THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1870.

THE FIRE QUESTION.

Continued from the First Page.

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for 100 buckets." Soon after this the Mayor sent word to the board that the two fire engines and the 250 fire buckets sent for from England had arrived in July, and requested "provision of suitable places for their reception."

The Council ordered that the buckets be hung up in the court-house, and that "measures be used to place the engines, to wit :- one at the corner of the great meeting-house yard (southwest corner of Second and High streets)-one at Francis Jones' lot, corner of Front and Walnut streets, and the old engine in a corner of the Baptist meeting yard, in Second street, near Arch." From this it will be seen that there were but three engines in all, and that, not counting the two new ones which had just arrived, there was but one engine to subdue the Dickenson fire.

In 1835 a writer in the Gazette says, "We have at present got engines enough, but I question if water enough can be had in many places to keep them going for half an hour. It seems to me some public pumps are wanted." The same writer advised the formation of fire companies. Previous to that time the citizens themselves had done all the work at fires.

In 1836 the houses of "Budd's long row," north of the'drawbridge on Front street, took fire. The destruction of the whole row was feared, but the engines were worked successfully.

Benjamin Franklin, in 1738, instituted the first fire company organized in Philadelphia. This was the actual beginning of the volunteer Fire Department. What B. Franklin would think of the present state of the organization is a matter of conjecture only. The first fire companies had the charge of the engines, buckets, and apparatus, but were helped by numbers of citizens when at fires. At a later date, in addition to the public buckets, others were provided by large buildings, the owners of which were compelled to provide them by law, the number, we believe, being proportionate to the number of windows in the building. They were placed in the most public locality of the building, and were marked with the name of the building or owner. When a fire occurred, the buckets were taken from every available building, and if these were not sufficient, others of tin or wood were borrowed from private houses. The ones provided by public buildings were usually of leather. We still see some of these ancient specimens preserved in the vestibules of old buildings, as for instance the Philadelphia Library, where the old leather fire buckets may be seen on entering the doorway. Watson, in his "Annals," says that "by an advertisement in the Gazette in 1753 I see that 'baskets and bags of fire companies' are called upon to be returned, thus showing the early use of them. We used to see them hung up in the old halls and entries where now our ladies hang elegant lamps."

The following paragraph from Watson gives an insight into the manner of working of the bucket system:-

"The present manner of subduing fires presents an aspect quite different from former doings in such cases. When there was no hose in use, and no hydrants, but only pumps and buckets to keep the engines supplied, the scene was much more busy than now. Few or no idlers could be seen as lookers-on. They made long lines of people to 'hand along the buckets.' and if the anxious and idle attempted to pass, the cry was passed along the line, 'Fall in, fall in!' If disregarded, a bucket of water was discharged upon them. Then it was quite common to see numerous women in the ranks, and it was therefore more provoking to see others giving no help, but urging their way as near the fires as they could. Next day was a fine affair for the boys to look out all the buckets they knew of their several neighborhoods, and to earry them home. The street posts, too, all along the streets far from the fire, could be seen capped here and there with a stray bucket, asking for its owner." It is unnecessary to add that the community then must have been more strictly honest than it is at present. During the time between 1831 and 1834 there were 96 fires in Philadelphia. This fact is ascertained from official minutes. The number of fires in 1821 was 29; in 1822 there were 22; in 1823 there were 31, and in 1834 there were 14. Those which happened in the latter part of 1822 and the beginning of 1823 were generally supposed to be the work of incendiaries. This was probably the beginning of the evil which at last attached itself to the fire companies themselves, and under their management has been reduced o a system. The largest fires in our city have occurred since the dates mentioned, when the city was much larger. Perhaps the most destructive of these, if we judge by the amount of ground gone over, was the great Water street fire which started on July 9, 1850, in a saltpetre storehouse. This exploded. doing considerable damage. The fact of its explosion gave rise to the saying "Will saltpetre explode?" which, as far as now known, has been answered in every case in the negative. The cause of this particular explosion has been made t he subject of many a theory, and the result has not been satisfactorily demonstrated to this day. By this fire 350 buildings were burned, and its progress could only be stopped by tearing down the houses which stood in its course. The loss is named at \$1,500,000, which, however, is a low estimate. By this fire twenty-five persons were killed, nine were drowned, and 120 were wounded. At this time our hand-forcing engines were, and had been for a long time, in use. On this occasion they were found miserably inadequate. Their exhaustive manner of working is still fresh in the mind of every citizen. The loss in money by this fire was only . one-half of the amount of loss at the Patterson bonded warehouses, which were burned in 1868. though the area of ground was not near so great.

the teeth. There was no head to the concern, [except the Board of Fire Directors, who exercised little or no control over the individual organization

A radical change was agitated in 1854, on the consolidation of the city, and then it was that the department took the matter into consideration, although it required a year to effect a new plan. The present district system was advocated, and that met with a bitter and determined opposition from some of the companies, who, rather than be limited in their running, disbanded themselves. However, a majority favored the movement, and the present volunteer system went into existence. From the fifty-two companies which accepted of the provisions of the ordinance as passed by Councils, the department swelled by the accession of old and new organizations until it reached ninetyfive companies. By disbanding and consolidation that number was reduced to eighty-seven, which comprises the department as it now stands.

The Organization of the Present Department. At a meeting of the Board of Fire Directors of the Fire Department, held March 20, 1855-it being impossible at that time for the board to unanimausly agree upon the reception of the ordinance reorganizing the department as adopted by Councils on January 25-it was resolved that the board dissolve. A motion was then submitted by D. W. Norris, the delegate of the Marion Hose Company, and carried, that the representatives of companies willing to accept the provisions of the ordinance organize in accordance with Its requirements. H. L. Sinexson, of the Robert Morris Hose, was called to the chair, and William A. Rolin was appointed Secretary. The roll of companies was then called, and the following responded, the date of organization being included:-

America Fire Co., April 10, 1790, America Hose Co., Sept. 2, 1823, Columbia Fire Co. of Germantown, March 6, 1809, Diligent Fire Co., July 4, 1791, Delaware Fire Co., March 21, 1761, Eagle Hose Co., date not known, Fairmount Fire Co., Jean 10, 1847, Friendship Fire Co., Jan. 10, 1847, Friendship Fire Co., Jan. 17, 1792, Franklin Fire Co. Jan. 17, 1792, Franklin Fire Co. of Germantown, March 1, 1764, Freinwhip Fire Co., Sept. 3, 1819. Franklin Fire Co. of Frankford, Jan. 8, 1848. Fellowship Fire Co., Sept. 3, 1819. Franklin Hose Co., merged with Harmony. Germantown Hose Co., May 11, 1848. Globe Fire Co., May 22, 1820. Excelsior Hook and Ladder, Jan. 28, 1853. Empire Hook and Ladder, Feb. 6, 1851. Good Intent Fire Co. of Roxborough, May 8, 1819. Hope Fire Co., Nov. 11, 1796. Hand-in-Hand Fire Co., May 15, 1823. Independence Fire Co., Feb. 1, 1847. Independence Fire Co., Feb. 1, 1847. Liberty Fire Co., Jan. 1, 1841. Kensington Hose Co., Jan. 11, 1842. Kensington Hose Co., Jan. 11, 1842.
Monroe Fire Co., March 3, 1823.
Marton Hose Co., Aug. 19, 1853.
Mantua Hook and Ladder, March 4, 1855.
Nicetown Hose Bo., date not known.
Neptune Hose Co., Aug. 6, 1805.
Pennsylvania Hose Co., Aug. 4, 1831.
Perseverance Hose Co., March 2, 1833.
Philadelphia Fire Co., Jan. 25, 1739.
Philadelphia Hose Co., Dec. 15, 1893.
Phoenix Hose Co., Ang. 25, 1817.
Reliance Fire Co., May 10, 1786.
Robert Morris Hose Co., May 6, 1806.
Southwark Hose Co., Jan. 25, 1833.
Shiffler Hose Co., Jan. 8, 1846.
Southwark Hose Co., May 27, 1846.
Spring Garden Fire Co., July 12, 1851.
Protection Hook and Ladder Co., Jan. 27, 1853.
United States Fire Co., Oct. 11, 1811. Rescue Hook and Ladder Co., Jan. 27, 1853. United States Fire Co., Oct. 11, 1811. Union Fire Co., March 19, 1819. Vigilant Hose Co., Jan. 2, 1760. Warren Hose Co., March 5, 1838. Washington Fire Co., of Frankford, Jan. 1, 1793. Washington Fire Go., Germantown, March 4, 1764. Western Fire Co., April 7, 1840. Western Hose Co., merged with Fame. Wissahickon Fire Co., Dec. 27, 1847. Of the remaining companies in the department prior to the reorganization, the following accepted the provisions of the new ordinance at subsequent meetings of the Board of Fire Directors:-Assistance Engine Co., December 28, 1789. ohocksink Hose Co., merged with Resolution. Columbia Engine Co., September 16, 1796, Columbia Hose Co., May 1, 1806, Congress Engine Co., May 11, 1815, Decatur Engine Co., February 11, 1803, Diligent Hose Co., June 3, 1820. Fame Hose Co., January 1, 1818. Good Intent Engine Co., April 26, 1819. Good Intent Hose Co., March 8, 1804. Good Will Engine Co., March 27, 1802. Good Will Engine Co., March 1, 1804. Harmony Engine Co., August 24, 1784. Hibernia Engine Co., February 20, 1752. Hope Hose Co., August 17, 1805. Humane Engine Co., March 1, 1794. Humane Hose Co., April 10, 1805. Independence Hose Co., July 4, 1831. Kingsessing Engine Co., October 8, 1857. Kingseesing Engine Co., October 8, 1857.
Lafayette Hose Co., October 81, 1831.
Lincoin Hose Co., June 5, 1855.
Manayunk Engine Co., January 1, 1838.
Mechanic Engine Co., August 4, 1839.
Mount Airy Engine Co., February 9, 1894.
Moyamensing Hose Co., July 22, 1837.
Niagara Hese Co., March 28, 1827.
Northern Liberty Engine Co., May 1, 1756.
Northern Liberty Hose Co., April 11, 1804. Northern Liberty H986 Co., May 7, 1828. Resolution Hose Co., April 11, 1804. Ringgold Hose Co., March 29, 1847. Southwark Engine Co., Feb. 5, 1827. Spring Garden Hose Co., May 12, 1845. Taylor Hose Co., Jane 1, 1847. Tivoll Hose Co., January 19, 1856. United Hose Co., January 19, 1856. United Hose Co., January 19, 1856. United States Hose Co., July 4, 1826. Vigilant Engine Co., February 2, 1760 Washington Engine Co., January 3, 1796. Washington Hose Co., February 22, 1811. Weccacoe Engine Co., May 1, 1800. West Philadelphia Hose Co., May 10, 1856. West Philadelphia Engine Co., merged with Co-

real and personal estate of each company in the department, were as follows:-

Name, Name, Value of Name, Nam Real Ret. \$5,000 16,000 17,000 5,125 800 10,000 12,000 \$00 2,000 2,209 3,000 8,009 Delaware Engine 11,000 10,000 123 800 6,000 4,600 Diligent Hose. 127 15,000 iligent Engine. 208 Decatur, Frankford. Empire Hook & Lad.Co 274 Excelsior Hose, Frank. Fairmount Hose. 1,000 1,600 8,650 5,500 6,550 850 6,000 10,000 6,000 7,000 airmount Engine. 618 Franklin Eng., Germ'n. 81 Fellowship, Germant'n. 140 Friendship Engiae..... 210 30,000 6,200 900 6,000 Franklin Engine. 606 ranklin Eng., Frankf'd 50 3,000 7,500 1,800 5,700 5,200 5,265 Fame Hose 249 10,000 GoodIntentHose, H.&L. 223 10,000 6,000 Good Will Engine..... Globe Engine..... 4,00016,000 154 Good Intent Engine 275 900 700 Germantown Hose. 5,000 1,000 8,500 Good Intent, Roxboro'h 110 6,500 300d Will Hose 147 6,100 Hand-in-Hand.... 322 5,000 14,000 Harmony Engine. 5,000 5,000 20,000 Hibernia Eugine... 10,000 275 Hope Engine..... Hope Hose..... 187 327 5,000 8,200 500 Jumane Hose, 5,000 5,000 39,000 lumane Engine 4,000 4,000 Independence Engine. 108 ependence Hose ... 291 6,000 singsessing Engine... 1,200300 Kensington Hose..... Liberty, Holmesburg. 4,000 4,500 10,000 8,000 153 Lafavette Hose 800 5,000 1 000 8,000 1,4007,5001,5005,000 12,500 Mechapic Engine..... Marion Hose. 400 7,000 Manayunk Engine.... Mount Airy Fire Co... 6,000 1,500 6,000 .900 10,000 5,500 Monroe Engine. 223 5,000 loyamensing Hose ... 900 isgara Hose 133 3,250 5,000 orthern Liberty Hose 445 6,000 4,500 4,500 Northern Lib'y Engine 223 6,250 6,000 3,8001,2006,000Phoenix Hose ... 9,000 16,000 5,000 13,000 Philadelphia Engine. 162 Philadelphia Hose, ... 6,200 400 600 4,500 3,000 1,200 6,900 5,000 13,000 Reliance Engine..... 174 6,500 350 6.500 Ringgold Lose..... Sonth Penn Hose..... 6,500 1,500 393 7.000 7,000 2,200 8,000 10,000 7,000 10,000 4,500 4,600 Southwark Hose..... Spring Garden Hose 629 $7,650 \\ 6,600$ 15,000 214 Tivoli Hose 1,800 8,000 4,000 \$00 7,000 1,700 1,000 20,000 S,000 3,000 6,000 10,000 2,500 6,009 2,000 6,000 2,200 Union Hose. ligilant Engine..... Warren Hoge 247 Washington, Germ'nt'n 105 2,000 Wissahickon Fire Co. 22 Washington, Frankford 151 William Penn Hose. 221 200 8,000 5,500 250 7,800 6,000 Vestern Engine... 143 4,000 150 5,000 6,800 West Phila, Hose 10,000 14,085 Weccacoe Hose ... Washington Hose.... 169 Washington Engine... 224 2,500 6,400 15,000 5,600 SPECIAL NOTICES. AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC. SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA. TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29. Addresses will be delivered by WILLIAM E. DODGE, President Y. M. C. A., New York, H. THAINE MILLER, Esq., Of Concinnent Y. M. C. A. Rev. THOMAS A. JAGGAR, Of Holy Trinity P. E. Church, Philadelphia. And others. Choice selections of music by Carl Sentz's Gara



The Causes of a Change in the Department.

As the city increased in population and in the value of the real estate, so did the number of companies, until in 1855 there were nearly one hundred fire organizations in service. The city prior to that time was divided into the old districts, from which corporations the companies received gratuities. The balance required to maintain them was obtained by contributions from citizens and by means of balls which were given annually. They were not confined to any limits of running, but proceeded all over the city to any alarm that might be given. Rivalries sprang up between certain companies, and the citizens were compelled to witness many bloody riots. Incendiary fires were built for the purpose of enticing antagonistic organizations to particular quarters of the city, and on their arrival at the scene the apparatus would be taken and thrown into the river. This specles of amusement became so general that it was customary to see a carriage going along the streets, the rope manued with men armed to William Penn Hose Co., February 3, 1830.

The Officers of the Department.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the department, held in 1855, the following gentlemen were elected its first officers:-H. L. Sinexson, President; W. K. Cox and D. R. Ettla, Vice Presidents; Wm. A. Thorp, Treasurer; Wm. A. Relin, Secretary; and J. Sloan, Jr., Assistant Secretary.

One of the provisions of the new ordinance required that the Board of Fire Difectors should ballot for a Chief Engineer, and the names of the three gentlemen receiving the highest number of votes should be submitted to Councils, upon whom devolved the duty of electing a chief. This system was carried on for several years, and finally the power of choosing a Chief was, as in the cases of the Assistant Engineers, transferred to the department itself.

The following gentlemen have served in the capacity of Chief Eagineer of the Fire Department since 1855, when the present law went into effect:-

Benjamin A. Shoemaker, elected in September, 1855, for one year.

Samuel P. Fearon, elected in 1856 for two years and re-elected in 1858 for the same period

David M. Lyle, elected in 1860 for two years, re-elected in 1862 for three years and re-elected in 1765 for three years. This gentleman died in 1867.

Terrence McCusker, elected in December, 1867, to fill the unexpired term of David M. Lyle, deceased.

George Downey, elected in 1868 for three years. This gentleman is at present on duty, his term not expiring until September of next vear.

The Extent of the Volunteer System.

The latest report giving the standing of the volunteer department was made about a year ago. At that time the membership, honorary and contributing, value of apparatus and of the

Choice selections of nusic by Carl Sentz's Germa-nia Orchestra, commencing at 7 o'clock. Congrega-tional Singung under direction of Colonel D. W. C.

Exercises to commence punctually at 7% o'clock P. M.

TO DEFRAY EXPENSES, Tickets with Reserved Seats in Parquet, Parquet Circle, and Balcony will be sold at TWENTY-FIVE CENTS each, and are for sale at F. A. NORTH & CO.'S, No. 1926 CHES-NUT Street.

NUP Street. Reserved Seats in Family Circle and admission tlokets to all parts of the house can be obtained FREE by members and others on and after Friday morning, at the Hail of the Association, No. 1210 CHEENTER Street CHESNUT Street,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in ac-cordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE MANAYUNK BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of two hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. 7 2 s6m

BE DELPHIA.

NOVEMBER 25, 1870 A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CLUB will be held at the

HALL OF THE FIRE ASSOCIATION.

FIFTH Street, below ARCH, entrance on East North street,

> SATURDAY EVENING. November 26, 1870, at S o'clock,

It is important that every member of the Club in-

terested in its welfare and prosperity should attend this meeting. The committee appointed at the annual meeting in April last to revise the constitution and rules will make a full report, and by a systematic arrangement of the names every member will have and be protected in his right not only to vote, but to express his opinion for or against the revised rules. On behalf of the Committee,

WM. J. GILLINGHAM, Chairman,

EZRA LUKENS, President. HENRY C. HAWKINS, Secretary.

11 25 2t NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE PETROLEUM BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thou-sand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five (5) hundred thousand dollars.

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given to Churches, Sunday-schools, and Societies,

Engagements may now be made by inquiring of

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DOS" NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE QUAKER CITY BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in ac-cordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE MARKET BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars. 795 cm

LEHIGH-Furnace, \$7 50; Stove, \$7 75; Nut, \$6 50. SCHUYLKILL-Furnace, \$6:50; Stove, \$6:75; Nut, \$5.25.

SHAMOKIN-Grate, \$6'75; Stove, \$7; Nut, \$6. EASTWICK & BROTHER,

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HIGHWAY PROPOSALS.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY OFFICE, No. 104 S. FIFTH STREET, { PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23, 1870.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the Office of the Commissioner of Highways until 12 o'clock M. on MONDAY, 28th instant. for the construction of a sewer on the line of Third street, from the north curb line of Susquehanna avenue to the sewer in Diamond street, said sewer to be constructed of brick, circular in form, with a clear inside diameter of three feet, with such man-holes as may be directed by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor. The under-standing to be that the sewers herein advertised are to be completed on or before the 31st day of December, 1870. And the contractor shall take bills prepared against the property fronting on said sewer to the amount of one dol iar and fifty cents for each lineal foot of front on each side of the street as so much

cash paid; the balance, as limited by ordinance, to be paid by the city: and the contractor will be required to keep the street and sewer in good for three years after the sewer is order finished.

When the street is occupied by a city passen-ger railroad track, the sewer shall be constructed alongside of said track in such manner as not to obstruct or interfere with the safe passage of the cars thereon; and no claim for remuneration shall be paid the contractor by the company using said track, as specified in Act of Assembly approved May 8, 1866.

Each proposal will be accompanied by a certificate that a bond has been filed in the Law Department, as directed by ordinance of May 25, 1860.

If the lowest bidder shall not execute a contract within five days after the work is awarded, he will be deemed as declining, and will be held liable on his bond for the difference between his bid and the next lowest bidder. Specifications may be had at the De partment of Surveys, which will be strictly adhered to. The Department of Highways re serves the right to reject all bids not deemed satisfactory.

All bidders may be present at the time and place of opening the said proposals. No al-lowance will be made for rock excavation, except by special contract. MAHLON H. DICKINSON,

11 23 3t Chief Commissioner of Highways.

GOVERNMENT SALES.

SALE OF DREDGES, SCOWS, AND ROW-

BALTIMORE, Md., November 24, 1970. Proposals are invited and will be received until 19 M., and will be opened at 12% P. M., on the 18th 19 M., and will be opened at 12% P. M., on the 18th day of December, 1570, from persons wishing to purchase the four Dredge Boats, Susquehanna, Potomac, Patapsco, and Cnesapeake, belonging to the United States, for the Patapsco river improve-ment; also, eleven Dumping Scows, marked by numbers from 1 to 11, inclusive; also, four Row-boats, marked by letters, from A to D, inclusive. Separate proposals will be received for single Dredges, Scows, and Row-boats, or for lots con-sisting, of specified Dredges, Scows, and Row-boats.

boats. The property can be seen upon application to the undersigned. Property to be delivered at once to purchaser upon payment of price in cash. Bidders who wish it can be present at the opening. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved. Pro-posals to be scaled and in duplicate, and to be ad-dressed to

Attorney at Law. Major WM. P. CRAIGHEAD,

Engineer Office, Third story Union Bank Building. 11 95 6t

\$7000 to LOAN ON MORTGAGE.-APPLY LEWIS H. REDNER, No. 751 WALNUT Sureet.

JET GOODS, NEWEST STYLES, DIXON'S, No. 21 S. EIGHTH Street. 10 16 swi

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