

# CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

## Seventieth Annual Report

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR 1928

JAN. 1 TO DEC. 31

AND

## ANNUAL REPORTS

## OF THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS



PORTLAND, ME.  
MARKS PRINTING HOUSE  
1929

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### Report for the Year 1928

#### MANUAL FORCE OF DEPARTMENT

The manual force of the department consists of 119 members, classified as follows:

Chief,	1	Lieutenants,	17
Deputy Chief,	1	Engine men,	8
District Chief,	1	Mechanic,	1
Captains,	18	Privates,	72

The call force consists of 10 men.

The volunteer force at Peak's Island consists of 10 members.

At Long Island, Diamond Island and Cliff Island men are employed to care for the fire apparatus.

## APPARATUS

The old Hayes aerial ladder truck, which was in service for forty years, has been replaced by a new Seagraves 85-foot aerial.

A Buick touring car was purchased for the use of the Deputy Chief, replacing a Dodge machine. The Dodge car formerly used by the Deputy Chief has been rebuilt into a truck by the shop crew, and assigned to the repair division, replacing an old Cadillac roadster.

## APPARATUS IN SERVICE

- 3 automobiles for chief officers.
- 1 motor pumper and hose combination (1,000 gallons).
- 2 motor pumpers and hose combination (750 gallons).
- 1 motor pumper and hose combination equipped with booster tank (1,000 gallons).
- 1 motor pumper and hose combination equipped with chemical tank (350 gallons).
- 4 motor hose and chemical combinations.
- 2 motor chemical engines.
- 3 motor chemical and ladder combinations.
- 1 85-foot aerial ladder truck, tractor-drawn.
- 2 horse-drawn chemical and ladder combinations.
- 1 tractor-drawn steamer.
- 1 horse-drawn hose wagon.
- 1 fire boat.
- 2 chemical jumpers, hand-drawn (60 gallons each).
- 1 hose wagon.
- 1 motor supply truck.
- 1 motor repair truck.
- 1 motor hose wagon, equipped with 2 turret pipes.

## APPARATUS IN RESERVE

- 4 horse-drawn steamers.
- 1 horse-drawn ladder truck.

- 5 horse-drawn hose wagons.
- 1 self-propelled steamer.
- 4 double exercise and coal wagons.
- 1 single exercise and coal wagon.
- 7 double exercise and coal sleds.
- 2 single exercise and coal sleds.
- 6 double hose pungs.
- 1 single hose pung.

## HOUSES

Electric wiring was entirely replaced in Station 2. Station 11 was reshingled.

Numerous minor repairs were done at different stations.

Extensive painting was done at the different stations by the men of the department.

## HOSE

All the hose was given the annual test.

About 1,500 feet was condemned.

1,500 feet of new hose was purchased to replace the amount condemned.

The supply of hose in service is as follows:

First-class 2½-inch hose,	3,500 feet.
Second-class 2½-inch hose,	34,750 "
Total,	38,250 "
First-class 3-inch hose,	1,600 feet.
Second class 3-inch hose,	100 "
Total,	1,700 "
Second-class 3½-inch hose,	50 "
¾-inch water hose,	350 "
¾-inch chemical hose,	4,850 "

## HORSES

There are six horses in the service. One pair was disposed of during the year.



## HYDRANTS

New hydrants were installed at the following locations:

No. 69 Union Street.

No. 31 Cotton Street.

Newbury Street, at Market Street.

Edgeworth Avenue, 1,000 feet north of Brighton Avenue.

Washington Avenue, opposite Maine Avenue.

Riverside Street, near Grove Street.

Portland Street, at Alder Street.

The following loweries were removed:

Portland Street, at Alder Street.

Center Street, at Spring Street.

Union Street, at Middle Street.

The following hydrants were replaced on account of being broken by automobiles:

Exchange Street, opposite Milk Street.

Congress Street, at Forest Avenue.

Park Avenue and High Street.

Washington Avenue, at Congress Street.

## ALARMS.

The department responded to 1,052 alarms, classified as follows:

Box alarms,	301	Emergency calls,	13
Still alarms,	751	False alarms,	12
		Multiple alarms,	42
Total,	1,052	Out-of-town calls,	6
		Actual number of fires,	655
		Needless alarms,	324
		Total,	1,052

This shows an increase of 106 calls to which the department responded during the year, as compared to 946 of the previous year.

## ORIGIN OF FIRES

Wood Buildings,	320	Iron Covered Buildings,	2
Brick Buildings,	140	Cement Buildings,	1
Stone Buildings,	2	Other than Buildings,	190

## CAUSES OF ALARMS

Alcohol and Cone System,	2	Electric Iron,	5
A. D. T. System,	6	Electric Wire,	1
Air Leak in Sprinkler,	1	Electric Sparks and Alcohol Fumes,	1
Back Fire,	21	Electric Sparks and Paint Remover,	1
Back Draft,	26	Electric Switch,	1
Bacon in Stove,	1	Emergency Calls,	13
Belt off Machine,	2	Escaping Steam,	10
Bar of Hot Iron,	1	Exposure,	2
Boys,	83	Explosion of Stove Polish,	1
Boys and Gas Heater,	1	Explosion of Oil Heater,	1
Boys and Matches,	2	False,	15
Bonfires,	4	Flame from Blower,	1
Brooder,	1	Flare Light,	1
Burning Rubbish,	15	Flare Back,	1
Burning Grass,	10	Firecrackers,	7
Burning Straw,	1	Faulty Construction,	10
Burning Fish,	1	Freight Boat,	1
Burning Out Paint Pots,	1	Fumigating,	4
Burning Brush,	2	Friction,	2
Burning Leaves,	2	Frozen Sprinkler,	2
Burning Old Wire,	1	Gas Leak and Match,	1
Burglar Alarm,	1	Gas Leaking,	1
Broken Sprinkler,	1	Gas Range,	1
Broken Water Valve,	2	Gas Stove and Waste Paper,	1
Broken Water Pipe,	1	Gasoline Ignition,	4
Broken Wire,	1	Gasoline Overflow,	1
Candles,	1	Gasoline Explosion,	2
Children and Matches,	7	Gasoline Stove,	2
Children and Fire,	1	Gasoline Fumes,	3
Chimney Fires,	185	Gasoline and Lighted Lantern,	1
Cigar Lighter,	1	Gasoline and Open Flame,	1
Cigar and Gas Fumes,	1	Gasoline Torch,	1
Cigarettes,	42	Gasoline Stove Explosion,	1
Cleaning Chimney,	1	Grass Fire,	12
Cleaning with Gasoline,	5	Greens on Stove,	1
Cloths Over Stove,	2	Grease on Range,	1
Curtain and Gas Stove,	1	Grease Ignition,	1
Defective Chimney,	1	Grease in Oven,	2
Defective Wiring,	2	Girl and Match,	1
Dump Fire,	1		

Heat Radiation,	2	Out-of-town,	5
Hot Ashes,	19	Painter's Torch,	1
Hot Casting,	1	Plumber's Stove,	1
Hot Coals,	2	Rags on Stove,	2
Hot Exhaust Pipe,	4	Rats and Matches,	4
Hot Fat,	3	Reflection of Sun,	1
Hot Funnel,	1	Reflection of Stove,	1
Incendiary,	11	Short Circuit,	58
Incinerator,	18	Smell of Smoke,	6
Jack-O-Lantern,	1	Smoky Auto,	1
Lantern and Gasoline Fumes,	1	Smoky Furnace,	3
Leaky Carburetor,	2	Smoky Boiler,	1
Leaky Gas Pipe,	1	Smoky Oil Stove,	1
Leaky Gas Tank,	1	Smoking,	17
Leaky Oil Line,	1	Smoky Stove,	2
Lightning,	1	Smoking in Bed,	6
Locomotive Sparks,	19	Sparks from Chimney,	27
Low Pressure (Sprinklers),	2	Sparks from Fireplace,	2
Matches,	3	Sparks from Incinerator,	3
Match and Alcohol Fumes,	1	Sparks from Furnace,	1
Matches Igniting,	1	Sparks from Blast Furnace,	1
Meat on Stove,	2	Sparks from Stove,	4
Motor Arcing,	1	Sparks from Acetylene Torch,	1
Motor Burned Out,	1	Sparks from Locomotive,	2
Needless,	12	Sparks on Roof,	2
Oil Heater,	3	Sparks from Welder,	2
Oily Rags,	1	Sparks from Kiln,	1
Oil Stove,	5	Spontaneous Combustion,	14
Overheated Brakes,	5	Spontaneous Ignition,	4
Overheated Engine,	1	Sprinkler System,	26
Overheated Boiler,	1	Sulphur Ignition,	1
Overheated Chimney,	4	Steam Previous Fire,	1
Overheated Furnace,	5	Sterilizing Towels,	1
Overheated Motor,	3	Thawing Water Pipes,	2
Overheated Oil,	1	Unknown,	96
Overheated Smoke Pipe,	10	Water Hammer in Pipes,	1
Overheated Steam Pipe,	2	Water Press,	1
Overheated Stove,	2	Total,	1,027

## LOSS AND INSURANCE

Value of Property Involved.....	\$7,372,800.69
Insurance Thereon .....	3,176,632.23
Insurance on Buildings .....	2,196,122.23
Loss on Buildings .....	99,935.83

Insurance on Contents.....	\$980,510.00
Loss on Contents.....	53,051.43
Loss on All Property .....	152,987.26
Exposure Loss (included above) .....	904.30

The fire loss for the year amounts to \$152,987.26. This is a reduction of \$192,050.76 as compared to the 1927 loss and is the smallest loss which the City of Portland has had since the year 1913.

There were 34 fires with a loss of over \$1,000.00. The total of these fires amounted to \$121,477.51, or 78% of the loss for the entire year.

Actual Fires, .....	655
Nothing Used by Department, .....	52
Fires Extinguished by Department .....	603
	655

NUMBER OF FIRES WITH A LOSS OF OVER  
\$1,000.00

1918	23	1924	46
1919	28	1925	37
1920	34	1926	43
1921	43	1927	27
1922	47	1928	34
1923	35		

## FIRE ALARMS, LOSSES AND INSURANCE

MONTH	ALARMS		LOSS		INSURANCE	
	Boxes	Still	Buildings	Contents	Buildings	Contents
Jan.	22	61	\$ 9,501.39	\$ 3,322.93	\$211,192.81	\$ 13,550.00
Feb.	20	72	20,653.25	19,656.78	124,950.00	34,000.00
Mar.	25	67	16,953.83	4,366.67	592,453.00	37,600.00
Apr.	25	104	6,176.66	8,329.85	116,165.00	32,200.00
May	23	78	6,430.59	4,902.85	167,480.00	58,000.00
June	29	42	11,054.47	4,763.32	274,300.00	37,000.00
July	37	49	4,285.76	1,471.16	169,210.00	21,260.00
Aug.	16	49	1,389.78	550.00	58,100.00	5,850.00
Sept.	9	42	1,368.72	270.00	96,800.00	4,200.00
Oct.	29	52	8,047.48	2,559.42	150,300.00	711,850.00
Nov.	30	70	3,350.76	1,663.00	93,500.00	7,000.00
Dec.	36	65	10,723.14	1,195.45	141,671.42	18,000.00
	301	751	\$99,935.89	\$53,051.43	\$2,196,122.23	\$980,510.00



## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF LOSS

YEAR	ALARMS	PROPERTY LOSS
1910	384	\$379,355.46
1911	569	200,221.91
1912	512	251,038.94
1913	524	117,584.07
1914	601	388,387.24
1915	717	313,840.40
1916	554	370,403.63
1917	576	260,137.43
1918	627	233,151.06
1919	586	285,895.17
1920	673	247,511.82
1921	644	440,360.33
1922	738	662,755.54
1923	789	222,463.38
1924	1,000	325,920.60
1925	991	447,692.02
1926	1,124	375,165.95
1927	946	345,038.02
1928	1,052	152,987.26

## METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING FIRES

	Chemicals	Chemicals and Hydrant Streams	Hydrant and Engine Streams	Pyrene	Foam
Jan.	29	9	0	2	1
Feb.	37	6	6	2	
Mar.	39	11	6		
Apr.	51	13	13	1	
May	31	9	12	6	3
June	30	8	3	2	
July	29	12	5	7	
Aug.	22	2	4	4	
Sept.	19	2	2	4	
Oct.	33	1	8	1	
Nov.	54	8	2	1	
Dec.	34	8	7	2	
Totals	408	89	68	32	5

With chemicals, 446 or 73.9%.

With chemicals and hydrant streams, 89 or 14.7%.

With hydrant and engine streams, 68 or 11.2%.

Loss per capita, \$1.96.

Number of fires per thousand population, 6.04.

Per cent. of fires confined to place of origin, 99.06%.

Per cent. of loss to total value of property included, 2.09%.

## ROSTER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

OLIVER T. SANBORN, *Chief*

ALBION H. MOULTON, *Deputy Chief*

WILLIAM R. READ, *District Chief*

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 1

Station, Nos. 376-378 Congress Street

Seagraves gasoline pumper (1,200 gallons capacity). carrying 1,800 feet of 2½-inch hose.

Melville G. Frank, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, five privates, three call men.

## ENGINE AND COMBINATION No. 2

Station, No. 134 Congress Street

First size Amoskeag engine. Reo combination chemical and hose truck, carrying one 35-gallon chemical tank, 250 feet of 1-inch chemical hose and 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose. Combination chemical and ladder truck (two 35-gallon chemical tanks), carrying 220 feet of ladders.

Charles F. Feeney, *Captain*

Two lieutenants, one engineman, six privates, four call men, one substitute.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 3

Station, No. 176 Brackett Street

Third size Amoskeag engine (tractor-drawn). Two-horse hose wagon, carrying 2,000 feet of 2½-inch hose.

Timothy E. Quinlan, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, three privates, one call man, two substitutes.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 4.

Station, Nos. 155-157 Spring Street

Seagraves gasoline pumper (750 gallons capacity), carrying 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose.

Edward T. Honan, *Captain*

One lieutenant, seven privates.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 5

Station, Nos. 395-398 Congress Street

American LaFrance gasoline pumper (750 gallons capacity), carrying 2,000 feet of 2½-inch hose.

William E. Fuller, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, five privates.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 6

Station, No. 295 Park Avenue

American LaFrance gasoline pumper (350 gallons capacity), carrying 1,650 feet of 2½-inch hose, and having one 35-gallon chemical tank and 200 feet of chemical hose. One combination ladder truck, horse-drawn, carrying 307 feet of ladders, two 35-gallon chemical tanks and 500 feet of 1-inch chemical hose.

William F. Moulton, *Captain*

Two lieutenants, one engineman, six privates.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 7

Station, east side Portland Pier

Steam fire boat, equipped with two first-size Amoskeag pumps. Monitor nozzle on forward deck and top of the pilot house. Carries 3,000 feet of 2½-inch hose.

John M. Wallace, *Captain*

One lieutenant, one engineman, one private, two substitutes.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 8

Station, No. 536 Deering Avenue

American LaFrance gasoline pumper (1,000 gallons capacity), carrying 1,500 feet of 2½-inch hose, one 60-gallon booster tank with 250 feet of 1-inch hose.

Amos S. Knight, *Captain*

One lieutenant, seven privates.

## ENGINE COMPANY No. 9

Station, Nos. 9-11 Arbor Street

Reo combination chemical and hose motor truck, carrying one 35-gallon chemical tank, 250 feet of 1-inch chemical hose and 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose.

George W. I. Stevens, *Captain*

One lieutenant, four privates.

## LADDER COMPANY No. 1

Station, Nos. 395-398 Congress Street

American LaFrance motor-driven combination ladder and chemical truck, carrying 325 feet of ladders, one 35-gallon chemical tank and 250 feet of 1-inch chemical hose.

Joseph A. Cooper, *Captain*

One lieutenant, five privates.

## LADDER COMPANY No. 3

Station, No. 163 Brackett Street

Indiana motor-driven combination ladder truck and chemical, carrying 320 feet of ladders, two 35-gallon chemical tanks and 500 feet of 1-inch chemical hose.

Joseph L. Blake, *Captain*

One lieutenant, four privates.



## LADDER COMPANY No. 4

Station, Nos. 9-11 Arbor Street

American LaFrance motor-driven combination ladder truck and chemical, carrying 325 feet of ladders, one 35-gallon chemical tank and 250 feet of 1-inch chemical hose.

Frederick C. Larsen, *Captain*

One lieutenant, four privates.

## LADDER COMPANY No. 5

Station, Nos. 396-398 Congress Street

Seagraves 85-foot aerial truck (tractor-drawn), equipped with ladder pipe, carrying 465 feet of ladders.

Charles H. Mayberry, *Captain*

One lieutenant, four privates.

## CHEMICAL COMPANY No. 1

Station, Nos. 396-398 Congress Street

Dwight F. Tinkham, *Captain*

One lieutenant, four privates.

## HOSE COMPANY No. 11

Station, No. 579 Ocean Avenue

Reo motor-driven combination chemical and hose truck, carrying one 35-gallon chemical tank, 250 feet of 1-inch chemical hose and 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose.

John Q. Jordan, *Captain*

One lieutenant, three privates, two call men, one substitute.

## HOSE COMPANY No. 12

Located at Peak's Island

Reo motor-driven combination chemical and hose truck,

carrying one 35-gallon chemical tank, 250 feet of chemical hose and 1,200 feet of 2½-inch hose.

Melville E. Griffin, *Captain*

Two privates, ten volunteers, four substitutes.

## UNATTACHED PERMANENT MEN

Frank P. Carr, *Captain*

Henry G. Rowe, *Captain*

Edwin H. Gaddas, *Mechanical Engineer*

Charles E. Skillin

Arthur J. Murdock

## FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Over fifteen thousand inspections were made by members of this department during the year. Fire prevention booths were maintained at the Exposition Building during the automobile show and the "Maine in the Market Exposition." Due attention was paid to Fire Prevention Week, many of the merchants assisting by allowing the use of their store windows to be set up so as to show some of the most common causes for careless fires. For two weeks prior to Christmas, two men were detailed to the retail district. The National Board of Fire Underwriters gave the City of Portland credit for doing more fire prevention work during the year than any other city or town in the state.

## SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

In the spring of 1928, an officers' school was organized, which was attended by practically all of the officers in the department. They were required to attend one session a week for ten weeks. Lectures based on topics from the New York Fire College were given at each class, and the balance of the time was devoted to questions and general discussion. The men showed a great interest, and the results obtained were very gratifying.

## FATALITIES

There were no deaths during the year on account of fire.

## PENSIONERS

Fourteen members of the call force and one member of the permanent force were pensioned during the year. Three pensioners were removed from the roll on account of death.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT

Recommended that the department be strenghtened during meal periods by the addition of three men.

Recommended that funds be provided to make repairs to the exterior of some of the fire stations and to put a cellar under the Peak's Island station.

Recommended that the use of some of the fire stations for polling places be discontinued.

The Chief of the department expresses the thanks and appreciation of himself and the members of the department to the Kiwanis Club for the excellent service rendered by a committee of this club in looking after the comfort of the men by supplying coffee and doughnuts, *et cetera*, at working fires.

REPORT OF THE CITY ELECTRICIAN  
For the Year 1928

## OVERHEAD CONSTRUCTION

A tapper line, consisting of 1,200 feet of No. 10 iron wire, was run for the *Evening News*.

A tapper circuit 2,000 feet was run in order to locate a tapper in the new plant of the Portland Water District, on Douglass Street.

12,400 feet of overhead lines were re-run on the following streets:

Washington Avenue, from Ocean Avenue to Allen Avenue.

Forest Avenue, from Allen Avenue to Bailey Avenue.

Wall Street.

Lexington Avenue.

Stevens Avenue.

## OVERHEAD WIRES REMOVED

6,800 feet of tapper lines were removed on the following streets:

Park Street

Congress Street

Burnham Street

Forest Street

Revere Street

Spring Street

Anderson Street

May Street

Brackett Street

Greenleaf Street

Parris Street

Brattle Street

Merrill Street

Turner Street

Sheridan Street

## CABLE REPLACEMENTS

Forest Avenue, from Ocean Avenue to Hartley Street, removed 1,075 feet of No. 10 conductor cable and installed a like amount of No. 16 conductor cable.



## CABLE POSTS

Set new cable post at Spring Street, corner of Winter Street.

Removed single fire and police posts and set double posts at the following locations:

Preble and Kennebec Streets.

Forest and Park Avenues.

Replaced the following posts which were knocked over by automobiles.

Cable box at York and Brackett Streets.

Cable box at York and Clark Streets.

Fire alarm box 731 at Deering Avenue and Dartmouth Street.

## BELLS AND WHISTLES

Removed the bell striker at the West End Church at the request of the church authorities.

Removed the whistle at the Grand Trunk Elevator by order of the Grand Trunk officials.

## FIRE ALARM CIRCUITS

One new fire alarm box circuit was added to the Deering District, making a total of eleven (11) box circuits now in service.

## NEW BOXES

Box 762 was located on Park Avenue, near Engine No. 6.

Box 632 was located at the corner of Spring and Winter Streets.

Private boxes were installed at the expense of the various institutions as follows:

3335 Cumberland County Jail.

3355 Holy Innocents' Home, Mellen Street.

3356 Queen's Hospital, State Street.

3362 Children's Hospital.

3364 St. Elizabeth's Asylum.

3368 State Street Hospital.

3371 City Home.

3381 Maine General Hospital.

3382 Eye and Ear Infirmary.

3385 Old Ladies' Home.

3394 St. Joseph's Convent.

3396 Children's Home, Pleasant Avenue.

The stock used in making the above installations was as follows:

3,000 feet of No. 4 conductor, Parkway cable.

1,200 feet of No. 4 conductor, lead covered cable.

750 feet of overhead line.

1 cable box.

## MAINTENANCE

Police box located at the corner of Congress and Park Streets and fire alarm box 512 located at the corner of Pine and Congress Streets were relocated in a double post at the corner of State and Congress Streets. This eliminated two cable posts and also a test box in Vernon Place.

Cable terminal strips were renewed in thirty-two boxes.

The following boxes were reset or relocated on account of changes in street lines, grades, pole lines, etc.:

Fire alarm box 133 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 135 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 145 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 157 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 72 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 724 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 725 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 751 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 918 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 938 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box 924 on overhead lines

Fire alarm box	52 on underground lines
Fire alarm box	59 on underground lines
Fire alarm box	84 on underground lines
Fire alarm box	831 on underground lines
Fire alarm box	92 on underground lines

Regular maintenance work was done on both the police signal system and fire alarm system, including the monthly test of all of the fire alarm boxes, in order to assure the proper functioning of both systems.

#### PEAK'S ISLAND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

This system received the attention necessary to keep it in good working order.

#### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Re-wired Engine 2 station throughout, using BX cable and iron pipe.

Installed new services and re-wired the City Home.

Wired numerous small jobs for other departments.

#### ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS

Permits for new service,	529
Permits for additional service,	414
Permits for temporary service,	25
Places inspected,	2,132
Number of inspections,	2,365

#### PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS

##### CUMBERLAND COUNTY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

Poles set for renewals and extensions are as follows:

##### *Power and Light Division*

25-foot Cedar Pole.....	1
30-foot Chestnut Poles.....	79
35-foot Chestnut Poles.....	165
40-foot Chestnut Poles.....	50
45-foot Chestnut Poles.....	14
<b>Total,</b>	<b>309</b>

#### *Railway Division*

30-foot Chestnut Poles.....	8
35-foot Chestnut Poles.....	2
40-foot Chestnut Poles.....	8
<b>Total,</b>	<b>18</b>

#### *Wire Used by Power and Light Division*

No. 6 Weatherproof Wire.....	38,059 lbs.
No. 4 Weatherproof Wire.....	2,303 "
No. 2 Weatherproof Wire.....	12,629 "
1/0 Weatherproof Wire.....	5,119 "
4/0 Weatherproof Wire.....	27,187 "
	<b>85,297 "</b>
No. 6 Duplex Wire.....	2,326 ft.
No. 8 R. C. Wire.....	130 "
2/0 Strand Wire.....	100 "
	<b>2,556 "</b>

#### *Railway Division*

2/0 Trolley Wire.....	8,160 lbs.
4/0 Weatherproof Wire.....	464 "
2/0 Weatherproof Wire.....	123 "
500,000 C. M. Wire.....	170 "
No. 6 Weatherproof Wire.....	68 "
Tree Wire.....	25 "
No. 10 Iron Wire.....	999 "
	<b>10,009 "</b>

#### *Street Lighting System*

##### Lights added

250 Candle Power .....	260
100 Candle Power .....	24
60 Candle Power .....	49
1000 Candle Power .....	16
400 Candle Power .....	1
60 Candle Power, Red Light.....	2
	<b>352</b>
Traffic Units .....	<b>34</b>



Chestnut from Kennebec to Cumberland Avenue, Alder from Oxford to Kennebec, Mechanic, Boulevard Park, Portland Street from Forest Avenue to Preble, Dartmouth at Fessenden Street.

A new 1,200 pair cable was placed and distributed in the Congress Square and Eastland Hotels.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY ELECTRICIAN

It is again recommended that additional men be employed for the fire alarm operating room, so that two operators will be on duty at all times for the transmission of fire alarms. This would prevent delay in sending out alarms in event that anything happened to one of the operators.

It is recommended that all schoolhouses be required to have a fire alarm box connected to the city circuits.

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## Lights removed

250 Candle Power .....	17
100 Candle Power .....	1
60 Candle Power .....	92
	<hr/>
	110
Net Increase,	242

*Activities Trouble Department*

Number of Complaints Attended.....	6,990
Number of Street Lights Renewed .....	7,655
Number of Cluster Lights Renewed.....	2,100
Number of Railway Troubles Reported...	789
Number of New Services Installed .....	971

*Underground Department*

Vast improvements and developments in the system have been made this year. On Center Street a sixteen-way duct line was conducted connecting the Fore Street duct line with the Congress Street line. A sixteen-way line was conducted on Free Street from Center to Oak Street; on Spring Street an eight-way line was installed from Center Street westerly 250 feet. Portland Street duct line was increased to an eighteen-way line from Preble to Canton Streets. The Forest Avenue station was rebuilt as a sub-station for power and light distribution, as well as street railway. New 11,000 volt cable was installed, the old cables rearranged to have two high capacity circuits between this station and Sewall Street sub-station, also two similar circuits to the Plum Street station.

Six primary distribution circuits were installed to feed the central and eastern sections of the city. Forest Avenue railway feeders to Portland Street were placed in the duct line. Two new primary circuits were installed in the duct line on Fore Street for the south central part of the city, feeding from the Plum Street station.

Cables were also installed on Spring, Center and Free Streets.

All overhead wires were removed from Free Street between Cotton and Congress, and on Center Street from Free to Congress.

Ornamental street lighting was installed.

Two twenty-five-year old primary circuits in Plum, Middle and Congress Streets discontinued.

In completing the above work, approximately 100,500 feet of cable of various voltages were used.

A transformer vault was constructed at Westbrook Seminary, making one service for all the buildings.

## NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

The following major improvements were made in the company's plant during the year 1928.

New aerial cable and service wires on a jointly owned and occupied line with the Cumberland County Power and Light Company completed the project started in 1927, on the following streets: Revere, Beacon, Arlington, George, Saunders, Concord, Glenwood Avenue, Berkeley, Tremont, Lawn Avenue, Pleasant Avenue, Higgins, Orkney, Wolcott, Hastings, Brighton Avenue, Rosemont, Hillis, Caldwell, Brentwood, Alba, Leland, Bedell, Richardson, Crosby, Clinton, Elmwood, Stevens Avenue, College, Arbor, Waverly, Forest Avenue, Riverton Road, Belfort, Harris, Avalon Road, Lexington Avenue, Wall, Maine Avenue, Sawyer, Washington Avenue, Ray, Fall Brook, Irving, Read, Murray, Codman, Hersey, Walton, Veranda and all side streets from Washington Avenue to Martin Point Bridge.

Replaced unsightly and obsolete wire in rear of Cumberland Club, Spring Street, with cable. Placed cable and distribution wires on joint poles with the Cumberland County Power and Light Company on Brackett Street from Emery to Storer Street, St. John from Congress to Washington Avenue, Chapel from Oxford to Cumberland Avenue,



# PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 1928 – Statistics and Information

Box Alarms	295	Actual number of fires	655
Still Alarms	751	Chimney Fires	185
A.D.T. Alarms	6	Fires extinguished	603
<b>Total Alarms</b>	<b>1,052</b>	Needless alarms	324
2-Alarm Fires	10	Emergency Calls	13
3-Alarm Fires	0	False Alarms	12
4-Alarm (General)	0	Out of City	6
Special Calls	8	Fire Fatalities	0
		\$ Loss	152,987

### Alarms Answered by Fire Companies

<b>Engine Co.</b>	# 1	180	<b>Ladder Co.</b>	# 1	352
" (L-2 w/E-2)	# 2	126	"	# 3	274
"	# 3	123	"	# 4	224
"	# 4	235	"	# 5	150
"	# 5	348			
" (L-6 w/E-6)	# 6	123	<b>Chemical Co.</b>	# 1	585
" (Fireboat)	# 7	70			
"	# 8	239	<b>Hose Co.</b>	# 11	53
"	# 9	150	"	# 12	20

**Inspections** Over 1,500 inspections were made by members of the Department.

**Fire Prevention** Attention was paid to Fire Prevention Week (October 7-13) with many merchants assisting by allowing displays in their windows. For two weeks prior to Christmas, two men were Detailed to the retail district. The National Board of Fire Underwriters gave the City credit In their report for doing more fire prevention work during the year.

**Highlights**

<b>Feb. 24</b>	Steam Engine 2 Horses (Larry & Benny) were filmed for a moving picture.
<b>Spring</b>	<b>Officers School was organized</b> and attended by practically all the officers.
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Engine 6 became a permanent company</b> (3 Call Men pensioned).
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Engine 5 became a permanent company</b> (2 Call Men pensioned, 1 to E-1).
<b>May</b>	National Board of Fire Underwriters investigating conditions for 1928 report.
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Engine 9 became a permanent company</b> (2 Call Men pensioned).
<b>July 3</b>	Steam E-2 out of service (Horse Benny died, his mate Larry sent to a Farm).

<b><u>New Apparatus</u></b>		<b><u>In-Service</u></b>
<b>L-5 trailer</b>	Seagrave trailer w/85-ft. wooden aerial, w/465 feet of ladders	1/27/28
<b>District 1 car</b>	Buick Touring car for Deputy Chief Moulton	6/19/28
<b>Fire Alarm car</b>	Chevrolet sedan for Assistant City Electrician	

**Rebuilt** 1925 Dodge car, formerly used by the Chief and Deputy Chief, was rebuilt into a truck by The Shop Crew, assigned to the Repair Division, replacing an old 1915 Cadillac Roadster. Also, 1924 Ford Roadster (Electrical Div.) being rebuilt as a hydrant truck for District 2.

**PFD Horses** (6) horses remain in service; two each with Hose Wagon 3, Ladder 2 and Ladder 6.  
 \* July 3 - Steam Engine 2 horse Benny died while being exercised, his mate Larry sold)

### Apparatus in Service

Assignment	Year	In-service	Manufacturer, Pump Size, Other Information		Location
Chief's car	1926		Buick Coach Sedan	Chief Sanborn	Central Station
District 1	1928		Buick Touring car (new)	Deputy Chief Moulton	at E-4.
District 2	1927		Buick Roadster	District Chief Read	at E-8.
E-1	1917		Seagrave	1,000gpm double combination	Central
H.P. 1	1926		1918 Indiana/McCann	(old Chem. 1) high pressure, w/2-turrets	Central
H-2	1927		1921 Reo	hose & chemical (old H-6)	Munjoy Hill
L-2	1899		Haywood ladder & chemical combination carriage		w/H-2.
E-3 Steam	1925		1917 Christie tractor/1908 Amoskeag #836	(old E-4), hose wagon	176 Brackett St.
E-4	1920		Seagrave	750gpm DC	Spring St.
E-5	1924		American LaFrance	750gpm DC	Central
E-6	1926		1916 American LaFrance	350gpm hose & chemical (old H-8)	Park Ave.
L-6	1924		1883 Talbot & Moulton ladder & chemical carriage	(old L-3, 1)	w/E-6.
E-7 Steam	1894		Fireboat (old 1891 <i>Chebeague</i> ), w/1895 & 1909 Amoskeags		Portland Pier
E-8	1926		American LaFrance	1,000gpm TC, w/60-gallon tank	Deering Ave.
H-9	1921		Reo	hose & chemical	Arbor St.
H-11	1925		1924 Reo	hose & chemical	Ocean Ave.
H-12	1921		Reo	hose & chemical	Peaks Island
Peaks Is.	1915		Hand-drawn two-wheel	60-gallon chemical jumper	at Trefethen's
Long Is.	1920		1910 Michigan chassis w/60-gallon and 35-gallon chemical tanks		Long Island
Cliff Is.	1915		Hand-drawn two-wheel	60-gallon chemical jumper	Cliff Island
Great Diamond			Hand-drawn hose wagon		Great Diamond
Chemical 1	1925		Mack chemical & squad w/three 40-gallon tanks		Central
L-1	1924		American LaFrance	city service ladder & chemical	Central
L-3	1919		Indiana/McCann	city service ladder & chemical	163 Brackett St.
L-4	1922		American LaFrance	city service ladder & chemical	Arbor St.
L-5 (new)	1928		1922 Seagrave tractor/1928 Seagrave trailer w/85-ft. wooden aerial		Central
	1925		Used Larrabee truck	Supply truck	Service Division
(Rebuilt)	1928		1925 Dodge truck	Shop truck (old D-1 car)	Repair Division
					Central
	(new) 1928		Chevrolet sedan	Asst. City Electrician ( <i>Superintendent</i> )	Federal St.
	1926		Ford 2-door sedan	Electrical Wiring Inspector (old Supt.'s car)	Federal St.
	1924		Reo w/derrick	Fire Alarm Division Linemen	Federal St.
<hr/>					
<b>In Reserve</b>	1903		Amoskeag #772	self-propelled steamer (old E-5)	Central
	1908		Amoskeag #837	steam engine (old spare, E-9)	at E-9.
	1908		Amoskeag #833	steam engine (old E-1, 2)	at E-2.
	1908		Amoskeag #823	steam engine (old E-9, 8)	at E-6.
	1881		Amoskeag #554/6	steam engine (old E-5, 6)	at E-8.
	1909		Combination Ladder Co.	Ladder & chemical carriage (old C-11)	at old H-11.

5 hose wagons (1 old H-9 w/4wMG), 5 exercise/coal wagons, 9 exercise/coal sleds, 7 hose pungs.



**Manual Force**  
(119 Permanent Men)

Chief	1	Lieutenants	17
Deputy Chief	1	Enginemen	8
District Chief	1	Mechanic	1
Captains	18	Privates	72
<b>Call Force</b>	10		
<b>Volunteers</b>	10 (Peaks Island)		

**Long, Diamond and Cliff Islands** (one man employed on each island for apparatus care)

**Manual Force by Companies**

Company	Capt.	Lt.	Pr.	Call, Sub	Company	Capt.	Lt.	Pr.	Call, Sub
E-1	1	1	5	3	L-1	1	1	5	----
E-2, L-2	1	2	6	4, 1	L-3	1	1	4	----
E-3	1	1	3	1, 2	L-4	1	1	4	----
E-4	1	1	7	----	L-5	1	1	4	----
E-5	1	1	5	----	Chemical 1	1	1	4	----
E-6, L-6	1	2	6	----	Hose 11	1	1	3	2, 1
E-7	1	1	1, 2-Sub EM.		Hose 12	1	0	2	10, 4
E-8	1	1	7	----					
E-9	1	1	4	----	Unattached	2	0	2	----

**Appointed**      Lineman John R. Fraser      **Appointed**  
3/13/28 (Fire Alarm)

**Resigned**      Lineman Linwood F. Libby      **Resigned**  
3/16/28 (Fire Alarm)  
Callman James O. Haley H-11      12/3/28

<b><u>Pensioned</u></b>	<b><u>Callmen</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u></b>	<b><u>Callmen</u></b>	<b><u>Retired</u></b>
	William R. Burke	H-11 April	Ambrose A. McDonald	L-5 5/1/28
	Arthur T. Davis	E-1 5/1/28	William H. Norris	E-2 5/1/28
	Edwin A. Flaherty	E-5 5/1/28	Chesley E. Scott	E-6 5/1/28
	Harry F. Fuller	E-6 5/1/28	Frank E. Thorndike	E-2 5/1/28
	Charles D. Hodsdon	E-1 5/1/28	Theodore W. Woodwill	E-6 5/1/28
	Edward H. Johnson	E-3 5/1/28	Alfred Southworth	E-9 6/7/28
	Harry T. Johnson	E-5 5/1/28	<b>Permanent Man</b> Albert O. Jenks	10/15/28
	Gilman W. Martin	E-9 5/1/28	Callman Andrew A. Ward	H-11 12/17/28

**Deaths**      Callman Albus R. Moody,      E-2      **Died**  
Callman George F. Lord, E-6 (Hand Engine)      February  
Callman George A. Dow, E-5      9/4/28  
9/16/28

# Fire Department

## PORTLAND

Hdqrs. Central Fire Station, 380 Congress

### BOARD OF ENGINEERS

Oliver T. Sanborn, chief engineer; Albion H. Moulton, deputy chief; Wm. R. Read, district chief; Frank P. Carr, captain; Charles E. Skillin, fireman.

FIRE ALARM—118 Federal. Alfred C. Stults, Daniel E. Ward, Carl W. Reynolds, Martin F. Dugan, operators; Frank E. Sargent, supt.

ENGINE 1.—380 Congress. Melville G. Frank, capt.; Walter M. Jackson, lieut.; Harry H. Abbott, engineman; William E. Blake, Joseph L. Woodill, Loring S. Towle, Guy A. Young, firemen.

ENGINE 2.—134 Congress. Chas. F. Fee-ney, capt.; Edward A. Hodgdon, lieut.; Jas. T. Rollinson, engineman; Charles A. Stokes, Daniel J. Doyle, John A. Fogg, Chas. E. Griffin, John J. McGowan, firemen.

ENGINE 3.—176 Brackett. Timothy E. Quinlan, capt.; James H. Vickery, lieut.; James H. Markley, engineman; George H.

Hagan, Matthew J. Cady, George W. Lowe, firemen.

ENGINE 4.—157 Spring. Edw. T. Honan, capt.; Ralph Moses, lieut.; Edwin H. Gaddas, engineer; Jas. W. McCorrison, Clarence S. Lockhart, Maurice W. Skillin, Robert J. Walsh, George E. Ward, Arthur J. Murdock, Ernest A. Fogg, Geo. J. Foley, firemen.

ENGINE 5.—380 Congress. William E. Fuller, capt.; Thomas S. Murdock, lieut.; Fred W. Walton, engineman; Alanson DeMott, John H. Weimert, Robt. H. Flaherty, Frank Thomas, firemen.

ENGINE 6.—295 Park av. William F. Moulton, capt.; Arthur E. Libby, Frank H. Joseph, lieuts.; S. Major Hammett, engineman; Francis J. Gill, Herbert J. Noyes, Earl D. A. Foye, Wm. Heiber, Floyd A. Chase, firemen.

ENGINE 7 (Fire Boat).—60 Portland pier. John M. Wallace, capt.; Charles H. Miller, lieut.; Rodney E. Bucklin, Thos. W. Gould, Edw. W. Bucknam, engineman; Thomas A. Burgess, fireman.

ENGINE 8.—536 Deering av. Amos S. Knight, capt.; Leslie R. MacVane, lieut.; Frank E. Banks, George C. Partridge, William W. Sanborn, Frank E. Boothby, John W. McNeil, Charles J. Meissner, firemen.

ENGINE 9.—17 Arbor. George W. I. Stevens, capt.; Frank J. Mullins, lieut.; Edward T. Cronin, Clinton R. Sampson, Daniel J. Carter, firemen.

CHEMICAL 1.—380 Congress. Dwight F. Tinkham, capt.; Guy R. Purington, lieut.; Patrick J. Bowen, Thos. A. Mulhern, Wm. E. Sawyer, Joseph P. Martell, firemen.

LADDER 1.—380 Congress. Joseph A. Cooper, capt.; John H. Mullins, lieut.; Edward Fowler, Freeman H. Blake, Jas. L. MacVane, Andrew J. Phillips, firemen.

LADDER 3.—163 Brackett. Jos. L. Blake, capt.; Wm. S. Berry, lieut.; Timothy J. Powell, Michael J. Carlson, Jos. E. Smith, Harry W. Marr, firemen.

LADDER 4.—17 Arbor. Frederick C. Larsen, capt.; Stephen A. Dow, lieut.; Fred L. Smith, Oscar F. Dodd, Walter F. Horr, Fred A. Alexander, firemen.

LADDER 5.—380 Congress. Charles H. Mayberry, capt.; Frank J. Conroy, lieut.; Walter P. Webster, Grover C. Rottman, Herman H. Brockman, John P. Sullivan, firemen.

HOSE 11.—579 Ocean av. John Q. Jordan, capt.; David C. Fogg, George T. Harding, lieuts.; Fred L. McDaniels, John C. Russell, Harry J. Lucas, firemen.

HOSE 12.—Peaks Island. Melville E. Griffin, capt.; Henry F. Green, Abraham H. Sterling, Albert O. Jenks, firemen.

DEPARTMENT SHOP.—99 India. Henry G. Rove, capt.

ELECTRICIANS.—118 Federal. Fred W. Barnes, James A. Whidden, John R. Fraser, Harry J. Howarth, inspr.

UNATTACHED MEN.—Frank P. Carr, Henry G. Rowe, capt.; Elwin H. Gaddis, eng.; Charles E. Skillin, Arthur J. Murdock, firemen.