ments upon the insurance companies, and consisting of over thirty men, equipped with wagons and horses, Babcock extinguishers, tools, and all other paraphernalia for their business; and its financial success is shown by the fact that sometimes at a single large fire the active work of the men prevents losses considerably greater in amount than the whole yearly cost of maintaining the patrol.

Of the three divisions, one is located in the central business part of the city, one in a secondary business quarter farther west, and the third at the Union Stock Yards, among the cattle-sheds and packing houses. Besides doing duty at fires, certain members of the patrol inspect buildings for gasoline, unsafe constructions or exposures, and other points of danger from fire, and every morning results of the inspection and reports of all fires which have occurred during the previous day, with their causes, amounts of damage, insurance companies represented, and any other items of interest, are printed and distributed to the insurance offices.

The company in the main business centre is the largest and most important; it occupies a two story and basement brick building, twenty-six by one hundred feet, on Monroe Street, near LaSalle, and it is interesting to note that nearly all work on the building and contents, except masonry, was done by members of the patrol, who are all good mechanics. The basement is occupied for storage of chemicals and other supplies, and contains stalls for two horses,—one an extra wagon-horse, and the other the saddle-horse of the superintendent, Capt. B. B. Bullwinkle. In the rear are a blacksmith's forge and a workshop, where wagons and various implements are manufactured or repaired.

On the first floor, just inside the large front door, stands the wagon, built by the men; it is handsome, strong, light, and runs with great ease; it is provided with two Babcock hand fire extinguishers, one hundred covers of twenty square feet surface each, made of heavy cloth saturated with chemicals for keeping off water, and axes, ladders, brooms, pikes, and other tools, and carries eight or ten men. It is drawn by two powerful horses, whose stalls are on either side of the building, opposite the wagon-pole; the horses are kept harnessed, and at the first sound of an alarm spring to their places, when they are attached to the wagon by buckles snapped into place by men posted in suitable positions,—an operation which is performed so quickly that at the regular noon drill the time required to hitch is only one and a half or two seconds.

Near the wagon is the electric apparatus, by which the number of any box from which an alarm is sent in can be instantly read, and by means of which is established an automatic alarm system with the telephone and telegraph companies and some of the principal business houses; here are located also the electrical contrivances by which the machinery of the building, such as trap-doors and lighting apparatus, is worked; and in the midst of these instruments is the bunk where the superintendent sleeps. Back of the wagon are sleeping arrangements for three men, who do the hitching at night; also tools, shelves piled with extra covers, frames for drying wet covers, lockers for the men, etc.; there is also a wagon drawn by one horse, and supplied with covers and with bags of sawdust, which, thrown about in a building, absorbs vapor, and prevents much damage by moisture and subsequent moulding of such material as tobacco. This wagon follows the other on alarms after nine o'clock at night, when the large fires are liable to occur. Communication between the first floor and basement is by means of an inclined plane in the centre of the building, which can be swung up into the floor, forming a part of it, thus enabling the wagon to be drawn from the rear entrance forward to its usual position.

The second story is reached by a flight of stairs on each side of the building near the front, and by another above the inclined plane, and raised by the same mechanism to allow the wagon to pass under. On this floor, in front, is a handsomely furnished reception-room, which contains the superintendent's office and a register, wherein are inscribed the names of visitors to the patrol,—among them Gen. Grant and