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FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Report for the Three Months ending September 30, 1878.

HEADQUARTERS FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK,
OFFICE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
NEW YORK, October 23, 1878.

To his Honor SMITH ELY, JR., Mayor:

SIR—In conformity with the provisions of section 27 of chapter 335 of the Laws of 1873, we have the honor to submit herewith the report of the operations and actions of this Department for the three months ending with the 30th day of September.

Fires.

Number communicated by telegraph..... 191
" " other means..... 162
Total..... 353

In buildings—
Confined to buildings in which originated..... 342
Extended to other buildings..... 5

On vessel..... 1
In woods, etc..... 5

Total..... 353

Discovered by Firemen..... 33
" Policemen..... 74
" Tower Watchmen..... 2
" citizens..... 244

353

Extent of damage to buildings—
Slight..... 93
Considerable..... 8
Totally destroyed..... 5

How extinguished—
By fire extinguishers..... 46
" buckets of water, etc..... 196
" chemical engines..... 10
" hydrant streams..... 5
" one engine stream..... 59
" more than one engine stream..... 37

353

Estimated Loss and Insurance.

	Loss.	Insurance.
On buildings, etc.....	\$22,140 00	\$1,098,400 00
" stock.....	75,746 00	719,425 00
	\$97,886 00	\$1,817,825 00

Uninsured Loss.

On buildings, etc..... \$3,475 00
On stock..... 9,127 00

\$12,602 00

Average loss per fire..... \$277 30

The loss was less than \$100, at..... 238 fires.
" between 100 and \$1,000, at..... 86 "
" " 1,000 " 5,000, at..... 27 "
" " 5,000 " 10,000, at..... 1 "
" " 10,000 " 20,000, at..... 1 "

353 "

Causes and Origin of Fires.

Acid, bursting of bottle of.....	1	Kerosene oil lamps upsetting, etc.....	44
Back-draft of furnace.....	1	Kerosene oil stoves exploding.....	4
Benzole, vapor of, igniting.....	1	Lightning igniting woodwork.....	1
Carelessness of occupants and employees with matches, candles, etc.....	93	Malicious mischief.....	2
Chemicals igniting.....	1	Mice gnawing matches.....	2
Children playing with matches and fire.....	18	Not ascertained.....	24
Clothing taking fire from stove.....	2	Overheated stove-pipes and drying-rooms.....	3
Defective construction of building.....	1	Phosphorus igniting.....	1
Defective flues.....	4	Sparks from chimneys, furnaces, forges, locomotives, stove-pipes and previous fires.....	24
Escaped gas igniting.....	4	Tar, grease, etc., boiling over and igniting.....	17
Fireworks.....	18	Window-curtains, goods and transparencies taking fire from gas-lights, candles, etc.....	19
Foul chimneys.....	40	Spontaneous combustion of oily material.....	9
Friction of machinery.....	2		
Hams falling in fire.....	2		
Heat from boilers, etc.....	2		
Incendiary.....	8		
Incendiary, supposed.....	5		

353

Telegraphic Calls and Alarms Received at and Transmitted from Headquarters.

First alarms, from street-boxes..... 189
" " Central Office..... 1
" " bell-towers..... 5
" " Police Department..... 1
" " Automatic Signal Telegraph Company..... 16

212

Second alarms..... 4
Third alarms..... 1
Special calls for companies..... 10
" ambulance..... 6
" Insurance Patrol..... 6

22

Total alarms and calls..... 239

Messages transmitted..... 724
" received..... 634

1,358

Operations under the Law Regulating the Storage of Combustibles, etc.

Cash received for kerosene oil licenses, at \$10..... \$12,880 00
Cash received for gunpowder licenses, at \$2..... 112 00
Cash received for special permits, at \$2..... 224 00
Cash received for fireworks permits (wholesale), at \$2..... 2 00
Cash received for fireworks permits (retail), at 50 cents..... 2 00
Cash received for fireworks permits (retail), at 25 cents..... 48 00
Cash received for kindling fire in street permits, at 50 cents..... 4 00
Cash received for penalty selling oil below test, at \$50..... 50 00
Cash received for penalty chimney fires, at \$5..... 30 00

\$13,352 00

Complaints of violation of law pending at last report..... 67
Complaints received during the quarter..... 62

129

NATURE OF COMPLAINTS, VIOLATIONS, ETC.	Number of Complaints.	DISPOSITION.					STILL PENDING.	
		Complied on Notice.	Unfounded.	Penalties Collected.	Penalties Remitted.	Referred to Law Department.	In Department.	In Law Department.
Selling kerosene oil below test.....	16	..	..	1	5	3	..	10
Selling kerosene oil without license.....	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Chimney fires.....	59	..	..	6	20	..	16	17
Hoistways found open at fires.....	7	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
Fire-hydrants obstructed.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Defective chimneys and flues.....	7	2	2	..	..	..	3	..
Gas-lights not properly protected.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Dangerous stoves and stove-pipes.....	10	8	1	..	..	..	1	..
Dangerous premises.....	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	..
Excessive quantity of combustible material.....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excessive quantity of kerosene oil, naphtha, etc.....	4	1	2	..	..	..	1	..
Insufficient appliances for extinguishing fires.....	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
	129	12	6	7	25	3	35	44

Sanitary Condition of the Force.

Number of cases of ordinary illness..... 34
" " accidents and injuries..... 28
Total number of cases requiring treatment..... 62

Loss of time resulting from cases of illness..... 219 days.
" " accidents, etc..... 362 "
Total..... 581 days.

Number of candidates passed..... 4
" " rejected..... 9
Total number examined..... 13

The sum of \$489.66 has been received for sales of condemned materials, etc., and the amount deposited with the City Chamberlain.

The aggregate amount of bills and pay-rolls audited and forwarded to the Comptroller for payment during the quarter is \$311,174.61.

We respectfully refer to the subjoined quarterly statements of the New York Fire Department Relief Fund and Life Insurance Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
VINCENT C. KING,
JOSEPH L. PERLEY,
JOHN J. GORMAN, } Commissioners.

QUARTERLY STATEMENT.

New York Fire Department Life Insurance Fund, for Quarter ending September 30, 1878.

June 30, 1878	Balance on hand.....	\$9,162 00
Sept. 30, "	Receipts for quarter's assessment.....	2,321 00
		\$11,483 00
" 30, "	Disbursements for quarter: To widow of Foreman Martin Walsh..... \$1,000 00 " Administrator estate of Fireman Edward Pottebaum..... 1,000 00 " assessment returned Thomas Sullivan..... 1 00	2,001 00
" 30, "	Balance on hand.....	\$9,482 00

NEW YORK, September 30, 1878.

JOHN J. GORMAN, Treasurer.

QUARTERLY STATEMENT,
New York Fire Department Relief Fund, for Quarter ending September 30, 1878.

June 30, 1878	Balance on hand.....		\$355,649 29
Sept. 30, "	Receipts for quarter—		
	From Fines.....	\$139 19	
	" Interest.....	346 22	
	" Penalties.....	50 00	
	" Oil Licenses.....	12,880 00	
	" Fireworks Permits.....	52 00	
	" Powder, etc., Licenses.....	112 00	
	" Special Permits.....	224 00	
	" Chimney Fines.....	30 00	
	" Fire in Street Permits.....	4 00	
		13,837 41	
	Disbursements for quarter :		\$369,486 70
	For Expense Account.....	\$659 49	
	" Pay of Relieved Men.....	549 99	
	" Pensions of Retired Men.....	1,579 56	
	" Pension Account.....	1,237 50	
		4,026 54	
" 30, "	Balance on hand.....		\$365,460 16

NEW YORK, September 30, 1878.

JOHN J. GORMAN, Treasurer.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

The following schedules form a report of the transactions of the office of the Counsel to the Corporation, for the week ending January 6, 1879.

WM. C. WHITNEY, Corporation Counsel.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New York are defendants unless otherwise mentioned.

SCHEDULE "A."

SUITS AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED.

SUPREME COURT.

In the matter of the application of Ernest Delacourt, an alleged lunatic on Ward's Island. Richard H. Ball—To foreclose a mortgage; City made a party by reason of judgment. People, ex rel. Chesebrough Manufacturing Co., against The Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments—Certiorari to review proceedings taking relators' personal tax of 1878. William Devlin—To foreclose a mortgage; City made a party by reason of judgment. Daniel McCabe, assignee of Mark Lanigan and John W. Adams—For value of awnings and shades furnished in 1871, 1872, and 1874, \$1,602.65. In the matter of the petition of Elizabeth J. Morrison—To vacate assessment for sewer in Eighty-eighth street. In the matter of the petition of Robert G. Gregg—To vacate assessment for sewer in Eighty-eighth street. People, ex rel. United States Medical College of the City of New York, against The Board of Charities and Correction—Mandamus to require the Board to furnish bodies for medical and surgical study. In the matter of the petition of John Theiss—To vacate assessment for regulating, etc., Manhattan street. Charles C. Thompson—To foreclose mortgage; City made a party by reason of judgment. John Murphy and another—To foreclose mechanics' lien upon moneys under contract for retaining-wall, etc., in East Forty-second street, \$596.

COMMON PLEAS.

F. Leroy Satterlee—Difference in amount of salary as Police Surgeon paid and entitled by law, \$3,833.34. Walter J. Foster agst. Isaac W. Potter—Supplementary proceedings to examine Treasurer of Police Board.

SCHEDULE "B."

JUDGMENTS ENTERED AND ORDERS OF THE GENERAL AND SPECIAL TERMS.

William R. Clarkson—Order of discontinuance entered. In re Henry Treadwell—Order entered to vacate assessment sale. People ex rel. John Westray—Judgment entered in favor of City, dismissing writ, and for \$21.12. People, ex rel. Stephen O'Brien, against The Board of Fire Commissioners—Appeal taken by relator, withdrawn by consent. In re Harriet E. Ogden—Order entered to vacate assessment One Hundred and Forty-fifth street. In re Jeremiah Devlin—do do do. In re Anna Maria Dean—do do do. In re James Monteith—do do do. James A. Cramsey—Judgment entered in favor of plaintiff for \$940.38. James Dunphy—Judgment entered in favor of plaintiff, upon offer, for \$1,558.36. Lesser Goldstein—Judgment entered in favor of plaintiff for \$1,588.81. Charles F. Mairs—Judgment entered in favor of plaintiff for \$99.70. In re Emanuel Hoffman—Order entered to reduce assessment.

SCHEDULE "C."

SUITS AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS TRIED OR ARGUED.

People, ex rel. The Trustees of the College of New York—Proceedings dismissed by consent. Walter S. Pinckney—Testimony taken before referee and adjourned. Smith Ely, Jr., Mayor, against Allan Campbell, Commissioner of Public Works—Motion for injunction argued before Van Vorst, J.; decision reserved. George Frazier—Examined before trial. John B. Devlin—Motion for interpleader argued; decision reserved. People, ex rel. The N. Y. Elevated Railroad Co., against The Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments—Submitted to Court upon printed briefs.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

DAILY MEETINGS, DECEMBER 23 TO 28, 1878.

Communications Received.

From Penitentiary—List of prisoners received during week ending December 21, 1878: Males, 39; females, 8. On file. List of 39 prisoners to be discharged from December 28, 1878, to January 4, 1879. Transmitted to Prison Association. From Lunatic Asylum Blackwell's Island—History of 4 patients received during week ending December 21, 1878. On file. From N. Y. City Asylum for Insane, Ward's Island—History of 5 patients received during week ending December 21, 1878. On file. From City Prison—Amount of fines received during week ending December 21, 1878. On file.

Resolutions.

Resolved, That the Supply Clerk of this Department be instructed to advertise for coal, to be delivered to the out-door poor for the coming year. Adopted. Resolved, That double sashes be put on south and west windows of Maternity Hospital, Blackwell's Island, the sashes to be bought as low as possible. Adopted. Proposals for fresh beef, mutton, etc., fresh fish and condensed milk, opened in presence of Commissioners Cox, Brennan, Bailey, and the Comptroller.

By the Board—

Resolved, That the proposal of David P. Arnold to furnish and deliver, during the year 1879, chucks of beef at 6 1/4 cents per pound; shoulder clods at 6 1/4 cents per pound; extra diet beef at 14 cents per pound; mutton, in pieces, at 5 cents per pound; mutton, in carcasses, at 7 cents per pound; roasting pieces of beef at 15 cents per pound; beef steaks at 15 cents per pound; mutton, in hind quarters, at 10 1/2 cents per pound; pork at 8 cents per pound; corned beef at 8 1/2 cents per pound; veal at 14 cents per pound, be accepted, and the contract awarded to him, provided the adequacy and sufficiency of his sureties are approved of by the Comptroller of the City of New York. Adopted.

Resolved, That the proposals of William H. Thomas, and Middleton, Carman & Co., to furnish and deliver during the year 1879, fresh fish at \$2.95-100 per 100 pounds, be accepted and the contracts awarded to them, half to each, provided the adequacy and sufficiency of their sureties are approved by the Comptroller of the City of New York, and provided the Board of Estimate and Apportionment make an appropriation. Adopted.

Resolved, That the proposal of The American Condensed Milk Company, to furnish and deliver condensed milk during the year 1879, at 16 3/4 cents per quart, during the months of January, February, March, October, November, and December, and at 12 3/4 cents per quart, during the months of April, May, June, July, August, and September, be accepted, and the contract awarded to the company, provided the adequacy and sufficiency of the sureties be approved by the Comptroller of the City of New York. Adopted.

Appointment.

December 24. James Gorman, Attendant, New York City Asylum for Insane.

Resignation.

December 24. John Kerwin, Attendant, New York City Asylum for Insane.
JOSHUA PHILLIPS, Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Department of Public Parks during the week ending Saturday December 21, 1878.

MEETING HELD DECEMBER 18, 1878.

Present—Commissioners Wenman (President), Wetmore, Conover, and Lane. Permission was given to the New York Elevated Railroad Company to remove, at its expense and under the supervision of the Superintendent of Parks, two trees on the Battery park.

A form of contract with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for the occupation by it of the Museum of Art building, in Central Park, as authorized by chapter 139, Laws of 1876, was considered and the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolved, That the draft-contract or agreement with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, this day submitted to the Board, be approved as amended; that the President and Secretary of the Department be and hereby are authorized to execute said contract or agreement, in duplicate, for and on behalf of this Department, and that when it is so executed and completed it be printed as a document of the Board.

The following resolutions were also adopted:

Resolved, That a respectful application be and is hereby made to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to appropriate and include in the Estimates of the Department of Public Parks for the year 1879, the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the improvement of Manhattan square.

Resolved, That a copy of the memorial of property owners, requesting this Board to make such application, be transmitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Resolved, That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment be and is hereby requested to appropriate and include in the Estimates of the Department of Public Parks, for the year 1879, the sum of ten thousand dollars for the work of making maps of the territory, constituting the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, for the use of the Department of Taxes and Assessments, as provided by chapter 411 of the Laws of 1876.

Resolved, That in the judgment and discretion of this Board, the said sum of ten thousand dollars is necessary to carry on the work authorized by the said act during the year 1879.

Resolved, That a copy of the memorial of Mr. Lewis G. Morris, and others, for the construction of a suspension bridge across the Harlem river at One Hundred and Eighty-first street, at the point where the said bridge was located by this Department, and where the title to the land on which to construct it was acquired by the city for that purpose, be communicated to the Comptroller of the City of New York, and that he be requested to take proper measures for the issue of bonds on account of the construction of such bridge to an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars, pursuant to section 3 of chapter 534 of the Laws of 1871, to be applied in making soundings and surveys for the locations of the piers and determining the plan of such bridge.

Resolved, That the subject be laid over until such bonds are issued, and that said Lewis G. Morris and his associates be notified of this action of the Board.

Resolved, That it be referred to Commissioner Conover to examine and report at the next meeting of the Board all facts in relation to the bids received for the construction of cases for the Museum of Natural History building, the order for which was given to Mr. William Schwarzwaldler.

Appointments.

December 18. Dennis Eagan, Laborer, 35 cents per hour.
" Michael Barry, Night Watchman, \$1.60 per day.
" Samuel Rivers, " "

Transferred.

December 18. Bernard Carlin, Fireman, from Tompkins Square Improvement to the Parks.

Restored.

December 18. Owen Carr, Laborer.
" John Morgan, Laborer.

Discharged.

December 18. One General Foreman, two Foremen, seven Laborers with horses and carts, and forty-four Laborers, all employed on Tompkins Square Improvement.
" Alexander Brennan, Care Taker of Bridges.

Forwarded to the Finance Department.

Bills approved and transmitted to the Comptroller for payment.....	\$1,365 38
Pay-rolls " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	9,430 85

WM. IRWIN, Secretary, D. P. P.

Abstract of the proceedings of the Department of Public Parks during the week ending Saturday, December 28, 1878.

MEETING HELD DECEMBER 27, 1878.

Present—Commissioners Wenman (President), Conover, and Lane. All work on the construction of the sewers in Mott avenue, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth street and One Hundred and Forty-fourth street, was suspended until further order.

It was directed that no permits for sewer connections be issued to Mr. William Leslie, plumber, until further order.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the assessment list for the work of laying a crosswalk across Fordham avenue, near Eleventh street, in the Twenty-fourth Ward, and also the statement of the amount and cost of work be approved, signed by the Commissioners, and transmitted to the Board of Assessors.

Resolved, That the Superintendent of Parks be directed to notify the owners of the two stands or wooden houses at present on the sidewalk of the City Hall Park, immediately north of the Post-Office, to remove them on or before Monday, the 30th December, 1878, and that if said owners shall not do so, that he be directed to remove them to the yard of the Department in Central Park.

Suspended.

December 27. Josiah A. Briggs, Inspector on Sewers in Mott avenue, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth street and One Hundred and Forty-fourth street.

Forwarded to the Finance Department.

Bills approved and transmitted to the Comptroller of the City for payment.....	\$2,356 71
Pay-rolls approved and transmitted to the Comptroller of the City for payment.....	3,979 09
Money received and deposited with the City Chamberlain.....	573 68

Animals, etc., Received at the Menagerie in Central Park.

DONATIONS.

1 Raccoon (*procyon lotor*), presented by Master Henry S. Chatfield, Elizabeth, N. J.
1 Red Tailed Hawk (*buteo borealis*), presented by Mr. John Stelling, N. Y. City.

Birth.

1 Camel (*camelus dromedarius*).

WM. IRWIN, Secretary D. P. P.

