

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 73.

The following Report of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for 1897 is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 19th February, 1898.

No. 32.

POLICE OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 31st January, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report on the Government Fire Brigade for the year 1897.

2. There were 26 Fires, two of which occurred on vessels in the harbour, and 58 Incipient Fires during the past year. Details regarding each will be found attached. The Brigade turned out 40 times during the year.

The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$177,150.00 and by the incipient fires \$334.50.

A list is attached shewing the number of fires that have occurred during each of the last ten years with the estimated value of property destroyed in each case.

3. There were three prosecutions for arson. In two cases the intention was to defraud and in these the prosecutions were successful. The first was in connection with the fire at No. 99, Jervois Street in which three occupants of the first floor, which had no connection with the shop on the ground floor where the fire originated, were smothered by smoke before they could be rescued.

Among the débris on the ground floor were found unmistakeable evidence of incendiaryism, and the master of the shop was convicted and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The second case was in connection with the incipient fire which occurred at No. 231, Queen's Road Central on the 21st of May.

The Chinese Constable on the beat noticed smoke issuing from the house, and forcing an entrance found the cubicle, used by the accountant of the shop on the ground floor, on fire in four different places. With commendable courage and presence of mind he beat out the flames with an old curtain.

The accountant was convicted and sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

These convictions seem to have had a beneficial effect, for the estimated value of property destroyed by the 14 fires that occurred up to the 21st of May amounted to \$115,950, while the estimated value of property destroyed by the 12 fires occurring after that date amounted to \$61,200, including the fire of the 15th June which took place before the second conviction.

4. The latter fire was the most destructive that occurred during the year. Three houses were partly destroyed, and the value of the damage done was estimated at \$34,000.

The spread of the fire to the adjoining houses in this case was entirely due to the large and stoutly constructed sunshades existing in Jervois Street, the removal of which had to be effected before the Brigade could work with their ladders. The delay that was thus caused was considerable, and was undoubtedly the cause of the fire spreading.

Since then the shop-keepers in Jervois Street have been induced by Mr. CHATHAM, when Acting Director of Public Works, to make their sunshades moveable so as to avoid such obstruction in future.

5. At the fire in No. 64, Third Street on the 24th of November, 15 persons unfortunately lost their lives. They were occupants of the first floor. The fire originated under the only staircase leading to the floor, and the woodwork being light (as in most Chinese houses) it immediately burned so fiercely that no person could venture down the stairs.

The occupants retreated to the kitchen, and before assistance could arrive the whole floor was in flames and they were suffocated.

The houses on each side of that burned, had ladders leading from the kitchen to the roof, but unfortunately such was not the case in house No. 64.

6. The water in the mains was not turned off at any time during the year.

7. The new floating Fire Engine (the engines and appliances of which are by Messrs. SHAND and MASON) was completed and available for service in February last, and has given satisfaction.

8. I attach a list of places where Fire Despatch Boxes are kept, and of private telephones to which the Police have courteously been granted access in case of fire, together with copy of a report from the Acting Engineer on the state of the various Fire Engines, which are all in good working order.

9. It has not been found possible yet to carry out the extension of the Central Fire Station that I recommended last year. Till that is done it is impossible to effect any material improvement in rapidity in dealing with fires from the Central Fire Station.

10. By an acceleration in sounding the alarms, a gain of two minutes has been effected in the turn-out of the firemen at the Central Police Station.

Electric alarms have now been fixed at East and West Point Police Stations, the Central Fire Station, and Central Police Station, from which further improvement in the rapidity of communicating alarms is expected.

11. On the 11th of May the Nam Pak Hong Fire Brigade was, by the consent of the Committee, placed under the supervision of two European Engine Drivers, who take charge of this auxiliary Brigade at fires. The result has been satisfactory, and further improvement may be looked for.

12. The conduct of the Brigade throughout the year has been good.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

F. H. MAY,

Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

The Honourable

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

List of Places where Fire Brigade Despatch Boxes are kept.

1 Box.	No. 1 Police Station.	1 Box.	Government Civil Hospital.
1 "	Engine House at No. 2 Police Station.	1 "	Engine House at West Point.
2 "	Engine House in Albany Street.	1 "	No. 7 Police Station.
1 "	Naval Dock Yard.	1 "	Gas House, West Point.
1 "	Clock Tower.	1 "	Ko Shing Theatre.
1 "	Government Offices.	1 "	Nam Pak Hong Fire Station.
1 "	Government House.	1 "	Man Mo Temple.
1 "	No. 7 Queen's Garden, Engineer's Mess.	6 "	No. 5 Police Station.
1 "	Central Police Station.		

List of Telephones to which the Police can have access to communicate with Central Station in the event of a Fire breaking out.

Hongkong and China Gas Company, East and West Point, from 7 A.M. to 9 P.M.	Hongkong Hotel, Praya Central.
Tung Wá Hospital, Po Yan Street.	Royal Naval Yard, Queen's Road East.
Man On Insurance Office, Queen's Road West.	Mr. J. KENNEDY'S Causeway Bay.
	Electric Light Company, Queen's Road East.

HONGKONG, 28th January, 1898.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith a report on the state of the Government Fire Engines for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

STEAMER No. 1.

(Floating Fire Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This engine is new. It was finished on the 22nd January and commenced work in February. It did good service at the Fire on board the *S. S. Belgic*, on the 21st April and has been found very suitable for harbour work. The propelling engine is of sufficient power to maintain a speed of 9 miles per hour, so that little time is lost in reaching a fire in any part of the harbour. With the exception of a burst tube which gave out at the finish of the fire on the *Belgic*, the boiler and machinery has given every satisfaction.

STEAMER No. 2.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This engine has been 19 years in service; the original boiler which was worn out was replaced by a new one this year supplied by Shand and Mason. It has been well tested at drill and found satisfactory, and is now in good working order.

STEAMER No. 3.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This engine has been 19 years in service and is now in good order; the boiler has been regularly cleaned and examined and the machinery tested for efficiency at drill.

STEAMER No. 4.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This engine has been 16 years in service ; the pump valve seats have been thoroughly overhauled and new valves fitted. It has been regularly tested for efficiency at the monthly drills, and is now in good working order.

STEAMER No. 5.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This engine has been 12 years in service ; it has been very little used for fires this year, but has been regularly tested at drill and is now in good working order.

Seven Manual Engines and fittings are all in good order. The hose, reels, ladders and supply carts are all in good order and condition.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D. MACDONALD,

Acting Engineer, Government Fire Brigade.

The Honourable

F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,

Superintendent, Government Fire Brigade.

FIRES, 1887.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 12	No. 16, Sai Woo Lane,	1	2	\$ 1,400
2	" 13	No. 142, Second Street,	2	3	14,000
3	" 15	No. 48, Queen's Road West,	2	4	23,000
4	" 22	Man Mo Temple, Hollywood Road, .....	...	...	.....
5	" 25	No. 63, Wellington Street, .....	...	...	25
6	" 26	No. 59, Queen's Road West,	1	1	3,000
7	February 10	No. 3, Bonham Strand,	1	...	12,000
8	" 17	No. 129, Queen's Road West,	1	1	2,900
9	March 9	No. 15, T'sz Mi Lane,	6	...	19,000
10	" 10	No. 76, Jervois Street, .....	...	...	.....
11	" 23	No. 17, Wing Kat Street,	1	...	2,500
12	" 24	No. 34, Bonham Strand,	1	...	1,800
13	April 5	Blackhead & Co.'s Godowns at Tsimshatsui,	1	...	.....
14	" 30	No. 273, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	2	8,000
15	May 4	No. 35, Battery Road,	1	...	60
16	June 14	A Carpenter's Shed at Kennedy Town,	1	...	200
17	July 3	No. 28, Tank Lane,	1	1	300
18	" 25	No. 185, Queen's Road West,	15	4	26,000
19	August 23	No. 311, Queen's Road Central,	2	...	2,000
20	September 15	No. 39, Wing Lok Street,	1	...	1,200
21	" 21	No. 76, Queen's Road West,	2	1	4,000
22	October 5	No. 9, In Kee Lane,	1	...	1,500
23	" 7	No. 5, Gage Street,	1	1	3,000
24	November 5	No. 9, Sheung Fung Lane,	1	...	100
25	" 16	No. 253, Queen's Road Central,	24	10	90,000
26	" 24	No. 13, Triangle Street,	1	...	150
27	" 27	No. 1, Nullah Lane,	1	...	190
28	" 28	No. 107, Wellington Street,	2	1	1,000
29	" 29	No. 163, Queen's Road East,	1	...	150
30	" 29	No. 165, Queen's Road East,	1	...	150
31	" 30	No. 40, Wing On Street,	7	3	16,000
32	December 1	No. 31, Pound Lane,	1	...	200
33	" 11	No. 15, Morrison Street, .....	...	2	1,800
34	" 20	No. 5, Kau U Fong, .....	...	4	1,500
35	" 28	No. 56, Bonham Strand,	16	...	30,000
TOTAL,					\$ 267,125

FIRES, 1888.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 1	No. 147, Queen's Road West,	1	2	\$ 500
2	" 17	No. 77, Praya West,	1	1	700
3	" 28	No. 93, Bonham Strand,	1	...	5,500
4	February 10	No. 151, Hollywood Road,	1	...	500
5	" 12	No. 7, Ship Street,	1	1	200
6	" 29	No. 229, Queen's Road West,	8	1	22,000
7	March 12	No. 139, Queen's Road Central,	4	1	35,000
8	" 14	No. 21, Centre Street,	1	1	9,000
9	" 22	No. 3, Gilman Street, .....	...	...	.....
10	April 3	No. 201, Queen's Road West,	5	2	11,500
11	" 13	No. 29, Graham Street,	1	...	400
12	" 24	No. 186, Wing Lok Street,	1	1	4,000
13	" 27	No. 89, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	200
14	May 11	No. 81, Jervois Street,	1	2	16,000
15	" 12	No. 9, Chinese Street, .....	...	1	400
16	" 18	No. 55, Queen's Road West,	4	4	.....
17	" 31	No. 15, Ship Street, .....	...	...	.....
18	June 11	No. 58, Wing Lok Street, .....	...	1	300
19	" 21	No. 339, Queen's Road Central,	1	...	500
20	" 29	No. 114, Jervois Street, .....	...	1	1,000
21	July 6	No. 42, Queen's Road West,	2	2	25,000
22	" 23	No. 138, Second Street,	1	11	6,000
23	" 24	Nos. 6 and 8, Peel Street, .....	...	2	2,000
24	" 26	No. 17, Jervois Street,	1	1	10,000
25	" 27	No. 19, Tank Lane, .....	...	1	200
26	August 15	No. 2, Cochrane Street, .....	...	1	20
27	" 17	Jubilee Street,	4	...	14,000
28	" 19	No. 86, Hollywood Road,	1	2	2,000
29	" 28	No. 18, Lyndhurst Terrace,	12	4	80,000
30	September 26	No. 388, Queen's Road Central,	1	1	5,500
31	" 30	No. 110, Queen's Road Central,	1	2	7,500
32	" 30	No. 112, Queen's Road Central,	3	...	27,500
33	October 4	No. 21, Chung Sau Lane West,	1	...	500
34	" 4	171, Queen's Road West,	3	1	10,000
35	" 22	No. 114, Queen's Road Central,	1	...	8,000
36	" 30	No. 217, Queen's Road West,	1	...	3,000
37	November 3	No. 46, Praya Central,	1	2	8,000
38	" 8	No. 18, Albany Street, .....	...	...	100
39	" 11	No. 53, East Street,	1	...	1,000
40	" 15	No. 99, Queen's Road East,	1	...	800
41	" 17	No. 103, Bonham Strand Central,	2	...	10,000
42	" 17	No. 39, Praya, Yaumati,	2	2	1,800
43	" 17	Aberdeen Village,	1	...	150
44	" 18	No. 83, Jervois Street,	2	...	25,000
45	December 21	No. 115, Praya West,	1	...	4,000
TOTAL,					\$ 359,770

FIRES, 1889.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 3	No. 1, Rozario Street,	2	1	\$ 1,000
2	" 7	No. 197, Queen's Road West,	1	1	2,000
3	February 6	No. 92, Wing Lok Street,	1	1	20,000
4	April 12	No. 292, Queen's Road West, .....	...	...	20
5	May 5	No. 145, Bonham Strand, .....	...	1	300
6	" 9	No. 10, Wilmer Street,	1	...	10,000
7	June 29	No. 242, Queen's Road West,	2	...	3,000
8	July 4	No. 227, Queen's Road West,	1	...	1,300
9	August 24	No. 95, Hollywood Road,	1	...	400
10	" 26	No. 174, Third Street,	1	...	1,500
11	September 16	No. 203, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	2,000
12	" 21	No. 1, Wing Wo Street, .....	...	1	1,200
13	" 21	No. 112, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	2	4,000
14	" 25	No. 220, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	...	3
15	" 29	No. 9, Hellier Street, .....	...	...	.....
16	October 10	No. 42, Battery Street, Yaumati,	1	...	1,500
17	" 30	No. 154, Queen's Road Central,	1	1	8,000
18	November 4	No. 7, Nullah Lane,	1	...	1,000
19	" 5	No. 55, Queen's Road West,	1	...	16,000
20	December 23	No. 334, Queen's Road Central,	1	...	5,000
21	" 30	No. 17, Bonham Strand, .....	...	4	20,000
TOTAL,					\$ 98,223

FIRES, 1890.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 5	No. 7, Station Street,.....	3	...	\$ 1,000
2	" 7	No. 33, Tung Man Lane, .....	...	1	500
3	" 18	No. 229, Praya West,	1	1	8,000
4	" 26	No. 8, Lyndhurst Terrace, .....	..	1	10,000
5	" 28	No. 23, Bonham Strand, .....	...	1	400
6	February 10	No. 18, Gage Street, .....	...	1	300
7	" 14	No. 8, St. Francis Street, .....	...	1	550
8	May 2	No. 68, Bonham Strand,	4	2	41,000
9	" 19	The Hongkong Dispensary, .....	...	...	100,000
10	" 23	No. 12, Kwong Un Street, East, .....	...	1	3,000
11	July 7	No. 32, Square Street,	1	...	500
12	September 9	Blackhead & Co., Praya Central,.....	...	1	30,000
13	" 22	No. 38, Gilman Bazaar,.....	...	1	100
14	November 11	No. 47, Bonham Strand, .....	...	1	2,000
15	" 15	No. 69, Upper Station Street,	1	...	250
16	December 15	No. 112, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	2	6,000
TOTAL,.....					\$ 203,600

FIRES, 1891.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 8	Nos. 170 and 172, Third Street,	5	...	\$ 3,000
2	February 8	No. 353, Queen's Road West,	1	2	700
3	April 5	No. 41, Hillier Street,	1	...	1,500
4	" 7	The Hongkong and China Bakery, Morrison Hill Road, East Point, .....	...	1	1,000
5	May 5	No. 331, Queen's Road Central,	2	...	11,500
6	" 6	No. 280, Queen's Road Central,	2	...	12,000
7	July 11	No. 72, Station Street, Yaumati,	1	...	1,800
8	December 19	No. 57A, Wanchai Road,	1	...	600
TOTAL,.....					\$ 32,100

FIRES, 1892.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 10	No. 9, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	\$ 40,000
2	" 13	Bonham Strand,.....	...	3	8,000
3	" 16	No. 528, Queen's Road West,	1	...	6,000
4	" 21	No. 81, High Street, .....	...	1	100
5	April 1	No. 26, Sai Wo Lane, .....	...	1	1,000
6	" 10	No. 17, Queen's Road West,.....	...	1	400
7	" 11	No. 104, Queen's Road West,.....	...	1	1,500
8	May 22	No. 17, Tank Lane,	1	...	250
9	June 21	No. 29, Centre Street, .....	...	1	100
10	July 3	No. 91, Wing Lok Street,.....	...	1	5,000
11	August 18	No. 49, Queen's Road West,.....	...	1	300
12	" 21	No. 48, Queen's Road West,.....	...	1	3,000
13	September 15	No. 80, Queen's Road West,.....	4	2	4,000
14	December 8	No. 333, Queen's Road Central,	1	2	5,000
15	" 20	No. 14, Jubilee Street, .....	...	1	300
16	" 22	No. 16, East Street,	1	1	600
TOTAL,.....					\$ 75,550

FIRES, 1893.

No.	DATE.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DESTROYED.
			Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 7	No. 73, Hollywood Road, .....	...	1	\$ 800
2	" 11	No. 79, Nullah Lane,	1	...	300
3	" 18	No. 2, Square Street, .....	...	1	10
4	February 11	No. 68, Jervois Street,	2	1	10,000
5	" 13	No. 101, Wing Lok Street, .....	...	1	6,000
6	March 22	No. 22, Holland Street,	1	1	40,000
7	" 26	No. 301, Queen's Road West,	1	2	8,000
8	April 13	No. 87, Jervois Street, .....	...	1	2,000
9	" 25	No. 15, West Street, .....	...	1	800
10	" 27	No. 1, In On Lane,	2	1	19,000
11	May 13	No. 344, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	2,000
12	June 16	No. 406, Queen's Road West,	1	...	2,000
13	" 16	No. 28, Tsz Mi Lane, .....	...	1	700
14	July 3	No. 191, Hollywood Road,	1	1	1,500
15	" 14	No. 19, Gough Street, .....	...	...	150
16	" 19	No. 280, Queen's Road West,	1	1	1,000
17	" 20	No. 12, Tung Loi Lane, .....	...	4	20,000
18	August 16	No. 337, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	300
19	" 17	No. 32, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	2,800
20	" 25	No. 155, Second Street,	1	...	20,000
21	September 5	No. 7, Ezra Lane,	1	...	400
22	" 18	No. 248, Hollywood Road,	1	...	4,000
23	" 30	No. 127, Bonham Strand,	1	...	5,000
24	October 12	No. 14, Li Shing Street, .....	...	1	5,500
25	November 11	No. 115, Praya West,	3	1	20,000
26	" 11	No. 58, Square Street,	2	1	3,000
27	" 16	No. 5, Pan Kwai Lane, .....	...	1	1,000
28	" 21	No. 9, Tannery Lane, .....	...	1	40
29	" 23	No. 314A, Queen's Road Central,	1	...	8,000
30	" 26	No. 22, Tsz Mi Lane,	1	1	5,500
31	December 4	No. 31, Wing Fung Street,	1	...	10
32	" 5	No. 131, Bonham Strand, .....	...	2	2,000
33	" 9	No. 11, Bonham Strand,	2	...	5,000
34	" 10	No. 240, Queen's Road West,	1	...	9,000
35	" 13	No. 99, Praya West, .....	...	1	400
36	" 25	No. 100, Queen's Road West,	1	1	2,000
TOTAL,					\$ 208,210

FIRES, 1894.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.
				Wholly.	Partly.	
1	January 9	12.30 p.m.	No. 56 First Street, .....	...	1	\$ 800
2	" 14	8.45 p.m.	No. 13 U Lok Lane,	1	...	400
3	" 26	1.25 a.m.	No. 273 Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	1,200
4	February 1	7.55 a.m.	No. 26 Market Street,	2	...	2,500
5	" 6	1.40 p.m.	No. 57 Queen's Road West,	1	2	4,000
6	" 14	4.50 p.m.	No. 28 Upper Station Street, .....	...	1	300
7	" 25	7 p.m.	No. 86 Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	50
8	March 3	7.30 a.m.	No. 17 Salt Fish Street, .....	...	2	1,500
9	" 28	9.35 a.m.	No. 17 Upper Lascar Row,	1	1	5,000
10	April 4	9.20 p.m.	No. 136 Bonham Strand,	6	1	150,000
11	" 17	10.30 a.m.	No. 211 Hollywood Road,	1	1	2,000
12	" 28	9 a.m.	No. 63 Wanchai Road, .....	...	1	1,500
13	" 30	2 a.m.	No. 122 Queen's Road Central,	3	2	55,000
14	May 1	7 p.m.	No. 116 Queen's Road Central,	1	1	18,000
15	" 15	3 a.m.	No. 137 Queen's Road West,	1	2	4,500
16	June 3	3 a.m.	No. 15 Jervois Street, .....	...	1	2,500
17	" 3	3.10 a.m.	No. 228 Queen's Road Central, .....	...	2	20,000
18	July 1	10.25 p.m.	No. 123 Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	3,000
19	August 14	10.30 a.m.	No. 59 Square Street,	1	...	500
20	" 21	3.45 a.m.	No. 68 Jervois Street,	1	1	18,000
21	October 2	2 a.m.	No. 9 Sai On Lane, .....	...	1	200
22	" 3	11.30 p.m.	No. 21 West Street,	1	...	800
23	" 11	6.20 p.m.	No. 2 Ship Street, .....	...	1	200
24	" 24	12.10 a.m.	No. 127 Queen's Road West,	1	...	15,000
25	" 31	10 p.m.	No. 115 Queen's Road Central, .....	...	3	4,600
26	November 30	7.40 p.m.	No. 32 Bonham Strand, .....	...	1	2,000
27	December 1	10 p.m.	No. 207 Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	8,000
28	" 1	11.20 p.m.	No. 183 Hollywood Road,	1	1	2,000
29	" 13	5.30 p.m.	No. 22 Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	100
Total,						\$ 323,650

FIRES, 1895.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. of BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	
				Wholly.	Partly.		
1	January	6	7.45 p.m.	House No. 230, Queen's Road Central, ...	...	1	\$ 6,000
2	"	12	9.30 p.m.	House No. 4, Wellington Street, .....	...	1	4,000
3	"	18	5.45 p.m.	House No. 189, Queen's Road Central, ...	...	1	2,000
4	"	18	6.45 p.m.	House No. 15, Mercer Street, .....	...	1	9,000
5	"	21	9 p.m.	House No. 337, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	1,000
6	February	6	9.15 p.m.	House No. 73, Bonham Strand,	1	...	6,000
7	"	10	1 a.m.	House No. 149, Queen's Road Central, ...	...	1	30
8	"	20	1.20 p.m.	House No. 3, Wai Tak Lane, .....	...	1	200
9	March	2	6.40 p.m.	House No. 228, Queen's Road West,	2	3	12,000
10	"	3	7 p.m.	House No. 7, Li Shing Street,	1	...	3,000
11	"	24	8 p.m.	House No. 96, Bonham Strand,	1	3	Unknown.
12	"	26	8.30 p.m.	House No. 212, Queen's Road West,	1	...	3,000
13	"	30	2.50 a.m.	House No. 352, Queen's Road Central, ...	1	2	5,000
14	April	6	3.25 a.m.	House No. 1, Queen's Street, .....	...	1	5,000
15	"	11	12 Noon	House No. 144, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	3,000
16	"	18	7 p.m.	House No. 34, Bonham Strand, .....	...	1	1,000
17	"	24	10.15 p.m.	House No. 19, Jervois Street,	1	...	12,000
18	June	14	3.05 a.m.	House No. 76, Jervois Street,	1	...	Not known.
19	July	29	4.50 a.m.	House No. 34, Winglok Street, .....	...	2	5,000
20	"	29	12.30 a.m.	House No. 3, Station Street,	1	1	800
21	August	5	1 a.m.	House No. 70, Jervois Street, .....	...	2	22,000
22	September	6	5.45 a.m.	House No. 4, Praya Central, premises of Messrs. Wieler & Co., .....	...	1	100
23	"	30	8.30 a.m.	House No. 12, Nullah Terrace, Quarry Bay,	1	...	700
24	October	5	12.50 a.m.	House No. 169, Hollywood Road,	1	1	3,000
25	"	6	8.20 p.m.	Matshed at Quarry Bay,	1	...	500
26	"	15	11.15 p.m.	House No. 149, Queen's Road Central, ...	...	1	100
27	"	30	12.45 a.m.	American ship <i>Wandering Jew</i> , Victoria Harbour, .....	...	...	150,000
28	November	21	7.35 p.m.	House No. 111, Praya West,	1	...	6,000
29	December	13	11.15 p.m.	A matshed at Kun Chung,	1	...	200
30	"	13	4.30 p.m.	A squatter's hut on the Hillside at the back of Shaukiwan Station,	1	...	25
31	"	16	1 a.m.	House No. 110, Praya West,	1	...	8,000
32	"	17	1 a.m.	House 247, Queen's Road Central,	1	1	15,000
33	"	23	1.35 a.m.	House No. 285, Queen's Road Central, ...	3	2	4,000
34	"	24	6 p.m.	Houses Nos. 347 & 349, Queen's Road West, .....	...	2	5,325
35	"	30	1.10 a.m.	House No. 40, Queen's Road West,	2	2	5,000
Total,						\$	297,980

FIRES, 1896.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. of BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	
				Wholly.	Partly.		
1	January	15	7.45 p.m.	House No. 39, Wing Lok Street,	2	2	\$ 9,000
2	"	16	8.20 p.m.	House No. 63, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	...	30
3	"	25	10.30 p.m.	House No. 205, Queen's Road West,	1	...	1,000
4	February	1	12.30 a.m.	House No. 302, Queen's Road West,	1	...	2,600
5	"	6	1.00 a.m.	House No. 56, Jervois Street,	1	1	6,000
6	"	6	2.45 a.m.	House No. 57, Queen's Road West,	3	2	16,000
7	"	8	11.05 p.m.	House No. 133, Praya West,	2	1	6,000
8	"	26	4.25 a.m.	House No. 309, Queen's Road Central, ...	1	1	5,000
9	March	9	4.00 a.m.	House No. 367, Queen's Road Central, ...	1	...	5,000
10	April	1	5.10 a.m.	House No. 3, Wing Lok Street,	1	...	8,000
11	"	1	4.45 a.m.	House No. 288, Queen's Road West,	1	...	4,000
12	"	6	4.20 a.m.	House No. 21, Salt Fish Street,	1	...	8,700
13	"	8	4.15 a.m.	House No. 13, Wing Woo Street, .....	...	1	2,000
14	"	22	1.15 a.m.	House No. 48, Praya West, .....	...	1	3,000
15	"	24	3.15 a.m.	House No. 15, Cockrane Street, .....	...	1	600
16	"	26	8.45 a.m.	House No. 31, Belcher's St., Kennedy Town,	1	...	3,500
17	"	27	10.15 a.m.	House No. 238, Hollywood Road, .....	...	1	2,000
18	"	29	9.50 p.m.	House No. 115, Praya West, .....	...	1	2,300
19	May	9	1.10 a.m.	House No. 12, Sutherland Street, .....	...	1	50
20	"	14	10.15 p.m.	House No. 73, Jervois Street, .....	...	2	6,000
21	June	5	9.20 p.m.	House No. 3, Tsz Mi Lane, .....	...	1	1,290
22	"	15	7.30 a.m.	Licensed Cargo Boat No. 69, .....	...	...	4,500
23	"	29	3.30 p.m.	On board the British barque <i>Glen Caladh</i>, .....	...	...	Unknown.
24	August	14	3.10 p.m.	House No. 10, Ship Street, .....	...	1	600
25	October	28	2.10 p.m.	House No. 137, Wing Lok Street,	1	...	7,000
26	November	5	12.40 a.m.	House No. 109, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	25
27	"	21	3.20 a.m.	House No. 138, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	200
28	December	8	8.30 p.m.	House No. 18, New Street, .....	...	1	1,000
29	"	10	1.00 a.m.	House No. 10, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	200
30	"	21	.....	House No. 63, Bonham Strand, .....	...	...	Trifling.
Total,						\$	105,595

FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1897.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
1	Jan. 12	10.30 p.m.	On board the S.S. <i>Fausang</i>, .....	...	...	\$ 500	Spontaneous combustion among the bales of cotton.	Insured in the Office of Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co.
2	" 18	10.15 p.m.	House No. 138, Jervois Street,	1	...	25,000	Falling of a kerosine lamp.	Insured with Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. for \$25,000.
3	Feb. 3	4.20 a.m.	House No. 213, Praya West,	1	...	17,000	Accidentally set fire by occupants while working.	The 1st floor was insured for \$1,800 with Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Coy. and the ground floor in different Offices for \$15,000.
4	" 11	1.20 p.m.	House No. 24, Cross Street, .....	...	1	300	Unknown,	The ground floor was insured in the Miji Fire Insurance, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Coy. Agents, for \$2,200, the 1st and 2nd floors were family houses.
5	" 15	9.15 a.m.	Government Offices, Lower Albert Road, .....	...	...	200	A boiling bucket of tar on the roof being upset became ignited and set fire to the rafters.	.....
6	" 28	1.35 a.m.	House No. 124, Jervois Street,	1	1	20,000	Unknown,	Was insured for \$18,500.
7	April 1	1.20 a.m.	House No. 14, Cross Street,	1	1	4,000	Accident with a kerosine lamp.	Insured with the Manchester Fire Insurance Coy. for \$3,200. Messrs. Holfiday Wise & Co. are the local Agents.
8	" 3	12.30 a.m.	House No. 128, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	200	Unknown,	Insured with the North British Mercantile Fire Insurance Coy. for \$4,850 Messrs. Shewan Tomes & Co. are the local Agents.
9	" 11	2.24 a.m.	House No. 351, Queen's Road Central,	2	...	24,000	Unknown,	Insured with Chun On Fire Insurance Coy. for \$3,500, No. 353 and the 1st floor of 351 was insured with Hongkong Fire Insurance Coy. for \$10,000 and the Atlas Fire Insurance Coy. for \$11,000.
10	" 21	5.25 a.m.	House No. 99, Jervois Street, .....	...	1	3,000	Arson,	The ground and 2nd floors were insured with the South British Fire Insurance Coy. for \$7,000 and the 1st floor with the Transatlantic Fire Insurance Coy. for \$2,000. Kung Pak Tit, 38, Master; Chan Pui Tin, 35, Accountant; and Kwong Ying Lun, 18, Cook were suffocated to death. Six men, the occupants of the ground and 2nd floors, were charged with arson. 1st defendant was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour at the Supreme Court and the rest were discharged.
11	" 21	10.15 p.m.	On board S.S. <i>Belgic</i>, .....	...	...	3,000	Sparks from an earthen furnace in the tween decks which was being used for the purpose of fumigating the luggage of the Chinese passengers.	.....
						97,200	<i>Carried forward</i> ,	

FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1897,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
			<i>Brought forward,</i>			\$97,200		
12	April 25	1.55 a.m.	House No. 95, Winglok Street, .....	...	1	5,000	Unknown,	Insured with the Hongkong Fire Insurance Coy. for \$6,000 and the South British Fire Insurance Coy. for \$6,000.
13	May 1	7.40 p.m.	House No. 8, Cross Street, .....	...	1	700	Unknown,	Insured with the North British Mercantile Fire Insurance Coy. for \$6,000, Messrs. Shewan Tomes & Co. are the local Agents.
14	" 20	1.45 a.m.	House No. 71, Jervois Street, .....	...	2	13,050	Unknown,	Insured with the Northern Assurance Coy. for \$15,000. Messrs. Turner & Co. are the local Agents.
15	June 15	2.30 a.m.	House No. 114, Jervois Street, .....	...	3	34,000	Unknown,	Insured with the Transatlantic Fire Insurance Coy. for \$24,500 and for \$2,000 in the Sun Fire Insurance Coy., Messrs. Siemens & Co. are the local Agents.
16	July 23	10 p.m.	Hongkong Hotel, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	1	300	Overheating by a boiler.	
17	" 27	11.55 p.m.	House No. 248, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	300	Unknown,	The ground floor was insured for \$800 with the Chun On Fire Insurance Coy.
18	Aug. 3	4.15 p.m.	House No. 15, Praya, Fuk Tsan Heung,	4	...	7,000	Accident with fireworks, ...	Not insured. The charred remains of two bodies were found in the ruins.
19	" 22	2.5 a.m.	House No. 213, Queen's Road West, .....	...	2	600	Upsetting of a kerosine lamp.	The ground and 1st floors were insured for \$1,200 with Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.
20	Sept. 4	1.15 p.m.	House No. 16, Tung Loi Street, .....	...	3	6,900	Unknown,	Insured with the Miji Insurance Coy. for \$10,000.
21	" 18	7.15 a.m.	House No. 49, Quarry Bay,	1	...	600	Accident with a lighted lamp.	Not insured.
22	" 19	12.20 p.m.	House No. 5, "Wild Dell," .....	...	1	300	Carelessness with a lighted match.	Not insured.
23	Nov. 24	11.35 p.m.	House No. 64, Third Street,	1	...	1,200	Accident while worshipping,	Not insured. The charred remains of 15 bodies were found in the building.
24	" 24	7 p.m.	House No. 53, Stanley Village,	5	...	3,000	Upsetting of a kerosine lamp.	Not insured.
25	" 28	7.10 a.m.	House No. 122, Second Street, .....	...	1	5,000	Accident with a kerosine lamp.	Insured with Messrs. Butterfield & Swire for \$4,000.
26	Dec. 22	1.15 p.m.	H. M. Naval Yard, .....	...	1	2,000	Unknown. ....	.....
TOTAL,						\$177,150		

F. H. MAY,
Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1897.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
1	Jan. 1	3.30 a.m.	House No. 110, Wellington Street, Stanley Road,	Trifling	Bed curtains accidentally set on fire,	Extinguished by occupants.
2	" 2	.....	.....	"	.....	Extinguished by Police, about 70 fir trees slightly scorched.
3	" 2	2 p.m.	Hillside near Tai Tam Tuk,	"	Do.,	Extinguished by Coolies engaged.
4	" 4	.....	Hillside near Ngau Tau Wan,	"	Do.,	Extinguished by Police.
5	" 5	.....	Hillside near Aberdeen Road,	"	Do.,	Do. and Coolies.
6	" 9	.....	Queen's Road West,	"	Chimney on fire, .....	.....
7	" 13	8.30 p.m.	House No. 153, Second Street,	"	A lamp placed in an alcove set fire to the lintel,	Extinguished by occupants. Not insured.
8	" 25	11 a.m.	House No. 14, Jubilee Street,	"	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Fire Brigade.
9	Feb. 25	6.15 a.m.	House No. 104, Queen's Road East,	"	Carelessness with joss sticks, .....	.....
10	" 27	8.25 p.m.	House No. 30, Stanley Street,	"	Chimney on fire,	Put out by Police and occupants.
11	March 9	6.55 p.m.	House No. 11, Wellington Street,	"	Flaring up of a kerosine lamp, .....	.....
12	" 16	3.45 p.m.	On the hills between Tai Tam Tuk and Sheko,	"	Grass on fire,	About 150 acres of grass and shrub burnt.
13	" 3	8.50 a.m.	Stag Hotel, Queen's Road Central,	\$1.50	Blinds caught fire,	Put out by Firemen.
14	" 6	11 p.m.	Fuk Tsun Heung Village,	Trifling	Carelessness with a lighted candle,	Extinguished by the Police and inhabitants.
15	" 18	1.30 p.m.	House No. 181, First Street,	"	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Firemen from No. 7 Station.
16	May 4	10.50 p.m.	House No. 41, Third Street,	"	Smoking near dry grass, .....	.....
17	" 19	3.50 a.m.	House No. 1, Sun Wai Lane,	"	Wooden hood of cook house chimney caught fire, .....	.....
18	" 19	9.45 a.m.	Praya West,	"	Capsizing of boiling tar on the roof, .....	.....
19	" 21	1.45 a.m.	House No. 231, Queen's Road Central,	"	Arson,	The accountant of the shop was convicted of arson and sentenced to 5 years' hard labour.
20	" 26	11 a.m.	Kellett's Bungalow,	\$60	Overheated flue set fire to the beams,	Extinguished by the Servants and Police.
21	" 30	1.30 p.m.	House No. 4, Kau Ú Fong,	Trifling	Burning of joss paper ignited a mosquito curtain,	Extinguished by the occupants and Firemen from No. 5 Station.
22	" 31	6.30 p.m.	House No. 79, Praya East,	"	Some wood caught fire,	Extinguished by the Godown Keeper.
23	" 31	7.15 p.m.	House No. 64, Wellington Street,	\$30	Ignition of curtain from a kerosine lamp,	Put out by occupants assisted by Police.
24	June 6	9 p.m.	House No. 16, Pokfulam Road,	"	Upsetting of a kerosine lamp, .....	.....
25	" 11	7.45 p.m.	House No. 54, Wellington Street,	"	Do., .....	.....
26	" 25	3.30 p.m.	House No. 94, Queen's Road West,	"	Attempted arson,	A man was seen attempting to set fire to the house, but escaped over the roof.
27	July 4	6 p.m.	On deck of S.S. <i>Benalder</i> ,	"	Spontaneous combustion of sulphuric acid, .....	.....
28	Aug. 10	9 p.m.	House No. 31, Graham Street,	"	Falling of a lamp,	Extinguished by Sergt. McLennan.
29	Sept. 3	4.45 p.m.	House No. 22, Upper Lascar Row,	"	Chimney on fire,	Put out by occupants and Firemen.
30	" 11	9.20 p.m.	House No. 1, On Ning Lane,	"	Spontaneous combustion of coke stored before cooling,	Put out by Firemen from No. 7 Station.
31	" 25	.....	House No. 24, West Street,	\$2	Carelessness with joss sticks,	Extinguished by inmates and Sergeant Collett.
32	" 28	4 a.m.	House No. 122, Queen's Road Central,	"	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by occupants.
33	" 28	1 p.m.	On the hill near the Military Barracks at Stanley,	"	Grass on fire,	A few trees damaged.
34	Oct. 7	8 a.m.	House No. 32, Nullah Lane,	\$10	Overheated flue set fire to the beams,	Insured with the China Fire Insurance Coy. for \$3,500.
35	" 8	5 p.m.	House No. 22 Upper Lascar Row,	"	Chimney on fire, .....	.....

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1897,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
36	Oct. 14	1.36 p.m.	House No. 94, Queen's Road West, .....	...	Accidental ignition of gas.	.....
37	" 18	12.30 a.m.	House No. 58, Lower Lasear Row,.....	...	Mosquito curtain set on fire by an inmate who was drunk.	.....
38	" 22	.....	House No. 8, Praya Central, .....	...	Chimney on fire.	.....
39	" 24	1 a.m.	Malshed at Jardine's Gardens,	\$1.00	Attempted arson,	Two mats saturated with kerosine were found in front of the shed. A woman was charged with arson and was acquitted at the Supreme Court.
40	" 25	.....	House No. 4, West Street, .....	...	Cook house accidentally caught fire.	.....
41	" 25	11.30 p.m.	House No. 5, Centre Street, .....	...	A quantity of firewood in the cook house caught fire.	Insured with Messrs. Bradley & Co. for \$3,000.
42	Nov. 3	6.50 p.m.	Stoke's Bungalow West,	\$75.00	Overheating of a smoke stack,	Extinguished by Police.
43	" 3	7 p.m.	House No. 123, Wellington Street,.....	...	Chimney on fire,	Do.
44	" 12	4 a.m.	House No. 122, Winglok Street,.....	...	A wooden shed on the roof caught fire,	Extinguished by the occupants.
45	" 15	8 p.m.	House No. 46, Stanley Street, .....	...	Flooring of cook house caught fire,.....	Extinguished by Police.
46	" 21	.....	House No. 171, Queen's Road Central,	\$50	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
47	" 21	10 p.m.	House No. 42, Praya West,.....	...	Overheating of cook house flue,	Insured with Meyer & Co. for \$12,500.
48	" 23	2.24 a.m.	House No. 12, West Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Do.
49	" 23	12 p.m.	House No. 46, Stanley Street, .....	...	Overheated flue set fire to a beam.	Extinguished by the Fire Brigade.
50	" 25	1.50 a.m.	Reclamation ground near Sai Ying Pun Nullah,	\$100	A pile of wood stacked caught fire,	Put out by Police and occupants.
51	" 25	.....	House No. 103, Queen's Road Central, .....	...	Some tea lying on the floor for drying caught fire.	Put out by Police and occupants.
52	" 26	.....	House No. 135, Wellington Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Put out by Police.
53	" 30	11.15 a.m.	House No. 11, Stanley Village, .....	...	The roof a wooden structure caught fire,	Put out by occupants.
54	Dec. 7	.....	House No. 12, Jervois Street,.....	\$5	Some old clothing caught fire,.....	Do.
55	" 16	10 p.m.	House No. 23, West Street,.....	...	Some baskets caught fire,.....	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
56	" 19	11 a.m.	Hillside at Wong Ma Kok, .....	...	Grass on fire,.....	Extinguished by Police-assisted by Coolies.
57	" 20	9.37 p.m.	House No. 78, Winglok Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by occupants.
				\$334.50		

F. H. MAY,
Superintendent of Fire Brigade.