

FIRE BELL IN TOWER

LARGE FIRE BELL WAS PLACED IN THE CUPOLA OF THE FIRE HALL LAST MONDAY.

The large fire bell which was purchased by the members of the Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department some time ago and which has quietly reposed on the lot in front of the fire hall ever since, was hoisted to its resting place in the tower of the hall last Monday by block and tackle on two timbers laid diagonally against the edge of the roof and a score or more willing hands tugging at the ropes. The base of the bell was gotten in place comparatively easy but when the bell itself was raised, owing to the additional weight and the age of the rope, the rope broke and the bell came down a good deal quicker than it went up. Another attempt was made and it went without mishap, the bell being securely fastened onto the base in the tower and it is now in its proper place, ready for any future calls of need.

The bell is a very valuable and necessary addition to our fire department. It is large enough to emit, if necessary, an alarm that can be heard for miles around and one must be a very sound sleeper indeed to continue sleeping while it is ringing its peals to summon the volunteers and the citizens to the aid of threatening perils of losing their homes by fire.

The department has caused to be printed a number of placards giving explanations of the significance of the various mode of alarms at conflagrations or denoting calls for the meetings of the department. Continued ringing of the bell, followed by one short tap on bell will mean that there is a fire in the First ward; followed by two taps, Second ward, and three taps, Third ward. Slow, sharp taps to the number of three, followed by an interval of silence for approximately one minute, then three more taps with a minute's silence, then again three sharp taps on bell, making nine taps in all, will denote that a meeting of the fire department will be held that evening whether regular or special.

To many who are not acquainted with the location of the wards it may prove instructive to state that the First ward takes in all of the village lying north of the track and Syvertson addition being block 4 and 5. The Second ward comprises all west of 4th avenue except block 4 and 5 of Syvertson addition as mentioned above. The Third ward lies east of 4th avenue and south of the railroad up to and including the high school.