundaries of the city.

H SE

There are 7 000 feet of hose in the department. Of this amount 4 000 feet can be classed as first class. The remaining 3,000 feet has been in use many years and is beginning to give out in the rubber lining and in its present rotten condition I do not consider it safe for fire service. The inventory shows a shortage of 200 feet which cannot be accounted for. The hose is disposed of as follows:

- Hose company No. 1, 2,700 feet
- Hose company No. 3, 2,800 feet.
- Hand hose carriage No. 2, 500 feet.
- Hand hose carriage No. 5, 450 feet
- Hand hose carriage No. 6, 550 feet.

I would recommend the purchase of a hose coupling re-shaper. It is a tool for reforming misshapen and jammed hose couplings without detaching from hose. The tool would be a valuable addition to this branch of the department in keeping the couplings in repair. At present we have several sections of hose that cannot be used on account of damaged couplings.

Conclusion.

I wish to thank the members of your honorable body for your ready co operation and assistance rendered me in the discharge of my official duties and the

March 10 1898

Spontaneous Combustion.

There was a small fire at 1:46 o'clock, this morning in the barber shop of Oscar Young in Market street. The building is owned by George Wildner and is in course of repair. The fire is supposed to have originated from a pile of oiled rags which had been left on the floor by the painters. The fire had made such small headway when the firemen arrived, that the damage was comparatively small.

Stock \$18,000 (shoes about 500)

March 14 1898

Fire at the Osborne.

A small blaze in room 54 of the Osborne house, last evening, was promptly put out by the occupant of the apartment and a threatened conflagration was averted. A gust of wind blew a lace curtain in contact with the flame of a gas jet and there was a flash from floor to ceiling. T. F. Fox, a traveling man from Buffalo, was engaged in writing a letter in the room, at the time, and he sprang forward and pulled the blazing curtains from their fastenings. He tried to stamp out the flames but the carpet took fire and matters were getting worse rather than better when he picked up the whole burning mass and fired it out of the window into Water street, which was a good place to put out a fire. Then the traveler extinguished the fire in the carpet. Mr. Fox received several severe burns on his hands while pulling down the curtains and his mustache and eyebrows were singed. The damage done to the apartment amounted to twenty-five dollars.

Danger in Wires.

If the wire to the Western Union messenger call in the office of Hollister & Noble, in Market street hadn't burned through, yesterday afternoon, a serious conflagration would probably have resulted. The Western Union wire came in contact with some of the numerous heavily charged cables in the city and the current charred the wood-work in the office, but the breaking of the small wire must have occurred before the smouldering sparks generated into a flame. The damage is nominal.

March 15 1898

THE PIMM BLOCK GUTTED

Daylight Conflagration in the Very Heart of the City.

FIREMEN OVERCOME BY SMOKE

Flames Lap up the Inflammable Structure While the Firemen Fight Hard to Confine the Blaze to the Building Where it Originated—Cause of the Fire Unknown—Several People who Owned Goods Stored in the Block are Losers.

The Pimm block at Nos. 14, 14 1/2, 16 and 18 Market street, directly opposite fire headquarters, was gutted by a conflagration, this afternoon, which started at 2 o'clock and which at this writing threatens the flanking buildings. How the fire originated cannot be

learned, for when it was first discovered it was blazing so fiercely in the central part of the lower story that an inspection of the cause was impossible. The smoke was very dense, and two firemen who ventured into the building were overcome by it and had to be carried out.

The building abuts on the Owasco outlet at the rear and firemen were placed on the Osborne trestle where they fought the flames with streams of water directed across the creek. Others kept playing streams on the Market street side but the blaze had obtained such headway that nothing could stay its progress. There was a tremendous water pressure and a quartet of men was needed to control each pipe.

The Pimm block was an old landmark. For years it was occupied by Robert Peat, the cabinet maker. When John B. Pimm purchased it, he remodeled the place and transformed the lower story into stores while the two floors above were rented to dancing parties and societies. This not proving remunerative the block was again remodeled into a business block. It was all rented excepting the third floor, from which the Woodruff & Billings Rubber Stamp company removed its plant to the Scotch Cap factory, only yesterday.

The building was a three-story and basement structure. The basement of No. 14, was occupied by the Cayuga Loan company as a storage place for household goods and kindred articles.

The first floor was used by Stevenson, the job printer. The second floor was occupied by Irving Congdon as a neck-scarf jobber. The basement of 14 1/2 and 16 was used as a store room by the proprietor of the block and contained paints and oils in a limited quantity. The first floor was occupied by the elevator entrance and the office of Mr. Pimm. The second floor was used as a meeting place of the Klondike club.

The first floor of No. 16 was used as a storage place for flour by Thalheimer of Syracuse. The entire rear of the second floor was occupied by George W. Hoffman, a photographing and picture framing establishment. The third floor was vacant with the exception of one room occupied by Edward Adams, the engraver. No. 18 was rented by E. L. Van Duyn for a laundry and he used both the basement and first floor. The second floor was let to Charles Brown and A. Fierer as lodging rooms.

The attic over the third floor was stored full of household furniture belonging to many persons whose names could not be remembered by the owner of the building.

The real estate was insured for \$5,500 with companies represented by Fiero. A short time ago, the amount of the insurance was reduced one-half and the insurance on the plate glass fronts was given up altogether. An elevator was recently put in at a cost of \$700. There was no insurance on Mr. Pimm's personal effects in his office, the more valuable of which are safe with the exception of his accounts which were burned. Mr. Pimm had left the building a few minutes before the fire was discovered and when he returned he could not get in on account of the heat and smoke.

The fire was discovered by half a dozen people at the same time. The firemen at headquarters observed the black smoke bursting from the elevator, at the same time that the printers in Stevenson's found their quarters filled with a dense smudge and unnatural heat.

Superintendent McCabe of the Electric Light company, saw flames darting from the rear of the building. The firemen had great difficulty in getting at the blaze. In fact for some time they found it impossible and during the interval the flames had spread with great rapidity, climbing up the elevator shaft to the second and third floors. The heat was intense and the smoke stifling. A. G. Hemrick, a hoseman of No. 1 ventured inside the building. A bit of the floor gave way under him and he fell. His absence was first noticed by John Willman, an ex-member of the paid department, who at considerable personal risk rescued him. Hemrick was unconscious and was carried to headquarters where Dr. Lewis attended him. A short time later Lew Burns, a call man of Hose 1, was also overcome and had to be carried to near-by quarters where he was also attended by Dr. Lewis. Both men were revived after considerable effort. Edward Adams, the engraver had a

narrow escape. He was at work in his office on the third floor when suddenly a vast volume of smoke poured in upon him. Before he reached the sidewalk he was nearly suffocated by the heat and smoke, so fiercely had the flames spread. Mr. Adams's loss will amount to about \$400, besides which he loses several valuable musical instruments belonging to himself and brother.

The block west of Pimm's, a wooden structure, Nos 10 1-2 and 12, is owned and occupied by D. W. Haley, the laundryman. His loss from smoke and water will amount to \$400. The block on the east is owned and occupied by W. E. Jones, the paper dealer. The fire crept into the upper floors in the rear and considerable damage was done by smoke and water. At the hour when the ADVERTISER goes to press very little estimate could be made of the total losses. The principal insurance is held by J. Fiero and Rich & French. Van Dwyne did not carry any insurance and although he was able to get out most of his laundry work and office furniture, his loss to machinery, etc., will be heavy. The fire is under partial control at this writing.

There was an incident in connection with the fire, in which one of the firemen and an express driver exchanged some hot remarks which nearly ended in blows. A hose had been stretched across Water street from Dill street and the expressman attempted to drive over it. The fireman promptly forbade him, at the same time grasping the horse by the reins. The driver was very indignant and he used some rude epithets in his abuse of the fireman. A fight would have taken place immediately if a second fireman had not interfered. The expressman did not succeed in passing over the hose.

was performed and many a risk taken by the firemen of which the public had not the slightest intimation. Chief Engineer Jewhurst does not approve of his men taking foolhardy chances, but when out of his sight in the enthusiasm of their vocation the men will do perilous things which would not be approved by the head of the department.

Save Life at all Hazards.

Speaking on this subject this morning Chief Jewhurst said: "I do not approve nor will I permit the men to take chances when the only thing endangered is what money will replace, but when human life is in danger then every possible risk must be taken."

To many people who are not experienced in fire fighting it has been a source of wonderment, and incidentally of considerable adverse criticism, that a fire of the magnitude of that of yesterday could occur so near to fire department headquarters. It is not at all strange to those who are versed in the subjugation of conflagrations. Examples are numerous. Not long ago a large building next the quarters of the company of Captain C. J. Van Horn of the Greater New York department was burned, not even the walls remaining when at last the fire was extinguished. It is little more than a year since the Elmira Telegram building, exactly opposite the fire department headquarters in Elmira was entirely gutted, and still the Elmira department is one of the best in the state and is maintained at a cost nearly three times as great as that of this city.

Hard Fire to Fight

The fire was the largest which has occurred in the business portion of the city since the Steel block was burned six or seven years ago. The difficulty of fighting the flames yesterday, has seldom been equaled. Everything combined to place the firemen at a great disadvantage: the location of the building upon the river bank making it practically inaccessible from the rear; the dense volume of nauseating smoke; the rapidity with which the flames spread, and the low water pressure, all tended to impede the fighters and to those who are experienced in fire-fighting it is a matter of congratulation that the firemen confined the flames to the block where they originated and saved intact the old wooden structure next it, from even being scorched.

Illustrative of the wonderful rapidity with which the great building filled with smoke, the printers in Stevenson's job office discovered smoke creeping into the room. One of them opened the basement door and a dense cloud of smoke poured out. He closed the door and the proprietor rushed into Market street, shouting to the firemen that there was a fire. He hurried back and was unable to enter the door to get his overcoat, while the printers had not had time to grab the copy on their cases and follow it into the fresh air.

The smoke prevented the firemen from locating the part of the basement in which the fire was burning. The basement was divided by partitions which also impeded the work. When the streams were finally put on the fire a draft was created which drove the flames upward to the attic, through the rear where it was almost an impossibility to reach them.

An inspection of the building, this morning, shows conclusively where the fire originated, but leaves the cause as great a mystery as ever. The flames started under the office of the owner of the building, B. Pimm, in No. 14 1 2 It was not

caused by the paint and oil stored under No. 16, as the flames did not reach that part of the basement at all. The furniture of the Cayuga Loan company which was stored under No. 14, in the front, also escaped material injury, the blaze having been confined entirely to the rear.

When the ADVERTISER went to press, yesterday the fire was under control although it was apparent that the Pimm block was practically gutted. At 5 o'clock the western half of the roof fell with a crash, taking with it the attic floor. A short time later the other portion of the roof fell with a sullen roar. A portion of the top of the rear wall fell into the river. The whole wall bulged outward and gave every appearance of crumbling to the ground. From that time on the firemen worked steadily and successfully to conquer the fire.

Suffocated by Smoke.

It was during the early stages of the fire that Hoseman Gus Hemrick of No. 1, was overcome by the smoke. He had climbed into a second story window and working his way through the smudge to a board partition, behind which the flames could be heard roaring, he attempted to cut a hole, through which a stream could be directed. The floor beyond him gave way and he fell exhausted. A momentary lifting of the smoke revealed Hemrick's peril to L. J. Burns, a call man of the same company, who had remained by the window.

Burns, regardless of the personal risk rushed to the rescue and carried his unconscious companion to the window. Chief Jewhurst and John Willman carried Hemrick down a ladder to the ground and Burns followed and assisted in carrying the helpless man to headquarters. While Dr. Lewis and the sympathizing crowd were ministering to Hemrick, Burns suddenly fell to the floor in complete collapse. His case proved worse than Hemrick's for it took a dose of nitro-glycerine to bring him back to life. Later, Captain Burghdoff of hose 1, had to be removed to quarters in a helpless condition. He was followed by Robert Otis of hose 3, who was exhausted by the heat and smoke, and had to be put in the temporary hospital. All of the quartet returned to duty as soon as they had recovered sufficiently to stand and before the doctor considered it safe. The men are all right this morning. The man who is most seriously injured is Rob't Nolan, the engineer of the Chemical company, whose hurts were not known until after the fire was all over. He remained in the building with a line of hose until driven forth by the flames. So hotly was he pressed that his face was burned and, this morning an oculist declared that his eyes had been scorched and the sight had been endangered to an extent that made his retirement from duty imperative.

After his experience in the building, Nolan and Frank Hughson ascended to the laundry building next the Pimm block and with ropes attached to their belts and held by companions they ascended to the roof of the burning building and did yeoman service toward extinguishing the flames.

The Flood Ceased.

At 9:30 o'clock, the last stream was turned off. A few minutes later flames burst forth in the rear and fanned by the rising wind assumed formidable proportions. The tired firemen again ran up a line of hose and at 11 o'clock had

March 16th 1898

AFTER THE FIRE.

Further Details of Yesterday's Work of Destruction.

It was not until midnight, last night, that the tired firemen abandoned their post at the fire in the Pimm block, in Market street. From 2:10 o'clock in the afternoon until 12 at night, the men fought the flames with only an occasional rest of sufficient length to pump slonal rest of pure air and then back into the midst of the stifling smoke and scorching heat. Many

extinguished the last spark. Then it was discovered that the fire had gained another start in the cellar and it was midnight before the chief released the weary hosemen from further duty. Then there was an hour's hard work packing hose in the wagons in readiness for another call, and picking up the 3,200 feet of wet and muddy hose which had been used in conducting the seven streams into the flames.

Late in the afternoon, Fire Commissioner Moore brewed a psil of hot coffee and the other members of the board contributed a luncheon for the men. The coffee was particularly acceptable as all of the men were drenched to the skin and chilled by the icy water.

The Volunteers.

The only volunteer company which put in an appearance at the fire was Hose 2. A number of its members worked as though they were getting pay. If all the existing volunteers were as patriotic as a few who worked, yesterday there would be some sense in the argument in favor of their resistance to the efforts of the fire commissioners to disband them. It also demonstrated that another hose wagon is needed by the department. The small 500 feet of hose carried by the volunteers was nothing in comparison to the 1,500 feet in the hose wagons, while the volunteers were entirely lacking other fire-fighting paraphernalia.

Poor Pressure.

The water pressure, yesterday, was a surprise and an unpleasant revelation to Auburnians. It has always been the boast of residents of the loveliest village that the steam fire engines of other cities could not begin to give the service of the Holly system. It was not until after the danger point in the fire had been passed that anything like the pressure needed was obtained. This is accounted for by President Wheeler of the Water board, by the fact that the water mains in that portion of the city are small, having been laid years ago. Then there are no hydrants near the scene of the fire, and the water had to be carried long distances in hose, the friction of which naturally detracted largely from the pressure. At the pump house there was a pressure of 90 pounds and both pumps were working. It was declared, yesterday that the water system had been so largely increased during the few years of city control that the pumps were inadequate to the extra work required in such an emergency as yesterday. Mr. Wheeler said this morning, that the subject of buying larger pumps had been discussed by the water commissioners, but he was of the opinion that the present pumps were adequate.

A World Reporter.

A reporter for the New York World arrived on the 6:15 Central train. His metropolitan fire badge was honored by the police and he at once sought Chief Jewhurst. Drawing him to the edge of the crowd the journalist made known his identity. He was in Troy writing dispatches from Havana when he was ordered to come to Auburn where an extensive conflagration threatened the whole city. He came at once. "Now, chief," he concluded, "can I talk with you for five minutes?" "Certainly," said the chief with one of his well-known jolly laughs. "Where?" asked the pencil-pusher. "Here," was the reply. "But look at all these," remonstrated

small boys who clustered as close as the safety ropes would permit.

"That's all right, they're all young reporters," answered the chief.

"Well, what will the loss be, \$75,000 or \$100,000?" "I don't think that there was any such Klondike as that in the building," and the discouraged New Yorker hastened elsewhere to glean facts for a story suitable in magnitude to the journal he represented.

The Losses.

The loss, as estimated by Chief Jewhurst, this morning, will amount to about \$15,000. About half of this is covered by insurance. Mr. Pinn could not make any estimate of his loss, but believed it to be much more than the insurance of \$5,500. Stevenson, the printer, was insured for \$600. His loss is comparatively light, being almost wholly from water. George W. Hoffman places his loss at \$3,500 upon which there was an insurance of \$800. Mr. Hoffman had \$1,500 worth of work completed for April delivery which was of course destroyed. The worst part of his loss is that his record books are destroyed and the work cannot be duplicated. Edward Adams, loss is between \$400 and \$500, upon which there is not any insurance. Rush & Congdon, the neck scarf jobbers were uninsured. Thalheimer, the Syracuse flour dealer, carried a small insurance. Their loss is less than a thousand dollars. Van Duyn, the laundryman, did not carry any insurance, but his loss is not heavy, being principally from water. D. W. Haley also suffered a small loss from smoke and water which is covered by insurance. The loss of the Cayuga Loan company is about \$900 and fully insured. The Klondike club lost all its furnishings which were not insured. More damage was done to W. E. Jones's paper stock, by its removal from the building than by the water and smoke. He is fully insured.

The Pinn block was erected by Robert Peat in 1852. The contractors were Robert Staiker and William Furness. The building was for many years used by Mr. Peat as a cabinet factory and ware rooms. Later it was occupied by the Scotch Cap company and finally passed into the hands of the present owner.

Hemrick's Story.

In telling of his experience Hoseman Hemrick has nothing unpleasant to relate. "I felt my blows on the partition growing weaker, but I did not feel any great discomfort. I was bound to get a hole through the partition before I got out. Suddenly the flames burst through the hole, something seemed to fall and I didn't know anything more until I was in the chemical quarters. I knew something had happened, but I couldn't tell what. I didn't feel bad, only a little dizzy and very weak. When I got strong I felt all right."

While the firemen were fighting the fire, some misguided individual turned in an alarm from box 25 at D. M. Osborne & Co.'s office in Genesee street. For a short time Chief Jewhurst thought that he had two fires on his hands at the same time.

attractive stock; is in fair credit for

The Crowds.

The fire drew one of the largest crowds which has been assembled in the city in a long time. It was a very quiet crowd and like all Auburn assemblages, very orderly. The only damage done was to the lawns about the City hall which were trampled in a way to make Janitor Hanlon weep. It was not until the firemen had retired that the crowd finally dispersed and many returned, this morning to continue their observations and comments.

March 16 1898

A Small Burn

The engine on the Osborne railway threw a spark to the roof of a shed in the lumber yard of Chamberlain & Phillips in Genesee street, this morning, which caused a very small blaze. Hosemen Hughson and Hemrick were sent with extinguishers from headquarters and hose 3 reported in full force. The firemen were not needed as the flames had been extinguished with a garden hose before their arrival.

March 17 1898

Ginsberg Goes to Jail.

A most pitiful sight was Harry Ginsberg as he sat weeping in police court, this afternoon, while Recorder Clark administered a kindly admonition, before passing sentence. Harry felt the disgrace of his position keenly and the dejected youth with tearwashed face looked little like the jaunty Harry who was a familiar figure on the streets and at the ball games during the days of his recent prosperity.

When arraigned he was asked if he desired trial. "No, I plead guilty," was the reply, and that was all that the defendant said during the remainder of the proceedings.

"I do not wish to add one drop to your already overflowing cup of shame," said the court. "You have found from bitter experience that the way of the transgressor is hard. My advice to you would be to leave Auburn, when you are free from this trouble. In some other city where you are not known, amidst new scenes and surroundings you can begin life anew, and regain the fair reputation which you have lost here. You are still very young and if you profit by the hard lesson which you have received, you may repair the past. Other men have made serious mistakes in their youthful days which by honesty and uprightness they retrieved. If in the future you can reimburse the kind friends who have suffered loss through you, I would advise you to do so, that those who have known you may say that at heart Harry Ginsberg was an honest boy." The recorder then imposed a fine of \$25, in default of which a term of twenty-five days in jail. Assistant District Attorney Rich had requested the court to be as lenient as possible in imposing sentence and this request was taken into consideration. As Harry was unable to pay his fine he will have to serve the sentence in jail.

March 26th 1898

VOLUNTEERS MUST GO.

The Court Upholds the Commissioners in Disbanding Them.

Rochester, March 26.—[Special]—At 1 o'clock this afternoon the appellate division of the supreme court in the fourth judicial department handed down a large number of decisions in important cases. The following are of local interest:

The people ex rel. John C Healy et al. against the board of fire commissioners of the city of Auburn. Writ dismissed with \$50 costs and disbursements against the relator. Opinion by Follett, J., all concur.

Lewis E. Carpenter respondent vs. John Taylor appellant. Judgment and order affirmed with costs. All concur.

Sylvanus F. Jenkins, respondent vs. Auburn City Railway company et. al. Appellants. Order reversed with \$10 costs and disbursements, and motion granted with \$10 costs. Opinion by Follett, J., in which Hardin, P. J., and Con, J., concur. Dissenting opinion by Adams, J., in which Ward, J., concur.

Empire Manufacturing company respondent vs. Charles Z. Moers and another appellants. Judgment affirmed with costs. Opinion by Hardin, P. J. All concur.

Afternoon court adjourns to April 26 o'clock. The clerk was ordered to prepare a new calendar.

"Add" Max Heron's estate (with living rooms); own no real estate.

April 1st 1898

THE VOLUNTEERS

Hose 2 Quits Gracefully and the Others May Follow Suit.

The members of Letchworth Volunteer hose company have decided not to thwart the will of the fire commissioners in the matter of their disbandment, by further litigation. This determination was reached at a special meeting of the company held last night. A minority of the remaining volunteers desire to press their claims still further in court, but the majority are willing, nay, even anxious for disbandment.

All the remaining property belonging to the company was divided among the members and now when the final order for disbandment is given, all that will remain for the volunteers to do is to lock the doors and turn over the keys to the commissioners.

There is considerable strife among the members of the other two companies as to what course will be pursued. Some of the members desire to follow the action of Hose 2, while others desire to continue the fight.

There is much talk among the members of Hose 2, of forming a social organization with just a dash of politics to make it spicy. The proposition is to purchase the old hose house in Fulton street of the city for the club quarters.

The fire commissioners have not yet announced what course they will pursue in regard to the disbandment of the remaining volunteers. The commissioners will hold a regular meeting next Thursday night, at which time they will probably declare their policy.

April 2nd 1898

VANISHING VOLUNTEERS.

Fives and Sixes Must Follow Hose 2's Example.

Today saw the last of the volunteer fire department. Chief Engineer Jewhurst carried into effect the order issued by the commissioners so long ago, to remove the department property in the volunteer quarters. The order was held in abeyance while the rights of the volunteers were fought out in the courts. The decision was against the volunteers and sustaining the commissioners. After waiting a reasonable time for the volunteers to take any further action, if they desired the commissioners directed the chief engineer to carry into effect their order disbanding the old companies.

The city property in the quarters of Letchworth hose 2 and Alert hose 6, was taken to the department store house in Market street. The property was not in the best of condition, with the possible exception of the brooms and mops. These implements were in excellent condition and showed very little wear. Most of the bedding was burned in the yard back of the store house.

Gas and water pipes were disconnected. The members of Hose 6 have been enjoying the privilege of the gas up to this time; but the water was turned off sometime ago, owing to a broken water pipe, which the common council refused to repair. Nothing remains at the house but the furnishings and other property belonging to the company. It is understood that the house will be turned over to the city by the fire commissioners after their next meeting on Thursday evening. The house was erected by the city; but the land is leased from the New York Central railroad company for a long term of years.

It was learned, today from the president of the company, that the members had not decided to disband. There was no intention of it and they meant to see the thing through. When disbandment is quite apparent, then the members are going to organize a club and rent the house as quarters.

This afternoon the department property was taken from the house of Ross hose 5.

... and Findings. ...

April 7th 1898

This Afternoon's Fire

There was a small fire in the old Kelly house in North Division street, this afternoon. The house belongs to the Beardsley estate and is occupied by Featon Brennan. Sparks from a defective chimney dropped upon the floor and a small place was burned. The damage will amount to about \$10.

The fire department is sadly crippled just at present, by sickness among the horses. One of the truck horses is under the veterinary's care and one of the chemical team is unable to respond to duty calls. This caused some delay in the response to the alarm and prevented the chemical engine from going at all.

April 8th 1898

NEW WAGON WANTED.

Fire Commissioners Entertain Bids From Seneca Falls.

At the regular meeting, last night, the fire commissioners took the initiative steps towards the purchase of another hose wagon for the fire department. Two propositions were submitted for its construction. Both were from Seneca Falls manufacturing concerns. The Gleason & Bailey Manufacturing company proposed to build a wagon to correspond in detail with the one now in service at fire station No. 3, for \$525 cash and the old Gleason & Bailey hook and ladder truck - the wagon to be delivered in sixty days after signing the contract. Rumsey & company propose to build a similar wagon for \$575 and allow \$50 cash for the old truck. In other respects the propositions are the same. The proposals were referred to the committee on apparatus and the board will hold a special meeting next Thursday night, when the contract will probably be awarded.

The committee on buildings, which is making extensive repairs at station No. 3, asked for further time before making a report and the request was granted. There has been considerable delay on the part of the contractors which was mentioned by the committee in connection with its request for further time.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported that a new fire alarm box, No. 47, had been added to the fire alarm telegraph service. It was located at the office of the Columbia Cordage company in Cottage street. The box was purchased by the fire department committee of the common council. The committee had further expressed a willingness to pay any additional expense incurred in placing the box in service. There had been some expense and the chief was directed to present the bill to the committee.

The chief also reported that seven call men had failed to respond to a "bell" alarm of fire on March 2, and had further failed to offer any excuse for such failure. The delinquents were ordered fined \$1 each.

Letchworth hose 2 presented a request that exempt certificates be granted to its members. It was ordered that certificates be granted to those who were entitled to them and who had not previously received such certificates.

Seymour Betts, a clerk of 16 Elm street made application for a position as call man, and Albert W. Beacham, a tinsmith of 11 1-2 John street, desired appointment as either call man or permanent man.

A communication was received from the Wallace hose coupler re-staper company of Kalamazoo, Mich., offering to furnish a male and female shaper for \$35. The chief engineer was directed to procure the machine.

A number of bills were ordered paid and Clerk Ramage announced that he had directed the water and gas companies to turn off the water and gas in the volunteer hose houses. The salaries of the call men and the clerk of the board were ordered paid and the clerk was ordered to procure necessary stationery for the use of the board.

Mr. Smith moved that when the board adjourned it be to April 14. The motion was carried and the board adjourned.

April 8th 1898

A Second Fire Alarm.

The fire department was given a short run at 7:05 o'clock last night. A call was sent in from box 63, in State street. The fire was in the old wooden building in Water street, formerly used by MoCarthy as a plaster ware house. The building has been set on fire several times, and the blaze, last night was plainly another attempt to burn it up. The fire was put out without the assistance of the firemen.

when Thomas with
April 11th 1898

A Hot Time.

There was a call for the fire department, this morning at 7:06 1-2 o'clock from box 24. Some hot ashes had been emptied into a wooden barrel in the summer kitchen of the residence of Mrs. Pingree in Genesee street. The damage was very slight.

April 15th 1898

MORE FIREMEN.

Five Added to the Working Force

April 14th 1898
An addition was made to the manual force of the fire department by the fire commissioners, last night, at a regular adjourned meeting. Another permanent man and four additional call men were appointed. Ed Rumsey and John Kizer, representing a Seneca Falls fire apparatus manufactory were present for the supposed purpose of using their persuasive powers to the end that the commissioners should enter into a contract for another hose wagon. The commissioners wouldn't. They want to trade the old Gleason and Bailey truck towards a new hose wagon and they want more than \$50 for the truck, which is all the manufacturers will give. It is probable that an agreement will be reached before long and the order for the new wagon will be placed.

The necessity for the appointment of additional men to the department is obvious. The retirement from active service of the volunteers slightly reduced the working force and to insure sufficient help in case of emergency the extra men were employed.

When the meeting had been called to order by President Spears, the committee on apparatus, through Chairman Moore, asked for further time which was granted.

Michael F. Otis of Jefferson street, made application for appointment as a call man at Hose 3; Frank Coffee now call man at Hose 2, made application as a permanent man.

The Auburn Rubber Tire works presented a proposal to put rubber tires on the chief engineer's wagon for \$44. The acceptance of the offer was deferred.

Then, on motion of Mr. Moore a recess was taken while the commissioners conferred as to the appointees.

When the members resumed business it didn't take very long to complete it. Frank Coffee, who has long been a call man at Hose 3, was made a permanent member of that company. The extra man is stationed there because just at present the department supply wagon is being used as a hose wagon and is quartered at station 3.

P. A. Ryan was made a call man, attached to Hose 1. This is one of the best appointments the commissioners have ever made. Ryan was for a long time a volunteer member of Hose 2, and he is known as one of the best firemen in the city. John Tennant, a tinsmith, was assigned to the truck company. Albert W. Beacham, also a tinsmith, was quartered at the chemical company. He is an ex-member of the regular army. P. F. Morrissey, an ex-member of the old volunteer department in which he served with Active hose 7, was appointed a call man at Hose 3, to fill the vacancy made by the promotion of Coffee. This business completed, the board adjourned.

A Quiet Sunday Fire.

An oil stove caught fire in the apartments of Miss Minnie C. Tift in the flat at No 13 William street, yesterday morning, and the firemen were called by 'phone at 8:15 o'clock. The firemen were told that there wasn't any danger and it was greatly desired that a crowd should not be collected. So Hoseman Hughson of the Chemical company and Hemrick of hose 1, took a small extinguisher in the chief's wagon and hurried to the threatened conflagration. It did not take the experienced firefighters long to extinguish the flames. So expeditiously was the matter conducted that the Sabbath quiet was not disturbed and even the other inmates of the house did not know, until all over, how near they had been being burned out of house and home. The damage was very slight.

Two Small Blazes.

Patrick May's house, 11 Pulsifer street was on fire late, Saturday afternoon and boxes 46 and 45 were rung at the same time. The department wagons at headquarters hurried to the call from box 46, near May's house; but Hose 3 went to the Cayuga asylum to box 45. The fire was caused by a defective chimney; but Otto Hornung and several workmen from Osborne's shop extinguished the blaze before the arrival of the department.

A few minutes later the roof of Osborne's malleable works caught fire from the cupola, but the blaze was extinguished after burning four feet square of roof.

TWO BLAZES.

One in an Outhouse - Another Causes Panic in a Concert Hall.

At 10:52 last night an alarm of fire was sent in to headquarters from box 17, corner of Lewis and Lansing streets. An outhouse and chicken coop had in some unknown manner caught fire in rear of the home of Patrick Green, No. 80 Lansing street. The flames were communicating to a nearby barn when the firemen arrived. The chemical engine soon had the blaze extinguished. The feelings of two members of the Chemical company were deeply wounded, by a fall into a quagmire.

In coming down the pole from the bunk room in response to the alarm, John Tennett, a call man of the Truko company, was struck over the eye by a swing door and was severely hurt. He was so dazed that he failed to go with the truck but he rallied and by hard sprinting caught Hose 1, and went to the fire just the same.

Just before midnight, last night when one of the champion lady balladists was trilling forth one of her most fetching ditties and wishing that it was time for the place to close up, the spectators saw smoke issuing from the dressing room at the right of the stage in Beard's Casino concert hall. Employees of the place found the cause of the fire in the street costume of the singer, which had been carelessly hung too near a gas jet in the dressing room and was all in a blaze. The flaming garment was thrown out of doors and a serious conflagration was averted. The dressing room was filled with costumes and paraphernalia of the performers which must have caught fire in a short time.

UNOCCUPIED HOSE HOUSES

Turned Over to the City - \$20,000 for the Fire Fund

The fire commissioners didn't do anything exciting at their regular meeting, last night. The unoccupied hose houses were formally turned over to the common council in compliance with a request made by the aldermen at their last meeting.

The building committee which has in charge elaborate repairs at the house of hose 3, asked for further time before making a report. The request was granted. The committee on apparatus also desired further time. To this committee was referred the bids of the hose wagon manufacturers for making the new wagon so much needed by the department. It is understood that the commissioners will not make a contract for a new wagon until the common council has constructed the new house. The council, it is hinted does not propose to construct the new house until the old buildings are sold so that the proceeds may be applied to the cost of the proposed building. If this plan is carried out it may be several years before the building is erected and the additional company so much needed is added to the department. A fire of any magnitude would disclose the weakness of the department in the matter of apparatus, hose and men. It is to be hoped that the luck which has attended the city so long may continue and the inefficiency of the department may not be discovered to the public and cause unpleasant criticism of the heads of the department.

The committee on supplies reported the purchase of additional furniture for the accommodation of the call men recently appointed.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported the fires and alarms to which the department responded during the month of April; the men who were absent with leave and those who were not; that the cost of placing box 47 in working order was \$9 87; that the contingent fund in his hands was overdrawn \$1 30. One unfortunate call man who was absent from a fire without an excuse was fined the usual dollar. The commissioners determined very magnanimously not to present the bill for the expense of placing box 47, to the council, although the council had expressed a perfect willingness to foot the bill. The contingent fund was reimbursed in the sum of \$11.80.

The chief engineer reported that the re-shaping tool ordered at the last meeting had arrived and had proved to be all that was claimed for it by the manufacturers.

The chief made still another report that he had corresponded with a hose company at Antwerp, N. Y., in regard to the purchase of one of the old hand hose carriages. As yet nothing had come of the correspondence.

P. F. Morrissy, who was recently appointed a call man at Hose 3, made application for a position on the permanent force. The applicant was injured by the cars some years ago and a portion of his foot was cut off.

Mortimer J. Donovan applied for a position as driver in the department. Mr. Smith explained that P. M. Herron had requested that the board "do something" for Donovan. Mr. Herron had been told to have Donovan file an application for appointment. This applicant's other qualification was that he had worked for years for D. M. Osborne & Company.

The formal request from the common council, asking that the unoccupied hose houses be turned over to it, was read and Mr. Smith offered a resolution complying with the request.

The usual schedule of claims was audited.

Mr. Moore offered a resolution which was adopted, that the common council be requested to appropriate \$20,000 for the department for the ensuing year.

Clerk Ramage was directed to advertise for proposals for supplying the department with coal during the ensuing year. He was also directed to secure proposals for printing the annual report of the board.

The vacations of the permanent members of the department were ordered to commence May 23.

Mr. Moore thought that the turning over of the hose houses would be more formal if accompanied by the keys of the houses. The chief was accordingly directed to secure the keys of the houses still in the possession of the old volunteers.

The chief reported the need of some rubber coats and other supplies and he was directed to obtain them. Then the board adjourned.

RECORDING IN THE TOWN

May 17th 1898

PLAN FOR NEW HOSE HOUSE

Common Council Committee to Obtain Facts and Figures.

BOARD ENJOYS A LITTLE TILT.

Alderman Corcoran, who Thinks he has a Grievance, Indulges in a Wordy War With the Mayor, Over the Purchase of an Engine - Protection Afforded to Local Merchants Against Bankrupt Sales - Three Hose Houses Turned Over to the City by the Fire Department - Coal Combine Continues.

Fire department matters occupied a considerable share of the common council's attention at its regular meeting, last evening. First of all, the fire commissioners sent word that they had no further use for the old hose house buildings, Nos. 2, 5 and 6, and consequently they officially turned over the property to the city. This was accompanied by a recommendation that a new hose house be erected on the recently acquired premises in Owasco street in order that another paid fire company may be added to the department. The commissioners announced that an appropriation of \$20,000--the full amount allowed by law--would be required to defray the running expenses of the department the ensuing year.

Later in the session resolutions touching upon these matters were introduced by Alderman Putnam and were adopted by the council. By their provisions the city building committee was directed to

ascertain and report to the council whether the hose houses Nos. 2 and 5, and the land upon which they stand, can be sold, and if so for what consideration. The committee was authorized, if in its judgment it was deemed advisable, to advertise for sealed proposals for the purchase of the property in question.

The other resolutions which were unanimously carried, related to the erection of a new hose house as follows:

Resolved, That the committee on city buildings and committee on fire department be and are hereby directed and authorized to procure plans and specifications for a hose house to be erected upon a lot owned by the city on the corner of Owasco and Mill streets, together with proposals for the construction of such building in conformity with the plans submitted, and report the same to the common council for its action, with such recommendations as to them may seem advisable. Further,

Resolved, That the fire commissioners be and are hereby requested to cooperate and advise with said committees in the matter hereby referred to them.

The Budget.

In addition to the sum of \$20,000 required by the fire department, to pay running expenses, the water board sent in a communication that the city's water rate for the current year would be \$11,600, and the board of health notified the council that it would require the maximum amount, \$5,000, for the year's expenses. The matter will be allowed to rest until the budget is made up, which will probably be about the middle of June.

Against Auctions

A measure was adopted which is in line with a recent legislative enactment having for its purpose the restriction of fire and water sales and bankrupt sales. The council, by resolution of Alderman Burgess, voted unanimously to impose a license fee of one hundred dollars a month upon any persons engaging in such business in the city. No license will be granted for less than a month.

All Coal Looks Alike

The usual similarity in figures was displayed when Clerk Herrling opened proposals from eight local dealers, to furnish coal to the city the ensuing year. The prices for Anthracite coal were all precisely alike--\$4 60 a ton for egg, stove and nut coal, and \$1 35 for grate coal. T. H. Garrett, jr., submitted a bid of \$4 10 and \$3.85 respectively, for Loyal Sock coal. The other bidders were Manro & Hugg, J. M. Cullen, M. A. Bachman, Douglas Beardsley, W. D. Slee, F. J. Stupp & Co., M. S. Goss. Upon motion of Alderman Burgess, the proposals were referred to the committee on city buildings.

A War of Words.

One episode of the meeting was a violent oratorical duel between Alderman Corcoran and Mayor Lewis, in which all parliamentary rules were torn to tatters. The contestants grew red in the face as they tried to talk the other down, and the walls reverberated with the vociferous utterances. Alderman Corcoran was especially lusty in his remarks, and would have won the argument if vehemence were the only factor to be considered.

The debate all started over the subject of an engine to run the new stone crusher. The matter was explained at the previous meeting of the council. The street superintendent had received assurances, that the old engine was not capable of running the new crusher. Jay P. Nye of the Bird-sall works offered to sell a suitable engine to the city for \$900. The man who set up the crusher offered to furnish

25-horse power engine for \$500 which was accepted after consultation with a majority of the aldermen. At the same time the Bowen Manufacturing company of this city made the city an offer of \$200 for the old engine, and at last night's meeting a fresh bid was received. It was from C. E. Goodrich who said he would pay \$275 for the engine. This reduced the actual cost of the new engine to \$225. For some reason or other Alderman Corcoran didn't approve of the plan, urging in robust voice that he had a duty to perform to his constituents, but just what that duty was, he didn't reveal to his colleagues. He said he knew of a young man who would give \$375 for a old engine but no amount of persuasion could induce him to disclose the name of the young man.

As soon as Mr. Goodrich's proposal was read, Alderman Cross moved that it be referred to the mayor with power. Alderman Corcoran promptly moved to lay the bid on the table. This was lost, the mover voting alone in the affirmative.

Mayor Lewis then went on to explain how matters stood. Then Alderman Corcoran made his statement about a young man who wanted to pay one hundred dollars more than the next highest bidder for the old engine.

"Come to me in the morning," said the mayor with avidity.

"I'll not come to you," retorted the alderman hotly.

"Well, then I'll go to you. I'll go to the man who will pay that amount for the old engine. I'll hunt for him all day." The mayor thought that an interview with the young man would entail a protracted pursuit with little chance of running down the game.

Then Alderman Corcoran abandoned this line of talk and branched out on a diatribe against the sale of the old engine anyhow. He declared that it was capable of running the crusher and he clinched this statement by offering to eat the engine if it wouldn't do the work. Another thing that he disliked was going way into the state of Pennsylvania to purchase an engine when there are three engine manufactories in Auburn.

The mayor argued that experts had said the old engine was unequal to the task of running the old machine. Alderman Corcoran said it could be made to do the work by proper repairs.

The war of words continued without damage to either side. The mayor finally landed a shot: "I'm very much obliged for telling of a man who will give \$375 for the old engine." To this Alderman Corcoran returned a hot fire of words. "What's his name?" insisted the mayor, but the alderman evaded the question.

Finally Mayor Lewis became exasperated and he blurted out: "I'll give you ten dollars out of my own clothes if you'll show me the man that will give \$375 for that engine."

"I don't want your money," was the ingenuous retort and then the battle waxed stronger. Alderman Corcoran spoke in vociferous tones of the duty he owed his constituents. Mayor Lewis replied by declaring that a saving of \$500 or \$600 to the taxpayers was of far greater benefit and he declared he would not feel justified in paying that additional amount for an engine manufactured in this city.

Before all this argument started, the mayor had commenced to refer the matter to the Cross motion. The affirmative side had voted when Alderman Corcoran started the ball rolling. At the conclusion of the engagement Mayor Lewis said:

"We had started to vote on this question, but after Mr. Corcoran's burst of oratory I'm going to give you a chance to vote again, as his eloquence may have led some of you to change your minds."

Then Alderman Wiggins proposed a new plan. It was that the council should advertise for sealed proposals for the purchase of the engine.

"I don't see the use of that," declared Alderman Burgess, "when Alderman Corcoran can produce a man who will give \$375 for it."

Alderman Cross asserted that he was willing to trust the mayor in getting the highest possible price for the engine. That, he said, was the reason he had offered the motion to refer the matter to the mayor with power. Under the motion the mayor could sell the engine to Alderman Corcoran for \$375.

Alderman Wiggins' proposition to so-
lute bids was thereupon voted down,
and the Cross motion was carried with-
out a dissenting voice. Alderman Cor-
coran did not vote and shortly afterward
he left the council chamber and did not
re-appear.

The rest of the business of the session
was of a routine character. Alderman
Emerson was the only absentee. Upon
motion of Alderman Wiggins permission
was given to the Auburn Gas Light com-
pany to erect a wooden building 13 by
33 feet on the company's premises to be
occupied by the concentrating ap-
paratus.

The residents of North Elm street
complained of flooded cellars and peti-
tioned the council for a sewer. The
matter was referred to the sewer com-
mittee.

Upon motion of Alderman Putnam,
an expressman's license was ordered is-
sued to H. W. Richardson.

The map of a short sewer in Van An-
den street, was submitted by Surveyor
Austin, and was ordered filed upon
motion of Alderman Dalton.

The board of health in a communica-
tion requested the construction of a
sewer in West street from Derby avenue
to connect with the existing sewer. Re-
ceived and filed.

The committee appointed to investi-
gate the scheme for re numbering Court
street reported that it was not in ac-
cordance with the system laid down in
the ordinances, but the committee fur-
ther said that the provisions of the ordi-
nance were constantly being violated
and it recommended their repeal. By
resolution of Alderman Shallish the
sections in question were repealed and
the Court street plan of re-numbering
was adopted.

The sewer committee reported that it
was unable to obtain satisfactory re-
plies from the people owning land along
the proposed route of a sewer in the
Sixth ward. Some offered easements
without cost; other demands were gross-
ly excessive. The committee was of the
belief that relief could be afforded the
people by diverting the street water into
other channels than the old water
course, and a recommendation to that
effect was made. The report was or-
dered filed.

The street committee reported that it
had been unable to get the owner of
property in Grant street to fix a price
for it, in order that the street can be
widened. The committee therefore re-
commended the appointment of a com-
mission to condemn the land needed. By
resolution of Alderman Dalton, the city
attorney was instructed to take the
necessary action.

By resolution of Alderman Burgess,
\$3,000 of the \$16,000 to be appropriated
for street repairs, will be reserved for
contingent repairs.

By resolution of Alderman Wiggins,
William Crayton was appointed inspec-
tor of the sewer to be constructed in
the Tenth ward, and the council ad-
journed.

May 19th 1898

MOTH AND FLAME.

One Sure Way of Ridding Carpets of Living Pests

For some time past, carpet moths
have annoyed Mrs. Glenn F. Briggs
of No. 8 Elizabeth street. One
friend told her that benzine would
eradicate the pests, and another friend
declared that she drove them out of her
home by fumigating with sulphur. Mrs.
Briggs thought if one remedy was effi-
cacious, both would certainly guarantee
a cure. Consequently, this morning she
tried both and now there isn't a carpet
bug in the house. It cost about \$1000
to get them to vacate.

First, Mrs. Briggs saturated the carpet
with the benzine and then she put some
sulphur on a dustpan and set it on fire.
In just two minutes there was a call for
the fire department from box 42, corner
of South and Elizabeth streets.

The benzine caught fire from the sul-
phur flame, the carpet in the
double parlors was ruined, as

paintings and bric-a-brac; the wall
and ceiling decorations were ruined by
the smoke; the furniture was blistered
and scorched, a hole was burned in the
floor and the woodwork in the rooms was
charred.

The building is owned by Mrs. Sarah
F. Wilder. The damage to the building
was not very heavy but the pretty
things in the double parlors were
ruined.

Commissioners Award Contracts.

The fire commissioners held a special
meeting, last night and awarded two
contracts. Commissioner Smith was
not present. The proposals for supply-
ing the department with coal for the
ensuing year were opened. There were
ten bids, two less than last year. Each
of the ten dealers offered the same
grades of coal for precisely the same
price, so it was voted to divide the con-
tract among them as equally as possible.

There were three proposals for print-
ing 150 copies of the proceedings of the
board for each of the years 1897 and
1898. The ADVERTISER proposed to do the
work for \$40; the Bulletin wanted \$33
and M. J. Schicht bid \$32 50. To the un-
initiated it might seem a little singular
that there was such a slight difference
between the proposals of the two lowest
bidders. The contract was of course
awarded to the lowest bidder.

The resolution of Alderman Putnam
as adopted by the common council at its
last meeting, regarding plans for the
construction of a new fire station, was
formally received and filed. Then the
board adjourned.

The firemen were given another run,
last night. The old red house, or rather
shell of a building in Water street,
which has been so many times set on
fire, was again caused to blaze. It did
not take the firemen at headquarters
but a few minutes to answer a still
alarm and extinguish the flames.

FIRED OUT.

Fire Commissioners' Meeting Sud- denly Interrupted.

Just at the period when his minutes
of previous sessions were getting inter-
esting, at the regular meeting of the
board of fire commissioners, last night,
Clerk Ramage was compelled to stop to
allow an alarm of fire to be sounded on
the gongs at headquarters.

"If there isn't any objection the
board will take a recess," said President
Spears. There wasn't any objection and
everybody went to the fire.

The alarm was from box 25, at the
corner of Genesee and Mechanic streets.
A lot of waste paper under the rear
porch of the art store of G. A. Baker,
opposite the office of D. M. Osborne &
Company, had caught fire. It was
quickly extinguished and the fire com-
missioners recommenced their meeting.

The committee on buildings asked for
further time as the repairs at the quar-
ters of hose 3 which have been under
way for several months were not yet
completed. The committee reported
progress. The committee on apparatus

also asked for further time and promis-
ed to have something interesting to re-
port in the near future.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported four
fires since the last regular meeting.
Three call men had been absent from
one of the fires. One man
had offered an excuse which
the commissioners deemed un-
satisfactory and the trio was fined \$1
each.

John H. Clark of Mattie street made
a formal application for a position as a
permanent man. The regular schedule
of bills was passed and the men were
ordered to don their summer uniforms,
June 10.

The clerk was directed to advertise
for proposals for painting the quarters
of Hose 3. The bids will be opened at a
special meeting of the board to be held
Thursday, June 9.

President Spears suggested that some
action be taken towards the purchase of
new fire hose. Mr. Moore did
not favor the proposition and of course
it was not acted upon. Mr. Moore
thought that the department was in
greater need of alarm boxes for the fire
alarm telegraph service, but nothing
was done about purchasing them.

The chief engineer was directed to
officially inform the police department
that the bell had been stolen from Ross
hose house, and ask that the police make
all possible effort to find it. Nothing
was said about punishing the thieves who
stole it. The chief was also instructed to
purchase necessary provender and other
supplies for the defendant.

W. J. Barrett, a call man was ap-
pointed a substitute permanent man
during vacation, time at the regular sal-
ary.

Mr. Moore reported the sale of the
bar and beer cooler that was in the store
house when it was purchased. The sale
netted the sum of \$8, which Mr. Moore
thought was a good price.

The meeting then adjourned.

Sunday Night's Fire.

The barn of Edmond Gilbert, the gro-
cer, of No. 12 Hamilton avenue, was
partially destroyed by fire, last night.
The origin of the fire is a mystery. It
started in the loft where there was noth-
ing of an inflammable character and
where no one had been since 6 o'clock
in the evening. The flames were not
discovered until they burst through the
roof with a fierceness which threatened
to consume not only the barn but the
adjacent houses. A call for
the fire department was turned
in from box 42, corner of
South and Elizabeth streets at 11:06.
The upper part of the barn was entirely
destroyed together with 200 bushels of
oats, a large quantity of hay, sleighs,
ropes and stable furniture. The five
horses were taken out of the building
with much difficulty and the wagons

on the first floor were saved. The loss
will amount to \$1,200.

Houses adjacent to the barn were
scorched by the heat and had it not been
for the prompt work of the firemen
the fire would have spread. Three
lines of hose were laid and
the need of new hose was
demonstrated by the number of bursts
which occurred and hampered the work
of the firemen.

A Little One.

Saturday night a fire was started in the ruins of the old Everts sash and glass factory in Mechanic street. Before the blaze had reached very large proportions it was discovered and extinguished by Druggist Elliott. Two or three pails of water did the business just as effectually as though the whole fire department had been called out.

LAWRENCE KELLY

Firebugs Busy.

There was another small fire, last night, which was plainly of incendiary origin. Within a brief period there have been several of these incendiary fires, none of which has amounted to any great financial loss, but if they are permitted to continue a terrible conflagration may be the result. It is a matter which the police department should investigate. An example should be made of the guilty person which will permanently stop any further acts of the kind.

The fire, last night, was in the rear of Schreck Brothers furniture ware rooms in East Genesee street. The building was formerly the Genesee rink. A quantity of material from mattresses and furniture was piled against the building and lighted. One of the watchmen in the factory of D. M. Osborne & Co. saw the flames and telephoned fire department headquarters. The blaze was extinguished with very little trouble, as it had not gained much headway. Had the fire succeeded in getting a start in the building the resultant loss cannot be estimated.

Alert Hose's Franchise.

It was Alderman Dalton who moved that the fire commissioners be requested to deliver to Alert hose 6, one of the hose carriages formerly used by the volunteer fire companies, together with 250 feet of hose, for the use of the company which should hereafter be an independent organization. When this resolution had been adopted without dissent, another resolution was introduced by Mr. Dalton, that Alert hose company be allowed to use the house in State street formerly occupied by it, on condition that the city be permitted to use it for caucus and election purposes without cost to the city; that necessary repairs be made by the company; that the company obtain a lease of the land on which the building stands from the New York Central Railway company and permission be given to move the building to the land at the expiration of the lease, or sooner if the hose company be disbanded or be vacated the house for thirty days notice from the city. A resolution was likewise adopted in opposition.

It came Alderman Corcoran's resolution about the paving in Chapel street which created the unpleasant disturbance to us: "Stock \$12,000 (count all bills, mdse. indebtedness \$4,000, all clear." Reputed to be made by Marshall Field & Co.; has made all he has thought holding his own.

June 8th 1898

ARRESTED FOR ARSON.

A Youth Charged With a Serious Offense and Confesses.

Another youth who wanted to see the fire department run, is in trouble, and serious trouble at that. Harry A. Talbot, 17 years old, was arrested, yesterday afternoon, upon a charge of arson, second degree. The youth acknowledges that he set the fire in the rear of the Schreck block, Monday night. Whether he is the author of the other incendiary fires which have taken place in the city recently, is not yet known. The boy is not of brilliant mentality.

A Young Incendiary.

Young Harry A. Talbot, the self-confessed fire-bug waived examination before Recorder Clark, this morning when arraigned on the charge of attempting to fire the Schreck furniture warehouse. He was remanded to jail in default of \$1,000 bail to await the action of the October grand jury. He has also admitted setting fire to the Mack house in Owasco street and several other similar offenses.

Fire in a Stove.

The fire department was summoned by telephone at 11 o'clock this forenoon, to No. 6 Spring street, but its services were not required. An oil stove in a kitchen on the second floor, became unruly and threatened to set fire to the house, so the alarm was sent in. The trouble was over when the firemen arrived. The damage consisted of smoked wall paper.

Art Note.

The board of fire commissioners held a meeting last night and awarded the contract for painting the exterior of the quarters of Hose 3. The proposals were as follows: H. A. Hompe, \$110; Hompe & Co., \$90; H. L. Clark, \$97; S. L. Delane, \$98; William Milton, \$75. The contract was awarded to Milton.

USELESS RUN.

A telephone call brought the fire department to the Y. M. C. A. building shortly after 9 o'clock this morning. The janitor had just started a fire in the furnace and as the damper was turned off the smoke came out of the sides and doors of the furnace in great quantities, making quite a smudge. There was no need for the firemen.

June 18th 1898

NEW DRIVER ELECTED.

Anton Relinquishes the Ribbons Over the Milk White Team.

There was a special meeting of the board of fire commissioners, last night. It was called for the purpose of receiving the resignation of Driver Joseph Anton of Hose 1, and appointing a successor. All the commissioners were present and after the usual formalities which the session had been called.

A communication was received from the common council, reciting Alderman Dalton's resolutions adopted at the recent meeting of the city fathers, directing the fire commissioners to give one 250 feet of hose to Alert hose, which was made an independent fire-fighting organization. The president told his colleagues that part of the aldermanic order had been obeyed, that of supplying the hose wagon. The other part, regarding the hose department was short on reliable hose, didn't have enough, in fact, for the regular companies.

The resignation of Driver Anton was then read and accepted. It is to take effect tonight. Anton has been in the department several years and has been an efficient fireman. His resignation was offered to accept a better position with the American laundry.

When the resignation had been accepted, Mr. Smith moved that the clerk cast a ballot for John H. Clark to fill the vacancy. Mr. Moore amended that the board proceed to ballot and of course the board balloted. Clark received the unanimous vote and was declared elected. He was ordered to report for duty Monday morning. The board then adjourned.

A SMALL FIRE.

A call over the telephone brought Hose 3 to the old Lehigh Valley round house at 3 o'clock this afternoon. The firemen found the roof of the despatcher's office burning. A small stream easily extinguished the flames. The fire was caused by sparks from a passing engine.

Books Closed for the Year.

The fire commissioners closed up their business for the fiscal year at a regularly adjourned meeting, last night. Bills to the amount of \$664.41 were ordered paid. There are outstanding accounts which amount to less than \$20 and there will be a balance in the treasury from last year's appropriation of about \$200 after all the department debts are paid.

The committee on apparatus was empowered to purchase a new hose wagon for the hose house which is to be constructed in the First ward, this summer. The commissioners also announced that they would receive bids for 1,000 feet of new hose at the regular meeting to be held August 4.

Fred W. Haskell and Thomas Hodgson made application for appointment in the permanent portion of the department. Then the meeting adjourned.

A Running Race Added

July 2nd 1898

Plans for New Hose House.

The plans for the erection of the new hose house in Owasco street, were adopted, last night. The fire commissioners had contracted with C. C. Darrow to draw plans and so the drawings presented by him were adopted, although the aldermen were more favorably impressed with the plans of a young man named Armstrong.

The building is to be 29x63 feet, with a basement 8 feet high; an apparatus floor, over which there will be the dormitories and recreation rooms, while a gable roof will make a garret large enough to hold a year's supply of hay.

July 2-98
\$400, ins. \$400, misc.

July 4th 1898

An Order Properly Placed.

The fire commissioners have placed the order for the new hose wagon with George F. Wills of this city. It will be modeled after the wagons now in use in the department. The running gear and other parts of the old Gleason & Bailey truck which can be utilized will be used in the construction of the wagon. It is believed that by this course a large saving can be made on the cost of the wagon.

July 5-98
all bills, misc. indebtedness \$1,000

July 6th 1898

Last Night's Fire.

There was an alarm of fire from box 4, in Washington street at 9:07 o'clock, last night. A lamp exploded in the house occupied by John Beard at 69 Washington street. None of the family was at home and the flames were discovered by a passerby. The fire was extinguished before it had done much damage.

July 6-98
EDWARD BOETTINGER

July 7th 1898

False Alarm.

At 1:11, this afternoon a message was received at fire department headquarters over the Automatic 'phone, that there was a fire in the rear of Hall's creamery in Genesee street. There wasn't any fire and a fine of \$25 awaits the author of the false message if his identity can be discovered.

July 12th 1898

Yesterday's Fire.

There was a small fire in Anna street, at 5 o'clock, yesterday afternoon. The house was owned by Michael Shaw and occupied by Mrs. Flynn. It is supposed that the flames caught from an ironing board which was set behind the door of the vestibule. The blaze went out of the open door and ran up the outside of the house and was finding a foothold in the garret when the arrival of the firemen stopped its further progress. The damage will amount to about \$50.

July 13th 1898

BARN AND CONTENTS BURNED

Two Horses Perish in the Flames Loss \$2,000

A barn belonging to the O'Connor estate at 178 State street, together with two horses and the contents of the building was burned early this morning. Several adjacent buildings were also damaged by fire. The total loss will amount to \$2,000. The flames originated in the O'Connor barn and are believed to have been the work of an incendiary.

The first alarm was sent in to fire department headquarters at 3:25, from box 47, at the office of the Columbia Cordage factory. Fred Simpkin, the watchman saw the fire and gave the alarm. Later another alarm was turned in from box 16, at the corner of State and Cottage streets, opposite the burning building. This occasioned some confusion in the transmission of the call, but it did not delay the firemen.

Upon the arrival of Chief Engineer Jewhurst, not only was the O'Connor barn a mass of flames, but another barn, owned by Timothy Coughlin, was blazing merrily, the roof of a house also owned by Coughlin was on fire, and the cornice on the brick building owned by the O'Connor estate and occupied as a grocery, was bursting into flame. Chief Jewhurst turned in a general alarm which summoned the entire department, and by hard work all the buildings were saved excepting the O'Connor barn which was doomed from the first.

When the fire was first discovered the entire structure was wrapped in flames. The first arrivals at the scene were unable to effect an entrance into the building and nothing inside was saved. Two horses perished in the fire. The screams of the doomed animals were pitiful, but so fiercely did the fire burn that the anguish of the brutes was mercifully of short duration.

The heat from the burning building was intense and the adjoining structures which were as dry as tinder from the long continued draught, were not long in bursting into flame.

The heaviest loss was of course sustained by the O'Connor estate. The damage to the building and its contents will amount to \$1,500. The injury to the Coughlin house and barn will be \$300. The barn was used by P. H. Dunn, the grocer and nearly all his belongings were rescued. His loss will not be more than \$50. The Coughlin house was occupied by two families. H. D. Green who lived in the upper story suffered considerable damage to furniture by water. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

Patrolman Breese passed the scene of the conflagration only a few moments before the blaze burst forth and he did not notice anything suspicious about the place. There hadn't been any light in the building since early in the evening, and the origin of the fire can only be accounted for as the work of an incendiary.

An Unconscious Incendiary.

The Central railway station was threatened with destruction by fire shortly before noon today. A well-dressed stranger entered the ticket office and inquired of Assistant Agent Sanford about the running of certain trains.

While Mr. Sanford was looking up the desired information, the stranger lighted a fresh cigar from the burning end of the cigar he had been smoking and then calmly dropped the butt into the well-filled waste paper basket. The caller found out what he wanted to know and left. Shortly afterward the assistant agent locked the office and went out. He returned in a few minutes to find flames leaping from the top and sides of the wicker basket. He gave the burring mass a swift kick, driving it out into the women's waiting room. Then he grasped the large ice water tank standing nearby and dashed its contents, ice chunks and all upon the burning basket. It was heroic treatment but it was effectual and for the rest of the day, patrons of the Central went dry for lack of drink.

Poverty Hall Threatened.

Had it not been for the courage of a colored woman, Mrs. Frank Phillips, last night, the firemen would have had to fight even a more serious conflagration than the O'Connor fire. The tenement block in Genesee street, near Market, known as "Poverty Hall" was threatened with destruction. The halls in the block are lighted by Kerosene lamps, and at 3 o'clock, this morning, one of them exploded. Mrs. Phillips, who occupies apartments in the block, heard the crash and investigated. The burning oil from the lamp was already igniting the woodwork in the hallway. She grasped a blanket from her bed and smothered the flames. Her bare feet were severely cut by pieces of the broken glass, while she fought the fire.

The block is occupied by a large number of families, most of whom are colored people. A fire in the building at that hour of the morning would have meant a serious financial loss to the tenants and the chances are that a number of lives would have been sacrificed.

July 14th 1898

A Fireman Injured.

Driver Robert Otis of Hose 3 met with an accident yesterday morning at the O'Connor fire. In working among the debris he stepped on a rusty nail, which penetrated his foot. The injury caused him considerable pain when he returned to the hose house, and Dr. Conway was summoned. The wound is not serious, but it will be some time before Mr. Otis will be able to attend to his duties.

July 16th 1898

The Lamp Exploded.

There was a small blaze at the home of Theodore Davis, corner of Orchard and Jefferson streets, yesterday afternoon at 6 o'clock. A kerosene lamp was being used to heat curling tongs. The lamp exploded and set fire to some window draperies. Hose 3 was summoned from the quarters in Clark street and they extinguished the flames before the damage had exceeded a few dollars.

July 24th 1898
A FIRE WELL FOUGHT.

It Threatened the Whole Block But Was Promptly Smothered

The fiercest fire that has occurred in this city in several months broke out, early this morning. The double store, Nos. 86 and 88 State street owned by E. H. Groot estate, and occupied by Everts, dealers in sash, blinds, doors, paints and shelf hardware, was discovered on fire at 2:38 o'clock. In the rear of the block is a livery stable, the employes of which were awakened by the roar and glare of the flames. An alarm was turned in from box 62, near the Osborne and the firemen were at work before the first round had ceased to be tolled by the Wheeler.

The whole interior of the lower floor was a mass of seething flames. So intense was the heat that the plate glass in the front windows actually melted and ran in streams. It was an unusually hard fire for the firemen to combat, not only on account of the combustible nature of the contents of the store, but because of the peculiar construction of the building. On the south side was an elevator which ran to the roof and in the center of the building was an open stairway which ran to the third floor. Up these draughty openings the flames were scuttling when the firemen arrived. The chemical engine held the blaze from reaching above the second story through the elevator shaft until the water could be turned on. Four streams were soon directed into the building, two in front and two in the rear. It was some time before the firemen could effect an entrance on account of the fearful heat and dense, nauseating smoke. Meantime, they held the flames in check and prevented their spread to the upper stories. When an entrance was finally accomplished, it was only the work of a few moments to extinguish the fire. It was simply a miracle, to quote Chief Engineer Jewhurst, that the flames were controlled within the building. A few moments delay in giving the alarm, a brief wait in the response by the firemen and a terrible conflagration might have resulted. The firemen are deserving of the highest praise for their heroic work which, all things considered was eminently successful.

The fire is believed to be another of those mysterious, incendiary affairs which have recently become so common in this city. It started in the southeast corner of the building. It was a long distance from the paints and oils. The corner was occupied by a work bench and was crowded with sash, doors, blinds and other inflammable material. With such fuel it would be impossible for the fire to smoulder for any length of time, certainly not from 8 o'clock in the evening, when the store was closed. It was the opinion of Chief Jewhurst that the fire had been burning about five minutes when it was discovered. The senior member of the firm could not tell, this morning, the full amount of the damage sustained, but guessed it would approximate \$10,000. This was fully covered by insurance. The fire on the upper floors, even where it did not reach, is ruined by the intense heat. The damage to the building will probably be \$1,200.

Although there was a fire wall between the Groot block and the buildings next it through which the flames could not pass, the smoke found a mysterious passage and the tenants were driven into the street. One old man who persisted in remaining in his apartments was nearly overcome and was carried out by Patrolman Brees and Hoseman Hughson.

July 30th 1898
Burning of Havana.

On behalf of the E. H. Groot estate, E. S. Newton, today presented the fire department with two boxes of cigars. Accompanying the cigars was a letter highly complimentary to the firemen for their work at the fire of the Groot block in State street, Friday morning.

July 4th 1898
Damage to the Fire Alarm.

During the severe storm last evening, the fire alarm telegraph instruments were burned out and it will be several days before fire alarms can be sent from the box stations. Until the system can be repaired, alarms of fire will have to be phoned to fire department headquarters.

The damage was caused by a fire alarm wire being blown across the trolley wire at the corner of Owasco and Frederick streets. The current passed into the battery room in the garret of the City hall. The switch board, repeater and other instruments in the battery room were burned out. All the gongs on circuit No. 2, were ruined and the linemen are out this morning, hunting for other damage.

The wood work in the battery room caught fire. The blaze was discovered by employes in Haley's laundry in Market street, who gave the alarm. The firemen extinguished the flames with the small extinguishers, before any extensive damage had been done to the building.

For a long time Chief Engineer Jewhurst has predicted a fire in the battery room and serious damage to the City hall. That his predictions did not come true and the City hall was not damaged or entirely burned was due only to good luck. Chief Jewhurst in his annual reports to the fire commissioners has for several years recommended that the battery room be moved from the City hall and that such precautionary measures should be taken as would obviate any such risks as are taken at present.

The investigation of the linemen developed that seven gongs had been melted. Three of these cost \$125 each, and the damage to them will amount to several hundred dollars. Many of the box stations are damaged but not ruined. The switch board and repeater are believed to be ruined beyond repair. An expert from the Gamewell Manufacturing company has been telegraphed to come and see if the damage can be repaired. If it cannot be repaired a new system will have to be purchased. The old system was very antiquated and it was only a question of time when a modern outfit would have to be purchased.

It will be some days before the fire alarm system will be in working order. Due mention will be given when it is repaired. In the meantime in case of fire, telephone 275 on the New York state telephone or 623 on the Automa-

July 5th 1898
NEW HOSE, STATIONS AND A RAISE
FIRE COMMISSIONERS DO BUSINESS.

It Was Their Busy Night—Chief's Report on the Lightning's Damage—An Alderman Present and Speaks to the Board.

The fire commissioners did a whole mess of business at their regular meeting last night. They commenced promptly at 8 o'clock and it was plump 10 before an adjournment was taken. Among other things they purchased a thousand feet of hose, ordered four new fire alarm telegraph stations and gave the permanent men a slight increase in salary.

Clerk Ramage was absent from the session and Chief Engineer Jewhurst assumed the duties of clerk in addition to his own. The minutes of one regular, three adjourned regulars and a special meeting had to be read and approved at the opening and this took considerable time.

Then Mr. Smith wanted to know what the police department had done in regard to finding the bell formerly on the quarters of Volunteer hose 5. Nobody could give a correct answer to the conundrum and Mr. Smith proceeded to answer it himself by saying that a man had offered to go with him and anyone he might select to the woodpile of ex Fire Commissioner M. R. McCartin, at his residence, and point out the hiding place of the bell. The commissioner's informant was a former member of Ross hose 5.

The clerk was immediately instructed, by resolution of the board to inquire of the police department what steps had been taken toward finding the lost bell and the apprehension of its purloiner.

The apparatus committee reported through its chairman that a contract had been made with George F. Wills, for the construction of a new hose wagon at a cost of \$330. The old Gleason & Bailey truck was to be used in the construction of the new wagon, or at least as much of it as was practicable. The committee also reported the sale of the old hand hose carriage, formerly used by Ross hose 5. The price received was \$90, which was paid to the board in gold.

The chairman of the building committee asked for further time before making a complete report. It did, however, report that the painting of the exterior of the quarters of Hose 3, had been completed and was very satisfactory.

The chief engineer made his monthly report of fires. There were not any very frequent members. All had been very attentive to duty during the past month, the chief announced.

In his report of the fire in the battery room in the City hall Chief Jewhurst said that, yesterday morning a man who is employed by ex-Alderman Traub in Owasco street, cut off a large limb of a tree without giving the required notice to the fire department. The limb fell across a fire alarm telegraph wire, breaking the wire fastenings on top of the pole. In the evening during the heavy storm the wire was blown across the trolley wire and extensive damage was caused.

Mr. Smith thought that the Street Railway company should have guard wires over its trolley where it was crossed by the fire alarm telegraph wires.

The matter was referred to the fire alarm telegraph committee to investigate.

A communication was received from George H. Nye, president of the Nye & Wait Carpet company, declaring that the abandoned Sheldon Axle shop in the rear of the carpet plant, was a menace to the writer's property and asking that the board order its removal. The clerk was directed to reply to the communication, that the board had no jurisdiction in the matter and the common council was the proper place for the complainant to seek redress.

J. F. Washburn, ex-Patrolman David P Shute and Asa Culver made application for appointment to the fire department. The applications were filed.

Among the bills on the schedule of claims was one from Dr. LeRoy Lewis for \$15, for attending injured firemen on motion of Mr. Smith a check for \$10 was ordered in favor of the doctor in full of all demands.

Theo. Holmes asked permission to erect a wooden shed on his premises in Clark street, within the fire limits. The owners of the adjacent property having given their consent, the request was granted.

Mr. Smith then presented the following resolution, increasing the pay of the firemen. The increase is not heavy, but it is something and the firemen will probably accept it and ask for more later:

Resolved, That the salaries of the Auburn fire department from this date, Aug. 4, 1898, be as follows:

Chief engineer.....	\$1,100
Captains.....	640
Drivers.....	610
Engineer of chemical.....	610
Superintendent of hose.....	600
Assistant electrician.....	610
Hose and ladder men.....	610
Clerk.....	580
	155

The resolution was adopted without comment or dissent.

The fire alarm telegraph committee was directed to purchase four new box stations.

Alderman Cross had been a silent but interested spectator of the proceedings and at this point he was given the privilege of the floor. The alderman from the Third said he had nothing particular to say. His visit was intended more as a social call than a business proceeding. The new hose house was a subject of much moment at present to the aldermen. Bids had been advertised for and some had been received. They had all been rejected as too high. One was for \$6,200, but this was considered too much. The aldermen, the speaker said, felt that the site selected by the fire commissioners for the new house was an excellent one and believed that a good building should be erected, one that would be a credit to the city and would not require the expenditure of large sums every year in making alterations and repairs. Some people held that the council could not expend more than \$5,000 for the erection of a hose house. The authority for this was an ancient provision of the charter which read that "not more than \$5,000 should be raised by tax in a year for the erection of hose houses." The matter had not been submitted to the city attorney for an opinion but personally the alderman felt sure that under the circumstances, much of the money

having been realized from the sale of department property and not raised by tax the council could legally exceed the sum named. He said that it had been suggested that the commissioners could, perhaps put in a heating apparatus after the building was completed.

Mr. Moore said the board could do what with raising salaries, buying hose and fire alarm box stations, equipping the new company and the damage just done to the fire alarm telegraph system, the full extent of which was not yet known and which might require a full new set of instruments, the board would have to figure pretty closely to get through the year on its appropriation.

Alderman Cross assured the commissioners that the building would be the best which could be had for a reasonable sum, and the matter would have the earliest attention of the common council.

Then the representatives of the hose manufactories were admitted, one at a time and for nearly an hour the commissioners listened to the merits of different brands of hose. They became intimately acquainted with "woven jackets" and "cotton fabric." They were impressed with the importance of "four-ply rubber tubing without pinholes or bubbles" and they were made to feel that a fire department without hose having "wax and gum treatment" was a department but little better than none at all.

After the representatives of the Eureka Fire Hose company, the B. F. Goodyear Rubber company, the Consolidated Rubber company, The Commercial Fire Hose company and the Fabric Fire Hose company had exhausted the merits of his wares, the board took a recess for ten minutes. At the conclusion of the consultation during the recess, business was resumed and a thousand feet of wax-treated hose was ordered of the Fabric Fire hose company, to be delivered as soon as possible. W. H. White was the representative of this city, especially to the firemen. He was formerly with the Boston Woven Hose company. After awarding the contract for the hose the board adjourned.

Aug 28th 1898

Three Small Fires.

There were three fires yesterday morning. None of them amounted to anything, but in each case there might have been dire consequences, had not the flames been discovered in the earliest stages and promptly extinguished.

The first fire was in Froitzeim's meat market, at the corner of Genesee and Mechanic streets. A pan of sage used for seasoning sausage became ignited in some manner and was blazing away merrily when it was discovered by one of the watchmen in D. M. Osborne & Co's. factory. He turned in a call for the fire department from alarm box 25, at the Osborne office. The blazing sage was subdued without any loss excepting that of the seasoning.

The fire caught through the carelessness of an employe of the market. After the place closed the man had some work to do and used a tallow candle for illuminating purposes. He stuck the candle in the pan of sage and when he went away he forgot to blow out the light. When the candle burned down of course the dry sage was ignited.

At 7 o'clock a fire started beneath a coal grate in one of the parlors of W. B. Smith's home, No. 110 North street. A telephone message brought a detail from fire department headquarters which extinguished the flames with a hand chemical extinguisher. The damage will amount to less than \$25.

Still later in the morning a pile of papers in Miller's new room on the bridge in North street, was ignited by a carelessly thrown cigaret. The department was not called on to put out this fire. The blazing papers were dumped into the wasco river. The floor and walls of the building were somewhat scorched and blackened by the heat and smoke.

Sept 2nd 1898

TWO FIRES.

They Came in Rapid Succession and Were Well Handled.

There were two fires, yesterday afternoon, one of which was more serious than the general run of Auburn fires. The barn on the property of Walter Bray in Seymour street was discovered on fire by a neighbor, Henry Ham. Mr. Bray is absent in Europe and the barn is occupied by Joseph Clark as a picture frame factory. Ham ran his horse to the fire department headquarters and notified the firemen who were on their way to the blaze before an alarm was turned in from a box station by some one else. The whole interior of the building was in flames when the department arrived and they could only save the shell of the structure. The damage could not be estimated, but it will amount to several hundred dollars.

While the firemen were fighting the flames, a breathless messenger brought tidings of another fire in John Harmon's cigar factory in Van Anden street. The flames had caught from a large kerosene lamp used to dry tobacco. Details from companies 1 and 3 were dispatched to combat the second fire and they had it extinguished before any great amount of damage had been done.

no borrowed money; dis-

Sept 9th 1898

Supplies for the Fire Department.

The fire commissioners didn't have very much business to transact at their regular meeting last night, and consequently they were not long in session. Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported four fires and alarms since the last meeting of the board. He also reported the arrival of the fire alarm station boxes and gongs which had been sent away for repairs. The 1,000 feet of hose recently ordered by the board had been received and approved, and the bill for it was ordered paid.

J. J. Carr reported the loss of an order for eighty cents given by the board in March, 1896. A duplicate order was ordered drawn in his favor. The chief engineer was directed to procure a year's supply of hay and grain for the stables and the board adjourned.

Sept 10th 1898

This Morning's Fire.

A small fire, this morning gave the fire department a long run. The house No. 1 Willey street, owned by Isabella Dura caught fire in the upper story. It burned the roof off the building before the flames were extinguished. The loss will be covered by a few hundred dollars. The firemen were highly com-

plimented by the owner of the property for their gallant work.

thirty days, nearly all in home

Sept 26th 1898

Narrow Escape of a New Block.

A pile of paper, straw, packing cases and other rubbish in the rear of the Herron block caught fire late yesterday afternoon. The rubbish was blazing very lively when discovered at 6 o'clock. Captain Burghdoff and Hoseman Hemrick of Hose 1, extinguished the incipient conflagration with a charge from a small chemical extinguisher. There wasn't any particular damage from the fire but the chances were brilliant for a big fire. How the rubbish became ignited is not known, but it is supposed to have caught from a lighted cigar stub carelessly thrown into the pile.

standings \$750, good; mdse. owns real estate valued \$4,500, 500. Both are young men, of

J. Had Pearson, Coal



Our Chief. 1880-1905.

Noted Fires in Auburn, 1811-1905

If its Good COAL you want

Order of

J. HAD PEARSON

10 Lincoln Street.

Fire Alarm Signal Stations of Auburn, N. Y.

NO.	LOCATION.
3	Chemical House, Franklin St
4	Washington St., N. Y. C. Crossing
5	North cor. Seymour St
6	E. Genesee cor. Cayuga
7	Barber cor. Derby Ave
12	S. Division St. N. Y. C. Crossing
13	Wall St. Cor. Aurelius Ave
14	Lewis cor. Grant Ave
15	Seymour cor. Holley St
16	State cor. Cottage St
17	Lausing cor. Lewis St
18	Lausing cor. Nelson St
19	Franklin cor. John St
21	Clark cor. McMaster St
23	Frederick cor. Frances St
24	Genesee cor. Washington St
25	Genesee cor. Meehan St
26	Mary cor. Logan St
27	Augustus cor. Anna St
28	Morris cor. Bundy Ave
31	Owasco St., No. 2 Hose House
32	Genesee cor. Exchange St
34	Parker cor. Fitch Ave
35	Westlake Ave. cor. Easterly Ave
36	Hamilton Ave. cor. Steel St

Call on J. Had Pearson,
10 Lincoln Street

For Fire Alarm Folders, and
while there Order Some Coal.

37	South cor. Union St
38	Hamilton Ave cor. Mattie St
39	Wegman Piano Factory
41	State St. Prison Gate
42	South cor. Elizabeth St
43	Genesee St. E. D. J. Mfg Co
45	Puls for St. Osborne's Iron Works
46	State opposite Union St
47	Cottage St. Columbian Cordage works
51	North cor. Park Ave
52	Fulton cor. E. Genesee St
53	Seymour cor. Washington St
54	Wadsworth Seythe Factory
56	Van Anden cor. Cross St
61	Orchard cor. Monroe St
62	State near Water St
63	Jefferson cor. Orchard St
64	Genesee cor. Baker Ave
65	Columbia Rope Factory
67	Arch cor. Wiley
71	Perrine Ave. cor. S. Division St
72	Walnut cor. Evans St
73	Franklin cor. Cayuga St.
74	Street Car Barn, Franklin St.
101	City Hospital
102	Burtis Auditorium

Bell tolls 10 minutes for lost child

NOTED FIRES IN AUBURN.

- Jan. 23, 1811 Hyde & Beach Oil Mill, Big Dam West side
- Dec. 21, 1816 Dills Saw and Carding Mills Big Dam East side
- 1816 Auburn Academy, Academy St
- 1820 Prison North wing
- Sept. 23, 1821 Hyde & Beach Distillery Owasco river
- Aug. 29, 1828 Prison Hotel, State street, opposite prison.
- 1832 Episcopal Church, Genesee St
- Jan. 20, 1837 11 stores Genesee St. between Ten Cent Store and Carpenter Hat Store
- June 11, 1849 Auburn Female Seminary, Genesee and Washington sts
- Jan. 18, 1856 Auburn House, opposite Lewis Mill
- Aug. 13, 1857 Beach Block, Genesee St North side, between North and state
- Oct. 26, 1857 Madden Block, Genesee street, North side, west of state
- April 15, 1858 Richardson Chair Factory, East side, Big Dam

J. Had Pearson, COAL
10 Lincoln Street.

- Jan. 8, 1859 Richardson Cabinet Shop, 26-28 South St
- March 16, 1859 Franklin House, State Street, North of Water
- March 27, 1859 Briggs Block, 109-111 Genesee St
- May 8, 1859 American Hotel barns
- April 17, 1860 Seward's Barn, William Street
- Feb. 23, 1861 Foster Block cor. Genesee and William Streets
- April 8, 1861 Hayden & Letchworth (Old Auburn House)
- April 22, 1867 Methodist Church, cor. North and Water street
- Jan. 2, 1868 Auburn Paper Mill near Ohio Tool Shop
- Feb. 10, 1869 Holy Family Church, North street
- April 1, 1869 Cotton Factory Nye & Wart's
- June 17, 1869 Hamum & Leonard's Machine-shop, W. Water Street
- March 20, 1870 S. Hall Morris, Photograph Gallery, Colonnade Block, Genesee st. opp. state
- May 22, 1870 National Hotel barns
- Sept. 20, 1870 Stalker's Plaining Mill, Dill street
- Nov. 8, 1871 Kelley's Shoe Shop, Water street
- July 2, 1873 Street Car barns, Lewis street

- Sept 18, 1878 Standard's barns, North street
- March 18, 1879 Burr & Thorn's Flour Mill, Canal street
- Nov 17, 1879 Hayden & Smith Hame Shop, Prison
- June 17, 1880 Osborne House
- May 20, 1881 E. R. Richardson Livery Stable, Genesee street
- March 26, 1881 St. James Hotel
- Oct 12, 1881 Riley & McGarr shoe Factory, Franklin street
- Nov 28, 1881 E. Moynan Dry Goods Store, 39 Genesee street
- Jan 18, 1885 Sheldon's Rolling Mill
- Feb 10, 1885 J. M. Hurd's Plaining Mill, Dill St
- March 8, 1885 Hayden & Boyd's Hame Shop, Prison
- Jan 4, 1886 Capp's Rolling Mill, S. Division st
- Jan 11, 1887 Kennedy's Tobacco Factory, Coventry Building
- Aug 11, 1887 Richardson Road House, Moravia st
- Feb 27, 1888 J. H. Osborne's residence, 130 South street

Order COAL from **J. HAD PEARSON**

- Feb 7, 1889 Stores of W D Keyes, J D Simpson and Pearson & Rogers
- March 30, 1890 McCrea Building, 8-10 State street
- Dec 27, 1890 Collar Shop, prison
- Feb 7, 1891 Brooks & Jacobs Carriage Hardware Factory
- Feb 15, 1892 Steel Building, 59-61 Genesee street
- March 29, 1893 Stickley & Simonds Furniture Shop, prison
- June 24, 1894 Broom Shop, prison
- April 18, 1896 Everts & Sheldon Sash and Door Factory, Big Dam
- June 3, 1896 Wildner's Brewery
- March 15, 1898 Pimm Building, Market street.
- Feb 15, 1899 Wadsworth & Son Factory.
- Dec 2, 1901 Jack Boone Concert Hall Market St.
- July 17, 1903 Factory Building, Garden street, also damage to High School and 11 other buildings.
- Jan 2, 1904 J. H. Osborne's residence, 130 South street

COTTAGES TO RENT AT FAIR HAVEN.

Sept 28th 1898

New Team of Blacks.

The fire commissioners have purchased a new team for Hose 3. The team in use at present is too small for the heavy work required and one of the horses has commenced to break down. The commissioners therefore decided to purchase a pair while a market could be had for them and an offer of \$150 was made. The horses purchased today are some coal black geldings, seven years old, which will weigh 1,500 lbs and the price paid was \$350. The horses are put in service.

Sept 30th 1898

A FORTUNATE DISCOVERY.

Sept 30th 1898
It was Lucky This Fire Occurred in the Daytime.

There was a small fire at 1:15, this afternoon in a pile of rubbish in the rear of the Flint block, owned by Colonel E. D. Metcalf.

For some days, workmen who have been completing the apartments in the upper stories of the block have been throwing the refuse shavings, lumber and other inflammable material out of the rear windows. The debris has remained piled against the building. At 1 o'clock today Charles Everts discovered that the mass was on fire. He sent a call for the fire department from box station 32, corner Genesee and Exchange streets. It took the firemen some time to extinguish the fire as the whole pile had to be overturned and rrenched.

It is not known how the fire started, but it is supposed that a lighted cigar or the ashes from the pipe of a workman carelessly dropped on the heap caused the trouble. The mass had been smouldering for sometime before it was discovered. There wasn't any damage wrought by the fire excepting to the firemen who were blackened and exhausted by the smoke and heat.

Fire and Firewater.

A lamp exploded in one of the rear rooms of Thomas F Kinsella's saloon in the Stelner block in lower State street, last night. A call was sent in for the fire department from box station No. 41 at the prison gate. Before the firemen arrived the flames had been extinguished by men in the place. In his efforts to avoid a serious conflagration the proprietor was painfully burned on the hands and face. The damage to the building was very slight although the room where the explosion took place will have to be redecorated.

Oct 3rd 1898

Great Place for a Fire.

One of the employes of the Sagar Drug company while working in the cellar, this morning, overturned a lighted lantern near some combustibles. A call was turned in for the fire department from box station 32, corner of Genesee and Exchange streets. Before the firemen arrived, however, the burning oil had been extinguished and all danger of a conflagration had been averted. There wasn't any damage to the stock, but the nerves of the proprietors and employes were considerably shaken.

Oct 6th 1898

FIRE AT OSBORNE'S.

Might Have Been Worse.—Joe Jewhurst's Fall.

There came very near being a disastrous fire in the extensive plant of D. M. Osborne & Co., in Mechanic street, early last evening. There is a small building constructed in the rear of the foundry in which is kept illuminating oil. One of the employes was in the building filling a lantern by the light of a torch. The oil caught fire and spread the flames up the building in an instant. A call for the fire department was turned in from box station twenty-five at the Osborne office at 6:10 o'clock. After a short and decisive battle the blaze was extinguished, but not until a considerable portion of the wood work of the building had been scorched.

The damage to the building will not amount to a great deal, but the loss on unfinished work on the moulding floors will be considerable.

While at work at the fire Captain J. L. Jewhurst of the Chemical company was severely injured. He was on a small extension ladder carried on the Caemical. The ladder folded under him and he was thrown twelve feet to the floor. He struck on the side of his face. This morning he has a black eye and a contused jaw, besides abrasions on other portions of his anatomy. The injuries are not serious but they are exceedingly painful, especially to the captain's feelings.

T. M. Osborne, president of D. M. Osborne & Co., expressed his appreciation of the splendid work of the department to Chief Jewhurst this morning, and desired the thanks of the Osborne people to be conveyed to the firemen.

Oct 7th 1898

A FIERY FIREMAN.

One Whose Services Might Be Dispensed With.

It was expected by a number of residents of the city that the fire commissioners would take some action, last night against Patrick F. Morrissey, a call man detailed with Hose 3. The complainant is George B. Peck, editor of the ADVERTISER.

The offence was committed Wednesday evening while the fire at the plant of the D. M. Osborne & Co., was in progress.

Mr. Peck in company with I. E. Brigden was returning through Genesee street from a drive in the country. When they approached the crossing of the Osborne railway they saw the crowd but did not see a line of hose which was laid across the street. As they approached the crossing the horse was suddenly seized by a man who flourished a hose wrench in a threatening manner.

"G-- d-- you get back there or I'll knock your G-- d-- head off," yelled the man, who wore a fireman's helmet and a rubber coat.

"What's the trouble?" mildly inquired Mr. Peck.

"You can't drive over this line of hose," was the reply, accompanied by red-hot adjectives. "Don't you crowd up here again, either," was added with more expletives.

"I haven't been up here before," protested Mr. Peck.

"Yes you have, you've been around here for ten minutes."

"You're a liar if you say that," returned Mr. Peck.

Leaving the horse's head the fireman came back to the carriage and still flourishing the wrench he dared the editor to descend to the ground. The editor rose to accept the challenge when a glance at the wrench caused him to change his mind. After a further brief exchange of left handed compliments, made emphatic by the fireman by the addition of profanity Mr. Peck turned his horse around and drove through Market street, but not until he had learned that the man's name was Patrick F. Morrissey.

As a matter of fact Mr. Peck had not been in the vicinity until halted. He did not know where the fire was, having just driven in from the country. The horse was going at a slow walk when halted, and in the gloaming it is not strange that the hose was not seen.

Mr. Peck made a statement of the trouble to Commissioner Moore, who admitted that the fireman had done wrong but it seems that no further action was taken in the matter.

Morrissey is the man who shot and killed his brother-in-law some years ago. He is a cripple, having lost part of a foot and the partial use of one hand in a railway accident. At the time of the shooting it was alleged that it was done in self defense and much stress was laid upon his being a cripple. When he was appointed to the fire department the fact developed that he was known by the commissioners as a cripple, as one of them remarked that "he didn't limp very bad."

Mr. Peck has always been a firm friend and an ardent advocate of the paid fire department, but its personnel as represented by Morrissey has greatly lessened his respect for the department.

Oct 7th 1898

FOR THE FIREMEN.

Commissioners Make Many Provisions for Their Welfare.

The fire solons met, last evening in regular monthly session with all the commissioners present. There was considerable business transacted but it was merely of a routine character and of but little importance.

Commissioner Moore reported the sale of the team of Hose 3 and the purchase of a new pair of horses.

Chief Jewhurst's report showed six fires since the last meeting and at one of them the fire in the rear of Stowell & Hayden's, two men were absent, Trauo of the chemicals and a substitute for Mowry of the truck company.

U on motion of Commissioner Smith, the usual fine of \$1 was imposed in each case.

Chief Jewhurst reported \$15.27 expended from the contingent fund and a balance due him of \$5.27.

Upon motion of Commissioner Smith a check for \$15 was ordered drawn in favor of the chief to replenish the fund. The chief also reported the receipt of the four new fire alarm boxes and said that he was waiting for wire before putting them in place. He said the city fireman was busily engaged with the city surveyor and could not attend to the work and another fireman should be employed. He was given power to employ a fireman, upon motion of Commissioner Smith.

About 100 feet of chemical hose which the department has had since 1893 was beginning to burst and more was needed, said the chief and on motion of Commissioner Smith he was empowered to purchase the required amount at a satisfactory price.

Requests from John T. Mansfield and Patrick J. McLaughlin for positions as regular men were received and the names were ordered placed on the waiting list.

Bills amounting to \$157.15 were reported and on motion of Commissioner Moore, checks were ordered drawn in payment.

On motion of Commissioner Moore checks for three months' salaries of the call men and clerk were ordered drawn.

On motion of Commissioner Smith it was decided to send Chief Jewhurst to the annual convention of chief engineers to be held at St. Louis.

Chief Jewhurst reported the new battery room completed and he said it was one of the finest he had ever seen. Two radiators were needed for heating the battery room and the room adjoining and also other supplies, and on motion of Commissioner Smith the chief was instructed to procure what was needed.

Commissioner Moore said that the steam pipes at Hose 3 needed repairing and on his motion the chief was instructed to put in a suitable steam apparatus.

The six months' probation period of Callmen Slater and Colburn and Truckman Morris had expired and on motion of Commissioner Moore they were made permanent appointees.

Commissioner Moore reported the work in Hose 3 house as needing repairs. On motion of Commissioner Smith the chief was instructed to procure lumber and have Captain Strong instruct his men to do the work. Chief Jewhurst said there was no room for the storage of the exercise wagon at Hose 3 and some kind of a shed ought to be constructed. On motion of Commissioner Smith the chief was instructed to purchase material for the shed, the same to be built by the members of Hose 3.

The meeting then adjourned on motion of Commissioner Smith.

have leased a store at 254 Main St.

Oct 11th 1898

A STILL ALARM.

The fire department was called out to No. 86 North street last night at 9:01. The house is owned by the Arnett estate and occupied by Mrs. Gregory. The fire was a blaze in the parlor draperies, the latter becoming ignited from a match. A telephone message was sent to police headquarters and the firemen were notified. When they reached the place the fire was out.

The firemen at headquarters have tried to make it known that there are two phones there, an Empire and an automatic. To call headquarters on the Empire phone, ask for 275, and on the automatic ring up 633.

Oct 20th 1898

Explosion at the Gas House.

There was a slight explosion of gas at the plant of the Auburn Gas Light Co. this morning and the building was set on fire. A new exhaust was added to the plant, last week and the connection with the other machinery was made without accident. This morning the old exhaust was to be again connected with the other machinery, and it was while this connection was being made that the explosion occurred. A man named Williams, whose home is in New York city, and who has had charge of the work of placing the new apparatus, was slightly burned about the face by the explosion.

The fire department extinguished the flames before any great amount of damage had been done. The loss was estimated at \$100, of which \$25 is for gas.

It is supposed that a current of air carried the gas from where the connection was being made to a lighted gas jet in another part of the building, and that this was the cause of the explosion.

Short Run and Little Fire.

There was a small fire at 7 o'clock, last night, in the apartments of Mrs. Crowley in the Anderson block in Market street, opposite the City hall. While cooking on an oil stove, it was over-looked and the flames quickly communicated to the room. Mrs. Crowley became frightened and ran away. Neighbors gave the alarm and the firemen from department headquarters across the street soon had the blaze extinguished. The damage will amount to \$25.

Nov 5th 1898

THE FIRE WARDENS.

Names Taken From the Probationary List—Other Business.

The fire commissioners held a meeting last night and transacted routine business. Commissioner Smith was not present. The only feature of the meeting was the number of applications made for appointment to the permanent force of the department.

Chief Engineer Jewhurst reported four fires since the last meeting. Driver Clark of Hose 1, was granted a special vacation of six days. President Spears turned over to the board \$125 received from the sale of the old team at hose 3. The committee on apparatus reported progress on the new wagon and that the four new boxes of the fire alarm telegraph system were in working order.

Two new radiators for headquarters building and a hundred feet of hose for the Chemical engine were ordered purchased.

The applicants for appointment were Jim W. Rogers, Francis Conboy, Fred Graham and John Mansell, a call man at hose 3. Most of the applicants declare their ability to do any duty or fill any position in the department.

Frank Coffey was taken from the probationary list, and made a full-fledged permanent man. Call men Ryan, Beacham, Tennent and Morrissey (humph!) were also taken from the probationary list.

Dec 4th 1898

Fire That Might Have Swept a Large Area.

Carelessness is assigned as the cause of the fire, last evening in the cellar of the store of L. R. Sherwood & Son, No. 15 Genesee street. The floor of the cellar was strewn with inflammable debris and the hot ashes from the furnace were dumped into the midst of the refuse. At 7:30 o'clock a dense volume of smoke was discovered pouring from the building. A telephone call was sent in to fire department headquarters for assistance. The firemen were unable to get at the seat of the blaze on account of the smoke and they had to flood the cellar. The woodwork surrounding the spot where the fire started was considerably charred. There was not much stock in the cellar to suffer damage but the stock of groceries in the store above was injured by the smoke. During the past year there have been half a dozen incipient fires in the row of buildings on the Genesee street bridge, but in each instance the firemen have been too quick to permit the flames to reach very large proportions.

Dec 9th 1898

FACTS FOR FIREMEN.

Chief Jewhurst's Report the Chief Feature of Interest.

At the regular monthly meeting of the board of fire commissioners, last evening Chief Engineer Jewhurst submitted his report of the annual convention of chief engineers recently held in St. Louis.

It was the 26th annual gathering of fire chiefs and was held, Oct. 18-21, at St. Louis. The roll showed 263 delegates present. The topics discussed were of a practical nature and added much to the store of knowledge of fire-fighting. The paper on the "Inflammable and explosive qualities of smoke when confined" was especially interesting to Chief Jewhurst as two distinct explosions of smoke occurred during the Pimm fire on Market street in this city last March. The force of the explosions blew out one of the store fronts, raised the roof several inches and forced over a chimney. The knowing (?) ones, says the chief, laid all this to the poor work of the firemen! The paper was illustrated by explosions in miniature houses.

The chief's report concluded as follows:

The topic, "What style of horse is best suited to the fire service?" was presented by Chief Darwin of Salt Lake City, and his views on the horse question were favorably received. The chief, after a careful canvass among many departments, found that the average life of a horse in the fire service was six years, varying from 4 years to 11. The average price paid for horses was \$150 and the best breed for the service, half Percheron and French coach. It was also conceded that the establishment of a stock farm where horses would be bred, trained and ready to go into service would be a good investment. Many other papers were read which covered valuable and instructive subjects.

The exhibits were not as large in number as at most previous conventions and were shown in the Exposition building in connection with a general exhibition of wagons, agricultural machinery and other attractions, which occupied a large portion of the building, having but a small space for the convention exhibit, which seriously handicapped the exhibitor in showing his wares to advantage, and in a building when an admission fee was charged, and it is only natural that the arrangement caused much dissatisfaction. One day of the convention was devoted to testing apparatus and other fire extinguishing inventions. The arrangements made for this important feature could not have been excelled, and the tests of the various exhibits were quite up to those made at other conventions, and attracted the attention of the delegates nearly the entire day. The tests were made in a large lot on which a good sized frame structure was erected filled with all kinds of inflammable material to make a hot fire for the purpose of giving the chemicals, fire hose, automatic sprinklers, controlling and un-automatic sprinklers, etc., practical tests.

One of the most interesting trials was showing the value of automatic sprinklers under different conditions. Four trials were given and the result showed that a larger fire could be extinguished when the sprinkler pipes were furnished with a direct outside connection with a fire engine or high pressure service than could be accomplished by any other system.

An automatic distributing nozzle was a new invention tried. It is designed to be connected with a stand pipe and when the water is turned on the nozzles play streams in every direction. It can be operated from the ground and extinguish a fire which no fireman could reach. New cellar pipes were tried but in my opinion the Baker pipe showed greater advantages over all others. The combination wagon and water tower is a new feature in the apparatus line. There were three different styles exhibited and all were given a trial with satisfactory results.