

The apparatus then used by the Empire Company, a small New York side-stroke engine, purchased originally at a cost of \$2,000, is now in the Santa Clara Fire Department, in good condition. This organization had but a short-lived existence. It was within a year disbanded, the property delivered over to the Council, and up to 1869, Oakland had little or no means of resisting the fiery element.

The present Department was organized March 13th, 1869, under the provisions of an ordinance approved February 4th, 1869, by the election of John C. Halley as Chief Engineer, and Thomas McGuire and George Taylor, Assistants, who succeeded John Scott, Chief, and John C. Halley and W. W. Moore, Assistants, acting under authority of a previous organization. The apparatus of the Department comprised a third class Amoskeag fire engine, purchased by the city, and a hose carriage procured by funds temporarily advanced by Col. John Scott. The succeeding officers elected in 1870, were: Miles Doody, Chief Engineer; George Taylor and G. W. Scribner, Assistants; who continued in office until the present incumbents were elected, January 16th, 1872.

The organization of the Department is at present composed of a Board of three Fire Commissioners, a Chief Engineer and two Assistants. The apparatus consists of an Amoskeag third-class steam engine, a Hook and Ladder truck, and three hose carriages. The steamer and one of the hose carriages are drawn by horses. An additional steam engine, one of the Silsby, (Seneca Falls, N. Y.) improved second class, has been ordered, which will, when received, afford additional facilities for the efficient workings of the Department.

Water for the use of the Department is obtained from thirteen hydrants, supplied by the works of the Contra Costa Water Co., and three cisterns. Two additional cisterns are now being built on Broadway street, which will, when finished, it is believed, furnish an ample quantity of water for the extinguishment of fires. It is proposed to construct a new engine and truck house, on the corner of Broadway and Fifth streets, at an expense of \$5,000. This location is more central than the one now used at the City Hall grounds. The estimated value of the Department property March, 1872, was \$14,713. Number of feet of hose, 2,100. Annual running expenses, (repairs and salaries) \$3,500.

*Officers.*—Fire Commissioners, Q. A. Chase, J. J. Hanifin, V. P. Terry; Chief Engineer, George Taylor; Assistant Engineers, R. E. Harmon, George Farwell.

*Phoenix Steam Engine Co., No. 1.*—Location, City Hall grounds. Apparatus, an Amoskeag third class engine. Organized in 1869, by the election of J. James Kelley, Foreman; G. Lyons and E. F. Scott, Assistants. On the 24th of October, 1870, the Council declared the Company, for inefficiency, disbanded, and a new organization was formed a few days thereafter, with M. M. Howe, Foreman, (who acted until September, 1871, when William Trickle was elected); H. P. Meader and John Breen, Assistants. The succeeding officers are the present incumbents.

*Officers.*—Moses Russell, Foreman; George W. Markley, First Assistant; George Cole, Second Assistant; Jeremiah Tyrrell, Treas-