

**SAN JOSE MERCURY.**

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**Thursday, February 16, 1865.**

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# Report of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department of San Jose.

*To the Honorable the Mayor and Common Council of the city of San Jose :*

**GENTLEMEN :** The undersigned has the honor to submit the following report of the condition of the Fire Department of this city, together with such information and suggestions as seem to be necessary.

I assumed the duties of Chief Engineer on the third day of September, A. D. 1864, since which time I have endeavored to inform myself of the condition of the Department, &c.

## FIRE APPARATUS.

The apparatus belonging to the Department consists of two fire hand engines and one Hook and Ladder truck. Engine number one, the "Empire," is a side-stroke, New York machine, of the old pattern. It is one of the first fire engines brought to California, and formerly belonged to Broderick Co. No. 1, of San Francisco. It is of the third class. It has recently been provided with new suction hose. The Company have one hose carriage, and about six hundred feet leading hose, two hundred of which is new; the balance is inferior. The company number forty-one active members, and thirteen honorary members. The following are the names of the the officers: Louis Schoen, Foreman; T. C. Keating, 1st Assistant; J. T. Crews, 2d Assistant; Chas. N. Senter, Secretary; D. A. Leddy, Treasurer. Members of the Board of Delegates: C. P. Crittenden, B. Ward and S. W. Smith.

Torrent Company, No. 2, is provided with an Hunneman machine, of the old style, formerly belonging to Torrent Co., of Lowell Mass., has one hose carriage and six hundred and forty feet of hose, including two hundred feet new, about two hundred feet very inferior, and two hundred and forty feet worthless. The engine has been recently repaired, and with the exception named, the whole apparatus is in good serviceable condition. There are forty-five active members, and twenty-two honorary. The following are the present officers: J. Ingham, Foreman; V. Humberg, 1st Assistant; J. C. Gurdes, 2d Assistant; Jas. R. Lowe, jr., Secretary; Wm. Petry, Treasurer. Members of the Board of Delegates: Jas. R. Lowe, jr., M. Stern and A. Hinklebine.

Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 (Young America) is supplied with one truck, three ladders, two large and four small hooks, two rakes, fourteen buckets and twelve axes. The whole apparatus is in serviceable condition. Officers: Jas. V. Tisdall, Foreman; Wm. A. Lewis, 1st Assistant; Emile Harris, 2d Assistant; A. D. Fuller, Secretary; Chas. J. Martin, Treasurer. Members to Board of Delegates: J. C. Potter, J. Bassler and E. Baker; and the Company consists of twenty-five active members.

## CISTERNS.

There are six cisterns in the city for the use of the Department: One at the corner of Santa Clara and First streets, of a capacity of three thousand gallons of water. Its condition is very bad, the material of which it is constructed being of wood, has decayed to such an extent that it is nearly worthless. I recommend that it be thoroughly repaired, or a new one of different material be constructed. Also, one at the corner of Market and Santa Clara streets, of a capacity of two thousand gallons. The condition of this cistern is also bad—the same objections apply as to the one above mentioned. Also, one at the corner of San Fernando and Market streets, capacity of twelve thousand gallons, condition good. One at the corner of San Antonio and Second streets, capacity twelve thousand gallons, condition good, is supplied with water from the artesian well at the Foundry. One at the corner of San Augustine and Market streets, condition good, but at present has no supply of water, it having been constructed with reference to being supplied from the artesian well of Mr. Fallon. This supply has failed on account of the well ceasing to flow over the surface. There is a small cistern on Lightstone street, of a capacity of about one thousand gallons, located immediately in front of the Engine House. It cannot be depended upon for water in case of fire, owing to its limited capacity. It is chiefly used for the convenience of the engine companies, washing their apparatus, &c.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.