tion of the public, to justify your action. The irresistible excitement of the old system, enticed hundreds of the young of our city into the organization, and many can trace their subsequently vitiated minds and bodies to this connection. This source of so much trouble has now been removed, and we express the hope that its substitute should be so cherished and guarded by municipal encouragement, that it may never be tainted by like corruptions.

This reformation in the discipline of the department, and morals of its members, have been followed by a corresponding diminution of fires in our city, and consequently, less loss of property, as you will perceive from the able report of the Fire Inspector, heretofore presented to your Body, who bears earnest testimony to the good results of the change. In consequence of this, a reduction has been made by the insurance companies of our city, and by out-town companies which have agencies here; and thus, the public pay, probably, an average of twenty-five per cent less on all insurances effected since the organization of the new department, whilst the insurance companies still realize liberal profits in consequence of the diminished losses by fires over preceding years.

These practical evidences of the confidence of the public in the success of the new system, are certainly encouraging to all engaged in the work, and will be an inducement to your Honorable Body to foster, in every reasonable manner, the system which yet needs your attention and support.

While thus enjoying the advantages of the change, the Board has felt the urgent necessity for some additional facilities to render the organization more efficient, and they desire to ask your active attention to these suggestions so that the difficulties may at once be obviated. We have already alluded to a prominent difficulty in the way of our success, whilst noticing the scarcity of signal boxes for the transmission of alarms of fire. The department is almost entirely dependent on these for fire alarms under existing arrangements, and unless an adequate number is provided to meet its demands, there is certainly an impediment in the way to complete success. In some of the most populous parts of our city, where much valuable property is located, there are no signal boxes, and the inability of the

Board to supply the demand under existing ordinances, has been a source of considerable embarrassment. The experiment with these boxes has been a success, and whilst thus satisfied of the advantage, we respectfully suggest that no false spirit of economy should prevent us from effecting what may be done by proper assistance and an expansion of the idea so successfully introduced. We would suggest that your Body would pass such ordinances in the premises as will empower the Board, or such other proper authority as you may select, to increase the number of fire alarm signal boxes to such an extent as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Fire Commissioners. We would also recommend that all the bells on the several engine houses should be struck by telegraph instead of in the manner now in practice. The alarm will thus be more general, and speedily given, and the trouble obviated which now arises from a want of uniformity in striking alarms. In all other cities where a fire department is under municipal control, there has been erected a large Central Alarm Bell, from which is given alarms that may be heard in every part of these cities. The present location of the fire bells, now in use in this city, and their size, are such, that it is often impossible to hear an alarm in the business part of the city during the day, and has proven a source of annoyance to some of our most active firemen, engaged in positions where the continued noise and hum of business prevents alarms from reaching them. This difficulty could be removed by the location of a large Alarm Bell about the centre of our city, and we would recommend that a temporary tower or structure be erected on the lot of ground connected with the buildings now used as a City Hall, or in that immediate vicinity, if a more desirable lot can be obtained for that purpose. If such permission be given to the Board, we think a suitable tower for that purpose could be constructed at the place suggested, without any inconvenience to those transacting the business of the city on the premises, and which could easily be removed elsewhere, in case the city should require the property for the purpose of building a new City Hall.

The several engine companies connected with the Department have felt the necessity for some additional hose for each company, as it is impossible now to meet the requisitions made upon