

The small loss by fire in this city during 1875 may be attributed to the efficiency of the department, especially in rapidity of movement, thereby crushing incipient conflagrations. Could any one of a dozen incipient fires which occurred during the year, have had a few moments more headway, valuable properties would have been destroyed, and tracts, no telling how extensive, of our fair city been laid in ashes. But the tap of the bell or the click of the electrical machine meant instantaneous movement—hence great disasters have been avoided.

The city is now the owner of three engine houses and four lots, viz : A brick engine house on the north side of Sixth street, between Broadway and Washington, built in 1875, accommodating the Felton and Hook and Ladder companies; a house and lot on Fifteenth near Washington, occupied by Phoenix Company No. 1; a lot, with house newly completed thereon of brick one story in height, on Eighth street, between Willow and Campbell, West Oakland. This building accommodates the new steamer; a lot in East Oakland, on East Fourteenth street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth avenues.

It is considered a matter closely concerning the interests of property owners, that a steamer be purchased as soon as practicable to supply the place of Brooklyn No. 3, and a suitable building erected therefor, on the East Oakland property.

#### COMPANIES.

PHENIX No. 1.—Located on Fourteenth street in the rear of City Hall. Provided with a third-class Amoskeag Engine drawn by two horses; one hose-cart drawn by one horse and carrying 650 feet of hose. The company is full and numbers nine men, as follows: C. Hooley, foreman and extraman; S. Ennis, engineman; George Putnam, stoker; H. Taylor, hose-cart driver; S. Stevenson, N. O'Brien, M. J. Hallahan, Edward Clark and William Ballantyne, extramen.

JOHN B. FELTON, No. 2—Located on Sixth, between Broadway and Washington. Is supplied with a second-class Silsby Engine, drawn by two horses, and one hose-cart drawn by one horse and carrying 650 feet of hose. The Company consists of nine men. E. Voorhees, Foreman and Extraman; W. T. Miles, Engineman; C. Briones, Stoker; L. Hoffman, Hose Driver; W. B. Dewes, Extraman and Hose Inspector; P. Howell, J. P. Bennett, E. Cady, P. Reader, Extramen.