C.R. 4257

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

A.I.

New York, April 24, 1897

Hon. Wm. L. Strong, Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:--

I desire to inform you of the preparations which this Department has made to guard against any possible outbreak of fire in the stands or temporary buildings erected in the vicinity of Grant's Tomb, and also against accident, so far as it can be guarded against by any means in our power. A chemical engine and a Hook & Ladder truck, together with a large detail of officers and men, will be stationed at or near the Tomb, and at certain places along Riverside Drive, there will be stationed firemen, with fire extinguishers, axes and hooks. I have given directions to have a number of fire alarm boxes erected in the vicinity of the Tomb and along Riverside Drive, and I shall have an officer of this Department detailed as an aid to myself, whose duty it will be to send in signals required either to call the Fire Department or ambulances or anything of that nature. I will also have a man detailed from the Telegraph Bureau, who understand the "Morse Key," who will be able to either transmit information or receive it through these boxes, and in that way, I shall be in touch with our Department throughout the city. We will also have men stationed along the line of march, who are familiar with the "Morse Key" system, and can communicate through our fire alarm boxes, in order that Chief Bonner and the 125 men, who march in the parade, can be immediately informed of a serious outbreak of fire,

if such occur, at any point in the city.

I have felt that, owing to the extremely combustible nature of the stands erected along the line of march, and particularly those erected in the vicinity of the Tomb, that we could not take too great precaution, especially in view of the fact that there will be assembled on those stands so many officials of the highest rankand importance, not only of this government,but of many foreign governments as well.

I have placed myself in direct communication with the Police Department on this subject, and I will be on duty throughout the day. If there is anything, which you can suggest that you would like to have me do for this Department or look after ,I trust you will let me know.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield.

74.

C.R. 4237.

Head Quarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, April 26th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor -

Dear Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 24th instant:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1170 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

458 horses are now in the Department

84 fires occurred during the week.

288 companies were called to respond to these fires.

57 telegraphic alarms were received.

32 verbal alarms were received.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, ... 189

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Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$963.62

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 104

One trial for violation of the rules and regulations prescribed for the government of the uniformed force was had, and a fine of five days' pay imposed.

Changes in personnel - Two Groundmen and one Blacksmith's Helper appointed; one Clerk and one Temporary Assistant Telegraph Operator discharged.

Foreman Frank La Vine of the Repairs Shops was suspended from duty, upon the recommendation of Captain Ryan, in charge of the Shops - pending trial on charges.

This Department will be represented in the Grant Monument Inaugural Parade by two battalions of officers, and men with the accompanying apparatus.

Recognizing the danger of fire in and about the stands erected on Riverside Drive and in the immediate vicinity of Grant's Tomb, I have directed a detail of men and apparatus to be near the scene in complete readiness to respond instantly to any alarms that may occur; and for the purpose of expediting any such alarms there have been placed at the Tomb and for some distance

down the Drive, a number of fire alarm boxes at which Operators will be stationed. I shall personally be upon the ground to direct matters should any emergency arise.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, May 3d, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Dear Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 1st instant:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1160 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

458 horses are now in the Department.

76 fires occurred during the week.

247 companies were called to respond to these fires.

53 telegraphic alarms were received.

27 verbal alarms were received.

Incendiarism, etc.- On the early morning of April 28th one of the stands erected on the Riverside Drive, N.E. corner 95th Street, was to a great extent destroyed by fire. From the fact that the enterprise was a complete failure and the further fact that the stand was insured for $2,500, together with other circumstances of a suspicious nature, it is believed - and the Fire Marshal is investigating the case on that theory - that the fire was intentionally set. So far there has been no sufficient evidence obtained to justify an arrest.

During the week there took place one slight stairway fire and one letter-box fire, both in apartment houses. In neither case was there the slightest clue obtainable whereby the person guilty of the fire could be traced.

Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$929.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 80.

Two trials of delinquent members of the uniformed force were had and fines aggregating three days' pay imposed.

Changes in personnel --Three Assistant Foremen and seven Firemen of the 1st grade were retired on half-pay; one

Climber was appointed in the Telegraph Bureau; and the Foreman of the Repair Shops (Frank La Vine), whose suspension pending trial on charges was communicated in last week's report, was permitted to tender his resignation, which was immediately accepted, to take effect as of the date of his suspension - April 22d - the pending charges having, with the consent of the officer in charge of the Repair Shops, been withdrawn.

During the past week there were received at the Repair Shops from the American Fire Engine Company two fourth-size Clapp & Jones Steam Fire Engines, which had been rebuilt with new boilers, and from the La France Fire Engine Company one fourth-size Steam Fire Engine which had been rebuilt in a similar manner.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield

President.

C.R. 4287

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, May 7th, 1897 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

City Hall, N.Y.-

Dear Col. Strong:

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of Fireman John G. Reinhardt of Engine Company No. 7, which occurred while bravely doing his duty at a fire at 161 and 163 Chambers Street last night. Reinhardt, with a number of other firemen, was at the time in the cellar of the building, which was heavily charged with smoke. Orders had been given by the Captain in charge of the ~~hose~~ line to back out, as there seemed to be mixed with the smoke some gas or vapor which affected the breathing and heart action of the men. All of the men were able to get out of the cellar save Reinhardt, who lost consciousness and fell at the foot of the ladder. As soon as his absence was noted his comrades made very brave and heroic efforts to rescue him, some of those who had fallen almost unconscious from the gas returning at once to assist in the rescue. When he was finally found he was dead. About forty of our firemen were more or less overcome by the same gas, some of them quite seriously so, and many were taken to the hospitals, where they received treatment. I am very glad to state that

this morning most of them had reported for duty, and I was an eye witness to the return to duty last night during the fire of many of them, who while too weak to be of much service, were still heroic enough to hurry to their engines and place themselves in readiness to be ordered to duty.

Reinhardt, who lost his life, had been in the Department a little less than two years, and was known as a faithful and conscientious man, and his death is very much regretted. The fire did considerable damage, as the building was used as a cold storage warehouse, and from the curious construction of the same, made the fire exceedingly difficult to put out. The work of the Department is entitled to great praise, and the disastrous result to the men could not have been foreseen or guarded against.

I have ordered an investigation to be made into the nature of the gas which wrought such great havoc, and it is possible that we may be able to take steps to guard against the repetition of such a disaster in the future.

Very sincerely yours,

James R. Sheffield

75

C.R.4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, May 10th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Dear Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 8th instant:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1159 officers and men,
86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in
14 battalions.
458 horses are now in the Department.
77 fires occurred during the week.
265 companies were called to respond to these fires.
60 telegraphic alarms were received.
19 verbal alarms were received.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, 189

Hon. WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Mar 10th, 1894.

Incendiarism, etc.- Two suspicious fires occurred in a wood-bin in the cellar of No. 623 Amsterdam Avenue, on the 1st and 2d inst. A boy named Harold Fields, the son of one of the tenants in the house, having admitted to the Fire Marshal that he had set the two fires, was arrested. He was held by the Committing Magistrate for the Grand Jury, who on the 7th instant dismissed the case.

During the past week there has been a considerable increase in the number of fires as compared with the two preceding weeks. In three cases, those of 107 and 109 Bleecker Street, 12 and 14 Desbrosses Street, and 163 Chambers Street the losses have been quite heavy. There is no reason to believe that the cause of any of them was of other than accidental origin.

Three lives, in addition to that of Fireman Reinhardt of Engine 7 (who lost his life at the Chambers Street fire) were lost through fire during the week.

Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1,612.50

Inspections and surveys made for the week--------- 179

Nine trials of delinquent members of the uniformed force were had and fines aggregating twenty-nine days' pay imposed.

Changes in personnel - One Fireman (John G. Reinhardt of Engine Co. No. 7) died in the discharge of duty; one Climber appointed; one Stableman resigned.

In my letter to you of the 7th instant I acquainted you with the details of the fire at which Fireman Reinhardt lost his life, and a number of his colleagues were temporarily overcome, from inhaling what is supposed to have been the fumes of ammonia, and advised you I had ordered an investigation to determine definitively, if possible, whether that was the cause of the unfortunate occurrence. When this shall have been concluded I shall at once communicate to you the result.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4287.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, May 11th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

City Hall, N.Y.-

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 10th expressing your personal regret at the death of Fireman John G. Reinhardt of Engine Company No. 7, and desiring to have me express to the Department your very kind sympathy and admiration for the work of the firemen on the occasion referred to. I shall take very great pleasure in doing so, and can assure you it will be very much appreciated by the men in this Department, who have long looked upon you as one of the best friends the firemen have ever had in the Mayor's Office.

Very respectfully yours,

James R. Sheffield

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

New York, ... 189

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD
O. H. GRAVES
THOS. STOKES.
Commissioners.

Hon. William P. Storms,

New York, May 11th, 1891.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 9th inst. received, and I will be pleased to see you at my office.

Very respectfully,

[illegible]

C.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, May 17th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Dear Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 15th instant:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of-

1157 officers and men,
86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in
14 battalions.
461 horses are now in the Department.
90 fires occurred during the week.
303 companies were called to respond to these fires.
70 telegraphic alarms were received.
25 verbal alarms were received.

Incendiarism - An incendiary fire occurred on the afternoon of the 11th instant at No. 168 West Twenty-third Street. Suspicion attaches to one of the inmates of the house, but as yet evidence to warrant an arrest is lacking.

Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1045

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 184

Seven trials of delinquents in the uniformed force were held, resulting in the dismissal of one fireman, the acceptance of the resignation of another, and the imposition of fines amounting in the aggregate to eleven days' pay in the remaining five cases.

Changes in personnel - Assistant Building Superintendent (Manly N. Cutter) appointed; one member of the uniformed force dismissed and the resignation of another accepted, as above stated.

There were received at the Repair Shops on the 11th instant from the American Fire Engine Company of Seneca Falls, N.Y., two new first-size steam fire engines, for the use of Engine Companies Nos. 2 and 10.

Referring again to the death of Fireman Reinhardt of Engine Company No. 7 and the prostration of many officers and firemen at the fire at Nos. 163 and 165 Chambers Street on the night of the 6th instant, a report has been received from Inspector of Combustibles George E. Murray and Medical Officer E. Benjamin Ramsdell, dated the 10th instant, of which the following is a copy:

"The liquid used in producing the cold air is stored at No. "144 Reade Street and is transmitted, through pipe, to Nos. 161 and "163 Chambers Street, the fluid consisting of water, chloride of "calcium, and iron rust. The cold air was generated on the top "(fifth) floor , from coils of pipe 50 feet long by 10 feet wide, "the cold air passing down the east side of the room, driving the "warm air up the west side, causing a constant circulation of cold "air. At all fires carbonic oxide and carbonic acid gases are "generated, but, owing to the great heat, are very easily removed "by ventitlation; but in this case it was cold carbonic oxide gas, "which is the product of combustion where there is an insufficient "supply of air (oxygen), and is a positively poisonous gas, produc- "ing its deadly effects not only by the exclusion of pure air, but "also and more prominently by its own poisonous properties. It acts "upon the nervous system by its presence in the blood and causes "paralysis of the cardiac and respiratory centres of the medulla. "It had a downward tendency, and when the lower floor fell the cold "gas in the four large compartments dropped to the cellar, produc- "ing the serious consequences noted at this conflagration."

This report was referred to the Chief of Department for such recommendation thereon as he might deem it necessary to make.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, May 24th, 1897. 189

C

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Dear Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 22d instant:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1157 officers and men,
86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in
14 battalions.
461 horses are now in the Department.
71 fires occurred during the week.
295 companies were called to respond to these fires.
62 telegraphic alarms were received.
19 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1158.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 180

Two trials of delinquents in the uniformed force were held, resulting in a fine of three days' pay in the one case and a reprimand in the other.

Changes in personnel - One Clerk and two Painters appointed.

There were received at the Repair Shops, on the 19th instant, two new first-size 4-wheel Hose Wagons, for the use of Engine Companies Nos. 2 and 10.

The presentation of the Bennett and Stephenson medals, and of the two medals given by Your Honor, will take place at the plaza, Union Square, at 2 P.M. on the 26th instant, as you have been heretofore advised.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.N. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, June 1st, 1897 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Dear Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 29th instant:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1157 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

461 horses are now in the Department.

86 fires occurred during the week.

348 companies were called to respond to these fires

77 telegraphic alarms were received.

28 verbal alarms were received.

Incendiarism, etc.- A fire of incendiary origin took place on the 22d ultimo in the second loft of No. 396 Broadway. Suspicion points to three persons, either of whom alone, or in collusion with the others, had an opportunity to set the fire. As yet it is deemed inadvisable to order an arrest.

Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$876.

Inspections and surveys made for the week----------137

There were no delinquents among the members of the uniformed force during the past week.

Changes in personnel - Captain Henry W. McAdams, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 16, was promoted Drill Master and Instructor of the uniformed force of the Department, at a salary of $3300 per annum, from June 1st.

William A. Chambers was appointed a Clerk in the Bureau of Fire Alarm Telegraph and Electrical Appliances of this Department, at a salary of $1000 per annum, from the 27th ultimo.

A noteworthy event of the past week was the presentation of the Bennett and Stephenson medals and of the two medals given by Your Honor, and a parade of a large section of the uniformed force of the Department, on the 26th ultimo. The affair was a success from every point of view, and the display as fine a one of the kind as has ever been witnessed in the history of the Department. Our city has good reason to be proud of the courage, discipline and efficiency of its fire fighting force.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield.
President.

G.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, June 5th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor, N. Y. City.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that this Department is preparing its annual contract for coal, to be furnished to the various houses of the Department, and that it has been ascertained, that under the terms of Chapter No. 174 of the Laws of 1897, the mayorr of cities of the first and second class are permitted to name "Stationary or movable scales, suitable for the purpose of weighing coal, the owners of which may tender the same for public use."

The Fire Commissioners desire to be informed, whether you have acted under this law, it being the purpose of the Board, if such action has been taken, to provide in the contract that all coal delivered to the Department, except that furnished to the fire boats, be weighed on one of the public scales and by a public weighmaster.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,
O. H. LA GRANGE,
THOMAS STURGIS,
Commissioners.

New York, June 7th, 1897 89

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor -

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon, on Saturday, the 5th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1157 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

460 horses are now in the Department.

70 fires occurred during the week.

273 companies were called to respond to these fires.

58 telegraphic alarms were received.

24 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts Bureau of Combustibles for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1703.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 385

Two trials for violations of rules and regulations prescribed for the government of the uniformed force were had, resulting in the one case in the imposition of a fine of nine days ' pay and a transfer, and in the other the forfeiture of seven days' pay.

Changes in personnel - Two temporary Stenographers and Typewriters appointed permanent employees; one Plumber and one Plumber's Helper appointed.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD,
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, June 11th, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,
City Hall, N.Y.-

Dear Sir:

Your letter expressing your appreciation of the Fire Department and of its appearance on the occasion of the annual presentation of medals and review was received with much pleasure and gratification, both by the Board of Commissioners and the uniformed force. It was sent out in general orders and was read in the quarters of every company on the following morning.

Allow me, in return, to express the very high appreciation in which you are held by the members of this Department, who will always remember with gratitude the deep interest which you have taken, both officially and personally, in the welfare of our brave firemen.

I remain, with great respect,

Very truly yours,

James R. Sheffield

President.

Headquarters

FIRE DEPARTMENT,

New York, ... 189

June 11

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C.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, June 14th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon, on Saturday, the 12th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1157 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions .

449 horses are now in the Department.

65 fires occurred during the week.

218 companies were called to respond to these fires.

44 telegraphic alarms were received.

22 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$3035

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 218

Incendiarism, etc.- On the 9th instant one George McKinney, a boy 14 years of age, was arrested, charged with setting fire to the tenement house No. 2367 Second Avenue. He has been held for the action of the Grand Jury.

The trial of Henry Castellanos, on the charge of setting fire to the premises No. 503 West Thirty-third Street, is still in progress in the criminal branch of the Supreme Court.

New Apparatus - There were received during the week from Messrs. Rumsey & Company, of Seneca Falls, N.Y., two new first-size, four-wheel Hose Wagons, for the use of Engine Companies Nos. 54 and 29.

Trials - During the past week five trials of delinquent members of the uniformed force were held, and fines aggregating twenty-three days' pay imposed.

Very respectfully,

Thos Sturgis

Acting President.

C.R. 4287.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, June 21st, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 19th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1157 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

449 horses are now in the Department.

82 fires occurred during the week.

262 companies were called to respond to these fires.

55 telegraphic alarms were received.

36 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1516.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 130

Incendiarism, etc.- The boy, George McKinney, whose arrest and holding for the action of the Grand Jury, for setting fire to the premises No. 2367 Second Avenue, was mentioned in the report of last week, has been indicted by that body.

The trial in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court of Max Blum, for the crime of arson in the third degree, which closed on the 18th instant, resulted in a disagreement of the jury - eleven voting for conviction and one for acquittal. He will be retried.

The trial of Henry Castellanos, for the crime of arson, mention of which was made in the report of last week, was concluded on the 14th instant, a verdict of not guilty being rendered.

Fires at No. 114 Fifth Avenue, on the 15th instant, and at No. 709 East Twentieth Street, on the same day, are regarded with suspicion and are being thoroughly investigated. The first named is believed to have been of incendiary origin.

Trial - One trial of a delinquent member of the uniformed force was held, resulting in a finding of guilty and the imposition of a fine of ten days' pay.

New Apparatus - There were received during the past week from the La France Fire Engine Company, of Elmira, N.Y., two new first-size engines, for the use of Engine Companies Nos. 54 and 29.

Change in personnel - One relieved member of the uniformed force retired from all service in the Department, on half-pay, to take effect from the 1st proximo.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4237

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

A.I.

New York, June 24, 1897

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor, New York City

Sir:--

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from your office, dated the 22nd inst., enclosing (by your direction) for the information of this Board, a communication from Henry A. Hicks, 601 East 83rd St., concerning a permit to sell fireworks, issued by this Department to a person named Schott, and in reply thereto, have to state that such a permit was issued, under the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board, to Robert Schott, 1620 East End Ave. on the 10th inst., and that subsequently, the rules in that case being suspended by the Board, a like permit was issued to Sigmund Lazorovitz, 1622 East End Ave.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President

C.R.4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, June 28th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 26th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1157 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

449 horses are now in the Department.

113 fires occurred during the week.

460 companies were called to respond to these fires.

87 telegraphic alarms were received.

32 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$944.

Inspections and surveys made for the week----------112

Trial - One trial of a delinquent member of the uniformed force was held, resulting in a finding of guilty and the imposition of a fine of four days' pay.

On the 23d instant a fire occurred at No. 429 Greenwich Street, a building occupied by Dietz & Co., manufacturers of lamps, etc. The amount of loss, which is heavy, has not yet been ascertained. From such information as could be obtained, it is believed that the fire was caused by a spark from a locomotive of the Elevated Railroad.

An explosion of benzine at No. 418 Fourth Avenue, on the 24th instant, resulted in a slight fire and in the death of Mrs. Julia Marten, the proprietress of the dyeing establishment, and in the serious burning of an employee named Loerri.

The number of fires during the week has somewhat exceeded the average.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4237

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, July 6th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor -

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 3d inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1156 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are engine and 22 hook and ladder companies, in

14 battalions.

449 horses are now in the Department.

98 fires occurred during the week.

353 companies were called to respond to these fires.

71 telegraphic alarms were received.

24 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1144

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 134

Incendiarism - Max Blum, charged with arson in the third degree, when arraigned in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court for a second trial, pleaded guilty and received a sentence of eighteen months in State Prison.

George McKinney, the boy whose indictment for setting fire to the premises No. 2367 Second Avenue on the 2d ultimo was heretofore reported, pleaded guilty on the 30th ultimo, and was committed to the Catholic Protectory.

Change in personnel - One member of the uniformed force resigned from the service of the Department.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheppard
President.

G.R. 4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, July 12th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 10th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1156 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are Engine-and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 battalions.

455 horses are now in the Department.

139 fires occurred during the week.

431 companies were called to respond to these fires.

91 telegraphic alarms were received.

48 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$850.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 59

Six trials of members of the uniformed force, for violations of rules and regulations were held, in four of which fines aggregating ten days' pay were imposed; in one the penalty was a reprimand; and in the remaining case judgment was suspended, pending the trial of further charges.

The notable fire of the past week, because of the amount of loss sustained, was that at No. 2733 Third Avenue, which occurred in the forenoon of the 4th instant, the loss exceeding $50,000.

Between midnight of July 3d and midnight of July 5th, there occurred 87 fires, of which number 63 were caused by fireworks, with a resulting loss of about $2300.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield

President.

C.R. 4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, July 17th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,

Spring House, Richfield Springs, N.Y.-

My Dear Col. Strong:

Enclosed I send you a tabulated statement showing the number of fires, the total loss and the average loss per fire in the months of January, February, March, April, May and June, for ten years last past.

These tables are instructive and interesting and show a remarkable falling off in the average loss per fire during the three years of your administration. The lowest average loss per fire for the six months preceding 1895 was $1180, while in the six months just closed, in 1897, the average loss per fire was $575.50, which included the loss of $276,500 by the Ellis Island fire, on June 15th. Without this Ellis Island fire included the average loss per fire for the first six months of 1897 would be little over $400.

I also enclose a copy of the letter I sent you on the 17th of January last, as I thought you might desire to refer to it.

With very best wishes for yourself, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

James R. Sheffield

1888	No.-of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	379	$1,473,298	$3,887.33
February	290	478,425	1,649.74
March	285	781,299	2,741.40
April	283	391,486	1,383.34
May	227	214,081	943.18
June	272	412,930	1,514.82
	1736	$3,751,519	$2,155.25

1889	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	263	$ 194,073	$ 737.92
February	288	276,087	958.63
March	268	265,336	990.05
April	258	1,736,477	6,730.53
May	202	278,963	1,379.67
June	210	246,912	1,175.77
	1489	$2,897,848	$1,946.17

1890	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	327	$ 585,081	$1,789.23
February	242	146,772	606.49
March	327	663,870	2,030.18
April	325	245,288	754.73
May	269	208,965	776.82
June	257	296,497	1,153.69
	1747	$2,146,473	$1,228.60

1891	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	345	$ 740,935	$2,118.62
February	318	246,362	744.72
March	341	2,051,873	6,017.22
April	354	537,398	1,520.90
May	337	487,682	1,447.12
June	334	352,899	1,056.58
	2029	$4,417,149	$2,177.00

1892	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	387	$ 802,564	$2,073.80
February	324	479,172	1,478.92
March	366	324,376	886.27
April	328	204,103	622.22
May	329	513,263	1,560.00
June	278	85,312	306.87
	2012	$2,408,790	$1,197.21

1893	No of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	515	$ 916,037	$1,778.71
February	307	367,807	1,198.06
March	307	231,883	755.31
April	285	427,288	1,499.22
May	324	419,132	1,289.63
June	306	742,759	2,427.31
	2044	$3,104,906	$1,519.03

1894	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	355	$ 381,751	$1,075.35
February	289	262,778	909.26
March	329	205,571	624.83
April	329	312,758	950.63
May	342	624,912	1,827.23
June	329	542,311	1,648.36
	1973	$2,330,081	$1,180.99

1895	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	377	$ 201,890	$ 535.51
February	415	284,585	685.74
March	324	177,152	546.76
April	311	391,019	1,257.29
May	281	99,572	354.35
June	294	171,144	582.12
	2002	$1,325,362	$ 662.02

1896	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	435	$ 455,346	$1,046.77
February	369	266,756	722.91
March	333	533,601	1,602.41
April	336	546,617	1,626.83
May	352	121,073	318.79
June	295	159,039	539.12
	2120	$2,082,432	$ 928.28

1897	No. of fires	Loss	Average loss per fire
January	423	$ 177,990	$ 420.56
February	308	151,209	490.90
March-	346	134,907	389.56
April	303	103,561	341.65
May	337	224,105	635.52
June	360	* 403,550	1,120.83
	2077	$1,195,322	$ 575.50

* This includes loss of $276,500 at Ellis Island, June 15.

RECAPITULATION

First six months for years	No. of fires	Loss.	Average loss per fire
1892) 1893) 1894)	6,029	$7,843,777	$1,301.00
1895) 1896) 1897)	6,199	4,603,116	742.72

G.R. 4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, July 19th, 1897. 189

Hon. John Jeroloman,

Acting Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 17th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1154 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are Engine-and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 battalions.

455 horses are now in the Department.

69 fires occurred during the week.

233 companies were called to respond to these fires.

51 telegraphic alarms were received.

22 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$1,077.86

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 83

Incendiarism - On the afternoon of Sunday, the 11th instant, there was an attempt made, by the use of candles and kerosene oil, to burn an old and dismantled dwelling-house (No. 167 Spring Street). A part of the structure is used for the storage of second-hand packing cases, and that portion on the corner of South Fifth Avenue as a liquor saloon. The attempts to burn were on the second floor (unused) and on the first floor where the packing cases were piled.

On the 13th instant the Fire Marshal caused the arrest of Herman H. Levy and David Uhren, on the charge of arson, in having set fire to their place of business, 396 Broadway. An examination before City Magistrate Deuel on the 16th instant resulted in their being held for the Grand Jury.

Eight trials of members of the uniformed force, for violations of rules and regulations were held, one resulting in a dismissal from the force, six in the imposition of fines aggregating twenty-five days' pay, and one in acquittal.

Changes in personnel - One Stoker resigned, one Plumber appointed, one member of the uniformed force resigned

and one member of the uniformed force deceased.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, July 26th, 1897. 189

Hon. John Jeroloman,

Acting Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 24th inst:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1153 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 battalions.

455 horses are now in the Department.

47 fires occurred during the week.

174 companies were called to respond to these fires.

33 telegraphic alarms were received.

11 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$882.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 43.

One trial of a member of the uniformed force for "Neglect of duty" was had, resulting in a finding of "Not proven" and the cautioning of the accused.

Change in personnel - Foreman William H. Landers of Engine Company No. 42, a member of the Department since its organization in 1865, died on the 22d instant.

The only notable fire which occurred since my last report, and that so because of the amount of damage sustained, was at Nos. 92 - 96 Elizabeth Street on the 23d instant, an investigation into the cause of which is now in progress.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

C.R. 4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE.
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, August 2d, 1897 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 31st ultimo:

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1153 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 battalions.

457 horses are now in the Department.

35 fires occurred during the week.

118 companies were called to respond to these fires.

23 telegraphic alarms were received.

15 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week----------$734.

Inspections and surveys made for the week---------- 65

One trial of a member of the uniformed force was had for violation of the rules and regulations, resulting in a finding of guilty and the imposition of a fine of three days' pay.

There were no changes in the personnel of the Department during the week covered by this report.

The Grand Jury, on the 29th ultimo, dismissed the case against H. H. Levy and David Uhren, whose arrest and holding for the action of that body, on the charge of arson, was communicated to you two weeks since.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield

President.

C.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, Aug. 9th, 1897. 189

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor -

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 7th inst.

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1153 officers and men,

86 companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 battalions.

456 horses are now in the Department.

70 fires occurred during the week.

270 companies were called to respond to these fires.

58 telegraphic alarms were received.

26 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week, ----------$971.00

Inspections and surveys made for the week,---------- 100.

One trial of a member of the uniformed force was had for violation of the rules and regulations, on the charge "Being

under the influence of liquor". A fine of three days pay was imposed.

There was no change in the personnel of the Department during the week covered by this report, except the appointment of one stenographer for service at the Headquarters of the Department.

One of the fires which occurred during the week, to wit: on August 2d, at 429 & 431 West 53d St.,--Ormonde Stables, caused a loss estimated at $50,000.

Another fire, of suspcious origin, is being closely investigated.

Very respectfully,

James B. Sheffield
President.

C.R 4297.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, Aug. 16th, 1897. 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor.

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to submit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 14th inst.

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1151 officers and men,
86 companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in
14 battalions.
456 horses are now in the Department.
60 fires occurred during the week.
205 companies were called to respond to these fires.
45 telegraphic alarms were received.
18 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week,----------$707.00
Inspections and surveys made for the week,---------- 121

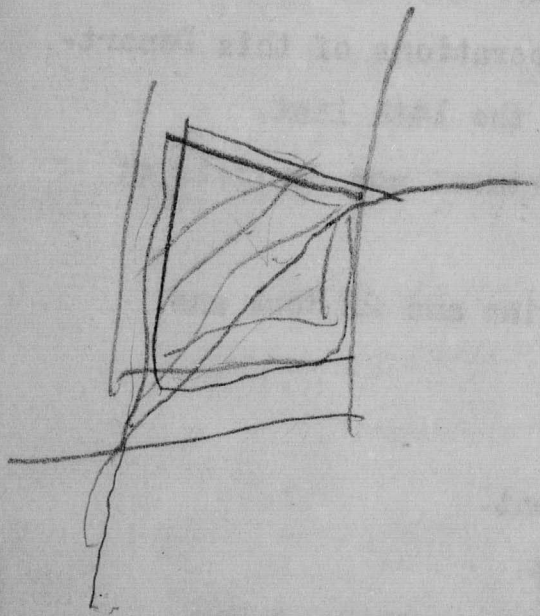
Eleven trials of delinquent members of the uniformed force were had, two of which remain undecided, one resulted in dismissal, two resulted in the finding "Not Guilty", one was withdrawn by the complainant, (a citizen), and the remainder resulted in the imposition of fines

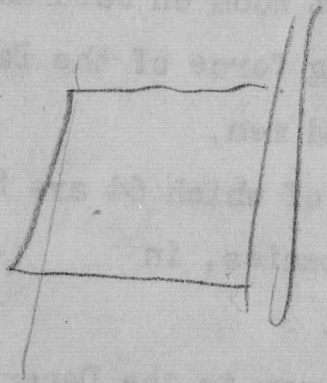
twenty-four days pay.

There were no changes in the personnel of the Department during the week covered by this report, except the dismissal above noted.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.





C.R. 4237.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, Aug. 23, 1897. 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor.

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 14th inst.

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1151 officers and men.
86 companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in
14 battalions.
459 horses are now in the Department.
54 fires occurred during the week.
211 companies were called to respond to these fires.
45 telegraphic alarms were received.
13 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week,----------$666.50.

Inspections and surveys made for the week-------- 97

Two trials of delinquent members of the uniformed force were had, resulting in the imposition of fines aggregating thirteen days' pay.

There have been the following changes of personnel in this Department during the week covered by this report:

Resignation of one Blacksmith, appointment of one Stableman, Reinstatement of one Stableman, appointment of a Storekeeper, appointment of a Draughtsman and Mapmaker, appointment of a stenographer and typewriter.

Very respectfully,

Thos Sturgis

Acting President.

C.R. 4237

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, Aug. 30, 1897. 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday the 28th inst.

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1151 officers and men.
86 companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in
14 battalions
462 horses are now in the Department.
55 fires occurred during the week.
196 companies were called to respond to these fires.
42 telegraphic alarms were received.
14 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week,----------$728.00.
Inspections and surveys made for the week,------- 102.

Two trials of delinquent members of the uniformed force were had, resulting in the imposition of fines aggregating eight days' pay.

The following changes of personnel of the Department occurred during the week covered by this report:

Appointment of one Driver;

Upon report and recommendation of the Chief of Department, one Assistant Foreman and one Engineer of Steamer were reduced to the grade of Fireman, 1st grade.

Very respectfully,

O. H. Kalbfleisch

Acting President.

G.R. 4237.

Head Quarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

New York, Sept. 7th, 1897. 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor-

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 4th inst.

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1151 officers and men.

86 Companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 Battalions.

462 horses are now in the Department.

73 fires occurred during the week.

309 Companies were called to respond to these fires.

73 telegraphic alarms were received.

15 verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week,----------$874.50.

Inspections and surveys made for the week,-------- 109.

There were no changes in the personnel of the Department during the week covered by this report.

Thomas Cook, arrested on the 30th ult., charged with setting fire to a shed in rear of premises No. 3640 Third Ave., was discharged by the Magistrate after investigation.

At a fire at No. 417 East 76th St., on the 30th ult., Charles Pope, a manufacturer of compressed yeast and vinegar, and one of his employees, were seriously burned. There is no suspicion that the fire was intentionally set.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield
President.

Office of the
Commissioners of Accounts,
ROOMS 114 AND 115,
Stewart Building,
280 Broadway.

SETH SPRAGUE TERRY,
RODNEY S. DENNIS,
Commissioners.

New York, September 8, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

During the course of the examination of the Fire Department of the City of New York now being made in accordance with your instructions, many things have developed regarding the bookkeeping and system of accounting in force in that Department which, in my judgment, could be materially improved without any additional increase in the clerical force, and several changes could be made which would result in a decrease in the expense of maintaining the Department. The books, vouchers and pay-rolls are in great confusion and in urgent need of a complete reorganization, and it is for this reason that I make this report to you at this time instead of waiting until the completion of the entire work.

Section 367 of "The Revised Ordinances of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New York", adopted March 9, 1897, provides as follows:

"No payment shall be made by the Comptroller for work done or supplies furnished, except upon proper vouchers rendered by the head of the appropriate department, or other proper officer, board or commission for whom such work was done or supplies furnished. Such vouchers shall be made out in duplicate, and shall contain the certificates of such subordinate officers as the head of the department may require, and of such form and purport as he shall prescribe, and also a certificate of the head of the department. One of the duplicate vouchers shall be retained in the department or office by which the vouchers are rendered, and the other shall be transmitted to the department of finance for payment. A receipt for the amount paid shall be taken upon the voucher sent to the department of finance."

Until January 1, 1873, the Fire Department had control of its money and paid its bills in much the same way as the Police Department does at the present time. Since that date, however, all vouchers have been sent to the Comptroller for payment.

In preparing vouchers for payment only one voucher is

made up by the Fire Department, attached to which are the original invoices, each invoice being duly certified by some one authorized to so certify it. This voucher is forwarded to the Comptroller, but no duplicate of it is kept as provided for by the ordinance above quoted. The omission to keep such duplicate is the cause of much of the confusion which exists in the accounts and documents of this Department. The Department, however, does retain duplicates of the invoices attached to these vouchers, but they are filed in such a manner that the connection of one with another as parts of the same voucher and with the voucher itself is lost. Many of them are filed without proper certification, without the endorsement of the title of the account against which the voucher is charged and with no reference to the page in the record of accounts audited, thus losing all connection between the invoice and the account against which it is charged.

These vouchers are first entered in a book called "Accounts Audited" from day to day as they are sent to the Finance Department for payment. At the end of each month they are again entered in the journal and from there posted in the ledger to the debit of the proper account as sub-divided by the Commissioners. After this an additional entry is made in the journal whereby the balances of these various accounts are closed into the appropriation accounts as established by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This entails something more than twice the amount of work which is necessary, much of which can be saved by the adoption of a voucher register, a sketch of which I submit herewith.

Up to 1873 the various accounts in the ledger were balanced and ruled off each year; for four years thereafter the accounts were ruled off and the unexpended balances brought down. These balances appear on the books as still available, although they have in most instances been turned into the General Fund.

Since the year 1876 not one account on the ledger has

been footed in ink nor the balance brought forward.

There is no account on the ledger from which it can be ascertained readily how much of the appropriation for each year has been expended and how much was unexpended and turned into the General Fund.

This condition of affairs would not have arisen if the books of the Fire Department had been balanced with the Comptroller's books. Our examiner was informed by the bookkeeper at the Fire Department that it was impossible to do this, several attempts having been made and it having been finally abandoned. We have succeeded, however, in balancing the books of the Fire Department with the accounts in the Comptroller's office pertaining to the appropriation for the Fire Department for each of the four years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896 as far as the vouchers had been posted into the Fire Department ledger on April 23. In doing this we were obliged to list about ten thousand six hundred and seventy (10,670) vouchers as they appeared in one set of books and check these lists with the entries as shown in the other set of books.

I submit herewith statements showing the corrections to be made, both on the Fire Department books and on the books of the Comptroller. There are ten (10) errors on the books of the Fire Department in entering the amounts of the vouchers. There are forty-nine (49) vouchers from which deductions amounting to four hundred and forty-two dollars and forty-three cents ($442.43) have been made, in sums ranging from one (1) cent to one hundred and twenty-five dollars ($125), of which no notice has been given to the Department by the Comptroller. Many of these deductions were made for the same or similar articles, purchased at different times, so that if the Comptroller's office had notified the Fire Department at the time of making the first deduction, they could have avoided a repetition of the same error. There are five (5) refunds, amount-

ing to sixty-eight dollars and forty cents ($68.40), in sums ranging from seventy (70) cents to thirty-six (36) dollars, of which also no notice has been given to the Fire Department. The bond account on the Comptroller's books is credited with fifty-four (54) dollars, being the amount of premium realized from the sale of bonds authorized in 1894, and apparently no notice of this credit was given to the Fire Department. In addition to this there are two instances where vouchers drawn for account of the appropriation for one year were charged by the Finance Department to the appropriation for the succeeding or preceding year, as follows:

Voucher No. 14675 for bill of Charles H. Pleasants, dated December 24, 1892, for $20.60, for chemicals, bottles, &c. purchased during September, November and December of 1892, was paid by warrant No. 14675, which was charged to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c. for the year 1893.

Voucher No. 3340 for bills of the Gutta Percha & Rubber Manufacturing Co., dated January 25 and 31, 1895, amounting to $68.85, for packing, matting, &c. purchased on those dates, was paid by warrant No. 3340, which was charged to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c. for the year 1894.

The manner of purchasing supplies for this Department, in my opinion, can be very materially improved. At the present time there are five persons having authority to make purchases, viz: the Purchasing Agent, the Superintendent of Telegraph, the Buildings Superintendent, the Foreman in charge of Repair Shops and the Superintendent of Stables.

Before goods are purchased, a written requisition is made on the Board of Fire Commissioners through the Commissioner who is chairman of the committee on the bureau requiring the supplies. This requisition, after approval, is numbered and returned to the person making it and bears the endorsements of the President, the Chairman of the committee and the Secretary of the Board and is

the authority for the purchase of the articles desired. Notwithstanding its importance as such authority, when goods to the amount called for therein have been purchased, it is returned to the bookkeeper and is oftentimes thrown aside carelessly. In very many instances the requisitions granted during the years covered by this examination have been lost and cannot be found.

The requisitions which I have been able to find do not show in any way what articles were purchased under them, nor from whom or when they were purchased, nor has the bookkeeper any record of the dates, names and amounts of the invoices for the purchases made under these requisitions.

I am of the opinion that greater care should be exercised about granting "Open Requisitions" and that they should be granted only when absolutely necessary, and when a requisition is so granted it should be returned with a report attached showing in detail just what had been purchased under it.

In a book called "Estimated Liabilities" a rough account is kept of the requisitions in numerical order, and opposite each one is entered the amount of the invoices of goods purchased thereunder; but no description of the articles purchased, nor the name of the person from whom purchased, nor the date of the purchase is entered therein. In many cases one invoice is divided and is charged to from two to six requisitions, and in a number of cases goods have been purchased in excess of the amount of the requisition.

No requisitions are asked for or granted for invoices charged to the accounts for Rents, Gas or Horse-shoeing, and only occasionally for charges made to the account of Contingencies.

The general books of the Fire Department at the present time are open to severe criticism. The book called "Estimated Liabilities" is in anything but a desirable condition; many pages are disfigured by alterations, erasures, amounts written over other amounts or scratched out by a stroke of the pen.

In the "Accounts Audited" the entries for vouchers forwarded to the Comptroller in March, April and May, 1897, and charg-

ed to the appropriations of 1895 and 1896, were not posted until July 21, 1897; and the entries in May 1897, charged to the appropriation of 1897, were not posted until after the 16th of June 1897.

The entries covering the period from early in 1896 to March 1, 1897, in the journal for account of the appropriation of 1895 were not dated, neither were the entries made in January and February 1897 for account of the appropriation of 1896. Entries dated April 30,1897,were not posted until after June 16,1897, and entries made in April 1897 appear under date of November 1, 1895.

There is apparently no established method in regard to the certification of invoices. Invoices charged to the account of General Supplies in the year 1895, for which, under the present system, the Purchasing Agent is supposed to be the buyer, were certified to by the Foreman in charge of Repair Shops, the Superintendent of Telegraph and the Foreman of Stables. Some of the invoices charged to the Repair Shops, Telegraph Bureau and Horses respectively were certified to by the Purchasing Agent, while others were certified to by the Superintendent of Telegraph and the Foreman in charge of Repair Shops, as well as the Foreman of Stables. In the same way invoices charged to Repairs to Buildings are certified to by the Purchasing Agent and the Superintendent of Telegraph, as well as by the Buildings Superintendent. Invoices charged to the accounts for Rents and Horse-shoeing were not certified as to prices, and of the one hundred and twenty-one (121) invoices charged to the account for Gas, only two (2) were certified to by the Purchasing Agent, and about three-quarters of the invoices charged to the account of Apparatus are not certified at all. One thousand five hundred and thirty-nine (1539) invoices, aggregating one hundred and one thousand four hundred and five dollars and twenty-eight cents ($101,405.28), out of a total of two thousand nine hundred and thirty (2930) on file on account of the appropriation for 1895, and one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven (1697), aggregating seventy-eight thousand two hundred and eighty-nine dollars and twenty-four cents ($78,289.24), out of a total of

two thousand six hundred and seventy-two (2672) invoices on file on account of appropriation for 1896 have not been certified to as to prices by any one.

From the above it will be seen that it is impossible to hold any one man to an accounting for goods purchased, therefore I am strongly of the opinion that all articles purchased for the Fire Department should be purchased by one man, to be called a Purchasing Agent, whose sole duty would be to look after the purchase of these articles and to see that they were properly delivered. There should be another man, to be called a Storekeeper, who should have charge of all goods after they had been received by the Department, and whose duty it would be to see that they were properly disposed of. An Auditor should be appointed who should check up, at least once in ninety days, the property belonging to the Fire Department in the hands of the various persons in its employ. The Storekeeper should furnish him with a statement of all articles furnished to the various bureaus and engine and hook and ladder companies.

The present bookkeeper has had charge of the accounts since some time in July, 1895, and to a considerable extent has followed the system established by his predecessor, who had charge of the books for more than twenty-five years. On August 1, 1895, however, he discontinued numbering the vouchers; previous to that time a new series of numbers was commenced at the beginning of each year and were very useful in identifying the charges to the various accounts with the vouchers so charged.

Of the ten errors made by the Fire Department bookkeepers in the four years heretofore noted, one was made by the predecessor of the present bookkeeper during a period of two and a half years, while the other nine were made by the present bookkeeper during a period of one and a half years. In many instances vouchers are charged to the wrong accounts, although the title of the account

to which they should be charged was noted on the invoice by the person making the purchase.

I submit herewith a statement showing two hundred and seventy-seven (277) cases, aggregating twelve thousand two hundred and twenty dollars and seventy-four cents ($12,220.74), which have been charged to wrong accounts on the Fire Department books; the account for General Supplies having been charged with five thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight dollars and forty-six cents ($5938.46) which should have been chagged among eleven (11) other accounts, while the Machine Shop was charged with one thousand three hundred and seventy-three dollars and seventy-five cents ($1373.75) which should have been distributed among ten (10) other accounts. The account for Contingencies has been charged with two thousand eight hundred and twelve dollars and one cent ($2812.01) which should have been distributed among nine (9) other accounts, and the accounts for Gas, Apparatus and Repairs, Horses, Maintenance of Fire Boat No. 51, Hose Shop and Repairs to Buildings have been charged with smaller amounts which should have been charged to other accounts.

This statement also shows that in the case of seven hundred and seventeen (717) invoices aggregating one hundred and ninety-five thousand nine hundred and forty-eight dollars and eighty-five cents ($195,948.85) the place of delivery was not noted on the invoice.

I suggest that the Board of Commissioners designate to what accounts the various articles which are needed in the Department be charged; that every article, so far as practicable, be purchased under a requisition duly authorized by the Board; that duplicate invoices be furnished by the persons from whom the articles are purchased, and that these invoices be stamped with the name of the account to which they are to be charged, as well as

the number of the requisition under which they are purchased; that in every case they bear the certification of the Purchasing Agent as to prices and quality and the certification of the Storekeeper as to the proper receipt of the same.

I also suggest that the following changes be made in the names of the accounts:

"Coal and Wood" changed to "Fuel",

"Gas" changed to "Light",

"Horse Feed and Straw" changed to "Forage",

"Apparatus and Repairs" changed to "Apparatus".

The other titles should be revised by the Board, who should also define what constitutes "General Supplies" and "Contingencies".

When a voucher is made up to be forwarded to the Comptroller for payment, a duplicate should be prepared, to which should be attached a complete set of invoices, the requisition (or, if more than one voucher is covered by one requisition, a reference to the number of the requisition) and the order upon which the goods were purchased. These should be folded uniformly and filed away.

Each voucher should be given a consecutive number by the Fire Department, which numbers would be also entered against the vouchers in the voucher register.

Great carelessness has been shown in the past in the method of stamping the certification of the duplicate invoices. In many cases they are stamped over the articles purchased in such a way as to make it almost impossible to read the writing underneath.

In the book called "Estimated Liabilities" there should be a space for the date, name and amount of each invoice, as well as reference to the number of the voucher which pays the invoice.

No one should be permitted to exceed the amount of his requisition, and all requisitions should be returned to the book-

keeper and filed with the vouchers.

I suggest the creation of a Bureau of Repairs with a competent master mechanic as superintendent, and also a Bureau of Buildings under the present Buildings Superintendent.

The Repair Shops consume from $90,000 to $100,000 a year for the purpose of keeping the apparatus of the Fire Department in repair, yet no record is kept showing the cost of each piece of repair work. It seems to me necessary that this record should be kept in order that it could be determined whether this work could be done more cheaply by the Fire Department or by outside concerns. I suggest the use of a system of cost cards, to be attached to each piece of work; upon this card should be entered the number of the job, every article used in the course of the work and the name and time of the men who do the work. This same system of cost cards could be introduced in the Bureau of the Buildings Superintendent to good advantage, inasmuch as he has at the present time no definite knowledge of the cost of the repairs which he is making from time to time. With some such system as this the work of making the property returns required by the Board each year would be materially decreased.

The vouchers for materials used at the Repair Shops and elsewhere are charged to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c., while the amounts of the pay-rolls for the Repair Shops and Bureau of Buildings are charged to the appropriation for Salaries. I suggest that these pay-rolls be charged to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c., so that an accurate idea of the amount actually expended for repairs can be obtained; also that the salaries paid to the detailed firemen be credited to the appropriation for engine and hook and ladder companies and charged to the various bureaus where the men are actually working. This will enable the bookkeeper to furnish the Board periodically with reports of the correct amounts expended for the various purposes and the accounts

to which they are charged.

The Board should appoint a competent man to be known as chief clerk, whose duty it should be to supervise the accounts of the different bureaus, as well as the general accounts and the pension and relief funds, so that there would be a uniformity in the accounts of all the bureaus and with the general books. The present bookkeeper receives a salary of $3500 and his assistant $1500,mmaking a total of $5000. For this amount a competent chief clerk can be secured and also a man to do the detail work on the general books.

The heads of the various bureaus have been greatly inconvenienced by want of proper instructions in regard to their accounts, which lack the uniformith which should exist in all branches of one department.

The books of the present bookkeeper are in a far inferior condition to that in which the books of so important a department of the City should be kept, and I am of the opinion that this is not caused by overwork, but by carelessness and lack of interest in his work.

When the present Board of Commissioners assumed office there were many important matters which required their immediate attention and with which their time has been fully occupied since, so that they had little or no time in which to give their attention to the subjects mentioned in this report, relying upon the bookkeeper to keep this branch of the work in proper order.

I desire also to call your attention to the question of pay-rolls in this Department. There are six monthly and six weekly pay-rolls now charged to the appropriation for Salaries, viz:

Monthly:

Headquarters,

Bureau of Combustibles,

Bureau of Fire Marshal,

Bureau of Fire Alarm Telegraph and Electrical Appliances,

Repair Shops,

Hospital and Training Stables.

Weekly:

Repair Shops (for mechanics &c.),

Extra Telegraph Force #1 (for men employed on outside work),

Hospital Stables (for stablemen),

Fire Boat William F. Havemeyer #43 (for stokers only),

Fire Boat Zophar Mills #51 (for stokers only),

Fire Boat #57 Yorker #57 (for stokers only).

In addition to the above there is the Extra Telegraph Force #2 pay-roll, for labor on the underground telegraph system, which is charged to the bond issue, and the Headquarters Labor Roll, which is for miscellaneous purposes and charged to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c.

The Headquarters monthly roll contains the names of clerks and stenographers who are assigned to the "Chief of Department", the "Buildings Supeintendent", the "Fire Marshal" and the "Telegraph" Bureaus.

The Fire Marshal's roll contains only four names, the six inspectors reporting to him being all detailed men; three from the uniformed force, whose names are carried on the company rolls, and three from the Police Department. The stenographer in the Fire Marshal's bureau is carried on the Headquarters roll.

The Hospital and Training Stables roll contains the names of two drivers, one assigned to one of the Commissioners and the other to the store room at Headquarters.

The Repair Shops roll contains the name of the driver of the Buildings Superintendent.

The Bureau of Combustibles roll contains all of the names

of the Inspectors force but one, who is a detailed fireman and whose name is carried on his company roll.

The name of one of the stenographers of the Bureau of Fire Alarm Telegraph and Electrical appliances is carried on the Headquarters roll.

There is no separate pay-roll for the force employed by the Buildings Superintendent, the names of his men being carried on the Headquarters monthly roll, the Headquarters weekly roll and the Repair Shops monthly roll, while four are detailed men and their names are carried on their company rolls.

The amount paid for wages to the men under the Buildings Superintendent is divided, part being charged to the appropriation for Salaries and part to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c.

I would suggest the following changes in the monthly rolls:

That two drivers now carried on the Hospital Stables roll be transferred to the Headquarters roll.

That one driver now carried on the Bureau of Repairs roll be transferred to a new roll to be created for the Bureau of Buildings.

That one stenographer and typewriter be transferred from the Headquarters roll to the Fire Marshal's roll.

That one superintendent, one assistant superintendent and one stenographer and typewriter be transferred from the Headquarters roll to the Bureau of Buildings roll.

That two clerks, one bookkeeper and one stenographer and typewriter be transferred from the Headquarters roll to a new roll to be created for the Bureau of the Chief of Department.

You will also notice that there are three extra pay-rolls, one for each fire boat, for the stokers alone. The names of the members of the uniformed force attached to these boats are

carried upon the regular company pay-rolls, which also contain the names of the pilots and engineers not belonging to the uniformed force.

The Headquarters Labor pay-roll, which is charged to the appropriation for Apparatus, Supplies, &c., contains the names of drivers, cleaners and elevator attendants, as well as five men who are working exclusively for the Buildings Superintendent.

A great deal of time is undoubtedly lost to the City on account of the men whose names are on the weekly rolls being obliged to come to the office of the City Paymaster each week for their money. I estimate that the time so lost is about one half day each week for each man. This, however, does not apply to the mechanics in the Repair Shops.

In my opinion there is no good reason why these weekly pay-rolls should be maintained, and I would suggest that the following changes be made, viz:

That one driver, three cleaners, two elevator attendants and one stoker be transferred from the Headquarters weekly roll to the Headquarters monthly roll.

That one carpenter, two plumbers, one plumber's helper, and one laborer now carried on the Headquarters weekly roll be transferred to the Bureau of Buildings roll.

That four stokers from Fire Boat No. 43 weekly roll be transferred to the regular monthly roll of Engine Co. No. 43.

That five stokers from Fire Boat No. 51 weekly roll be transferred to the regular monthly roll of Engine Co. No. 51.

That four stokers from Fire Boat No. 57 weekly roll be transferred to the regular monthly roll of Engine Co. No. 57.

That nine stablemen and one feed man now carried on the Hospital Stables weekly roll be transferred to the Hospital Stables monthly roll.

That one painter, one driver, seven climbers, and five ground men be transferred from the Extra Telegraph Force No. 1 weekly roll to the regular monthly roll of the Bureau of Fire Alarm Telegraph and Electrical Appliances.

That three cable splicers, one mechanic's helper, one driver and one mason now carried on the Extra Telegraph Force No. 2 weekly roll be transferred to a new monthly roll, to be known as the Underground Telegraph System roll.

That the entire weekly roll of the Repair Shops be changed to a monthly roll.

These changes would abolish all of the weekly rolls, and there would remain only nine monthly pay-rolls, as follows:

Headquarters,
Bureau of Chief of Department (new),
Bureau of Combustibles,
Bureau of Fire Marshal,
Bureau of Fire Alarm Telegraph and Electrical Appliances,
Underground Telegraph System (new),
Repair Shops (or Bureau of Repairs),
Hospital and Training Stables,
Buildings Superintendent (or Bureau of Buildings) (new).

This would reduce the number of rolls to be made out and signed by the Commissioners by seven hundred and sixty (760), and would result in a decrease of three hundred and eighty (380) in the number of vouchers to be entered and filed in both the Fire and Finance Departments.

In addition to the foregoing, I would call your attention to the fact that there are twenty-three members of the uniformed force detailed to other than fire duty, whose names are carried on the regular company rolls without any certification to show where their labors were performed. In my opinion this is undesirable for

two reasons: first, the fact that it is more difficult to keep track of the work for which these men are paid, and, second, on account of the increased expense. Nineteen of these men have details where they are obliged to work only from six to eight hours a day, while the other members of the uniformed force are obliged to hold themselves in readiness to report for duty at any time during the day or night.

The salaries of these twenty-three men amount to twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars ($28,720), as follows:

2 Foremen at $2160 per annum	4320.00
1 Assistant Foreman	1800.00
1 Engineer	1600.00
1 Engineer (ununiformed)	1400.00
14 Firemen, first grade, at $1400 per annum	19600.00
	$28720.00

Some of these details have been in force for more than ten years.

Three of the above nineteen men are incapacitated for fire duty on account of injuries received in the service. The remaining sixteen men are distributed as follows:

	Yearly salary paid	Regular wages for the work.	Yearly amount
Buildings Superintendent:			
2 Tinsmiths at $1400	2800	3.00 per day	1830.00
1 Painter	1400	3.00 "	915.00
Foreman in charge of Repair Shops:			
1 Foreman in charge	2160		3000.00
1 Driver	1400	2.50 "	762.50
Fire Marshal:			
2 Inspectors at $1400	2800	100 per mo.	2400.00

Superintendent of Stables:			
3 Stablemen at $1400	4200	2.00 per day	1830.00
Headquarters:			
1 Janitor	1800		1500.00
1 Engineer	1600	100 per mo.	1200.00
1 Engineer (ununiformed)	1400	100 "	1200.00
3 Messengers at $1400	4200	100 "	3600.00
	23760		18237.50

From the above table it will be seen that by abolishing these details and employing men for this specific work a saving of over five thousand five hundred dollars ($5500) could be effected; and I would suggest that these men now on detail be sent back to their respective companies and that men fitted for the particular duties which they are called upon to perform be employed in their places.

There should be kept an official record of all the names that are on the various pay-rolls of the Department, which should be arranged both alphabetically and by roll, so that there will be a complete roster of all of the employes on file in the Department. This record should show the dates of appointment and discharge of each man, and the pay-rolls each month should be checked with it.

The accounts of the various bureaus will be dealt with in detail in subsequent reports pertaining to each bureau.

In closing I desire to express my appreciation of the courtesy and assistance which I have invariably received at the hands of the present Board of Commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney A. Dennis

Commissioner.

C.R.4237.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD.
O. H. LA GRANGE
THOMAS STURGIS.
Commissioners.

Headquarters
Fire Department,
157 & 159 East 67th Street,

New York, Sept. 13th, 1897 189

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,
Mayor.

Sir:

In conformity with your request I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement showing, in brief, the operations of this Department for the week ending at noon on Saturday, the 11th inst.

The fire extinguishing force of the Department now consists of

1151 officers and men.

86 Companies, of which 64 are Engine and 22 Hook and Ladder Companies, in

14 Battalions.

463 horses are now in the Department.

64 fires occurred during the week.

218 Companies were called to respond to these fires.

48 Telegraphic alarms were received.

20 Verbal alarms were received.

Receipts, Bureau of Combustibles, for licenses, permits and penalties for the week,----------$910.50.

Inspections and Surveys made for the week,-------- 79.

There were no changes in the personnel of the Department during the week covered by this report.

But one of the fires which occurred during the week--that at

No. 465-467 Washington Street, resulted in serious loss. It is estimated that the loss in the case referred to will exceed $50,000.

Very respectfully,

James R. Sheffield

President.

FIRE-HOSE REQUIREMENTS IN NEW YORK CITY.

AN unusually large quantity of hose was contracted for by the New York fire-department during the past year, chiefly on account of the annexation to the city of another slice of Westchester county and the extension of the fire service to the new district. It is the custom of the department to advertise once during each year for bids for supplying the city's requirements in fire-hose, specifying the different brands desired, and the quantity of each. After the latest addition to the city's area, and the consequent increased needs for hose, a supplementary call for bids was published, the specifications in the two advertisements being as follows:

May 23—Bids Opened June 12:

10,000 feet 2½ inch circular-woven, seamless, multiply, rubber-lined, cotton fire-hose, Eureka Fire-hose brand, to weigh not more than 60 pounds per length, including couplings.

5,000 feet 2½-inch carbolized rubber-lined fire-hose, Maltese Cross brand, to weigh not more than 60 pounds, etc.

3,000 feet 3-inch carbolized rubber-lined fire-hose, Maltese Cross brand, to weigh not more than 80 pounds, etc.

5,000 feet 2½-inch rubber-lined fire-hose, P. G. brand, to weigh not more than 60 pounds, etc.

November 27—Bids Opened December 13–30.

3,000 feet 2½-inch straight warp, circular-knit cotton, rubber-lined fire-hose, Willis single-knit brand, to weigh not more than 45 pounds, etc.

3,000 feet 1½-inch carbolized rubber-lined fire-hose, Maltese Cross brand, to weigh not more than 30 pounds, etc.

3,000 feet 3-inch carbolized rubber-lined fire-hose, Maltese Cross brand, to weigh not more than 80 pounds, etc.

32,000 feet, total specified.

Separate bids were required on each item advertised for, and in each case the successful bidder was the manufacturer of the brand named. This long has been the practice, the advertisement for bids and the signing of contracts with bonds for their fulfillment being merely matters of form, to comply with the laws governing the purchase of supplies for the city. As will be seen, a considerable variety of hose was ordered, the prices ranging from 55 cents to $1.60 per foot, and the total amount reaching $31,650. Forming a part of each contract are specifications in addition to those in the advertisements quoted, of which a specimen may be given here:

Specifications for furnishing 5000 feet of seamless patent improved carbolized rubber-lined firehose, Maltese Cross brand:

The hose to be furnished is to be made of the best quality Pará on duck woven from Gulf or Peeler cotton, both rubber and duck to be thororoughly carbolized. It is to be not less than four-ply with five-ply and capped ends, and of 2½ inches internal diameter, and is to be delivered in lengths of 50 feet with New York fire-department standard couplings attached—the couplings to be made of the best composition metal and to have the thread set back one-eighth of an inch from the face; but in no case shall the number of threads be less than now used in the regulation couplings of said department. The brand or trad-mark is to be marked on each length of hose about one foot from the female coupling. Each and every length of hose with the couplings attached is to be capable of resisting a pressure test of 300 pounds to the square inch without twisting or turning more than three-fourths of a revolution or elongating more than thirty inches, or increasing in exterior diameter more than one-eighth of an inch at any point, and is to weigh not more than 60 pounds, including couplings.

These specifications do not vary materially in the several contracts except in the dimensions and weights given. One contract during the year, however, was based upon the require-

ment of "the best quality of Pará rubber and best Gulf cotton, thoroughly prepared to prevent mildew." It is specified that a certain other brand shall be lettered in white, on a black ground, "if possible."

In every case the contractors are required to warrant their hose against wear and tear for three years, any part failing in service to be either replaced or repaired, at the option and demand of the department, without expense to the city. There is excepted, in the terms of the guarantee, any damage to hose by fire or acids, or by being run over by vehicles or stepped upon by horses. All hose must be delivered within ninety days after the execution of the contract.

Without doubt good hose has contributed more than any other one item to the development of the modern effective system of fire protection, and there was no really good hose before the use of India-rubber in its manufacture. Leather hose was the reliance of the New York fire-department up to 1867, in which year a commission was sent to visit the various cities in the country having paid fire-departments. They reported leather chiefly used in Boston; leather in Cleveland; "a portion rubber" in Cincinnati; leather and rubber in equal proportions in Detroit. In the same year the chief engineer of the department, in his annual report, commended as superior to anything else he had seen the "combination" hose—as the rubber and duck hose was first called. From that time the use of rubber fire-hose in New York increased, while the leather hose began to disappear. Rubber hose had been in satisfactory use for years before in the fire service of a few towns, and it is uncertain why its introduction in New York was so long delayed.

At the end of 1879 the city owned only 550 feet of leather hose, and after that it was not heard of. The leather hose was expensive—$1.57 per foot having been paid in 1868—and involved a tremendous amount of labor in repairs. The Metropolitan fire-department at the end of 1867 had only 70,575 feet of hose, but during the year the repair-shop had handled 75,000 feet. It is evident that hose was not bought under guarantee in those days. About that time the wages-roll in the hose-shop was more than $5000 a year. Yet the universal complaint was that the condition of the hose was very bad.

The inefficiency of the old fire service finally led to the abolition of the volunteer companies, and a centralized department, with a rich city to pay the bills, brought about a constant improvement in equipment, but in no respect has the improvement been greater than in the quality of hose used. As for the cost of hose, the following comparative table has not before been printed:

Year.	Amount Paid for Hose.	Feet of Hose Owned at End of the Year.
1880	$17,350.00	116,500
1881	14,250.00	117,500
1882	14,000.00	118,350
1883	24,012.50	132,292
1884	28,400.00	137,884
1885	18,500.00	159,503
1886	17,520.00	167,905
1887	30,750.00	186,586
1888	29,120 00	202,208
1889	30,000.00	210,100
1890	30,000.00	.....
1891	29,900.00	.....
1892	17,500.00	.....
1893	17,850.00	.....
1894	24,085.00	253,000
1895	31,650.00	.....

Of the hose on hand in 1889 nearly 97 per cent. was of 2½ inches internal diameter, the remaining amount being in special lengths of large sizes. The proportionate amounts of hose ordered in 1895 of different diameters are shown herewith:

	Percentage.
One and one-half inch hose	9.375
Two and one-half inch hose	71.875
Three-inch hose	18.75
Total	100.

In addition to the cost of rubber hose, there is a large expenditure for special appliances for its use. There are now owned by the New York fire-department 43 four-wheel hose-tenders, 1 four-wheel double-reel boat-tender, 33 two-wheel hose-tenders, 32 four-wheel hose-wagons, 1 hose-carriage, and 8 hose-jumpers. Two or three hose-repairers are regularly employed in the department.

Contractors for supplying the city with hose deliver it to the repair-shops of the fire-department, where it remains in the custody of the officer in charge until requisitions are made for it in proper form. A record is kept of each lot issued, and a general order of the department requires, at the expiration of every year, a special report from the various companies, giving all the particulars of the merits or demerits of the hose in use. The information thus gained is the basis of the decision reached with regard to future purchases of the various brands.

The following list of hose owned by the New York fire-department on January 1, 1895, has been prepared for THE INDIA RUBBER WORLD by the obliging officials of the department:

Brand.	Diameter. Inches.	50-Foot Lengths.	Brand.	Diameter. Inches.	50-Foot Lengths.
Maltese Cross....	1-½	102	Baker	3-½	1
....	1-¾	1	Adriatic.....	2-½	296
....	2-½	2,104	American Jacket..	2-½	15
....	3	431	White Anchor....	2-½	5
....	3-¼	127	Boyd.....	2-½	13
....	4	20	Unique Jacket..	2-½	175
...	5	12	Surprise	2-½	93
....	6	4	Nonpariel.... ...	2-½	10
Peerless	2-½	126	Red Cross.....	2-½	4
Eureka.....	2-½	1,163	Chemical.....	....	11
.....	3-½	6	Tapering.... ...	....	62
Baker	2-½	298			
....	3¼	12	Total.....		5,091

The last item (tapering hose) refers to lengths of 25 feet The total length of hose represented by the table is 253,000 feet. According to this table 85 per cent. of the hose on hand was 2½ inches in diameter.

THE CITY RECORD.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1896.

HEADQUARTERS FIRE DEPARTMENT, NEW YORK, November 27, 1896.

TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR FURNISHING 2,000 feet of 3-inch Woven Cotton, Rubber-lined Fire-hose, "Eureka Fire-hose" brand; 3,000 feet of 2½-inch Woven Cotton, Rubber-lined Fire-hose, "Paragon" brand; 1,000 feet of 1½-inch Woven Cotton, Rubber-lined Fire-hose, "Paragon" brand, will be received by the Board of Commissioners at the head of the Fire Department, at the office of said Department, Nos. 157 and 159 East Sixty-seventh street, in the City of New York, until 10 o'clock A. M. Wednesday, December 9, 1896, at which time and place they will be publicly opened by the head of said Department and read

Special attention is directed to the test of the hose by the Fire Department and the guarantee of the hose by the contractor, required by the specifications.

No estimate will be received or considered after the hour named.

For information as to the description of the hose to be furnished, bidders are referred to the specifications, which form part of these proposals.

The form of the agreement, with specifications, showing the manner of payment for the hose, may be seen, and forms of proposals may be obtained at the office of the Department.

Bidders must write out the amount of their estimate in addition to inserting the same in figures.

The hose is to be delivered within ninety (90) days after the execution of the contract.

The damages to be paid by the contractor for each day that the contract may be unfullfilled after the time specified for the completion thereof shall have expired, are fixed and liquidated at the sum specified in the form of contract.

The award of the contract will be made as soon as practicable after the opening of the bids.

Any person making an estimate for the hose shall present the same in a sealed envelope to said Board, at said office, on or before the day and hour above named, which envelope shall be indorsed with the name or names of the person or persons presenting the same, the date of its presentation and a statement of the work to which it relates.

The Fire Department reserves the right to decline any and all bids or estimates if deemed to be for the public interest. No bid or estimate will be accepted from, or contract awarded to, any person who is in arrears to the Corporation upon debt or contract, or who is a defaulter, as surety or otherwise, upon any obligation to the Corporation.

Each bid or estimate shall contain and state the name and place of residence of each of the persons making the same, the names of all persons interested with him or them therein, and if no other person be so interested, it shall distinctly state that fact; that it is made without any connection with any other person making an estimate for the same purpose, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud, and that no member of the Common Council, head of a department, chief of a bureau, deputy thereof or clerk therein, or other officer of the Corporation, is directly or indirectly interested therein, or in the supplies or work to which it relates, or in any portion of the profits thereof. The bid or estimate must be verified by the oath, in writing, of the party or parties making the estimate, that the several matters stated therein are in all respects true. Where more than one person is interested it is requisite that the verification be made and subscribed by all the parties interested.

Each bid or estimate shall be accompanied by the consent, in writing, of two householders or freeholders of he City of New York, with their respective places of business or residence, to the effect that if the contract be awarded to the person making the estimate, they will, on its being so awarded, become bound as sureties for its faithful performance in the sum of One Thousand One Hundred (1,100) Dollars on the "Eureka Fire-hose," and One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500) Dollars on the "Paragon Hose," and that if he shall omit or refuse to execute the same, they will pay to the Corporation any difference between the sum to which he would be entitled on its completion and that which the Corporation may be obliged to pay to the person or persons to whom the contract may be awarded at any subsequent letting, the amount in each case to be calculated upon the estimated amount of the work by which the bids are tested. The consent above-mentioned shall be accompanied by the oath or affirmation, in writing, of each of the persons signing the same, that he is a householder or freeholder in the City of New York, and is worth the amount of the security required for the completion of this contract, over and above all his debts of every nature, and over and above his liabilities as bail, surety or otherwise and that he has offered himself as a surety in good faith and with the intention to execute the bond required by law. The adequacy and sufficiency of the security offered is to be approved by the Comptroller of the City of New York before the award is made and prior to the signing of the contract.

No estimate will be considered unless accompanied by either a certified check upon one of the banks of the City of New York, drawn to the order of the Comptroller, or money to the amount of five per cent. of the amount of the surety. Such check or money must not be inclosed in the sealed envelope containing the estimate but must be handed to the officer or clerk of the Department who has charge of the estimate-box, and no estimate can be deposited in said box until such check or money has been examined by said officer or clerk and found to be correct. All such deposits except that of the successful bidder will be returned to the persons making the same within three days after the contract is awarded. If the successful bidder shall refuse or neglect, within five days after notice that the contract has been awarded to him, to execute the same, the amount of the deposit made by him shall be forfeited to and retained by the City of New York as liquidated damages for such neglect or refusal; but if he shall execute the contract within the time aforesaid the amount of his deposit will be returned to him.

Should the person or persons to whom the contract may be awarded neglect or refuse to accept the contract within five days after written notice that the same has been awarded to his or their bid or proposal, or if he or they accept, but do not execute the contract and give the proper security, he or they shall be considered as having abandoned it and as in default to the Corporation, and the contract will be readvertised and relet as provided by law.

JAMES R. SHEFFIELD, O. H. LA GRANGE, THOMAS STURGIS, Commissioners.

STATEMENT

SHOWING NO. OF LENGTHS OF FIRE HOSE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 1895.

Brand of Hose	1 1/2"	1 3/4"	2 1/2"	3"	3 1/4"	3 1/2"	4"	5"	6"	Total	Total
The Gutta Percha & Rubber Mfg. Co.											
Maltese Cross	102	1	2104	431	127		20	12	4	2801	
Baker			298		12	1				311	3112
Eureka Fire Hose Co.											
Eureka Fire Hose			1163			6				1169	
Surprise			93							93	
Red Cross			4							4	1266
Miscellaneous.											
Adriatic			296							296	
Amer. Jacket			15							15	
Boyd			13							13	
Unique Jacket			175							175	
Nonpariel			10							10	
White Anchor			5							5	
Peerless			126							126	640
	102	1	4302	431	139	7	20	12	4		5018

NO. OF LENGTHS OF FIRE HOSE PURCHASED FROM Jan. 1, 1895, to Dec. 1, 1896.

	1 1/2"	1 3/4"	2 1/2"	3"	3 1/4"	3 1/2"	4"	5"	6"	Total	Total
The Gutta Percha & Rubber Mfg. Co.											
Maltese Cross	74		200	160						434	
Baker						3				3	437
Eureka Fire Hose Co.											
Eureka Fire Hose			300		20						320
Miscellaneous.											
P. G.)	Revere Rub-		100							100	
Aragon)	ber Co.		20							20	120
Single Knit			60							60	
Amer. Chief			20							20	
White Anchor			20							20	100
Total purchased	74		720	160	20	3					977
On hand Jan. 1/95	102	1	4302	431	139	7	20	12	4		5018
Grand Total	176	1	5022	591	159	10	20	12	4		5995

PROPORTION OF FIRE HOSE FURNISHED BY THE DIFFERENT MANUFACTURERS.

The Gutta Percha & Rubber Mfg. Co.	176	1	2602	591	139	4	20	12	4	3549	Percentages 59.20
Eureka Fire Hose Co.			1560		20	6				1586	26.46
Miscellaneous			860							860	14.34
Totals	176	1	5022	591	159	10	20	12	4	5995	100.

December 28, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

In reference to recent interview with Mr. J. L. M. Allen of your office, in regard to furnishing Fire Hose for the Fire Dept. of N. Y. City. We furnished a quantity of Hose for the Fire Dept. about 20 years ago, under guarantee, and none of it was returned. We are now making a brand known as the Gold Seal. We make both the cotton, rubber lined, and the rubber hose which we confidently recommend to the Dept. to fulfill all their requirements.

Shall be pleased to be given an opportunity to have our samples tested before the authorities with a view of having orders from them in the future.

Yours truly,

Goodyear Rubber Co.

December 30, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

We respectfully offer to supply the City of New York with our 2 1/2" 4 ply Anchor Brand of Mineralized Rubber Hose, coupled and warranted to 400 lbs, on usual terms, and for three years, at Fifty nine and one half cents per foot. We offer this Hose as in every respect the equal of the Maltese Cross Brand of Rubber Hose solely used for so many years past by this City, and we may fairly call our Hose identical therewith in quality, weight, duck, and every other point, except the brand.

Other sizes and plies would be quoted for upon our receiving particulars, at about equal reduction.

We have supplied the U. S. Government and great numbers of Country Fire Departments for many years past and the Anchor brand is as well known as any Hose in the market, but we have been deterred from trying for your orders owing to obstacles apparently thrown in the paths of any except a certain clique, and to our

belief that a fair show would not be accorded us, either at the letting of contracts, or after the Hose was put in use.

The Maltese Cross Hose for which this City has paid $1 per foot for many years while a good Hose is not in any degree better than Hose made by many other factories, and in its service here and elsewhere it has burst, and failed at critical moments, just as often as any other high class Hose would have done under similar circumstances.

While we make this offer unreservedly, we prefer not to receive orders for more than 1000 or 2000 ft at first, until we can assure ourselves that our Hose will be fairly treated by the Fire Department, especially that sections of our Hose shall not be singled out to invariably be placed in the most difficult positions, but that as far as convenient our Hose shall be used in continuous lengths of some hundreds of feet on the same reel.

Very respectfully,

Mineralized Rubber Co.

The following accompanied the above letter:

Before the New York State Senatorial Investigating Committee (Fassett Committee.)

Amadee Spadone, president of the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company, followed as a witness. He admitted that he was the successful bidder for the Maltese Cross hose used by the New York Fire Department at a cost to the city of $1 a foot, and that he had been manufacturing it for fifteen years. He declared that he never had heard of the Mineralized Rubber Hose. Referring to the declaration by Mr. Dodge that the Maltese Cross hose was sold in Western cities below the price here, Mr. Spadone gave it a flat denial, and added that the hose in use in New York was manufactured expressly for the Fire Department and was not permitted to go into use elsewhere.

"The specifications of the Department are worded so care-

fully and judiciously", said the witness, "that we are compelled to use a lighter duck and to prepare it in such a manner that it will not expand, twist or elongate under a specified pressure of 400 pounds. This course is much better for the Department and gives to it the very best hose manufactured in the United States. We test every foot of it in the repair shops as it is delivered, and we have replaced very many lengths which gave way under the required test of three years."

New York World (page 11) Dec. 28th, 1890.

Fire at the 71st Regiment Armory, New York City, June 27th, 1891.

Rottenness of the Fire Hose.

The rottenness of the fire hose in present use by the Fire Department was recognized by all who saw it in use at the fire yesterday. Almost every length of hose had a crack in it, through which the water was sent spurting in all directions. Almost everybody who stood within the fire lines was soaked by the bursting of the hose.

I counted five leaks in as many lengths of hose all spurting at the one time, while the stream of water thrown on the fire was correspondingly weaker on account of the leakage. The rottenness of the hose was freely commented upon by the early morning watchers of the fire.

New York Herald (page 8) June 28, 1891.

Fire at Sixth Avenue Car Stables, July 8th, 1891.

Chief Bonner complained of the lack of water. "The big engines", said he, "which should register a water-pressure of 200 pounds, show but 20 pounds."

It turned out that there were only six-inch mains on Forty-third and Forty-fourth Streets. Whatever the pressure on the mains,

the pressure on the hose stretched in all directions was greater than it could stand. Every now and then a piece of hose would burst, drenching the people about it and scattering the crowds.
New York World (page 8) July 9, 1891.

The curious crowds which jammed up to the fire lines got soused several times from bursting hose, and once an elevated train, whose passengers were looking at the fire, received the full benefit of a big fountain of water from a broken hose.
New York Sun (page 5) July 9, 1891.

The hose burst several times. Once it drenched two or three hundred people, and once the water flew all over an elevated train that was passing just at the moment.
New York Herald (page 5) July 9, 1891.

Fire in Franklin Street, July 10th, 1891.

The fire hose was bursting everywhere, drenching the firemen and the privileged spectators within the lines and throwing streams into the windows of the dwellings whose occupants were looking on, some rather scantily dressed.
New York World, July 11, 1891.

See the following unsolicited testimonial from the U. S. Government.

Jeffersonville Depot of the Quartermasters Department, Jeffersonville, Indiana,
August 4th, 1887.

The Mineralized Rubber Co.,
New York.

Gentlemen:- You are respectfully informed that the section of 2 1/2 Fire Hose received from you in September last, was upon its

receipt subjected to a hydraulic pressure of 300 lbs. to the square inch. It was then put into service, and has been in constant use until July 30th; at which time it was again tested, and the couplings blown off at 300 lbs. On the 1st instant, it was again tested, and burst at 440 lbs.

Respectfully yours,

Signed, Addison Barrett,

Capt. and M. S. K. U. S. Army.

And the following written 8 years later to a buyer who inquired about the repute of our Anchor Brand Fire Hose.

War Department, Jeffersonville Depot of the Quartermaster's Department, Jeffersonville, Indiana, December 13th, 1895.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to your letter of the 11th instant, I take pleasure in stating that during past years large amounts of hose of the Mineralized Rubber Company, of New York City, have been purchased at this depot -- both 3/4 inch and 2 1/2 inch -- which has been shipped to posts throughout the United States. It has always given entire satisfaction, no complaint, so far as known to this office, ever having been received concerning it.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. Robinson,

Deputy Quartermaster General, U. S. Army.

Our Anchor Brand Fire Hose was ordered by Secretary of Treasury in 1892 for use in all Federal Buildings east of Rocky Mountains.

It was also adopted in 1895 for use in protecting the Capitol at Washington, D. C.

December 30, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

Consistent with the conversation which the writer had this day with your Mr. Allen relative to the furnishing of fire hose to the Fire Department of the City of New York, I beg to state that we have not submitted a proposal to the department referred to for more than 15 years, although we are continually supplying our make of TEST brand of rubber fire hose and DRAGON brand of cotton rubber lined fire hose to many of the principal cities throughout the United States. Our TEST brand of carbolized rubber in competition with that of other makes has proved itself to be a superior article.

We have had many years experience in the manufacture of hose for fire department service and are perfectly satisfied that should you place us in a position to compete we will furnish an article that will meet with your approval in every way.

Respectfully submitted,

New York Belting & Packing Co. Ltd.

December 30, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to conversation to-day with Mr. J. L. M. Allen I should be pleased to hear from you when you are ready to sent out bids for fire hose for the City of New York.

I am confident that my "McCoy's Special" fire hose will meet with all your requirements.

Trusting I may hear from you soon, I am

Yours truly,

Henry J. McCoy.

January 8, 1897.

Gentlemen:-

We have seen the Factory people about the matter which you spoke of when here, and are very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken, but the gentleman from the Factory, with whom we talked the matter over, does not feel disposed to enter the list. We tried to explain it to him, but he seems to be prejudiced owing to the way the bids have heretofore been handled. We thank you for your trouble in the matter, and hope we have not inconvenienced you.

Yours truly,

Stephen Ballard Rubber Co.

December 30, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to your Mr. Allen's visit to us to-day in regard to the Fire Hose question for the City Fire Department would say, that we are manufacturers of both Cotton Rubber Lined and Rubber Fire Hose of grades which we consider equal in every respect to the hose that the Fire Department is now using and we should be very glad at any time to submit such samples, free of charge, as the fire Commissioners may require for making thorough tests in order to satisfy themselves of our ability to furnish such hose. Would say, for your information that in the Cotton Hose the two brands which we consider all right for your department's use are known as the Mohican Jacket and the Manhattan Jacket, and in the rubber hose we have the Centaur brand and the Manhattan brand. We can only say in addition to the above that we should be only too glad to submit samples and give your Commissioners any facts that we can in regard to this matter, and we are confident that we can make prices on these grades of hose which would save the City materially and at the same time give the department a hose, which

in point of quality and efficiency, would be as good as anything that is now in the department.

Yours truly,

Manhattan Rubber Mfg. Co.

December 24, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

Confirming our recent conversation with your Mr. J. L. M. Allen, would say that we shall at any time be pleased to submit sample and quote price on our 4 ply rubber hose for fire department uses, and have every confidence in our ability to furnish a perfectly satisfactory articles at as low, if not lower, price than may be quoted by our competitors.

This hose is specially made, and we guarantee it for a term of three years from delivery, to be free from imperfections in material and manufacture, and to stand a hydraulic test pressure of fully 400 pounds to the square inch.

Trusting that at some future time we may be accorded the privilege of submitting sample and naming price, in competition with other manufacturers, we are

Yours Resp'y,

New York Rubber Co.

December 21, 1896.

Dear Sirs:-

Having had a personal interview with Mr. J. L. M. Allen, Examiner in your Department, in reference to fire hose, would say we would like very much to have an opportunity of bidding on requirements of rubber fire hose used by the City. We some years ago put 15,000 ft in, guaranteed for 3 years, and none of it was returned. We are large manufacturers of high class material; we

have both fire and suction hose in use in Philadelphia, Brooklyn, St. Louis, and many of the larger cities.

Trusting in your bids for fire hose you will include our Peerless brand, we are

Yours very truly,

Peerless Rubber Mfg. Co.

December 23, 1896.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to recent call of your Mr. Allen, would say that if you will kindly give us specifications in full for both Rubber and Cotton, Rubber Lined, Hose as required for New York Fire Dept. that we shall be pleased to investigate the matter thoroughly and if the proposals are of such nature as to allow us to bid on goods, as per our catalogue herewith, then we shall be pleased to give the matter proper attention. We know that we are in a position to supply an article fully equal to that furnished by other parties and offer same at a price which we believe will make it an object for the Department to favor us with at least a portion of their trade.

Awaiting your advice, we remain

Yours respectfully,

Boston Belting Co.

January 5, 1897.

Gentlemen:-

At the request of Mr. J. L. M. Allen, your agent, we beg to say a word or two as to why we feel we most assuredly should be given an opportunity to submit figures on our line of fire hose for the requirements of the New York City Fire Department.

In the first place, we have been making fire hose from the very beginning of our concern, which is some 28 or 30 years

ago, and as we have been making it ever since, we certainly feel justified in the statement that we know how to make fire hose. We manufacture both styles, that is, what is called "rubber hose", and "cotton jacket hose", which has simply a rubber lining. We prefer the latter to the former for the following reasons: Rubber hose is quite liable to become chafed or cut on the outside when in service, and the water being absorbed by the fabric through the cut. The water soaks into the fabric for quite a distance both sides of the cut, and it is impossible to dry it out. The fabric, which has become more or less saturated, naturally rots comparatively very easily, and the hose becomes worthless far sooner than it should. On the other hand, the regulation Cotton Jacket Hose may lay in a pool of water for a number of hours without injury, for the very reaons that the cotton jacket very quickly drys out. Then again the jacket being woven compact, prevents the absorption of water to a very great degree, and also prevents the chafing on sharp projections.

Now we can furnish a fabric hose cheaper than we can a rubber hose, and give you better results with the former than you can possibly get with the latter. We make the fabric fire hose in several different brands and grades, which is necessary from the fact that some of the smaller fire departments cannot afford to pay so much for their hose as some of the larger cities can, where they require the best that can be made.

Our hose is used very extensively throughout New York State. Some of the places which the writer can recall at the moment being Rochester, Auburn, Schnectady, and Syracuse. You might also be interested to make inquiries, if you so choose, of Chief Hale, of Kansas City, who is one of the representative firemen of the United States. Would also refer you to Cambridgeport, Mass., as also Turtle Creek, Pa. We enclose herewith copies of letters

received from some of these places, all of very recent date, which no doubt will be of interest to you in connection with this matter.

We can give you a very liberal guarantee, say 300 pounds pressure, for three years, and will stand back on that guarantee to the letter. Should you be pleased to have samples on file for reference, we would be only too glad to furnish them, and also to give you any further information in our power.

We would also add that we furnish the bulk of the fire hose used by the United States Navy, and perhaps you would prefer to get your information from them direct, which can be done be seeing the Navy Pay Office in your building. We think you will get a very high recommendation of our hose from them.

Very respectfully,

Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co.

The following are the letters referred to in the above letter:

(Copy) Cambridgeport, Mass., Jan.21,96.

Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co.,

Cambridgeport, Mass.

Gentlemen;

Answering your inquiry in regard to repairs on hose, and new hose bought during the past ten years; I have taken from my books the following figures, which I think will cover what you require:

1886	Hose, Repairs of.	$459.09	New Hose 300 ft.	$210.00	B.S.
1887		124.37	300 "	210.00	" "
1888		122.46	400 "	280.00	B.F.J.
1889		89.82	300 "	210.00	" " "
1890		340.51	700 "	490.00	" " "
1891		377.96	2300	1610.00	" " "
1892		461.88	1000 "	700.00	" " "
1893		270.66	700 "	490.00	" " "
1894		438.24			
1895		575a25	1800	1260.00	" " "
		3260.24		5460.00	

If this is not what is needed, please write me, and I

will be pleased to answer any other questions which you desire.

Yours truly,

Cambridge Fire Dept.

P. S. I should have stated above that in 1891, where 2300 ft. of hose was purchased, 2000 ft. of this was to equip the "Steam Fire Engine" purchased that year. Also in 1895, 1800 ft. hose was for the "Steamer" purchased last year.

N. B.	Total Repairs in ten years			$3260.24
	" Purchases "			5460.00
				8720.24
Deduct 1891	2300 ft.	$1610		
" 1895	1800 "	1620		2870.00
Total Repairs and Renewals				5850.24

Or $585.00 average per year in a city of over 80,000 population.

(Copy). Savannah, Ga., Aug.15,1896.

Mr. Andrew Hanley,

City.

Dear Sir;

Referring to Chafed Hose. At the recent rice mill fire one length of the Boston Woven Hose Co's Bay State Jacket Hose was badly chafed, otherwise the hose gave excellent satisfaction. We find it light, but strong and reliable, easily handled, and occupying less space in our wagons than any hose of the recent purchase. Reports show the shafed length to have been next to the engine. We have had the same complaint with six lengths furnished by another company, and after examination they have agreed to put new jackets on same.

Kindly communicate with your company, and ascertain whether they would rather put on a new jacket or supply a new

length; either would be satisfactory to me.

Very truly yours,

John E. Maguin, Fire Chief.

(Copy) Savannah, Ga., August 21, 1896.

Mr. A. Hanley,

City.

Dear Sir;

Referring to Damaged Hose. Since writing my letter of recent date and upon further investigation, I find that the length of Bay State Hose referred to was damaged by falling walls, and of course your company is not responsible for same.

Thanking you for your attention in this matter, I remain

Very truly yours,

John E. Maguin, Fire Chief.

(Copy) Syracuse, N. Y., Apl. 22, 1896.

F. H. Scott, Pres't.,

Syracuse Supply Co.

Sir:-

The Fire Department of this City has used for several years past the "Bay State Hose", manufactured by the Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co., and we have never had a length of that hose burst during the time of guarantee (five years) excepting where it was caused by some accident, for which no blame could be attached to the hose.

Yours truly,

J. A. Allis, Clerk.

(Copy) Rochester, N. Y., April 7, 1896.

Mr. J. Edwin Davis,

Treas. Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co.,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

Referring to your inquiry of March 27th, would say that the City of Rochester, N. Y. expends from $3500 to $4000 per annum for Hose.

The great bulk of Fire Hose used in this department for the past six years, was a special made brand of Bay State Hose, with the exception of that furnished to me for the past two years, it being a special made and extra quality of hose, under the brand of "Chamberlin's Special Made Rubber Lined Cotton Jacket Hose, M'f'd by the Boston Woven Hose and Rubber Co., Boston."

During all this time we have never had a length of this hose burst, leak or give out in any way. Neither has a dollar been expended for repairs on this hose in that length of time.

Respectfully yours,

James R. Chamberlin, Selling Agt.

I most cheerfully endorse the above.

James Malcolm, Chief Fire Dept.

William Boon, Asst. Chief.

Frank A. Jaynes "

(Copy)

Mr. G. R. C. Johnson,

Agent for Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co.

Dear Sir;

Regarding your inquiry as to how the Bay State hose which we purchased from you sometime ago is getting along.

I can say that it has given first class satisfaction, and all you said about it, we find true. I may mention we had a fire

on the 25th of July, when we ran a line of hose across the N. Y. & C. R. R. Coal Road at a plank crossing. Before we could stop it, an engine backed up four empty gondola cars which ran over the hose. I expected to see the hose destroyed, but to my surprise found that it was not injured in the least. This was witnessed by several of the councilmen, who examined it. After this we were all satisfied that your hose is the best that can be made.

The other hose we got at the same time we did yours, two sections are already leaking, and we are afraid of the rest of it. I strongly recommend the Bay State hose to any borough about to purchase fire hose.

You can refer to our Fire Committee at any time.

Yours truly,

H. F. Carroll,

Chief of Fire Department

Turtle Creek, Allegheny Co., Pa.

January 11, 1897.

Dear Sirs:-

Upon the kind solicitation of Mr. J. M. Allen we are prompted to address you for the purpose of bringing our name before your Honorable Board, and for the purpose of soliciting the privilege of submitting samples and proposals of our several Brands of Fire Hose for your consideration when you are in the market for such goods. We feel that an inquiry into the record of our Unique Brand of WAX and GUM Treated Rubber Lined Cotton Fire Hose, which has been used in your Department, will be sufficient introduction and fully demonstrate the merit of our product. The last hose of this brand we had the pleasure of furnishing your City was in 1889, and we can assure you that it would afford us pleasure to again have

the opportunity of submitting samples and proposals for your consideration.

Very respectfully yours,

Fabric Fire Hose Co.

January 7, 1897.

Gentlemen:-

As per your request, I am pleased to make you the following proposal for my Company: That we will be glad to submit bids at any time on our "UNIQUE" brand of Rubber Fire Hose to be made in accordance with the specifications of the N. Y. Fire Department: That we will give the same guarantee on hose, as any other first-class manufacturing concern in America. We also make a strictly high grade cotton rubber lined fire hose, the fabric of which is woven in our own looms and the rubber lining put in, in our own rubber mill. This will compare favorably with the Eureka Fire Hose Co. or any other makers and I can assure you, should you favor us with an opportunity to bid on your goods, that we can give you entire satisfaction. We have furnished many thousand feet of these goods to the Navy Department, who require a very stringent test to be made and we filled the requirements of which all of the N. Y. Specifications have to be complied with.

Respectfully yours,

E. H. Olcott,

Agt. Penn Rubber Mfg. Co.

January 9, 1897.

Dear Sirs:-

Referring to our conversation with Mr. J. L. M. Allen, would say that we are desirous of doing business with the New York Fire Department on our Challenge Fire Hose, which we guarantee for three year's service and to stand a pressure of 400 pounds to the

square inch. We would be pleased if you gave us an opportunity to put in a fifty feet length on trial, so that we could establish our record in your Department and in the event of our being the lowest bidder on any of your contracts, insure our getting the order, providing o ur Hose covers all the Department specifications and tests.

Yours truly,

Imperial Rubber Co.

January 4, 1897.

Gentlemen:-

Our New York representative, Mr. A. F. Roberts, has today had a conversation with Mr. J. L. M. Allen, of your office, in regard to the furnishing of Fire Hose to New York City. We beg herewith to especially recommend our Jumbo Brand of Rubber Hose, which we guarantee to stand 500 pounds pressure for four years. We have furnished this hose in large quantities for the United States Government, subject to the most severe and rigid tests. We would very much like to have the Fire Department take a small lot of this hose on six months trial subject entirely to your approval, viz: If at the end of said time, you are satisfied that the hose is as it should be, you pay for same, if not, you return it.

Yours sincerely,

Home Rubber Co.

January 12, 1897.

Gentlemen:-

We take occasion to call your attention to our "Safety" brand of Rubber Steam Fire Engine Hose, manufactured from fine Para gum and special balanced cotton duck. We are prepared to

sell this hose under a three years guarantee, agreeing that at all times this hose will stand a working pressure of 300 lbs. per square inch, and will replace such hose as is defective in material or workmanship, the hose, of course, to have proper care and handling.

Hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you, we remain

Yours very truly,

United Rubber Co.

Office of the
Commissioners of Accounts,
ROOMS 114 AND 115,
Stewart Building,
280 Broadway.

SETH SPRAGUE TERRY,
RODNEY S. DENNIS,
Commissioners.

New York, September 17, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor.

Sir:-

For many years it has been the custom of the Board of Fire Commissioners to advertise in the City Record for proposals to furnish certain patented brands of fire hose. From the clipping from the City Record of December 9, 1896, submitted herewith, it will be seen that each of the brands advertised for therein is the exclusive property of either the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company or the Eureka Fire Hose Company. Such an advertisement as this prevents competition, inasmuch as no other manufacturer can furnish the hose called for.

The advertisements are prepared in this way in accordance with an opinion dated January 22, 1878, given by the Hon. William C. Whitney, Counsel to the Corporation, and also under an opinion given to the Comptroller, dated March 12, 1890, by his successor the Hon. William H. Clark.

From the "India Rubber World" of June 10, 1896, a clipping from which is submitted herewith, it appears that the following brands of hose other than those which are the property of the Eureka Fire Hose Company and the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company were in use in the Department on January 1, 1895:

Lengths.	Brand.	Purchased from.	Date of last purchase
296	Adriatic	Cornelius Callahan Co.	June 28, 1893
15	Am. Jacket	Am. Fire Hose Mfg. Co.	Mch. 28, 1885
13	Boyd	N. Y. Fire Hose Co.	Mch. 10, 1876
175	Unique Jacket	Fabric Fire Hose Co.	Apl. 19, 1888
10	Nonpariel	S. F. Hayward & Co.	May 3, 1892
5	White Anchor	B. F. Goodrich & Co.	Feb. 10, 1887
126	Peerless	Peerless Rubber Mfg. Co.	Mch. 31, 1887
640			

In addition to this there were one thousand two hundred and sixty-six (1266) lengths furnished by the Eureka Fire Hose Company and three thousand one hundred and twelve (3112) lengths furnished by the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company, making a total of five thousand and eighteen (5018) lengths in use on that date, of which the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company furnished sixty-two and two one-hundredths (62.02) per cent, the Eureka Fire Hose Company twenty-five and twenty-three one-hundredths (25.23) percent and all others aggregating twelve and seventy-five one-hundredths (12.75) per cent. Four of these brands, the "American Jacket", "Boyd", "Unique Jacket" and "Nonpariel" failed to give satisfaction. The "Adriatic" brand is about the same as the "Single Knit" brand, a lot of which has recently been put on trial in the Department. The "Peerless" and "White Anchor" brands were found to give satisfaction, and another lot of the "White Anchor" brand has also recently been placed in the Department on trial, and the "Peerless" brand will be afforded the same opportunity.

From correspondence with the various manufacturers of fire hose in and about New York from whom the Board has not purchased in the past it was learned that while the excellence of the various brands of fire hose furnished by the Eureka Fire Hose Company and the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company is admitted by all, it is contended that many other manufacturers are prepared to furnish to the City a quality of hose equally as good in every particular and at prices from ten (10) to forty (40) per cent lower.

A great deal of dissatisfaction exists among manufacturers in this City on account of the manner in which they have been treated by the Fire Department in the past; not only by being prevented from bidding on account of the form of the advertisement, but also for fear that unfair discrimination be made against them.

This latter could be done in one of two ways: First, by the officers of the Department in selecting their hose for the hardest work, in order to wear it out before the expiration of the three years which is the length of the guarantee given under the contract; second, by the foreman in charge of the Repair Shops, who decides the question of responsibility for each defect; and if he finds that any length which has been in service less than three years was injured because of defect in manufacture, the manufacturer must replace the hose without expense to the Department.

The records of the Repair Shops as to the injured hose in service less than three years which was returned from engine companies between May 2, 1895, and December 31, 1896, is very carelessly kept and its correctness cannot be absolutely relied upon, but allowing for entries which are plainly in error, the following is shown:

Brands of Hose of all sizes.	No.of Lengths Repaired or Replaced by Contractor	No.of Lengths Repaired at Repair Shop
Eureka Fire Hose	None	26
Maltese Cross	5	148
" " (couplings only)	14	
P. G. (Revere Rubber Co.)	9	40
American Chief	None	3
White Anchor	1	3
Single Knit	1	1
Baker Hose	None	1
Jacket Callahan (not identified)	1	None
Rubber (not identified)	None	2
Totals	31	224

The "Maltese Cross" and the "Baker" brands are made by the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company.

It will be noticed that in regard to the "P. G." hose nine (9) lengths were replaced by the contractor. These had been

in use from one to twelve months. Two other lengths were sent to the contractor to be replaced, but the officer's decision was successfully contested and these lengths were returned to the Repair Shops. There were forty (40) lengths of this brand repaired at the Repair Shops, making a total of forty-nine (49) lengths, out of one hundred (100), which were sent to the Repair Shops within fourteen months after being put in service, or forty-nine (49) per cent.

Of the Eureka Fire Hose Company's brands twenty-six (26) lengths, or one and sixty-four one-hundredths (1.64) per cent were repaired in the Repair Shops; none were replaced by the contractor.

Of the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company's brands one hundred and forty-nine (149) lengths, or four and nineteen one-hundredths (4.19) per cent, were repaired in the Repair Shops. Out of three thousand five hundred and forty-nine (3549) lengths, three (3) were replaced and two (2) repaired by the contractor, and fourteen (14) lengths were repaired by the contractor as to couplings only.

Submitted herewith is a statement showing the number of lengths of fire hose on hand January 1, 1895, the number of lengths purchased from January 1, 1895, to December 1, 1896, and the proportion of fire hose furnished by the different manufacturers, also copies of letters from the following fire hose manufacturers:

Name.	Address.	Bradstreet's Rating Oct. 1, 1889
Goodyear Rubber Co.	Bway. & 10th St.	1,000,000 Aa
Mineralized Rubber Co.	18 Cliff St.	D
N.Y.Belting & Packing Co.Ld.	25 Park Place	A
Henry J. McCoy	47 Dey St.	
Stephen Ballard Rubber Co.	123 Chambers St.	100,000 B
Manhattan Rubber Mfg. Co.	64 Cortlandt St.	200,000 B
N. Y. Rubber Co.	84 Reade St.	300,000 A

Peerless Rubber Mfg. Co.	16 Warren St.	300,000 A
Boston Belting Co.	100 Reade St.	1,000,000 Aa
Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Co	71 Reade St.	1,000,000 A
Fabric Fire Hose Co.	68 Murray St.	100,000 B
Penn Rubber Mfg. Co.	90 Chambers St.	5,000 D
Imperial Rubber Co.	134 Liberty St.	
Home Rubber Co.	82 Reade St.	250,000 A
United Rubber Co.	121 Liberty St.	50,000 B

We have called the attention of the present Board of Commissioners to this matter, with the result that they have called for eleven different kinds of hose in their advertisement for bids which appeared in the City Record under date of August 11, 1897.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidney A. Dennis

Commissioner.