

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 145.

The following Report of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade for 1898 is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 11th March, 1899.

POLICE OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 6th February, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report on the Government Fire Brigade for the year 1898.

2. There were 16 Fires and 73 Incipient Fires during the year. Details regarding each will be found attached. The Brigade turned out 23 times.

The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$35,000.74 and by the incipient fires \$1,999.00.

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.

The record for last year is the best in the series. The estimated value of property destroyed is less than \$3,000 more than the lowest recorded which was in the year 1891, while the number of fires was double the number in that year.

3. There was one prosecution for arson in connection with the incipient fire at No. 112 Third Street. The accused, a Chinese woman, was discharged at the Criminal Sessions, being apparently not mentally responsible for her actions.

4. There was no loss of life at any fire.

5. The water in the mains was not turned off at any time during the year, and none of the land engines were used at a fire.

6. 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 Engineer on the state of the various Fire Engines, which are all in good working order.

7. During the year six shelters were built at convenient places in the city for the reception of a despatch box each. A certain number of Indian and Chinese Police Constables, not members of the Fire Brigade, have been trained in the use of the despatch box, and the beats on which the shelters are situated are assigned to these particular Constables, who carry the keys of the shelters and are ready to render first aid at any fire occurring on their beats or in the immediate vicinity.

The men receive a small monthly allowance for this additional responsibility.

The idea of thus extending the use of the despatch box and of utilising the Police on beat duty for the purpose, is one that occurred to Mr. WODEHOUSE (as I have discovered from an old report of his) before it occurred to me.

The system is capable of indefinite extension, and I am of opinion that the moral effect alone of the existence on the spot of appliances for first aid will be found to have a deterrent effect on incendiarism.

8. It was my intention to fix in the streets a few fire alarms of the usual type used at home, but on the suggestion of Mr. E. M. HAZELAND, in charge of the Government Telephone Service, telephones connected with the Central Fire Station have been fixed instead at the back of the Harbour Office, at the Junction of Hollywood Road and Queen's Road, and at the Junction of Wilmer Street and Connaught Road.

There has been as yet no opportunity to test the utility of these telephones, but I am in hopes that they may prove useful in speedily communicating alarms of fires to the Brigade.

The system requires careful watching and is capable of extensive development.

9. The increasing height of Chinese houses in the city and the great height of the new buildings on the Praya, render necessary a re-organisation of the ladder supply of the Brigade, and the subject is receiving my attention. The matter would be an easy one were it not for the obstruction caused by verandahs.

In the meantime it is well to warn the occupants of the upper stories of the blocks of new buildings on the Praya Reclamation, that there is no Fire Escape in the Colony and that they should provide themselves with some simple escapes such as the Amateur Dramatic Club have provided themselves with for use from the dressing rooms attached to the theatre.

10. The extension of the Central Fire Station has been completed and advantage has been taken of the additional accommodation to increase the permanent staff by 10 Chinese Firemen, the services of the 6 Soldiers who used to be on night duty being dispensed with. The soldiers used continually to be changed for various causes and rarely had an opportunity of becoming really efficient firemen.

The number of European Firemen at the Station has also been increased, and the Station should be generally in a higher state of efficiency than was possible under the old conditions. It is certainly far more decent and comfortable for the men.

11. The conduct of the Brigade throughout the year has been very good, with one exception—that of a Chinese watchman who was convicted of larceny of a jacket from the scene of the fire at No. 2, West Street, on the 10th October, and sentenced to two months' hard labour.

12. Mr. THOMAS CAMPBELL, Assistant Engineer, who was connected with the Brigade for upwards of nine years, died at the end of 1897.

Mr. CAMPBELL was a very able and experienced officer and was a great loss to the Brigade.

His post was filled during the year by Sergeant McLENNAN of the Police Force who fulfilled the duties in a satisfactory manner.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

F. H. MAY,

Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

The Honourable

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,

&c., &c., &c.

List of Places where Fire Brigade Despatch Boxes are kept.

1 Box.	No. 1 Police Station.	2 Box.	No. 7 Police Station.
3 "	Engine House at No. 2 Police Station.	1 "	Bonham Strand West, at West End.
1 "	Naval Dock Yard.	1 "	Gas House, West Point.
1 "	Clock Tower.	1 "	Fat Hing Street, at Queen's Road West.
1 "	Government Offices.	1 "	Ko Shing Theatre.
1 "	Government House.	1 "	Government Lunatic Asylum.
1 "	No. 7 Queen's Garden, Engineers' Mess.	1 "	Nam Pak Hong Fire Station.
1 "	Central Police Station.	1 "	Man Mo Temple.
1 "	Wellington Street at Lyndhurst Terrace.	2 "	No. 5 Police Station.
1 "	Government Civil Hospital.	1 "	Kennedy Town Hospital.
1 "	Staunton Street at Sing Wong Street.	1 "	Collinson Street.
1 "	Water Lane at Queen's Road Central.	1 "	No. 463 Queen's Road West.

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 Wa Hospital, Po Yau 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.

FIRE BRIGADE STATION,
HONGKONG, 12th January, 1899.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith a report on the state of the Government Fire Engines for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

STEAMER No. 1.

(Floating Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This Engine has been two years in service; it has done good service at fires in the harbour; has been regularly tested at drill for drivers and is now in good order. The boat was put on the slip in the month of May for inspection and cleaning, and was found in good order and condition.

STEAMER No. 2.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This Engine has been twenty years in service (Boiler one year). It has not been used at a fire during the year and is now in good order and condition.

STEAMER No. 3.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This Engine has been twenty years in service and is now in good order. It has not been used at a fire during the year, but has been regularly tested at drill for drivers.

STEAMER No. 4.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This Engine has been seventeen years in service. It has not been used at a fire during the year, but has been examined and tested for efficiency every month.

STEAMER No. 5.

(Land Engine by Shand and Mason.)

This Engine has been thirteen years in service. It has not been used at a fire during the year; it has been examined and tested for efficiency and is now in good order.

All the Manual Engines and gear, as well as the Hose, Reels, Ladders and Supply Carts are in good order and condition.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN W. KINGHORN,
Engineer, Government Fire Brigade.

The Honourable

F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

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, 1899.

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 29	No. 23, 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. 52, 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	3.45 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 No. 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 & 340, 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. 30, 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	"	23	1.15 a.m.	House No. 43, Praya West,.....	...	1	3,000
15	"	24	3.15 a.m.	House No. 15, Cochrane 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, 1897.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	
				Wholly.	Partly.		
1	January	12	10.30 p.m.	On board the S.S. <i>Fausang</i>,.....	...	...	\$ 500
2	"	18	10.15 p.m.	House No. 138, Jervois Street,	1	...	25,000
3	February	3	4.20 a.m.	House No. 213, Praya West,	1	...	17,000
4	"	11	1.20 p.m.	House No. 24, Cross Street,.....	...	1	300
5	"	15	9.15 a.m.	Government Offices, Lower Albert Road,.	...	...	200
6	"	28	1.35 a.m.	House No. 124, Jervois Street,	1	1	20,000
7	April	1	1.20 a.m.	House No. 14, Cross Street,.....	1	1	4,000
8	"	3	12.30 a.m.	House No. 128, Queen's Road Central, ...	...	1	200
9	"	11	2.24 a.m.	House No. 351, Queen's Road Central, ...	2	...	24,000
10	"	21	5.25 a.m.	House No. 99, Jervois Street, .....	...	1	3,000
11	"	21	10.15 p.m.	On board S.S. <i>Belgie</i>, .....	...	...	3,000
12	"	25	1.55 a.m.	House No. 95, Winglok Street, .....	...	1	5,000
13	May	1	7.40 p.m.	House No. 8, Cross Street, .....	...	1	700
14	"	20	1.45 a.m.	House No. 71, Jervois Street, .....	...	2	13,050
15	June	15	2.30 a.m.	House No. 114, Jervois Street, .....	...	3	34,000
16	July	23	10 p.m.	Hongkong Hotel, Queen's Road Central,.	...	1	300
17	"	27	11.55 p.m.	House No. 248, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	300
18	August	3	4.15 p.m.	House No. 15, Praya, Fuk Tsun Heung,...	4	...	7,000
19	"	22	2.5 a.m.	House No. 213, Queen's Road West, .....	...	2	600
20	September	4	1.15 p.m.	House No. 16, Tung Loi Street, .....	...	3	6,900
21	"	18	7.15 a.m.	House No. 49, Quarry Bay,.....	1	...	600
22	"	19	12.20 p.m.	House No. 5, "Wild Dell",.....	...	1	300
23	November	24	11.35 p.m.	House No. 64, Third Street,.....	1	...	1,200
24	"	24	7 p.m.	House No. 53, Stanley Village,	5	...	3,000
25	"	28	7.10 a.m.	House No. 122, Second Street,.....	...	1	5,000
26	December	22	1.15 p.m.	H. M. Naval Yard, .....	...	1	2,000
TOTAL,.....						\$	177,150

FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1898.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. of BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
1	Jan. 22	3.55 p.m.	House No. 21, Lyndhurst Terrace,.....	...	1	\$ 500.00	Throwing of burning crackers.	Insured for \$1,200 in the Union Insurance Coy.
2	" 26	4.40 p.m.	Government Asylum, Eastern Street, .....	...	1	150.00	Patient playing with fire.	.....
3	Feb. 5	3.10 a.m.	House No. 46, Praya Central, .....	...	1	200.00	Unknown,	Insured for \$1,700 with Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co.
4	" 11	9.09 p.m.	House No. 125, Wanchai Road, .....	...	1	4,000.00	Unknown,	Insured with the North British Fire Insurance for \$30,000, with the Aachen & Munich Fire Insurance for \$25,000 and in the South British Fire Insurance Office for \$10,000.
5	" 25	3.35 p.m.	Matched at British Kowloon, .....	...	...	Unknown	Unknown,	The sheds were occupied as Barracks by men of the King's Own Lancaster Regiment. Several Soldiers' Kits and their Arms, &c. were burnt. Not insured.
6	March 12	12.40 a.m.	House No. 2, Graham Street, .....	...	1	\$ 1,000.00	Unknown,	Not insured.
7	April 11	3.00 a.m.	House No. 288, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	600.00	Overheating of a quantity of tobacco leaf near a stove.	Not insured.
8	May 10	11.10 p.m.	House No. 295, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	700.00	Overheating of medicine leaves and branches over a stove.	Insured for \$1,000 in the Chun On Office.
9	June 1	7.05 p.m.	House No. 67, Praya Central, .....	...	...	100.00	Overheating of a flue,	Insured with the North British Marine Insurance Coy. for \$5,000. Messrs. Shewan Tomes & Co. are the Local Agents.
10	August 10	3.00 a.m.	House No. 22, Belchers Street, .....	...	1	7,000.00	Unknown,	Insured with the North German Fire Insurance Coy. for \$20,000.
11	Sept. 10	2.00 p.m.	Matched at the Peak,	7	...	200.00	Unknown,	Extinguished by Police.
12	Oct. 10	5.30 p.m.	House No. 2, West Street, .....	...	2	11,628.74	Accident while boiling wax,	Insured with Messrs. Reuter, Bröckelmann & Co. for \$13,000.
13	Nov. 18	7.30 a.m.	House No. 76, Praya East, .....	...	1	200.00	Spontaneous combustion,	Not insured.
14	Dec. 9	5.50 p.m.	House No. 56, Jardine's Bazaar,	1	1	2,500.00	Unknown,	Not insured.
15	" 12	6.15 p.m.	House No. 136, Queen's Road East,	1	1	800.00	Unknown,	Insured for \$12,000 in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Coy.
16	" 13	10.00 a.m.	Hut at Shaukiwan,	5	1	5,423.00	Burning of joss paper,	In addition 14 huts were burnt.
				TOTAL,		\$ 35,001.74		

F. H. MAY,
Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1898.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
1	Jan. 2	4.00 a.m.	House No. 112, Third Street, .....	...	Attempted arson,	A small quantity of firewood, match boxes and joss sticks soaked in kerosine oil were found on the staircase.
2	" 9	11.00 p.m.	Praya East, .....	.. \$2	Accidentally falling of a gas lamp post,	Extinguished by Police.
3	" 11	2.00 p.m.	Aplichou, .....	..	Combustion of gunpowder by friction,	Two men sent to Government Civil Hospital suffering from severe burns and one of them subsequently died.
4	" 11	8.20 p.m.	House No. 22, Ching On Lane, .....	..	Carelessness while smoking,	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
5	" 19	2.30 a.m.	House No. 8, Ice House Lane, .....	..	Do.,	Do.
6	" 20	9.20 p.m.	House No. 43, Second Street, .....	.. \$2	A bed curtain accidentally caught fire,	Do.
7	" 21	7.30 p.m.	A pile of timber on Reclamation Ground opposite Li Shing Street, .....	.. \$10	Carelessness with fireworks,	Do.
8	" 22	2.45 p.m.	House No. 217, Queen's Road East, .....	..	Do.,	Do.
9	" 23	7.40 p.m.	House No. 6, Sutherland Street, .....	..	Unknown,	Extinguished by Police.
10	" 25	1.00 p.m.	Hillside near Tytam Village, .....	..	Grass on fire,	Extinguished by Police assisted by Coolies. A number of fir trees were damaged.
11	" 28	4.00 p.m.	House No. 13, Shauiwan East, .....	.. \$2	Upsetting of a cooking stove,	Extinguished by Police.
12	Feb. 9	7.00 p.m.	House No. 39, Stanley Street, .....	..	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by inmates.
13	" 10	3.00 p.m.	Hillside at Wong Ma Kok, .....	..	Grass on fire,	Extinguished by villagers.
14	" 10	.....	House No. 18, Wong Kok Tsui, .....	.. \$1	Accidental igniting of dry grass,	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
15	" 12	5.30 p.m.	Hillside between Wanchai Gap and Deep Water Bay, .....	..	Grass on fire,	Considerable damage was done to young trees.
16	" 13	1.00 p.m.	Hillside at Chung Hom Valley near Aberdeen Road, .....	..	Do.,	Extinguished by Police.
17	" 13	.....	Hillside at Shek O, .....	..	Do.,	Extinguished by villagers. A number of young trees were damaged.
18	March 9	11.30 p.m.	House No. 9, Tse Mi Lane, .....	.. \$7	Unknown,	Extinguished by Police and inmates.
19	" 19	2.30 a.m.	House No. 153, Queen's Road East, .....	..	Accidental igniting of some firewood,	Extinguished by inmates.
20	" 22	8.50 p.m.	House No. 81, Praya West, .....	..	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Firemen.
21	April 3	1.00 p.m.	House No. 59, First Street, .....	.. \$10	Hot cinders setting fire to beams and rattans,	Extinguished by Police.
22	" 10	9.20 p.m.	House No. 30, Bonham Strand West, .....	..	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by occupants.
23	" 12	.....	Hillside at Pokfulam, .....	..	Grass on fire,	About 2 acres of grass burnt.
24	" 20	.....	Hillside at Aplichou, .....	..	Do.,	A number of pine trees were slightly scorched.
25	" 22	9.25 p.m.	House No. 71, Jevois Street, .....	..	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Firemen.
26	May 8	5.30 a.m.	Hongkong Hotel, .....	.. \$1,000	Overheating of a flue set fire to the ceiling,	Extinguished by Hotel staff.
27	" 9	9.00 a.m.	House No. 133, Aberdeen Village, .....	.. \$8	Accidental,	Extinguished by Police with Manual Engine.
28	" 14	4.30 p.m.	House No. 115, Wanchai Road, .....	..	Do.,	Extinguished by inmates.
29	" 18	3.00 p.m.	A stack of grass at Shauiwan, .....	.. \$25	Carelessness while smoking,	Extinguished by Firemen assisted by Villagers.
30	" 18	11.30 p.m.	House No. 104, Queen's Road West, .....	..	Unknown,	Extinguished by Firemen.

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1898,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	ESTIMATED DAMAGED.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
31	June 3	7.15 p.m.	P & O. Coy.'s Office, Praya Central, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
32	" 7	Between 5 and 6 a.m.	Drying Room at the Peak Hotel,	\$200	Accidental,	A quantity of clothing belonging to one of the visitors caught fire.
33	" 21	10.30 p.m.	Godown No. 166, Mong Kok Tsui,	\$125	Overheating of a furnace,	Put out by Firemen from Yaumati.
34	July 1	3.30 p.m.	House No. 12, Cross Street, .....	...	Overheating of a flue set fire to the ceiling.	Put out by inmates assisted by Police.
35	" 16	2.30 a.m.	Drying Room at Mount Austin Barracks,	\$100	Falling of some coals out of the drying stove on the wooden floor.	Extinguished by the Military Authorities.
36	Aug. 8	.....	House No. 42, D'Aguliar Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by the occupants.
37	" 15	.....	" Bellvue, Peak Road,	\$4	Do.,	Extinguished by Firemen.
38	" 19	3.00 a.m.	House No. 18, Bank Buildings,	\$10	Overheating of the flue,	Do.
39	Sept. 20	9.00 p.m.	A Stack of Grass at Hunghom Road,	\$35	Unknown,	Put out by Coolies with a Manual Engine from the Match Factory.
40	" 22	12.10 a.m.	House No. 36, Cochrane Street,	\$5	Explosion of a kerosine lamp,	Extinguished by inmates and Police.
41	Oct. 1	3.15 p.m.	House No. 64, Bonham Strand, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Do.
42	" 3	.....	House No. 43, Stanley Street, .....	...	Soot in the flue of cookhouse caught fire,	Extinguished by Police and inmates.
43	" 17	7.15 p.m.	House No. 7, Albany Street, .....	...	Overheating of a smokestack,	Extinguished by occupants and firemen.
44	" 18	9.00 p.m.	House No. 58, Praya Central, .....	...	Accident with a kerosine lamp,	Put out by Police and occupants.
45	" 20	4.00 p.m.	Hillside at Wong Ma Kok, .....	...	Grass on fire,	Extinguished by Police and Coolies.
46	" 24	2.00 p.m.	Mount Davis, .....	...	Do.,	Extinguished by Police, Forest Guards and Coolies.
47	" 24	.....	Above No. 3 Bridge, Pokfulam Road, .....	...	Do.,	Do.
48	" 29	7.00 p.m.	House No. 3, Albany, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by the occupants.
49	" 31	12 midnight	House No. 10, Chung Ching Street, .....	...	Accidental,	Some oil baskets in the cookhouse caught fire. Put out by firemen and inmates.
50	Nov. 5	9 30 p.m.	House No. 6 George Lane, .....	...	Do.,	A curtain caught fire.
51	" 9	.....	Hillside at Kai Lung Wan, .....	...	Grass on fire,	About 200 square yards of grass was burnt and several trees damaged.
52	" 12	7.00 p.m.	House No. 11, Peel Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by inmates and Police.
53	" 18	4.50 p.m.	House No. 9, Praya East, .....	...	Do.,	Put out by Godown Keepers.
54	" 22	12 noon.	Hillside at Deep Water Bay Valley, .....	...	Grass on fire,	A number of fir trees were scorched.
55	" 22	.....	Hillside opposite the Aberdeen Cemetery, .....	...	Do.,	Do.
56	" 22	11.00 a.m.	Hillside at Sassoon's Valley, Pokfulam, .....	...	Do.,	About 100 square yards of grass fired and several trees damaged.
57	" 28	1.30 a.m.	House No. 117, Wellington Street, .....	...	Joss sticks set fire to some books and paper.	Extinguished by inmates.
58	" 28	7.40 p.m.	House No. 20, Aberdeen Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Extinguished by Police.
59	" 29	7.45 p.m.	House No. 46, Staunton Street, .....	...	A mat and some board caught fire through a lighted joss stick falling on them.	Extinguished by occupants.
60	Dec. 2	2.30 p.m.	Hillside South of the Old Military Barracks at Stanley.	...	Grass on fire,	Extinguished by Police.

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1898,—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	ESTIMATED DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
61	Dec.	6.05 p.m.	House No. 72, Bulkeley Street, Hunglom,	\$50	Accident with a kerosine lamp,	Put out by Police and neighbours. Two of the occupants were severely burnt about the face and hands.
62	"	12.45 p.m.	H. M. Naval Yard, Kowloon, .....	...	Spontaneous combustion,	Put out by the Naval Authorities assisted by the Fire Brigade.
63	"	9.15 p.m.	House No. 31, Graham Street, .....	...	Accident with a kerosine lamp,	Put out by Police and occupants.
64	"	1.45 a.m.	House No. 33, First Street,	\$3	Joss sticks set fire to some woodwork, ...	Do.
65	"	1.30 p.m.	Hillside near Stanley Road above Wongneichung, ...	...	Grass on fire,	Put out by Police and Coolies.
66	"	.....	House No. 16, Fat Hing Street, .....	...	Overheating of a stove,	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
67	"	.....	House No. 53, East Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Do.
68	"	6.30 p.m.	A stack of grass at Hunglom West opposite the Match Factory.	\$350	Unknown,	Extinguished by Firemen.
69	"	12.30 p.m.	House No. 201, Queen's Road West, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Do.
70	"	1.00 p.m.	Hillside at Kailung Wan, .....	...	Grass on fire,	Put out by Police. About 300 square yards of grass burnt.
71	"	.....	House No. 162, Hollywood Road,	\$50	Unknown,	Put out by Police and occupants.
72	"	.....	Hillside North of Mount Gough Road, .....	...	Grass on fire,	Extinguished by Police.
73	"	.....	Hillside near To Ti Wan, .....	...	Do,	Extinguished by Police and hired coolies.
TOTAL,				\$ 1,999		

F. H. MAY,
Superintendent of Fire Brigade.