

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 147.

The following Report of the Acting Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, for the year 1888, which was laid before the Legislative Council on the 29th instant, is published for general information.

By Command,

FREDERICK STEWART,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 30th March, 1889.

No. 2.

FIRE BRIGADE DEPARTMENT,  
HONGKONG, 9th January, 1889.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report on the Government Fire Brigade for the year 1888.

*Fires, &c.*

1. During the year there were 137 fires and alarms of fires, as compared with 161 during the year 1887, and 112 during 1886.

2. The following table shews the number of, what may be termed, serious fires, at which the Brigade has been engaged each year, during the last ten years.

1888, .....	45 fires.	1883, .....	11 fires.
1887, .....	35 „	1882, .....	8 „
1886, .....	11 „	1881, .....	8 „
1885, .....	11 „	1880, .....	9 „
1884, .....	18 „	1879, .....	7 „

3. After making every allowance for the growth of the Colony and the more extensive use of kerosine oil, I am forced to the conclusion that, this enormous increase in the number of fires, during the last two years, is to be attributed in no small measure to the effects of "cheap Fire Insurance."

During the early part of 1887 a keen competition between some of the Insurance Companies was commenced resulting in a general reduction in the rates of premia and the acceptance of risks on the contents of Chinese houses becoming the rule, where it had previously been the exception.

4. In one case of suspected incendiarism, a charge was made at the instance of the Agent for the Straits Insurance Company which resulted in four Chinese (the master of the shop in which the fire occurred and three employes) being convicted at the September Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court and each sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

5. Several Magisterial enquiries into the cause of fires have been held under the provisions of the New Fire Enquiry Ordinance (Ord. No. 23 of 1888) since it came into force in October last, and although, so far, no prosecution has been instituted, I am of opinion that they have not been valueless.

It is quite possible the future will shew that although, except in rare cases, the evidence obtained in these enquiries will not take the case any further than the Police report, the very fact being known that in every case of fire the Police will take charge of the premises and that a public enquiry may be held, will have a good effect.

6. Several prosecutions have taken place under the New Verandah Ordinance (Ord. No. 4 of 1888) with, so far as the Fire Brigade is concerned, undoubted beneficial results. At numerous fires in the city it was found that not only was the action of the Brigade very much impeded by the verandahs being enclosed and fitted up with all kinds of partitions, but that the fires frequently spread in consequence of the combustible nature of their contents.

7. In five cases, during the year, the fire has been, unfortunately, attended with loss of life.

In one case, a young Japanese woman met her death by the sudden collapse of one of the houses adjoining the premises where the fire occurred.

In the second case, two coolies were burned to death in a cock-loft in a carpenter's shop in which the fire originated.

In a third, the fire originated on the ground floor of a three-storeyed building, the staircase caught fire, and three persons lost their lives in attempting to escape through the flames.

In another, an old woman aged 79 years, who was very deaf, and who doubtless did not hear the alarm, was burned to death in a small room, partitioned off, in the top verandah of a three-storeyed house.

And in the last, a woman with a child strapped at her back, had just escaped from the burning building into the street, when the child was struck on the head by a box that was thrown from an upper story and killed on the spot.

8. A serious accident occurred at the fire in Queen's Road West on the 18th May last, when a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade (Mr. R. DIPPLE) was buried beneath the *débris* of a fallen verandah for a long time, before being discovered and released.

He escaped, however, without any serious injury.

9. The members of the Government Brigade have been particularly fortunate during the year, nothing more serious than a few rather rough falls, a few severe bruises or burns having befallen any of them.

*Water Supply.*

10. The supply of fresh water for fire extinguishing purposes remains, so far, as unsatisfactory as ever, but it is to be hoped, now that the Tytam water has reached Victoria, that before long this new supply will be available in all parts of the city, and that there will be at all times, a sufficient pressure in the mains, that when a fire occurs, the Brigade will be quite independent of the supply from the harbour.

This, of course, refers more especially to the higher levels.

So long as the fires occur on the Queen's Road level, there is little difficulty in reaching them with sufficient salt water, but the difficulty increases in proportion as the higher levels have to be reached.

It is quite possible to have to use three engines to enable one to play on the fire.

11. The question of having separate fire mains, from which there is no draught for other purposes, is I think, one deserving the attention of the Government. At the same time, I am strongly of opinion that, even with an improved hydrant system on such high pressure mains as it would then be possible to have, it would not be practicable, having due regard to safety from fire, to dispense with the steam fire engines altogether, it might perhaps be possible to reduce their number.

12. It is a great advantage to have more than one means of fire extinction, as a fire might occur just at the time when the main is under repair, and in Hongkong, this is quite practicable, there being always an unlimited supply of salt water available.

*The Brigade.*

13. In consequence of the great increase in the number of fires, it was found impossible to maintain an effective Brigade on the old scale of pay, and in September last, the very small force of seventeen European firemen, was found to be five below its strength.

The Government thereupon decided to increase the salaries of the rank and file by 100 per cent., and also to augment the number of European firemen from seventeen to twenty-three, and to reduce the number of Chinese firemen from seventy-six to fifty.

This has proved to be a change in the right direction.

14. The European firemen had invariably been taken from the Police Force, but the Captain Superintendent of Police not being prepared to allow any more of his men to undertake these duties; an application was made to the Military Authorities and His Excellency the Lieut.-General Commanding kindly approved of the appointment of six men from the garrison.

These military firemen are available for duty between 6 P.M. and 6 A.M., all the Police firemen are, as a rule, available between 6 A.M. and 6 P.M., but during the other twelve hours only half their number.

15. This arrangement has, so far, answered very well indeed, but I think the best means of maintaining the efficiency of the Brigade, and with advantage to the Colony in other respects, would unquestionably be, to keep the European Police at such a strength as would enable the Captain Superintendent to sanction the employment of a larger number of constables as firemen, as, when not engaged on Fire Brigade service, there is ample scope for their employment on Police duty.

16. The employment of Europeans as firemen, and firemen only, I think, is out of the question.

17. I enclose a report from Mr. WAGNER, the Acting Engineer, showing the present state of the engines.

They have worked well at the very unusual number of fires during the year. This is a very creditable indeed to Mr. BREWER, the Engineer, Mr. WAGNER his *locum tenens*, and Mr. CAMPBELL, the Assistant Engineer.

18. I cannot recommend the purchase of another land steamer, until the result of the new water supply is known, and possibly the subsequent question of separate fire mains considered; but I think, a new floating engine would prove very serviceable, the present one is upwards of 20 years old, and cannot be expected to last much longer, and in the event of a break down, there is nothing to take its place.

19. I also enclose a return of the fires and alarms of fire during the year.

20. Our thanks are due to the members of the Volunteer Brigades, both European and Chinese, for their valuable assistance, and in concluding this report I must bear testimony, to the very creditable manner in which both officers and men of the Government Brigade, have answered each call to duty.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEO. HORSPOOL,  
*Actg. Supt. Fire Brigade.*

The Honourable F. STEWART, LL.D.,  
*Colonial Secretary,*

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

## GOVERNMENT FIRE BRIGADE DEPARTMENT,

5th January, 1889.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith a report on the state of the Government Fire Engines for the year ending 31st December, 1888.

*Steamer No. 1 (Floating Engine) by Messrs. Merryweather & Co.*

This engine has been 21 years in service. In September last, the Boiler was fitted with a new fire box, and the Launch received a general overhaul. The time occupied for these repairs, was 13 days. Since its overhaul, it has done good service, and has given every satisfaction.

During the year it was disabled once, for a period of 15 minutes, owing to the splitting of a suction valve. The Engine is in good working order.

*Steamer No. 2 by Messrs. Merryweather & Co.*

This engine has been 20 years in service. During the year, it has not been disabled at any fire. On one of the periodical trials it became totally disabled by the failure of one of the water cylinder covers, which necessitated the laying up of the engine for 2 days for the fitting of a new cover. The engine generates steam very slowly, is of obsolete type for land purposes, complicated in design, and very cumbersome to transport, owing to its great size and weight. It has done good service as an auxiliary, feeding the smaller and more powerful engines with water from the sea, but owing to its age and complexity, it cannot be relied upon to work effectively under full power for long periods.

The Fire-box is getting worn, and I would recommend a new one to be fitted during the ensuing year. The engine is in good working order.

*Steamer No. 3 by Shand & Mason.*

This engine is 9 years old. In November last, it was fitted with a new boiler of the most improved type, and received a thorough overhaul. The time occupied for these repairs, was 10 days.

During the year the engine has not been disabled at any fire. It has done good service, and is now a valuable addition to the Brigade, and in good working order.

*Steamer No. 4 by Shand & Mason.*

This engine has been 6 years in service. During the year it has done very good service, has not been disabled at any fire, and is in excellent working order.

*Steamer No. 5 by Shand & Mason.*

This engine has been 2 years in service. It is of the most improved type, and the most powerful in the Brigade. During the year it has done very good service, has not been disabled, and is in excellent working order.

*Manual Engines (9) in number, all in good working order.*

During the year, in consequence of the unusual number of calls upon the Brigade, no engine has been specially laid up for overhaul. The engines will each require periodical overhauling during the ensuing year, in order to maintain their efficiency.

As the laying up of an engine seriously affects the strength of the Fire-extinguishing Appliances, and in view of the possibility of one of the engines engaged at a fire becoming disabled simultaneously, I respectfully suggest that an additional engine of improved type be supplied, and kept in reserve, available on such occasion, or when a fire of serious nature occurs at an elevation when two engines, (one feeding the other) are required to do the work of one.

The want of additional pumping power was painfully manifest during the fire which broke out in Lyndhurst Terrace on the 28th August last, when, on account of the elevation of the fire, it required five engines to perform the work of two.

The Assistant Engineer, and the Engine Drivers, have given every attention to their duties, and have always promptly attended to the calls upon the Fire Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR WAGNER,  
Engr. Govt. Fire Brigade.

GEORGE HORSPOOL, Esq.,  
Actg. Supt. Gov. Fire Brigade.

FIRES AND ALARMS DURING THE YEAR 1888.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. OF BUILDING DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
1	Jan. 1,	.....	Grass on the hill-side at Mount Gough,.....	1	2	Trifling \$500	Unknown.	A deliberate attempt to set fire to the adjoining house was detected.
2	" 1,	8.40 p.m.	House No. 147, Queen's Road West,.....	1	2	Trifling \$500	Do.,	
3	" 2,	11.20 p.m.	Tung On Sugar Refinery shed at Mong Kok Tsui,.....	27	.....	Unknown \$4	Do.	
4	" 3,	5 a.m.	Some clothing in House No. 360, Queen's Road Central,.....	.....	.....	None	Accidental.	
5	" 4,	3 p.m.	Chimney of House No. 11, Cochrane Street,.....	.....	.....	\$2	Unknown.	
6	" 6,	1 a.m.	A curtain at No. 3 Tsu Lung Lane (top floor),.....	.....	.....	None	Accidental.	
7	" 7,	8 p.m.	House No. 22, Cochrane Street (2nd floor),.....	.....	.....	Do.	Burning Joss paper.	
8	" 9,	1.15 a.m.	Fire-wood at House No. 8, Gough Street (ground floor),.....	.....	.....	Do.	Accidental.	
9	" 11,	7 p.m.	Chimney at Victoria Barracks,.....	.....	.....	Trifling	Unknown.	
10	" 11,	8.10 p.m.	Cook-room of House No. 19, I Wo Street,.....	.....	.....	None	Do.	
11	" 11,	9.30 p.m.	Matting at House No. 103, Bonham Strand (first floor),.....	.....	.....	Unknown	Unknown,.....	A number of young trees destroyed.
12	" 14,	5 p.m.	Grass at Kai Lung Wan,.....	.....	.....	\$3	Upsetting a kerosine lamp.	
13	" 15,	10 p.m.	Some clothing at No. 223, Queen's Road East,.....	.....	.....	Trifling	Unknown.	
14	" 16,	7.50 a.m.	Cook-house of House No. 375, Queen's Road Central,.....	.....	.....	\$60	By the last fire in house No. 375, Queen's Road Central.	
15	" 16,	8 a.m.	House No. 148, Bonham Strand West,.....	.....	.....	\$700	Unknown,.....	Insured in Messrs. Schellhass & Co. for \$7,000.
16	" 17,	8 a.m.	House No. 77, Praya West,.....	1	1	\$700	Unknown,.....	Insured in Messrs. Schellhass & Co. for \$5,000.
17	" 19,	1 a.m.	Bags at house No. 19, Tsz Mi Lane,.....	.....	.....	None	Do.	
18	" 19,	7.30 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 1, Gage Street,.....	.....	.....	Do.	Do.	
19	" 21,	7 p.m.	House No. 15, Wing Shing Street,.....	.....	.....	Do.	Incendiarism,.....	Kerosine was found on the staircase.
20	" 26,	2.30 a.m.	Merchandise at No. 134, Bonham Strand West,.....	.....	.....	\$40	Unknown.	
21	" 28,	8.30 p.m.	House No. 98, Bonham Strand Central,.....	1	.....	\$5,500	Unknown,.....	Ground floor was insured in Messrs. Norton & Co. for \$2,000; First floor was insured in Messrs. Meyer & Co. for \$2,500; Second floor was insured in Messrs. Schellhass & Co. for \$1,000.
22	" 30,	11.35 p.m.	Eastern District,.....	.....	.....	None	Do.,	False alarm.
23	Feb. 1,	12.30 a.m.	Matting at house No. 14, Possession Street,.....	.....	.....	Do.	Do.	
24	" 5,	10 p.m.	A stack of grass at Hungghom,.....	.....	.....	Unknown	Accidental.	
25	" 10,	4 p.m.	Grass at No. 36, Wongneichung Village,.....	.....	.....	Trifling	Do.	
26	" 10,	5.50 a.m.	House No. 151, Hollywood Road,.....	1	.....	\$500	Unknown,.....	Insured in Messrs. Turner & Co. for \$1,000.
27	" 12,	9.35 p.m.	House No. 7, Ship Street,.....	1	.....	\$200	Firing crackers which set fire to a mosquito curtain.	The contents were not insured.
28	" 27,	.....	Staircase of House No. 127, First Street,.....	.....	.....	None	Carelessness with a lighted cigar.	
29	" 29,	10.50 p.m.	House No. 229, Queen's Road West,.....	8	1	\$22,000	Unknown,.....	Insured in Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co. for \$1,500.
30	March 5,	10 p.m.	House No. 141, Queen's Road East,.....	.....	.....	None	Bursting of a kerosine lamp.	
31	" 8,	3 p.m.	Chimney of house Ho. 10, Cochrane Street,.....	.....	.....	Do.	Unknown.	
32	" 12,	5 a.m.	Nousa No. 139, Queen's Road Central,.....	4	1	\$35,000	Do.,	Insured in the Lubbeck Fire Insurance Office for \$4,600.

FIRES AND ALARMS DURING THE YEAR 1888,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. OF BUILDING DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
33	March 14,	9.20 p.m.	Bed quilt at House No. 191, Queen's Road Central,.....	1	1	Trifling \$9,000	Capsizing of a kerosine lamp.	Insured in the Office of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire for \$2,000.
34	" 14,	8.05 p.m.	House No. 21, Centre Street, .....	..	..	None	Attempted arson, .....	This house was unoccupied and the door was broken.
35	" 21,	9 p.m.	House No. 19, Eastern Street (first floor),.....	..	..	Do.	Unknown.	This fire was extinguished by hand pumps only.
36	" 21,	4.40 p.m.	Clothing at No. 9, Upper Station Street (first floor), .....	..	..	Trifling	Overheating of flue, .....	This fire was extinguished by extinc-teur.
37	" 22,	3.20 a.m.	House No. 3, Gilman Street, .....	..	..	\$5	Unknown, .....	
38	" 22,	9.50 p.m.	Wood-work at No. 6, Gutzlaff Street, .....	..	..	None	Bursting of gas pipe.	
39	" 25,	.....	House No. 8, Elgin Street, .....	..	..	\$2	Accidental.	
40	" 28,	11 p.m.	Empty bags at House No. 6, Central Market, .....	..	..	Trifling	Careless use of matches.	
41	April 3,	.....	House No. 14, Upper Lascar Row, .....	..	..	None	Unknown.	
42	" 3,	10.30 a.m.	Chimney of House No. 23, Shelly Street, .....	..	..	\$11,500	Bursting of a kerosine lamp, ....	Insured in Messrs. Sander & Co. for \$1,500.
43	" 3,	7.30 p.m.	House No. 201, Queen's Road West, .....	5	2	Trifling	Accidental.	
44	" 8,	8 p.m.	Clothing at House No. 87, Square Street, .....	..	..	\$400	Unknown, .....	Houses on either side of the burning house subsequently collapsed killing one and more or less injuring several others. These houses were not insured.
45	" 13,	3 a.m.	House No. 29, Graham Street, .....	1	..	..	..	
46	" 15,	3.30 a.m.	Joss paper at House No. 207, Upper Station Street, .....	..	..	Trifling	Accidental.	
47	" 21,	.....	Cook-house on top floor of House No. 4, McDonald Road, British Kaulung.	..	..	Do.	Unknown.	
48	" 24,	4 a.m.	House No. 11, Chinese Street, .....	..	..	None	Incendiarism, .....	
49	" 24,	8.50 p.m.	House No. 186, Wing Lok Street, .....	1	1	\$4,000	Unknown, .....	This house was unoccupied, bed quilt saturated with kerosine oil was found. Insured in Messrs. Siemssen & Co. for \$3,400.
50	" 27,	11.25 p.m.	House No. 89, Queen's Road West (second floor), .....	1	1	\$200	Do, .....	Insured in Messrs. Norton & Co. for \$2,200.
51	May 11,	4.40 a.m.	House No. 81, Jervois Street (first floor), .....	1	2	\$16,000	Bursting of a kerosine lamp, ...	Insured in Messrs. Meyer & Co. for \$11,000.
52	" 12,	12.35 p.m.	House No. 9, Chinese Street (second floor), .....	..	1	\$400	Incendiarism, .....	This fire broke out in three distinct parts of the floor, and there was a strong smell of kerosine. Insured in the South British Fire and Marine Insurance Office for \$4,000.
53	" 18,	7.55 p.m.	House No. 55, Queen's Road West, .....	4	4	Unknown	Unknown, .....	Insured in the Straits Insurance Office for \$4,500. (Mr. Dipple of the Volunteer Fire Brigade met with a serious accident.)
54	" 20,	.....	House No. 168, Wellington Street, .....	..	..	Trifling	Upsetting of a kerosine lamp.	
55	" 21,	11 a.m.	House No. 8, East Street (first floor), .....	..	..	None	Unknown.	
56	" 27,	7.15 p.m.	House No. 378, Queen's Road West, .....	..	..	Do.	Accidental, while worshipping.	
57	June 1,	6.15 p.m.	House No. 15, Ship Street, .....	..	..	\$6	Unknown, .....	The Brigade turned out but not required to work.
58	" 5,	5.20 a.m.	Chimney of House No. 102, Jervois Street, .....	..	..	None	Do.	

## FIRES AND ALARMS DURING THE YEAR 1888,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. OF BUILDING DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
59	June 11,	6.10 p.m.	Chimney of House No. 19, Graham Street, .....	..	1	None	Unknown.	Insured in the China Fire Insurance Com-
60	" 11,	7.05 p.m.	House No. 58, Wing Lok Street (second floor), .....	..	..	\$300	Do., .....	pany for \$28,000.
61	" 19,	11.40 p.m.	House No. 7, Graham Street, .....	..	..	Trifling	Falling of a kerosine lamp.	
62	" 19,	.....	Curtain at House No. 49, Hollywood Road, .....	..	..	Do.	Accidental.	
63	" 21,	6.40 p.m.	House No. 339, Queen's Road Central, .....	1	..	\$500	Careless use of charcoal fire used for roasting ducks.	
64	" 29,	12.15 a.m.	House No. 114, Jervois Street, .....	..	1	\$1,000	Unknown, .....	Insured in Messrs. Siemens & Co. for \$18,700.
65	July 6,	4.20 p.m.	House No. 42, Queen's Road West, .....	2	2	\$25,000	Careless use of charcoal fire, ...	Insured in Messrs. Sander & Co. for \$3,000. A woman and two children burnt to death in attempting to escape.
66	" 8,	5.35 a.m.	Old mats at House No. 15, First Street (Basement floor), ...	..	..	Trifling	Unknown, but very currently re- ported to have been the act of Accidental. [an incendiarism.	
67	" 10,	6.15 p.m.	Shavings in Cook-house of No. 24, Garden Lane, .....	..	..	None	Unknown.	
68	" 18,	6.30 p.m.	Chimney of House No. 11, Beconsfield Arcade, .....	..	..	Do.	Accidental.	
69	" 22,	1 a.m.	Matting and rattan at house No. 85, Bonham S trand West, House No. 138, Second Street, .....	..	11	\$6,000	Unknown, .....	The contents of this house were not insured. Two coolies burnt to death in a cock-loft.
70	" 23,	6.10 a.m.	House No. 138, Second Street, .....	1	..	\$6,000	Unknown, .....	Insured in the China Fire Insurance Com- pany for \$36,000.
71	" 24,	3.35 a.m.	Houses Nos. 6 and 8, Peel Street, .....	..	2	\$20,000	Do., .....	
72	" 25,	7.35 p.m.	House No. 273, Queen's Road West, .....	..	..	None	Falling of a kerosine lamp.	Insured in Messrs. Sander & Co. for \$11,000.
73	" 26,	11.25 p.m.	House No. 17, Jervois Street (first floor), .....	1	1	\$10,000	Bursting of a kerosine lamp, ...	The contents of this house were not insured.
74	" 27,	9.30 a.m.	House No. 19, Tank Lane (first floor), .....	..	1	\$200	Burning Joss paper, .....	
75	Aug. 2,	12.45 a.m.	Wood shavings at House No. 27, Aberdeen Street (ground floor), .....	..	..	None	Careless use of fire.	
76	" 3,	12 noon.	Partition of cook-house of House No. 333, Queen's Rd. West, Table cover and curtain at house No. 41, Queen's Road West (first floor), .....	..	..	Trifling	Accidental.	The contents of this house were not insured.
77	" 9,	4.45 p.m.	New house in Jubilee Street (second floor), .....	4	..	\$14,000	Careless use of fire, .....	Insured in the Straits Fire Insurance Cou- pany for \$1,000. The master of this shop and three of his employes were charged with arson, convicted of conspi- racy to defraud, and each of them sen- tenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
78	" 17,	10.30 p.m.	House No. 86, Hollywood Road, .....	1	2	\$2,000	Incendiarism, .....	
79	" 19,	3.40 p.m.	House No. 86, Hollywood Road, .....	1	..	\$2,000	Incendiarism, .....	
80	" 21,	9.25 p.m.	Beams over the fire place in cook-house of house No. 22, Peel Street, .....	..	..	Trifling	Unknown.	Four of the steps of the staircase leading to first floor were found to be saturated with kerosine oil.
81	" 23,	3 a.m.	House No. 149, Queen's Road West, .....	..	..	None	Attempted arson, .....	

FIRES AND ALARMS DURING THE YEAR 1888,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. OF BUILDING DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
82	Aug. 26,	1.40 a.m.	House No. 3, Gilman's Bazaar, .....	...	...	Trifling	Carelessness with charcoal fire used for drying shoes.	
83	" 27,	1.45 a.m.	Saw Dust in a new lane at Pokfulam Road, .....	...	...	None	Accidental.	
84	" 28,	6.45 p.m.	House No. 18, Lyndhurst Terrace, .....	12	4	\$80,000	Unknown, .....	The contents of shop No. 18 were insured in Messrs. Russell & Co. for \$800.
85	Sept. 3,	1.50 a.m.	House No. 3, Taipingshan Street (ground floor), .....	...	...	None	Bursting of a kerosine lamp.	
86	" 9,	11.15 p.m.	Papers at house No. 321, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	...	Trifling	Carelessness with a lighted candle.	
87	" 10,	12.45 a.m.	House No. 71, Wellington Street (top floor), .....	...	...	None	Bursting of a kerosine lamp.	
88	" 13,	1.45 p.m.	Paper at house No. 3, Taipingshan Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Accidental.	
89	" 15,	11.30 p.m.	House No. 16, Second Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Unknown.	
90	" 26,	10.40 p.m.	House No. 388, Queen's Road Central, .....	1	1	\$5,500	Carelessness with charcoal fire, .....	Insured in Messrs. Schellhass & Co. for \$5,500.
91	" 30,	3.30 a.m.	House No. 110, Queen's Road Central, .....	1	2	\$7,500	Carelessness with a lighted candle, .....	The contents of ground and first floor were insured in Messrs. Sander & Co. for \$5,000, and those of 2nd floor in Messrs. Meyer & Co. for \$2,500.
92	" 30,	8.30 a.m.	House No. 112, Queen's Road Central, .....	3	...	\$27,000	Unknown, .....	The contents of this shop were insured in Messrs. Siemssen & Co. for \$27,500. This fire took place in the house adjoining the one mentioned in No. 91, but to the best of the knowledge of the Brigade Officers who thoroughly inspected the premises before leaving the other fire, it is impossible, it could have been caused by that.
93	Oct. 4,	5.45 p.m.	House No. 2, Chung Sau Lane, West, .....	1	...	\$500	Accidental.	Insured in Messrs. Siemssen & Co. for \$2,400. An old woman aged 79 years burnt to death in her room.
94	" 4,	12.25 p.m.	House No. 171, Queen's Road, West, .....	3	1	\$10,000	Unknown, .....	
95	" 6,	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Bateman's house at the "Sunnyside," .....	...	...	None	Do.	
96	" 6,	5.30 a.m.	House No. 111, Second Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Fall of a kerosine lamp.	
97	" 11,	11 p.m.	Clothes in house No. 193, Hollywood Road (first floor), .....	...	...	Trifling	Accidental.	
98	" 13,	2 a.m.	Firewood at house No. 15, Albany Street, Wanchai, .....	...	...	None	Accidental, while worshipping.	
99	" 14,	10.30 a.m.	House No. 37, High Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Falling of a piece of burning firewood into some baskets.	
100	" 14,	11.20 a.m.	Chimney of house No. 39, Pottinger Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Unknown.	
101	" 15,	5.30 p.m.	A beam of cook-house of house No. 41, Hing Lung Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Do.	
102	" 22,	3.45 a.m.	House No. 114, Queen's Road Central, .....	1	...	\$8,000	Do., .....	Insured in the Lubeck Fire Insurance Office for \$9,000.
103	" 29,	2.45 a.m.	An old basket containing wood shavings at No. 113, Third Street, .....	...	...	None	Accidental.	
104	" 29,	7.04 p.m.	A stack of grass on the hill-side above St. Francis Street, .....	...	...	None	Accidental.	
105	" 30,	12 noon.	House No. 217, Queen's Road West (first floor), .....	1	...	\$3,000	Do., .....	The contents of this house were insured in Messrs. Siemssen & Co. for \$2,200.

## FIRES AND ALARMS DURING THE YEAR 1888,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDING DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
106	Nov. 3,	6.20 p.m.	House No. 46, Praya Central (first floor), .....	1	2	\$8,000	Unknown, .....	Insured in Messrs. Turner & Co. for \$2,000. A child was struck on the head by a box and killed. Some gunpowder was exploded on the stair-case of this house.
107	" 4,	8.30 p.m.	House No. 96, Wellington Street, .....	...	...	None	Incendiarism, .....	
108	" 4,	11 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 332, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	...	Do.	Unknown.	
109	" 5,	11.30 a.m.	Paper and rags at house No. 4, Ng Kwai Fong, .....	...	...	Trifling	Careless use of matches.	
110	" 8,	5.05 p.m.	House No. 18, Albany Street, Wanchai, .....	...	...	\$100	Overheating of the fire.	
111	" 8,	1.45 p.m.	House No. 1, Chuk King Lane, .....	...	...	Trifling	Falling of a kerosine lamp.	
112	" 9,	6 p.m.	Clothing at house No. 76, Queen's Road East, .....	...	...	\$3	Careless use of fire.	
113	" 9,	7 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 1, Station Street, .....	...	...	None	Unknown.	
114	" 11,	3.40 p.m.	House No. 53, East Street (first floor), .....	1	...	\$1,000	Falling of a burning stove on some shavings.	The contents of this house were not insured.
115	" 11,	6.10 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 215, Hollywood Road, .....	...	...	None	Unknown.	
116	" 15,	1.55 p.m.	House No. 99, Queen's Road East, .....	1	...	\$800	Breaking of a kerosine lamp.	
117	" 16,	6 a.m.	Old sugar baskets on "Q" Road, Shaikwan, .....	...	...	\$30	Unknown.	
118	" 17,	9.25 a.m.	House No. 103, Bonham Strand Central (second floor), ..	2	...	\$10,000	Do, .....	Insured in Messrs. Siemens & Co. for \$8,200. The contents of this house were not insured.
119	" 17,	11.15 a.m.	House No. 39, Praya, Yaumati, .....	2	2	\$1,800	Careless burning of sacrificial papers.	
120	" 17,	9 p.m.	A house in Aberdeen Village, .....	1	...	\$150	Accidental, a mosquito curtain coming in contact with a lighted lamp which was placed near the bed.	
121	" 18,	4.45 a.m.	House No. 83, Jervois Street, .....	2	...	\$2,500	Unknown, .....	Insured in Messrs. Siemens & Co. for \$20,700. This was a false alarm. It was supposed that the coolies who wished to get hire for drawing the Fire Engines, gave the alarm.
122	" 19,	7.40 a.m.	Wanchai Road, .....	...	...	None	Do, .....	
123	" 21,	4.50 a.m.	A quantity of mat bags, &c., left at the late fire in No. 103, Bonham Strand.	...	...	Do.	Do.	
124	" 22,	.....	Grass on hill-side above Bonham Road, .....	...	...	Do.	Do.	
125	" 22,	6.30 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 65, Queen's Road West, .....	...	...	Do.	Do.	
126	" 23,	9.45 a.m.	Papers at house No. 11, Lau U Lane (ground floor), .....	...	...	Trifling	Careless use of matches.	
127	" 25,	3.30 a.m.	Police stable in Pokfulam Road, .....	...	...	Do.	Accidental.	
128	" 31,	1 p.m.	Matcheds near the Race Course, Wongneichung, .....	3	...	\$350	Do.	
129	" 31,	4.45 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 4, Jervois Street, .....	...	...	None	Unknown.	
130	Dec. 2,	7.10 p.m.	House No. 21, Lyndhurst Terrace, .....	...	...	\$200	Breaking of a kerosine lamp, ....	Insured in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company for \$1,200.
131	" 2,	9.35 p.m.	Chimney of house No. 87, Wellington Street, .....	...	...	None	Unknown.	
132	" 9,	3.30 a.m.	Chimney of house No. 8, West Street, .....	...	...	Do.	Do.	
133	" 17,	10 a.m.	House No. 129, Wellington Street, .....	...	...	Trifling	Unknown, reported bursting of some bottles containing chemicals. A lighted lamp being placed too near to a wooden partition.	Insured in Messrs. Scheele & Co. for \$4,000.
134	" 21,	6.25 p.m.	House No. 115, Praya West, .....	1	...	\$4,000	Do.	
135	" 22,	6 p.m.	A small matchbed near the Race Course, Wongneichung, ...	1	...	\$15	Unknown.	
136	" 26,	9.25 p.m.	Clothing and mats in house No. 42, Taipingshan Street, ...	...	...	Trifling	Accidental.	
137	" 29,	12.30 a.m.	A small pleasure boat lying off the Wellington Barracks, ...	...	...	\$30	Explosion of a kerosine reading lamp.	