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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
1930-1931

# FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WIRE DIVISION

OF THE

## CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1930



CITY OF BOSTON  
PRINTING DEPARTMENT  
1931

3257



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WIRE DIVISION

OF THE

# CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1930



CITY OF BOSTON  
PRINTING DEPARTMENT  
1931

Boston Fire Department  
Feb 3, 1940

1 Vol cont  
Feb. 13, 1940

VERMONT CLUB  
BOSTON  
NOV 13 1940



OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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EDWARD F. McLAUGHLIN,  
*Fire Commissioner.*

HERBERT J. HICKEY,  
*Executive Secretary of the Department.*

HENRY A. FOX,  
*Chief of Department.*


GEORGE L. FICKETT,  
*Superintendent of Fire Alarm Division.*

WALTER J. BURKE,  
*Superintendent of Wire Division.*

EDWARD E. WILLIAMSON,  
*Superintendent of Maintenance Division.*

ALBERT J. CAULFIELD,  
*Deputy Chief in Charge of Fire Prevention Division.*

WILLIAM J. McNALLY, M. D.,  
*Medical Examiner.*



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ANNUAL REPORT  
 OF THE  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
 FOR THE YEAR 1930.

BOSTON, March 30, 1931.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,  
*Mayor of the City of Boston.*

DEAR SIR,— I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the activities of the Boston Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1930, as required by section 24, chapter 4, of the Revised Ordinances of 1925.

FIRE LOSS.

The total fire loss of 1930 in the City of Boston, estimated by the insurance companies amounted to \$5,151,541. There were sixty-five (65) fires where the loss was over fifteen thousand dollars each. The outstanding fires in this group were as follows:

January 15, North Harvard street, Harvard Athletic Association . . . . .	\$119,446
March 1, 227 and 229 Washington street, Thompson's Spa . . . . .	105,034
June 6, L Street Drawbridge . . . . .	250,000
July 4, 141-153 Medford street, Palmer, Parker Company <i>et al.</i> . . . . .	193,133
December 10, 96 Essex street, Economy Umbrella Company <i>et al.</i> . . . . .	159,960
December 24, 11 Columbia street, John Hetherington & Sons <i>et al.</i> . . . . .	116,043

During the year there were 8,701 alarms of fire of which 4,593 were box alarms and 4,108 were still and automatic alarms: 698 false alarms were received during the year. There were 28 arrests and 25 convictions of sounding false alarms.

#### FIRE PREVENTION.

The personnel of the Fire Prevention Division was increased during the year in order that the work of this division might be more effective.

During the year all classes of buildings, with the exception of one and two family dwellings, were inspected by the inspection force.

Number of inspections (initial)	361,246
Number of reinspections	24,835
Complaints reported	10,224
Conditions corrected by personal contact	22,111
Conditions corrected by service of order	520
Number of personal inspections by officers of Fire Prevention Division	2,852
Oil burners inspected	2,482
Oil burners reinspected	807
Oil burner defects corrected	861

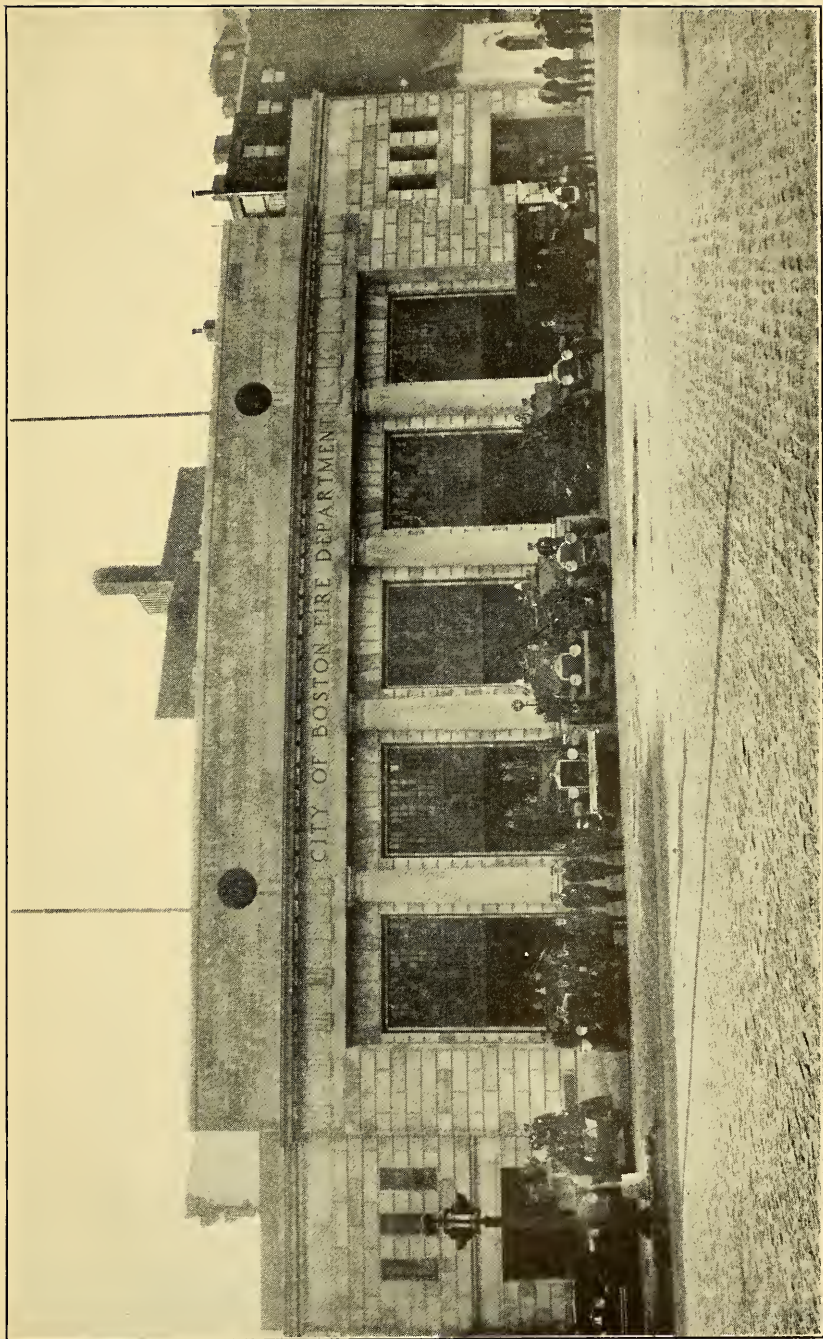
Reports of hazardous conditions were sent to other departments as follows:

To Building Department	2,727
To State Fire Marshal	39

Eight hundred and ninety-four notices were sent to owners and occupants to correct hazardous conditions and 520 personal services and orders of reinspection were made by the constable attached to the Fire Prevention Division. There were twenty prosecutions for violations of the fire prevention laws.

One hundred and sixty-five fires were reported as suspicious and forty-one from unknown causes. Investigations of these fires were made by attaches of the Fire Prevention Division. These fires were also reported to the State Fire Marshal, Police Commissioner and the Boston Board of Fire Underwriters.

The number of inspections made by district and company officers during the year, in addition to those of the Fire Prevention Division were as follows:



NEW BOWDOIN SQUARE FIRE STATION, OCCUPIED NOVEMBER 10, 1930.



Building inspections . . . . .	62,760
Theatre inspections . . . . .	4,178
Schoolhouse inspections . . . . .	3,848
Public building inspections . . . . .	909
Inspections at Long and Deer Islands . . . . .	24
Car house inspections . . . . .	108
Total number of inspections made by Fire Prevention Division, district and company officers (includ- ing initial and reinspection of all types of build- ings) . . . . .	464,036

Eighteen thousand, three hundred and eleven dollars and twenty-five cents was collected in fees for permits issued by the Fire Prevention Division.

During the Christmas holiday season a detail of fire prevention inspectors was maintained in and about the shopping and high value districts and other locations where there was congestion due to shopping.

#### BUILDINGS.

On Monday, November 10, 1930, the Fire Department occupied the new fire station erected in Bowdoin square. Engine Company 4, Engine Company 6, Ladder Company 24, Rescue Company 3 and Water Tower 2 and the District Chief of District 4 moved into the building on this date.

The buildings formerly occupied by Engine Company 6 and Ladder Company 24 were turned over to the Public Buildings Department. The building formerly occupied by Engine Company 4 and Water Tower 1 was demolished in connection with the new fire station. Rescue Company 3 was transferred from its temporary quarters at Engine 50 in Charlestown. The new station is a first-class modern fireproof building, erected at a cost of \$347,905.03, excluding the land.

Extensive alterations and repairs were made at the quarters of Engine Company 9 and Ladder Company 2, Paris street, East Boston, and a reinforced concrete floor installed.

The old building, formerly occupied by Ladder Company 5 on Fourth street and temporarily used by this department as a storehouse, was transferred to the Public Buildings Department.

## FIRE APPARATUS.

Thirty-six motor vehicles were purchased, tested and placed in service, viz.:

- 10 American LaFrance combination hose cars (booster pumps).
- 1 American LaFrance combination pump and hose car.
- 2 American LaFrance aerial ladder trucks.
- 1 American LaFrance 85-foot aerial trailer.
- 2 Federal chassis with special type bodies for rescue cars.
- 9 Hupmobile sedans.
- 4 Hupmobile coupes.
- 1 Mack emergency truck.
- 1 1½-ton Brockway truck.
- 1 2½-ton Sterling truck.
- 4 Ford cars with pick-up bodies.

Eleven (11) pieces of major equipment, ten (10) smaller cars and three (3) trucks were traded in as part payment for the new equipment.

The motor equipment at the present time consists of the following:

TYPE.	In Service.	In Reserve.
Pumping engines.....	50	8
Steam engines (tractors).....		3
Hose cars.....	48	8
Aerial ladder trucks.....	22	6
City Service trucks.....	9	4
Water towers.....	3	1
Chief officers' cars.....	33	9
School car.....	1	
Rescue cars.....	3	1
Fuel cars.....	1	1
Portable lighting plants.....	2	
Wrecking car.....	1	
Motorecycle (fire patrol).....	1	
Commercial trucks.....	7	
Emergency cars (Ford).....	12	
Ford coupes.....	2	

## HIGH PRESSURE SERVICE.

The records of the two high pressure stations for the year are as follows:





**OLD QUARTERS OF ENGINE COMPANY 4, BULFINCH STREET,  
REPLACED BY NEW FIRE STATION IN  
BOWDOIN SQUARE.**



	Station No. 1.	Station No. 2.
Total alarms to which pumps responded.....	267	216
Water discharge recorded on Venturi meters*.....	104,000 gallons	413,000 gallons

\* Owing to the construction of the Venturi meters, they do not record flows under 600 gallons per minute.

### HYDRANTS.

The following is a list of the hydrants in service for fire purposes as of December 31, 1930, showing the number and different types of hydrants:

	Public.	Private.
Ordinary post.....	3,874	133
Boston post.....	2,734	22
Lowry.....	873	33
Boston Lowry.....	403	5
Batchelder and Finneran post.....	2,813	5
Boston.....	123	112
High pressure.....	451	
Chapman post.....	84	55
Ludlow post.....	5	13
Matthew post.....		4
Coffin post.....	1	
Totals.....	11,361	382

### FIRE ALARM SERVICE.

The Fire Alarm Service of the department has been maintained at its usual high standard. In order to increase the efficiency of the operating force two additional men were appointed.

A change in the manner of striking alarms received from the Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company was made. Upon receipt of an alarm the Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company transmitted the signal directly to the stations in the section where the fire occurred. It was deemed advisable to abandon this method and to strike the signals to the Fire Alarm Headquarters. Upon receipt of the signal in the Fire Alarm Office a special signal was sounded on the tappers to all department stations.

More fire alarm boxes than usual were installed during the past year. Of seventy-seven put in service fifty-

nine are owned by this department, three by the School-house Department and fifteen by private owners. Sixty-eight of the old sector boxes were replaced by boxes of the latest type. All street boxes and posts were painted.

Considerable work was done in the Fire Department Stations in order to maintain the electrical equipment in the department in an efficient working condition.

A contract was made during the year to furnish equipment for "floating" storage batteries and for 2,500 cells of batteries to replace batteries worn out in service. The power equipment consisted of 130 rectifiers, 2 motor-generators, switchboard apparatus, rack for supporting rectifiers, and incidentals. With this change in method of supplying electric current to the system many beneficial results are expected.

#### OPERATING RECORDS.

First alarms . . . . .	4,593
Second alarms . . . . .	104
Third alarms . . . . .	23
Fourth alarms . . . . .	5
Fifth alarms . . . . .	2
Total . . . . .	<u>4,727</u>

#### BOX ALARMS RECEIVED BUT NOT TRANSMITTED.

Same box received two or more times for same fire . . . . .	379
Adjacent box received for same fire . . . . .	309
Received from boxes but treated as stills . . . . .	7
Total . . . . .	<u>695</u>

#### STILL ALARMS RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED.

Received from citizens by telephone . . . . .	2,794
Received from Police Department by telephone . . . . .	247
Received from Fire Department stations . . . . .	1,128
Received from boxes but treated as stills . . . . .	7
Mutual aid alarms (adjacent cities and towns) treated as stills . . . . .	55
Emergency service treated as stills . . . . .	128
Total . . . . .	<u>4,359</u>

Still alarms received by telephone for which box alarms were afterwards received and transmitted,	306
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----



OLD FIRE STATION OF LADDER COMPANY 24, NORTH GROVE STREET, REPLACED BY NEW FIRE STATION IN BOWDOIN SQUARE.



Still alarms received by telephone which were afterwards followed by box alarms that were not pulled (11 p. m. to 8 a. m.) . . . . .	282
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## AUTOMATIC AND A. D. T. ALARMS.

Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company:	
Transmitted by company to this department . . . . .	142
Department box received and transmitted in connection with same:	
Before automatic alarms . . . . .	6
After automatic alarms . . . . .	11
Automatic alarms transmitted which were followed by box alarms that were not pulled . . . . .	33
Automatic alarms struck after still alarms were transmitted . . . . .	1
American District Telegraph Company:	
Received at fire alarm office . . . . .	85
Department boxes received and transmitted in connection with same:	
Before A. D. T. alarm was received . . . . .	8
After A. D. T. alarm was transmitted . . . . .	4
A. D. T. alarms transmitted which were followed by box alarms that were not pulled . . . . .	35
A. D. T. alarms received but not transmitted after still alarms were transmitted . . . . .	5
A. D. T. alarms transmitted to department . . . . .	72

## SUMMARY OF ALARMS.

Alarms received:	
Box alarms, including multiples . . . . .	5,422
Still alarms, all classes . . . . .	4,572
Boston automatic alarms . . . . .	142
A. D. T. alarms . . . . .	85
Total received from all sources . . . . .	<u>10,221</u>

Exclude following:	
Multiples . . . . .	134
Box alarms received but not transmitted . . . . .	695
Still alarms for which other alarms were transmitted . . . . .	588
Automatic alarms for which other alarms were transmitted . . . . .	51
A. D. T. alarms for which other alarms were transmitted . . . . .	52

1,520

Total alarms, with eliminations, to which apparatus responded . . . . .	<u>8,701</u>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------

## MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES.

With two alarms . . . . .	87
With three alarms . . . . .	20
With four alarms . . . . .	3
With five alarms . . . . .	1
* With six alarms . . . . .	1

## MUTUAL AID RESPONSE.

To Milton . . . . .	31
To Somerville . . . . .	15
To Everett . . . . .	1
To Newton . . . . .	4
To Norfolk . . . . .	1
To Marlboro . . . . .	1
To Cambridge . . . . .	1
To Dedham . . . . .	1

## FIRE ALARM BOX RECORDS.

Boxes from which no alarms were received . . . . .	339
Box tests and inspections . . . . .	10,716

NOTE.— All street box doors are tested weekly.

## FIRE ALARM BOXES IN SERVICE.

Total number . . . . .	1,574
Owned by Fire Department . . . . .	1,116
Owned by Schoolhouse Department . . . . .	259
Owned by Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company . . . . .	52
Privately owned . . . . .	147

## FIRE ALARM BOXES IN DISTRICTS.

District 1 . . . . .	93	District 9 . . . . .	109
District 2 . . . . .	74	District 10 . . . . .	126
District 3 . . . . .	42	District 11 . . . . .	145
District 4 . . . . .	86	District 12 . . . . .	95
District 5 . . . . .	75	District 13 . . . . .	148
District 6 . . . . .	102	District 14 . . . . .	135
District 7 . . . . .	105	District 15 . . . . .	114
District 8 . . . . .	124		
Division 1 . . . . .	370		
Division 2 . . . . .	475		
Division 3 . . . . .	728		
And one in Chelsea.			

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\* Five alarms from one box and one alarm from an adjacent box.





**OLD QUARTERS OF ENGINE COMPANY 6, LEVERETT STREET,  
REPLACED BY NEW FIRE STATION IN BOWDOIN SQUARE.**



## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN 1930.

	Approximate Number of Feet.
Line wire used in new work and replacements . . . . .	84,600
Line wire removed from service . . . . .	11,000
Aerial cable installed . . . . .	5,075
Conductors in same . . . . .	21,050
Aerial cable removed from service . . . . .	750
Conductors in same . . . . .	4,920
Underground cable installed . . . . .	30,154
Conductors in same . . . . .	465,835
Underground cable replaced . . . . .	5,900
Conductors in same . . . . .	143,600
Conduits laid underground . . . . .	4,331
Ducts in same . . . . .	4,818
Ducts abandoned . . . . .	1,024
Manholes built . . . . .	2
Fire alarm boxes installed by this department . . . . .	59
Fire alarm boxes installed by Schoolhouse Department, . . . . .	3
Fire alarm boxes installed on private property . . . . .	15
Fire alarm boxes relocated . . . . .	4
Fire alarm boxes removed from service . . . . .	2
Box posts installed . . . . .	33
Box posts relocated . . . . .	8
Box posts reset or replaced by new . . . . .	9
Cable post relocated . . . . .	1
Cable post replaced with larger post . . . . .	1
Cable posts removed . . . . .	2
Underground cable boxes attached to poles . . . . .	12
Underground cable boxes removed from service . . . . .	6

## WIRE DIVISION.

In accordance with chapter 240 of the Acts of 1926, the following streets were prescribed for the underground district for 1930, from which all poles and overhead wires were placed underground, making a total distance of four miles as prescribed by law:

*East Boston.*— Paris street, from Sumner street to Bennington street.

*South Boston.*— N street, from Columbia road to East Second street; B street, from West First street to West Seventh street; C street, from West First street to Old Colony avenue; E street, from West Broadway to Old Colony avenue.

*Dorchester.*— Baird street, from Blue Hill avenue to Morton street; King street, from Adams street to Neponset avenue.

*Brighton.*—Winship street, from Washington street to Chestnut Hill avenue; Mapleton street, from Murdock street to Market street.

*Jamaica Plain.*—Centre street, from Holbrook street to the Arborway; South street, from Centre street, a distance of 2,665 feet to a point within 65 feet of the Arborway.

In these prescribed streets, from which poles and overhead wires were to be removed, there were standing on January 1, 1930, a total of one hundred and seventy-nine (179) poles (not including the trolley poles of the Boston Elevated Railway which are exempt), owned by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Boston Elevated Railway, supporting a total of five hundred and thirty thousand eight hundred (530,800) feet of overhead wires owned by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, Boston Elevated Railway, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, Boston Fire Department (Fire Alarm Branch) and Boston Police Department (Police Signal Service).

During the year there were 107 fires and 10 accidents due to electricity. The total of fire losses in so far as could be determined was \$146,222.93. The income for the year for permits to perform electrical work was \$70,282.33.

#### INTERIOR DIVISION.

This division made inspections of all new installations and continued its inspection of all installations in so far as possible. Regular inspections were made of electrical equipment of theatres, places of amusement, public halls, miniature golf courses, etc.

Following is a table showing a summary of the work of the division:

Notices of new work received . . . . .	20,271
Number of permits issued to turn on current . . . . .	15,709
Number of incandescent lamps inspected . . . . .	2,346,106
Number of motors inspected . . . . .	17,710
Number of buildings in which wiring was completely examined . . . . .	3,883
Number of inspections made . . . . .	35,530
Number of inspections made of theatres, places of amusement and public halls . . . . .	1,428
Fires in interior of buildings . . . . .	100
Fires on poles . . . . .	3
Fires in manholes . . . . .	3

Miscellaneous fires . . . . .	1
Injuries to persons . . . . .	10

## EXTERIOR DIVISION.

During the past year the inspectors of this division have reported one hundred and seventy-seven (177) poles decayed at the base and thirty-one (31) poles leaning, or a total of two hundred and eight (208) poles, which were replaced by new poles or reset by the various companies at the request of this department.

Five (5) abandoned poles were also reported by our inspectors and were removed at our request.

The following table shows the overhead work for the year, from January 1, 1930, to December 31, 1930, inclusive:

Number of new poles in new locations . . . . .	183
Number of poles replaced, reset or straightened . . . . .	875
Number of poles removed . . . . .	200
Number of poles now standing in the public streets . . . . .	18,019
Number of defects reported . . . . .	1,574
Number of defects corrected . . . . .	1,475
(Other defects in process of correction.)	
Number of notices of overhead construction . . . . .	8,851
Number of overhead inspections . . . . .	17,457
Number of overhead reports . . . . .	7,215
Amount of overhead wires removed by owners (in feet) . . . . .	1,776,910

## UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION.

The ducts used for the underground conduits of the drawing-in system are of the following type:

1. Vitrified clay (laid in concrete).
2. Fiber (laid in concrete).
3. Iron.
4. Wood.

In side or residential streets, special underground construction for electric light and power purposes (110 and 220 volts), of a type known as the "Split Fiber Solid Main System" has also been installed.

The electrical approvals for underground electrical construction numbered . . . . .	4,103
Number of inspections of underground electrical construction . . . . .	9,004
Number of reports of underground electrical construction . . . . .	3,065

Table Showing Underground Work for the Year 1930.

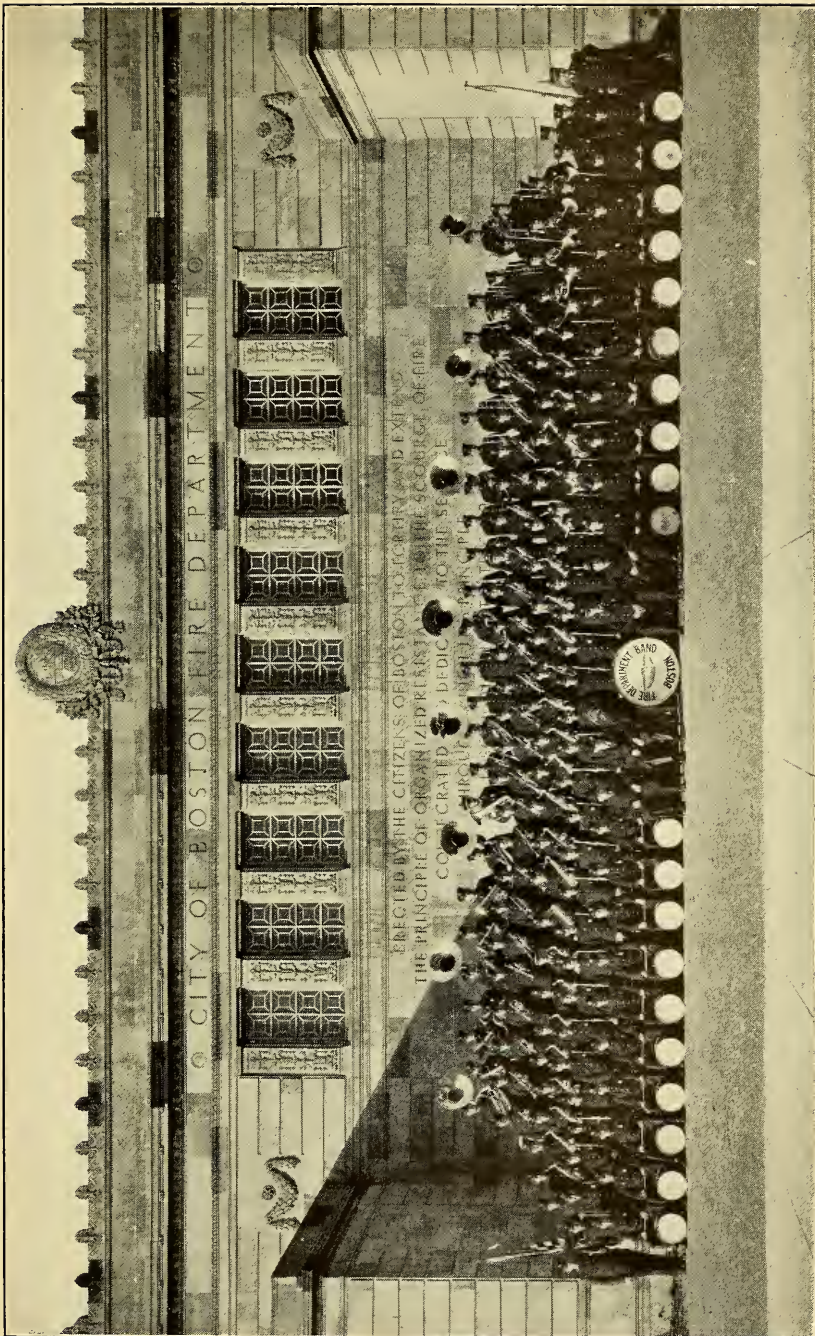
COMPANY.	Feet of Conduit.	Feet of Duct.	Feet of Cable.	Number of Manholes.	Number of Services.
Boston Elevated Railway . . . . .	1,874	27,627	85,961	7	
Boston Consolidated Gas Company, successor to Charlestown Gas and Electric Company.	595	3,408	43,284	7	22
Edison Electric Illuminating Company.	41,605	500,733	1,548,905	250	2,880
Boston Fire Department (Fire Alarm Branch).	155	155	30,454		
Boston Police Department (Police Signal Service).			13,000		
New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.	15,163	70,791	165,729	38	118
Boston Low Tension Wire Association.	35	35			
Western Union Telegraph Company.	606	2,071	7,368	2	
Totals . . . . .	60,033	604,820	1,894,701	304	3,020

NOTE.—“Split Fiber Solid Main Systems” of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company and Boston Consolidated Gas Company are included in the above figures, comprising 4,286 feet of conduit and 8,046 feet of duct for the former company, and 287 feet of conduit and 574 feet of duct for the latter company.

Table Showing the Amount and Distribution of Boston's Electrical Power, December 31, 1930.

COMPANY.	Total Rated Horse Power of Boilers.	Total Rated Horse Power of Engines.	Capacity of Incandescent Lamps in Kilowatts.	Capacity of Arc Lamps in Kilowatts.	Kilowatts of Motors.	Kilowatts of Mixed Load.	Number of Stations.
Boston Elevated Railway . . . . .	43,664	239,370	4,296	15	365,512	88,080	20
Edison Electric Illuminating Company,	54,424	292,816	*	*	*	*	64
Boston Consolidated Gas Company, successor to Charlestown Gas and Electric Company . . . . .			300		4,000	2,000	1
Quaker Building Company . . . . .	620	400	125		106		1
Hanover Street Trust . . . . .	500	363	140		80	220	1
Totals . . . . .	99,208	532,949	4,861	15	369,698	90,300	87

\* Unknown. (Meter capacity connected to lines of Edison system 1,101,810 kilowatts.)



CITY OF BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF BOSTON TO FOREVER AND EXTEND  
THE PRINCIPLE OF ORGANIZED FIRE PROTECTION AND TO DEDICATE  
TO THE SERVICE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

BOSTON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND.  
ORGANIZED MAY 17, 1930, BY FIRE COMMISSIONER EDWARD F. McLAUGHLIN.





## FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND.

In May, 1930, a call was issued to the department for members of the department who were interested in a band to meet at the quarters of Engine Company 26. The response to this invitation was beyond all expectations. Approximately one hundred and fifty men attended the meeting and plans to organize the band started. On September 17, 1930, the band made its first public appearance on the streets of Boston in the Tercentenary Parade, and for its accomplishment and appearance won the admiration of the hundreds of thousands of people who watched the parade. The organization, instruction and equipping of this band required no expenditure of the city's money and has placed no financial burden on the City of Boston. The expenses of the band were met privately by the Fire Commissioner, assisted by those men who undertook the purchase of their own instruments.

The establishment of a band in the Fire Department has done much to increase the interest and efficiency of the personnel in its work. The band has for its purpose a constructive organization to perform some beneficial service to the families of members of the department who may lose their lives in the performance of their duty. The raising of funds and the furnishing of relief to the families of members of the department who lose their lives in duty is a matter which has practically been left entirely with the firemen themselves. A musical organization of the type and character planned for the Fire Department Band will be the means of assisting in raising of money for the relief of these families.

The band has not been organized with any commercial object in view, but solely for the purpose outlined above and to appear on public occasions as a representative organization of the Fire Department. In addition it has for its purpose the aiding of any great public charity or benefaction, when the times and circumstances require its aid.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

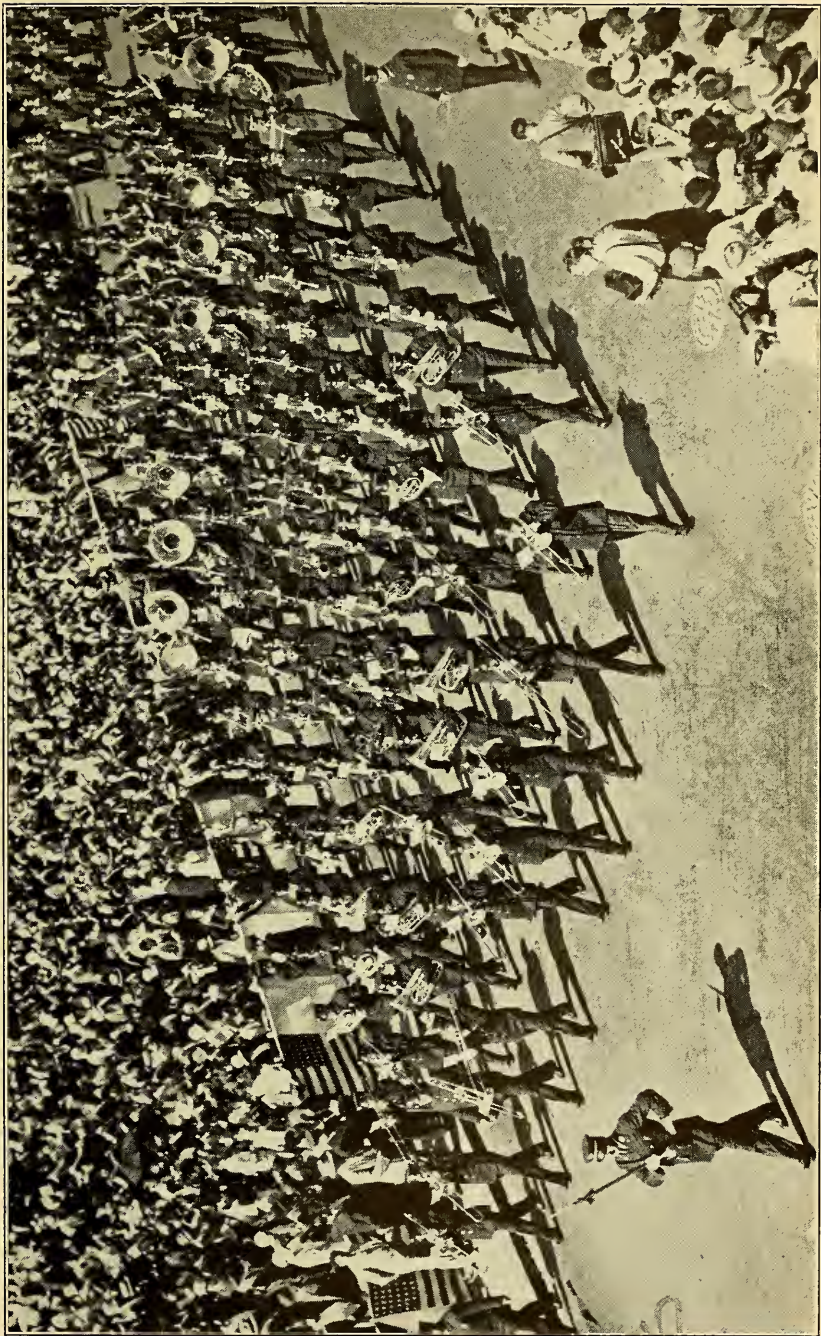
The principal objective of the Fire Department is the protection of life and property against fire, with the thought always in mind to bring about a substantial

reduction in the fire loss. In order that these purposes may be accomplished the department must at all times be maintained at a very high state of efficiency. Today the personnel and equipment of the department is in first-class condition. Certain improvements are necessary during the coming year to maintain this present high standard.

1. A new fireboat should be built and placed in service in the department to replace one of the three fireboats now in service. Once each year the boats are taken out of service for annual inspection by the United States Steamboat Inspectors. Such repairs as are required by the inspectors are made before the boat is placed back in service. As the boats grow older the annual repair bill becomes more and more extensive. The replacement of one of the boats by a new boat, more modern in type, will result in a tremendous increase in the waterfront fire protection and reduce the repair bill of the department. I urgently recommend consideration of this proposition.

2. A new fire station should be built in the South Boston district to provide quarters for Engine Company 2 and Ladder Company 19. These two companies are housed in two old stations, inadequate and antiquated, without proper facilities for modern fire companies and automobile fire apparatus. At Ladder Company 19 the station is too small to place an aerial truck in service and considerable delay is caused in responding to alarms because of the narrowness of the street. At Engine Company 2 there is not room enough for a hose car so that the company has to operate with one piece of apparatus. An up-to-date fire station on a wide street will provide this section of the city with the fire protection it should have.

3. A study of the causes of fires throughout the city shows very apparently that many of the fires are due to arson. This condition exists to such an extent that it is a matter of grave concern, and it is prevalent in the residential districts as well as in the commercial and mercantile sections of the city. The Fire Commissioner is without statutory power to investigate suspicious fires as this authority is placed elsewhere by law. While an honest effort is being made to trace arson in this city I believe that if the Legislature gave to the head of the Fire Department authority to conduct investigations better results would be obtained. I



FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND,  
TERCENTENARY PARADE, SEPTEMBER 17, 1930.



recommend, therefore, that at the next session of the General Court legislation be introduced to give this authority to the Fire Commissioner in the City of Boston.

4. It is a well known and accepted fact that constant study and application are necessary to keep a person properly equipped to perform the duties of his position. The necessity for such training applies in the Fire Department just as it does in any other form of employment. I have found however that no organized system has been in effect in the Boston Fire Department to keep the officers and men properly informed as to their work. I propose to devote considerable time and effort to establish a fire college in Boston which will be without equal in the country. There is no doubt that this can be accomplished with the result that all members will be fully informed as to their obligations and at the same time methods of operation in the department will be standardized.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD F. McLAUGHLIN,  
*Fire Commissioner.*

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURES 1930.

Fire Department . . . . .	\$4,642,216	53
Wire Division . . . . .	103,225	10
Fire Station, Brighton . . . . .	19,964	74
New Fire Station, West End Dis- trict, Building . . . . .	330,597	53
Fire Station, West End District, Site . . . . .	361,209	01
New Fireboat. . . . .	44,864	41
	\$5,502,077	32

ANNUAL REPORT OF REVENUE, BOSTON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT, YEAR OF 1930.

INCOME.

Permits for fires in open spaces; fireworks; blasting; transportation and storage of ex- plosives; garage and gasolene storage, etc. . . . .		\$18,311 25
Sale of old material (condemned hose) . . . . .		419 66
Sale of old material (junk) . . . . .		613 89
Sale of badges . . . . .		505 75
Property damage (cable) . . . . .		137 40
Property damage (fire alarm boxes and posts) . . . . .		904 29
Property damage (fire apparatus) . . . . .		692 85
For labor performed by this department in June and July . . . . .		262 11
For refund on cable reels in July . . . . .		60 55
Sale of coal, tires, old lantern beds (miscellaneous),		104 00
		\$22,011 75
Wire Division:		
Permits . . . . .		70,282 33
Total . . . . .		\$92,294 08

## CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT.

HENRY A. FOX.

The chief is in charge of the fire protection of the city, which is divided into three divisions, each commanded by a deputy chief, which are subdivided into fifteen districts, each commanded by a district chief.

## DIVISION 1.

*Deputy Chiefs*, HENRY J. POWER and JOHN J. KELLEY.  
Headquarters, Ladder House 8, Fort Hill Square.  
This division comprises Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

*District 1.*

*District Chiefs*, THOMAS E. CONROY and HENRY KRAKE.  
Headquarters, Ladder House 2, Paris Street,  
East Boston.  
*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 5, 9, 11,  
40, 47 (fireboat), Ladders 2, 21, 31.

*District 2.*

*District Chiefs*, PHILIP A. TAGUE and HAMILTON A.  
McCLAY.  
Headquarters, Engine House 50, Winthrop Street,  
Charlestown.  
*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 27, 32, 36,  
50, Ladders 9, 22, Rescue 3.

*District 3.*

*District Chiefs*, JOHN J. KENNEY and JOHN F. GOOD.  
Headquarters, Ladder House 18, Pittsburgh Street.  
*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 25, 38,  
39, 44 (fireboat), Ladders 8, 18, Water Towers 1 and 3.

*District 4.*

*District Chiefs*, AVERY B. HOWARD and JOHN F.  
McDONOUGH.  
Headquarters, Engine House 4, Bulfinch Street.  
*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 4, 6, 8,  
31 (fireboat), Ladders 1, 24.

*District 5.*

*District Chiefs*, JOHN F. WATSON and DENNIS J. COUGHLIN.

Headquarters, Engine House 26-35, Broadway.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 7, 10, 26, 35, Ladder 17, Rescue 1, Water Tower 2.

## DIVISION 2.

*Deputy Chiefs*, THOMAS H. DOWNEY and WILLIAM F. QUIGLEY.

Headquarters, Engine House 22, Warren Avenue.  
This division comprises Districts 6, 7, 8, 11.

*District 6.*

*District Chiefs*, MICHAEL J. TEEHAN and EDWARD G. CHAMBERLAIN.

Headquarters, Engine House 1, Dorchester Street,  
South Boston.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 1, 2, 15, 43, Ladders 5, 19, 20.

*District 7.*

*District Chiefs*, NAPEEN BOUTILIER and MICHAEL F. MINEHAN.

Headquarters, Engine House 22, Warren Avenue.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 3, 22, 33, Ladders 3, 13, 15.

*District 8.*

*District Chiefs*, LOUIS C. STICKEL and DANIEL MARTELL.

Headquarters, Ladder House 12, Tremont Street.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 13, 14, 37, Ladders 12, 26.

*District 11.*

*District Chiefs*, THOMAS H. ANDREOLI and CORNELIUS J. O'BRIEN.

Headquarters, Engine House 41, Harvard Avenue,  
Brighton.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 29, 34, 41, 51, Ladders 11, 14.

## DIVISION 3.

*Deputy Chiefs*, WALTER M. MCLEAN and FRANK A. SWEENEY.

Headquarters, Ladder House 23, Washington Street,  
Grove Hall.

This division comprises Districts 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15.



*District 9.*

*District Chiefs*, WILLIAM H. McCORKLE and EDWARD J. LOCKE.

Headquarters, Engine House 12, Dudley Street.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 12, 23, 24, Ladders 4, 23, Rescue 2.

*District 10.*

*District Chiefs*, FRANCIS J. JORDAN and CHARLES H. LONG.

Headquarters, Engine House 17, Parish Street,  
Meeting House Hill.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 17, 18, 21, Ladder 7.

*District 12.*

*District Chiefs*, TIMOTHY F. DONOVAN and JOSEPH W. SHEA.

Headquarters, Engine House 28, Centre Street,  
Jamaica Plain.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 28, 42, 53, Ladders 10, 30.

*District 13.*

*District Chiefs*, CHARLES A. DONOHOE and PATRICK J. V. KELLEY.

Headquarters, Engine House 45, Corner Washington  
and Poplar Streets, Roslindale.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 30, 45, Ladders 16, 25.

*District 14.*

*District Chiefs*, JAMES MAHONEY and JAMES F. RYAN.

Headquarters, Engine House 46, Peabody Square,  
Dorchester.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 16, 20, 46, 52, Ladders 6, 27, 29.

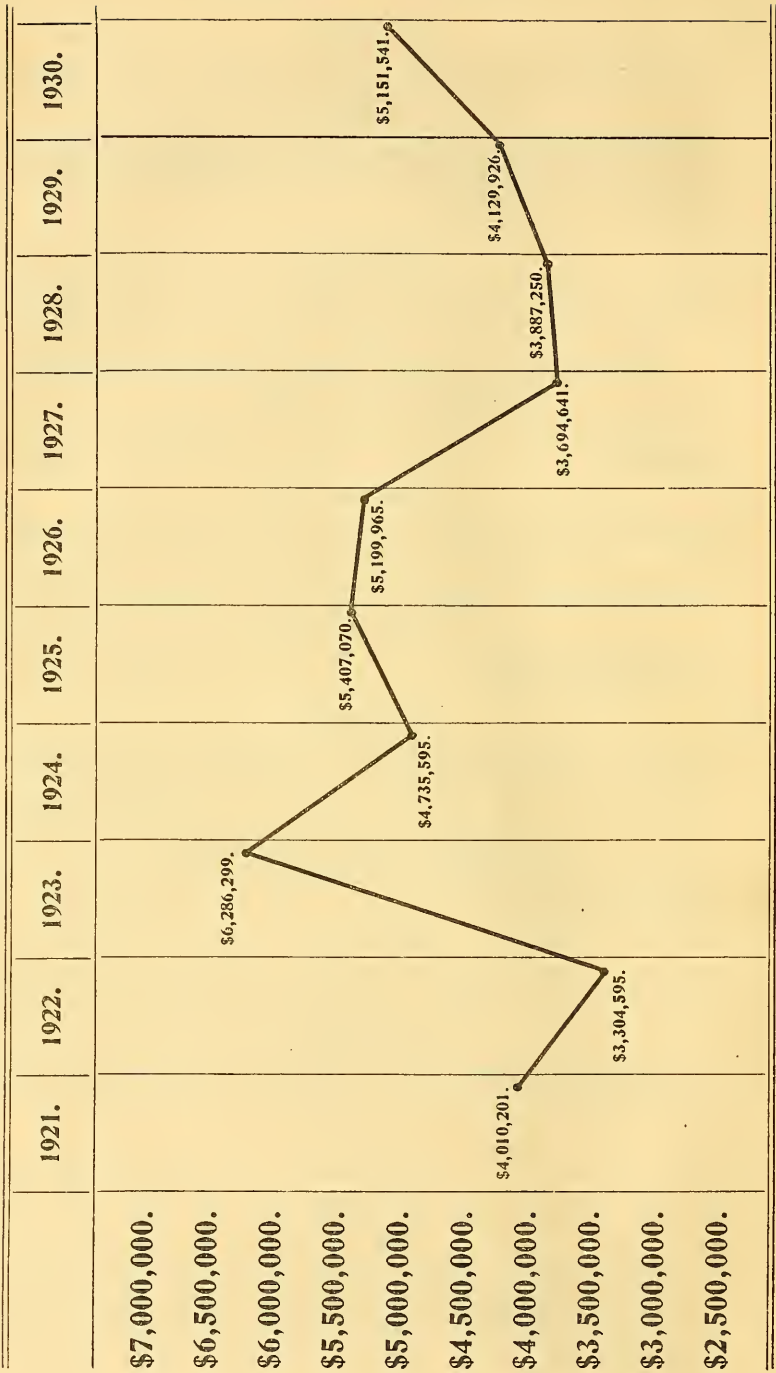
*District 15.*

*District Chiefs*, JOHN P. MURRAY and MICHAEL D. SULLIVAN.

Headquarters, Engine House 48, Corner Harvard  
Avenue and Winthrop Street, Hyde Park.

*Apparatus Located in the District.*—Engines 19, 48, 49, Ladder 28.

GRAPHIC CHART OF FIRE LOSS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



# ALARMS, FIRE LOSSES AND INSURANCE.

MONTHS.	ALARMS RECEIVED.						LOSS.		INSURANCE.		ALARMS.				Totally Destroyed.									
	Members.	Police.	Citizens.	Telephone.	Automatic.	Unknown.	Total.	Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.	BELL.		STILL.										
												Fire.	False.	Needless.		Fire.	Needless.							
January.....	9	8	360	156	14	52	599	\$339,580	\$246,101	\$8,543,104	\$3,896,407	260	52	37	194	50	327	8	117	2	122	176	35	2
February.....	12	8	335	160	9	35	559	251,002	162,287	10,104,564	1,444,132	245	35	24	194	57	324	3	106	6	119	172	36	6
March.....	10	16	463	267	8	42	806	236,556	336,951	5,209,738	5,454,011	355	42	26	323	55	336	9	325	8	92	213	39	1
April.....	5	52	510	326	9	54	956	129,543	189,555	6,401,341	1,799,670	400	54	30	408	58	331	7	465	5	132	186	19	1
May.....	11	16	467	196	6	46	742	250,623	141,397	11,107,325	1,368,027	336	46	25	282	51	315	9	288	6	90	202	32	1
June.....	4	13	342	190	3	69	621	374,622	149,502	5,269,375	2,613,186	239	69	31	228	52	222	4	236	5	71	133	21	6
July.....	5	12	378	186	9	99	689	159,297	300,584	11,226,300	2,414,966	277	99	28	229	49	248	6	243	9	61	163	30	6
August.....	5	8	323	149	15	48	548	158,392	110,629	6,390,553	5,717,252	245	48	26	189	28	216	5	206	7	60	140	21	7
September.....	1	5	394	233	15	51	699	99,369	69,999	10,289,690	10,826,927	277	51	34	272	56	214	7	319	9	66	138	16	1
October.....	2	7	452	228	13	80	782	164,945	137,784	5,189,181	2,078,004	324	80	41	263	63	285	4	295	3	63	204	22	6
November.....	6	13	430	187	17	52	705	193,241	213,843	7,065,741	2,223,463	296	52	40	248	53	320	7	213	4	110	189	28	4
December.....	4	13	384	226	15	61	703	291,054	444,385	9,092,135	2,816,909	274	60	43	258	58	332	14	182	4	112	191	43	1
Totals.....	74	171	4,838	2,504	133	689	8,409	\$2,648,524	\$2,503,017	\$95,869,047	\$42,663,074	3,528	688	385	3,088	630	3,470	83	2,995	68	1,098	2,107	342	6

CAUSES OF FIRES AND ALARMS, FROM JANUARY 1, 1930, TO JANUARY 1, 1931.

Alarms, false, needless, bell and still.....	1,703	Hot ashes in barrel.....	90
Alarms out of city.....	68	Incendiary and supposed,	152
Automatic alarms, false and accidental.....	90	Lamp upsetting and explosion.....	6
Automobiles.....	793	Miscellaneous.....	585
Brush, rubbish, etc.....	1,753	Oil burners.....	70
Careless use lamp, candle,	57	Oil stove, careless use and explosion.....	22
Careless use matches, set by rats.....	427	Overheated furnace, stove boiler.....	83
Careless use pipe, cigar, cigarette.....	1,046	Set by boys.....	146
Chimneys, soot burning..	407	Sparks from chimney, stove.....	138
Clothes near stove.....	1	Sparks from locomotive, engine.....	31
Defective chimney, stove pipe, boiler.....	72	Spontaneous combustion..	195
Electric wires, motors....	283	Thawing water pipes.....	21
Fireworks and firecrackers,	54	Unknown.....	54
Gas jet, gas stove.....	15		
Gasolene, benzine, naphtha.....	6		
Grease in ventilator, oven,	41	Total.....	<u>8,409</u>

1930.	FIRE EXTINGUISHED BY						
	Extinguishers.	Buckets of Water.	Chemicals and Booster Pump Lines.	Hydrant Streams.	Motor Pumps.	Miscellaneous.	Citizens.
January.....	102	23	110	32	69	71	45
February.....	89	22	107	35	65	78	37
March.....	101	39	161	99	98	131	41
April.....	115	53	164	174	84	158	55
May.....	106	40	162	87	104	77	36
June.....	96	26	115	66	60	57	42
July.....	102	40	120	83	63	43	46
August.....	98	21	106	55	49	51	47
September.....	100	33	137	110	51	58	51
October.....	126	33	162	88	66	65	44
November.....	109	26	139	63	44	99	60
December.....	118	22	135	38	70	87	58
Totals.....	1,262	378	1,618	930	823	975	562

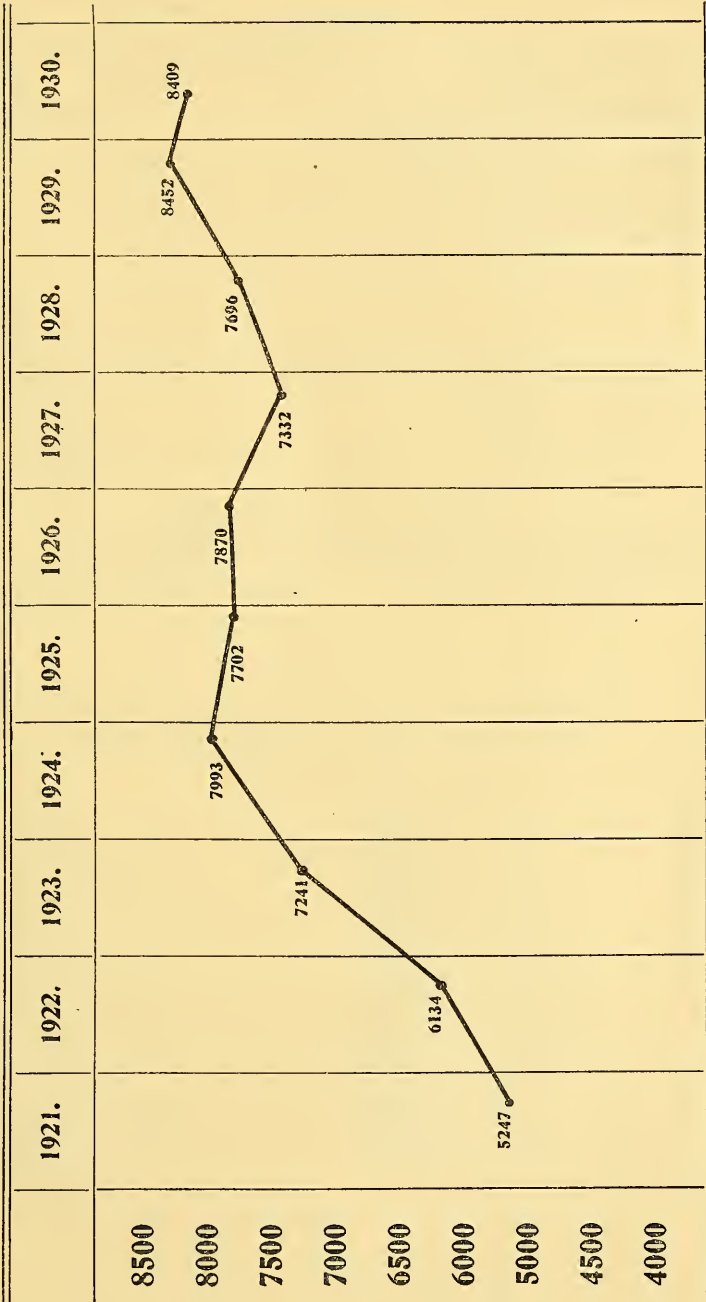
## FIRES WHERE LOSSES EXCEEDED \$15,000.

DATE.	Location and Owner.	Loss.
<b>1930.</b>		
Jan. 2.....	7 Jackson street, Atlas Garment Company <i>et al.</i> .....	\$25,670
Jan. 3.....	556-570 Washington street, E. Gilman <i>et al.</i> .....	17,889
Jan. 12.....	37-41 Court street, F. X. McGrath <i>et al.</i> .....	31,128
Jan. 13.....	121 Gove street, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.....	15,040
Jan. 13.....	67 Broad street, High Grade Shoe Repairing Company <i>et al.</i>	17,452
Jan. 14.....	20 and 22 Canal street, General Furniture Company <i>et al.</i>	36,080
Jan. 15.....	North Harvard street, Harvard Athletic Association....	119,446
Jan. 29.....	Rear 80 Border street, Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corpora- tion.	34,000
Feb. 1.....	George street, Boston Elevated Railway.....	20,037
Feb. 9.....	25 Wayne street, M. Eisenberg <i>et al.</i> .....	15,739
Feb. 12.....	220 Friend street, Massachusetts Gas and Electric Com- pany <i>et al.</i>	18,733
Feb. 13.....	439 Albany street, Boston Elevated Railway.....	88,881
Feb. 19.....	172 Merrimac street, Samuel Fredberg.....	16,753
March 1.....	227 and 229 Washington street, Thompson's Spa, Inc....	105,034
March 6.....	335 Shawmut avenue, G. Rexines <i>et al.</i> .....	27,639
March 12.....	92-100 Portland street, Modern Curtains Company <i>et al.</i>	18,376
March 22.....	49 and 50 South Market street, A. Lipp <i>et al.</i> .....	16,063
March 22.....	34-38 Lancaster street, Eddie's Fur Shop <i>et al.</i> .....	22,975
March 23.....	24 Ralston road, Massachusetts Potteries <i>et al.</i> .....	21,182
March 27.....	556-570 Washington street, R. H. White Company, <i>et al.</i>	63,068
April 5.....	195-205 A street, Economy Grocery Stores Corporation <i>et al.</i>	46,713
April 22.....	34 and 36 India street, Natural Products Company <i>et al.</i>	66,191
April 30.....	Off C street, Walworth Company.....	32,390
May 8.....	53 and 55 Portland street, A. H. Morrison & Sons <i>et al.</i>	47,806
May 19.....	252 and 254 Congress street, United China Company <i>et al.</i>	15,108
May 27.....	3190 Washington street, M. Lane & Co. <i>et al.</i> .....	50,150
May 31.....	255 Berkeley street, J. C. Rogers <i>et al.</i> .....	16,718
June 6.....	L Street Drawbridge, City of Boston.....	250,000
June 7.....	15-21 Bromfield street, J. Tarr <i>et al.</i> .....	20,207
June 11.....	25-43 Kneeland street, Fashion Cloak and Suit Com- pany <i>et al.</i>	16,129
June 23.....	104-112 A street, J. J. White Company, Inc. <i>et al.</i> .....	23,297

## Fire Losses.—Concluded.

DATE.	Location and Owner.	Loss.
<b>1930.</b>		
June 25.....	107 and 109 West Brookline street, United Furniture Factories.	\$19,653
June 28.....	Off Austin street, Boston & Maine Railroad.....	45,000
July 4.....	141-153 Medford street, Palmer, Parker Company <i>et al.</i>	193,133
July 16.....	9-19 Braintree street, E. T. Ryan Iron Works, Inc. <i>et al.</i>	33,658
July 29.....	217 Newbury street, M. E. Casey <i>et al.</i> .....	37,466
July 31.....	146 Northern avenue, New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad <i>et al.</i>	24,287
Aug. 5.....	7 and 9 Dixwell street, F. E. Burnes <i>et al.</i> .....	21,124
Aug. 8.....	221 and 223 Endicott street, Sneirson Brothers <i>et al.</i>	24,025
Aug. 17.....	60 Factory street, Park Mills <i>et al.</i> .....	31,871
Aug. 19.....	309-315 Huntington avenue, Rush Company <i>et al.</i> .....	31,387
Sept. 6.....	265 Tremont street, Shubert Theatre Corporation.....	20,852
Sept. 18.....	19-27 Sudbury street, Prime Upholstering Company <i>et al.</i>	18,578
Sept. 24.....	Rear 368 Albany street, Cronin Lumber Company <i>et al.</i>	22,624
Oct. 1.....	1044 Washington street, Apollo Theatre Company <i>et al.</i>	18,600
Oct. 10.....	479 Beacon street, Oscar Bauer <i>et al.</i> .....	23,145
Oct. 15.....	560 Harrison avenue, Phoenix Shoe Company <i>et al.</i> .....	15,152
Oct. 18.....	91 Summer street, Abbott's, Inc. <i>et al.</i> .....	19,391
Oct. 24.....	186-192 Portland street, Standard Upholstering Company <i>et al.</i>	24,362
Nov. 1.....	594-616 Washington street, Marvin Shoe Stores <i>et al.</i>	20,916
Nov. 2.....	25-29 Tremont street, Martin's Women's Shop, <i>et al.</i> ...	24,875
Nov. 2.....	44 and 46 La Grange street, A. Steinert <i>et al.</i> .....	39,197
Nov. 7.....	153 and 155 Fulton street, National Distributing Company <i>et al.</i>	16,275
Nov. 19.....	26-32 Atlantic avenue, Philip Goldstein Company <i>et al.</i>	21,161
Nov. 20.....	34 and 36 South street, Old Colony Rynak Leather Company <i>et al.</i>	74,755
Nov. 26.....	15 and 17 Columbia street, Adler Richards Company <i>et al.</i>	16,840
Dec. 4.....	133 and 135 Essex street, Glaser Brothers <i>et al.</i> .....	37,469
Dec. 10.....	96 Essex street, Economy Umbrella Company <i>et al.</i> .....	159,960
Dec. 13.....	201-213 Essex street, B. Shir <i>et al.</i> .....	19,542
Dec. 19.....	55-63 Summer street, The New Hat Frame Company <i>et al.</i>	20,148
Dec. 22.....	102-106 South street, H. Goldberg & Co. <i>et al.</i> .....	27,920
Dec. 23.....	6-10 Beach street, Queen Quality Undergarment Company <i>et al.</i>	20,906
Dec. 23.....	392 and 394 Boylston street, George Gechijian <i>et al.</i> .....	27,849
Dec. 24.....	11 Columbia street, John Hetherington & Sons <i>et al.</i> ...	116,043
Dec. 27.....	162 and 164 Lincoln street, Sobel Shoes, Inc., <i>et al.</i> ...	18,895

GRAPHIC CHART OF ALARMS FOR PAST TEN YEARS.



## STATISTICS.

Population, January 1, 1931 (estimated)	805,400
Area, square miles	47.81
Number brick, etc., buildings	42,879
Number wooden buildings	92,304
Fires in brick, stone, etc., buildings	2,004
Fires in wooden buildings	1,549
Fires out of city	68
Not in buildings, false and needless	4,788

Total alarms . . . . . 8,409

## FIRE LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1930.

Buildings, loss insured	\$2,319,726
Contents, loss insured	2,273,936

Total loss insured . . . . . \$4,593,662

Buildings, loss not insured (estimated)	\$328,798
Contents, loss not insured (estimated)	229,081

Total loss not insured . . . . . \$557,879

Marine loss . . . . . \$23,130

## YEARLY LOSS FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

*Marine Loss not Included.*

Year ending January 1, 1917	\$2,372,480
" " " 1, 1918	3,981,227
" " " 1, 1919	2,822,109
" " " 1, 1920	2,577,584
" " " 1, 1921	3,139,566
" " " 1, 1922	4,010,201
" " " 1, 1923	3,304,595
" " " 1, 1924	6,286,299
" " " 1, 1925	4,735,595
" " " 1, 1926	5,407,070
" " " 1, 1927	5,199,965
" " " 1, 1928	3,694,642
" " " 1, 1929	3,887,250
" " " 1, 1930	4,129,926
" " " 1, 1931	4,593,622



ALARMS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

YEAR.	Bell.	Still and Automatic.	Totals.
1930 .....	4,601	3,808	8,409
1929 .....	4,473	3,979	8,452
1928 .....	3,867	3,829	7,696
1927 .....	3,492	3,840	7,332
1926 .....	3,762	4,108	7,870
1925 .....	3,798	3,904	7,702
1924 .....	3,640	4,353	7,993
1923 .....	3,239	4,002	7,241
1922 .....	2,733	3,401	6,134
1921 .....	2,359	2,888	5,247

JOHN E. FITZGERALD MEDAL.

John J. Leary, for 1922.	Dennis M. Condon, for 1927.
Daniel J. O'Brien, for 1923.	Joseph P. Hanton, for 1929.
Thomas F. Kilduff, for 1924.	

WALTER SCOTT MEDAL.

Dennis M. Condon, for 1922.	Gilbert W. Jones, for 1927.
James H. Curran, for 1923.	John J. Boyle, for 1929.
Edward J. Crowley, for 1924.	

ROLL OF MERIT.

Carl V. Anderson.	Gilbert W. Jones.
Carl S. Bowers.	Henry J. Kelly.
James J. Buchanan.	Martin A. Kenealy.
William O. Cheswell.	John J. Kennedy.
Dennis M. Condon.	Frederick F. Leary.
Walter P. Corbett.	John J. Martin.
Michael J. Dacy.	Edward McDonough.
James E. Downey.	James F. McMahon.
Thomas H. Downey.	Thomas J. Muldoon.
Dennis Driscoll.	Edward J. Murphy.
Joseph P. Hanton.	Arthur A. Ryan.
Timothy J. Heffron.	Michael J. Teehan.



















