

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE BRIGADE FOR
THE YEAR 1905.

There were 32 Fires and 77 Incipient Fires during the year, as against 57 and 64 in 1904. Details with regard to these Fires are given in Tables I and II.

The estimated damage caused by Fires was \$327,425.00 and by Incipient Fires \$1,708.00.

The Brigade turned out 48 times during the year.

2. There was an intermittent supply of water in the mains from 27th February to 28th March, during which period sea water was used as much as possible in order to save the fresh water.

3. Three Fires occurred in the harbour during the year.

4. There were two prosecutions for arson. The first was in connection with the Fire at No. 168 Hollywood Road where ten persons lost their lives. Two men were arrested and convicted at the Criminal Sessions and sentenced to imprisonment for life. The second was in connection with the Fire at No. 462 Des Vœux Road West. Two men were arrested and convicted at the Criminal Sessions and sentenced to seven and five years' imprisonment respectively.

5. I attach a list of places where Fire Despatch Boxes are kept and of private telephones to which the Police have access in the event of a Fire (Appendix A). I also enclose a copy of a report by the Acting Engineer on the state of Fire Engines, which are all in good order (Appendix B).

6. The conduct of the Brigade has been good.

7. The Deputy Superintendent (Captain LYONS) returned from leave on 15th February. During his absence Mr. HALLIFAX acted for him.

F. J. BADELEY,
Superintendent, Fire Brigade.

20th February, 1906.

Appendix A.

List of Places where Fire Brigade Despatch Boxes are kept.

1 Box.	No. 1 Police Station.	2 Boxes.	No. 7 Police Station.
2 Boxes.	Engine House at No. 2 Police Station.	1 Box.	Bonham Strand West, at West End.
1 Box.	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, Royal Engineers' Mess.	1 "	Nam Pak Hong Fire Station.
1 "	Central Police Station.	1 "	Man Mo Temple.
1 "	Wellington Street at Lyndhurst Terrace.	3 Boxes.	No. 5 Police Station.
1 "	Government Civil Hospital.	1 Box.	Kennedy Town Hospital.
1 "	Staunton Street, at Sing Wong Street.	1 "	Collinson Street West.
1 "	Water Lane, at Queen's Road Central.	1 "	No. 463, Queen's Road West.
		1 "	Police Matshed, Connaught Road.

*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, Des Vœux Road 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.

Fire Alarms.

Clock Tower.
Harbour Master's Office at Wing Lok Street.
Hollywood Road at Queen's Road West.
Wilmer Street at Des Vœux Road West.

Appendix B.

HONGKONG, 9th February, 1906.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the Annual Report on the state of the Government Fire Engines for the year ending 31st December, 1905.

STEAMER No. 1.

Floating Fire Engine.

Engines and Pumps by Shand & Mason.

This Engine has been 8 years in service, and was docked and thoroughly overhauled in October, 1905, by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., at Cosmopolitan Dock.

The Hull, Machinery and Boiler are all in good working order.

STEAMER No. 2.

Land Engine by Shand & Mason.

This Engine has been 27 years in service (Boiler 8 years old). It has been regularly used and tested at monthly drill for drivers and fires, overhauled at regular intervals during the year and is now in good working order.

STEAMER No. 3.

Land Engine by Shand & Mason.

This Engine has been 23 years in service (Boiler re-tubed in May, 1904). It was regularly used and tested at monthly drill for drivers. Pumps overhauled and new valves and valve seats fitted in August last. Boiler and Machinery now in good working order.

STEAMER No. 4.

Land Engine by Shand & Mason.

This Engine has been 24 years in service, (new fire-box fitted to Boiler in April, 1904). It has been regularly used and tested at drill for drivers and fires during the year, pumps overhauled and now in good working order.

STEAMER No. 5.

Land Engine by Shand & Mason.

This Engine has been 19 years in service, regularly tested at monthly drill for drivers and fires, overhauled at regular intervals and now in good working order. The fire-box of this Boiler is considerably worn. Last year it was recommended that a new fire-box be supplied. All the Manual Engines and Gear, Hose, Reels, Ladders and Supply Carts have been kept in repair and are now in good working order and condition.

I have, etc.,

ROBERT HUNTER,
Acting Engineer, Fire Brigade.

Table I.
FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1905.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	NO. OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
1	January 3	3.45 a.m.	House No. 48, Elgin Road, Kowloon,	4	1	\$ 50,000.00	Unknown.	{ Ten persons were burnt to death. Two men were arrested and convicted at the Criminal Sessions for arson and sentenced to imprisonment for life.
2	" 12	2.15 a.m.	House No. 168, Hollywood Road,	2	...	4,000.00	Arson,	
3	" 16	3.30 p.m.	A match at Quarry Bay Ship Yard,	1 match	...	1,750.00	Unknown.	
4	" 18	7.55 p.m.	House No. 20, New Market Street, .....	...	1	10,000.00	Do.
5	" 25	3.35 a.m.	House No. 10, New Market Street,	1	1	22,000.00	Do.	
6	" 30	6.00 p.m.	A family house at Sai Kung, .....	...	1	100.00	Do.
7	February 2	6.55 p.m.	Houses Nos. 97 & 99, Queen's Road Central, ...	...	2	15,000.00	Do.
8	" 6	9.30 a.m.	A grass stack in Hang Hai Village, New Territory,	2 stacks	...	150.00	Do.	
9	" 10	1.00 p.m.	House No. 145, Aberdeen Village, .....	...	1	560.00	Do.
10	" 13	10.35 p.m.	House No. 89, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	13,000.00	Do.
11	" 20	7.05 p.m.	House No. 9, Tung Loi Lane,	1	1	20,100.00	Do.	
12	" 22	5.20 a.m.	House No. 21, Snidter Street, Tai Kok Tsui, ...	1	...	1,800.00	Do.	
13	March 10	3.20 a.m.	House No. 43, Bonham Strand East, .....	...	1	200.00	Accidental dropping of burning Charcoal.
14	" 16	1.10 p.m.	House No. 27, Chinese Street, .....	...	...	300.00	Upsetting of a Kerosine Lamp. ...
15	" 21	2.35 a.m.	House No. 109, Winglok Street,	1	...	8,000.00	Explosion of a Kerosine Lamp. ...	
16	April 4	12.40 a.m.	House No. 76, Des Vœux Road Central, .....	...	1	3,800.00	Unknown.
17	" 7	5.00 p.m.	House No. 127, Wellington Street, .....	...	1	1,006.00	Do.
18	May 10	11.10 a.m.	A match at Kowloon Godown, Tsui Sha Tsui, ...	1 match	...	300.00	Spontaneous Combustion.	
19	" 11	12 midnight.	House No. 248, Des Vœux Road Central,	1	...	10,000.00	Unknown.	
20	July 8	2.20 a.m.	House No. 90, Winglok Street,	1	...	25,000.00	Do.	
21	August 5	8.30 p.m.	On board S. S. "Yik Saug" in Victoria Harbour, .....	...	...	300.00	Do.
22	" 26	8.15 a.m.	A match at Blackhead's Point,	12 matches	...	14,715.00	{ Supposed dropping of a Lighted Match or Cigarette.	
23	September 9	2.40 a.m.	Houses Nos. 29 & 31, Des Vœux Road Central, ...	2	...	55,000.00	Unknown.	
24	" 10	11.05 p.m.	House No. 133, Winglok Street, .....	...	1	10,000.00	Do.
						267,075.00		

Carried forward,\$

FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1905.—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	No. of BUILDINGS DESTROYED.		DAMAGE.	* CAUSE.	REMARKS.
				Wholly.	Partly.			
			<i>Brought forward,</i>.....	...	...	\$267,075.00		
25	October 24	1.30 p.m.	A match in New Water Works at Cheung Sha Wan,	8 matcheds	...	2,200.00	Unknown.	
26	" 28	4.00 a.m.	A grass stack at Ap Ma Lin, Sham Shui Po,	1 stack.	...	150.00	Sparks from grass fire.	
27	November 3	5.20 p.m.	House No. 26 Ta Tit Hong, Kowloon City, ..	1 wooden flat.	...	200.00	Unknown.	
28	" 22	11.55 p.m.	House No. 462, Des Vœux Road West,	1	1	12,000.00	Arson,	Two men were arrested and convicted at the Criminal Sessions and sentenced to 7 and 5 years' imprisonment respectively.
29	Dec. 10	11.00 a.m.	Pacific Mail S. S. "Siberia" in Victoria Harbour, .....	...	...	40,000.00	Accident,	
30	" 27	9.20 p.m.	Licensed Junk S. 598 H. in Victoria Harbour, ..	...	...	2,900.00	Unknown.	
31	" 28	2.00 a.m.	A Wooden Structure in Boat Building Yard at Sai Kang,	1	...	400.00	Do.	
32	" 31	6.10 p.m.	House No. 293, Queen's Road West, .....	...	1	2,500.00	Do.	
Total,						\$	327,425.00	

Table II.
INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1905.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.*	DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
1	January	6.20 p.m.	House No. 196, Third Street,	\$ 15.00	Overheating of a lamp,	Put out by occupants.
2	"	1.30 p.m.	House No. 43, Square Street, .....	...	Accident,	Put out by Police.
3	"	7.10 p.m.	House No. 44, Wellington Street,	400.00	Upsetting a kerosine lamp,	Put out by occupants, Police and Firemen.
4	"	12.15 p.m.	House No. 49, Gough Street, .....	...	Accident,	Put out by occupants.
5	"	6 p.m.	House No. 257, Des Vœux Road Central,	100.00	Do.	Put out by Brigade.
6	"	2 a.m.	House No. 98, Apichan, .....	...	Do.	Put out by occupants and Police.
7	"	6.30 p.m.	Hillside between Little Hongkong and Aberdeen near Stanley Road, .....	...	Grass on fire,	Put out by Police.
8	"	9.15 a.m.	House No. 7, Cause Road,	50.00	Overheating of kitchen fire,	Put out by Brigade.
9	"	6.45 p.m.	House No. 6, Egin Road, Kowloon, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Put out by occupants.
10	"	3.00 p.m.	Supreme Court Buildings, .....	...	Stove-pipe igniting a beam,	Put out by Firemen.
11	"	10.50 a.m.	House No. 172, Des Vœux Road Central, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Put out by Police and occupants.
12	February	4.50 a.m.	House No. 19, Wellington Street, 2nd floor,	10.00	Falling of joss sticks,	Put out by Police and occupants.
13	"	4.15 a.m.	On board S. S. "Shahzada" at Hungthom Dock Wharf,	Trifling	Unknown,	Put out by Dock employees.
14	"	9.40 a.m.	House No. 258, Queen's Road West, 2nd floor,	"	Accident,	Put out by inmates and Police.
15	"	8.54 p.m.	House No. 117, Wellington Street, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Put out by Brigade.
16	"	8 p.m.	House No. 1, Old Bailey Street, 2nd floor, ..	5.00	Lamp setting fire to curtain,	Put out by inmates.
17	March	7.45 p.m.	House No. 46, Aberdeen,	30.00	Unknown,	Put out by occupants and villagers.
18	"	9 p.m.	House No. 224, Queen's Road Central, 2nd floor,	500.00	Overheating of drying pan,	Put out by occupants.
19	"	7.15 p.m.	Steam Laundry premises, Wanchai, .....	...	Soot in chimney caught fire,	Put out by employes.
20	"	11.45 p.m.	House No. 315, Des Vœux Road West, 1st floor, ..	10.00	Careless use of joss sticks,	Put out by Police.
21	"	12 noon	Cook-house of No. 337, Queen's Road Central, ..	...	Accident,	Put out by Police and occupants.
22	April	10.30 a.m.	Pedlar Street,	50.00	Unknown,	Put out by Police and workmen.
23	"	2.30 a.m.	House No. 313, Queen's Road Central, 1st floor, ..	Slight	Do.	Put out by Police and occupants.
24	"	9.30 a.m.	House No. 29, West Street, .....	...	Chimney, on fire,	Do.
25	"	7.30 p.m.	House No. 32, Tai Ping-shan Street, .....	...	Do.	Do.
26	"	6.15 p.m.	House No. 221, Hollywood Road,	Trifling	Escape of gas,	Do.
27	"	8 p.m.	On a piece of ground east of Stanley,	10.00	Grass on fire,	Put out by Police and villagers.
28	May	6.40 a.m.	Po Hing Theatre, Yaumati,	Trifling	Chimney on fire,	Put out by Brigade.
29	"	8 a.m.	House No. 14, Wellington Street,	"	Joss papers igniting bed curtain,	Put out by occupants and Police.
30	"	8 a.m.	Rattan Factory, Bay View Terrace, Shan-ki- wan Road, .....	...	Chimney on fire,	Do.
31	"	8.30 p.m.	A Godown near Bay View Station, .....	...	Unknown,	Put out by Brigade.
32	"	6.45 a.m.	St. Joseph's College, Robinson Road,	100.00	Do.	Put out by teachers and pupils.
				1,280.00		
						Carried forward,

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1905.—Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
			<i>Br. ught forward,.....\$</i>			
33	May 8	1 p.m.	House No 11, Albany Street,.....	1,280.00	Unknown,.....	Put out by occupants.
34	" 9	6.10 a.m.	House No. 188, Hollywood Road,.....	15.00	Upsetting of a kerosine lamp,.....	Put out by Police.
35	" 18	8.20 p.m.	House No. 239, Hollywood Road,.....	..	Chimney on fire,.....	Put out by Police and occupants.
36	" 24	4.30 p.m.	House No. 429, Queen's Road West,.....	Trifling.	Do.	Extinguished by occupants.
37	" 25	8.20 p.m.	House No. 49, High Street,.....	"	Exploing of a kerosine lamp,.....	Do.
38	" 31	11.07 p.m.	House No. 18, Connaught Road,.....	"	Chimney on fire,.....	Put out by occupants and Police.
39	June 2	11 p.m.	House No 1, Mosque Junction,.....	..	Accident,.....	Do.
40	" 15	3.30 a.m.	House No. 530, Queen's Road West,.....	5.00	Exploing of a lamp,.....	Put out by Police.
41	July 1	6.15 p.m.	A bundle of dry grass in the cook-house of a } mashed on the reclamation at Tsim Sha } T'sui caught fire,.....	..	Unknown,.....	Put out by occupants.
42	" 9	8.30 p.m.	No. 5 Police Station,.....	10.00	Accident,.....	Put out by firemen.
43	" 18	9.10 p.m.	House No. 36, Lower Lascar Row,.....	Trifling.	Do.	Extinguished by occupants and Police.
44	" 31	1.15 a.m.	House No. 35E, Wellington Street,.....	..	Chimney on fire,.....	Put out by occupants.
45	August 9	8.15 p.m.	A new building in Chater Road,.....	..	Unknown,.....	Put out by coolies and workmen.
46	" 27	Noon	House No. 414, Des Vœux Road West,.....	10.00	Do.	Put out by Police.
47	" 30	8 a.m.	House No. 102, Aberleen Village,.....	1.00	Accident,.....	Put out by Police and occupants.
48	" 30	9 p.m.	House No. 112, Sham Shui Po,.....	150.00	Do.	Put out by villagers and Police.
49	September 11	6.40 p.m.	House No. 526, Des Vœux Road West,.....	..	Chimney on fire,.....	Put out by Brigade.
50	" 12	11.37 p.m.	House No. 164, Wellington Street,.....	1.00	Exploing of a kerosine lamp,.....	Put out by occupants and firemen.
51	" 14	8.25 p.m.	House No. 230, Queen's Road West,.....	..	Overheating of chimney flue,.....	Put out by occupants.
52	" 27	8.35 a.m.	House No. 2, Mountain View, Peak,.....	10.00	Do.	Put out by occupants and Police.
53	October 1	10.47 p.m.	House No. 48, D'agular Street,.....	..	Chimney on fire,.....	Do.
54	" 4	1.39 p.m.	House No. 39, Circular Pathway,.....	..	Do.	Do.
55	" 6	6.30 p.m.	House No. 129, Connaught Road Central,.....	..	Do.	Put out by Brigade.
56	" 15	5.49 p.m.	House No. 100, Wellington Street,.....	..	Do.	Put out by occupants and Police.
57	" 31	5 p.m.	House No. 46, Second Street,.....	..	Boiling fat igniting firewood,.....	Do.
58	November 1	10.30 p.m.	House No. 350, Queen's Road Central,.....	..	Unknown,.....	Put out by occupants
59	" 2	11 p.m.	House No. 104, Queen's Road Central,.....	Trifling	Accident,.....	Put out by occupants and Police.
60	" 4	12.45 p.m.	House No. 501, Queen's Road West,.....	10.00	Upsetting of a lamp,.....	Do.
61	" 4	12.45 p.m.	House No. 65, Connaught Road West,.....	20.00	Unknown,.....	Put out by Brigade.
62	" 5	6 a.m.	House No. 14, Aberleen Street,.....	6 00	Burning of joss sticks.....	Extinguished by Police and occupants.
63	" 6	7.35 a.m.	Austin Road, Kowloon,.....	..	Chimney on fire,.....	Put out by occupants.
64	" 7	2.35 a.m.	House No. 170, Hollywood Road,.....	..	Exploing of a lamp,.....	Do.
65	" 10	2 a.m.	House No. 63, Connaught Road West,.....	..	Attempted arson,.....	Do.
			<i>Carried forward,.....\$</i>	1,518.00		

INCIPIENT FIRES DURING THE YEAR 1905,--Continued.

No.	DATE.	TIME.	SITUATION OF FIRE.	DAMAGE.	CAUSE.	REMARKS.
65	December 2	3 a.m.	<i>Brought forward,</i>\$	1,518.00		
			Duddell Street, Store of Messrs. Kelly and Walsh,	Slight	Accident,	Put out by goodown keeper.
67	" 13	12.40 p.m.	House No. 197, Wanchai Road,	30.00	Overheating of a stove pipe,	Put out by occupants.
68	" 15	7.20 a.m.	House No. 15, Wong-wei-chung,	10.00	Overturning of a lamp,	Put out by Police and villagers.
69	" 17	5.30 p.m.	House No. 15, Bonham Strand East, .....	..	Bursting of a lamp,	Put out by occupants.
70	" 18	2 a.m.	House No. 54, Bonham Strand Central, .....	..	Unknown,	Do.
71	" 18	10.30 a.m.	H. M. Naval Yard, .....	..	Do.	No assistance required.
72	" 19	1.30 p.m.	The American Match Factory, 26 Des Vœux Road, Hungghom,	50.00	Accident,	Put out by the caretaker.
73	" 23	10.30 a.m.	House No. 10, Wong Ma Kok Village,	103.00	Falling of a lamp,	Put out by villagers.
74	" 26	3.30 a.m.	House No. 28, Tai Ping Shan Street, .....	..	Attempted arson,	Put out by occupants.
75	" 26	5.15 p.m.	House No. 26, Wellington Street, .....	..	Chimney on fire,	Do.
76	" 31	6 p.m.	House No. 4, Lower Lascar Row, .....	..	Do.	Put out by firemen.
77	" 31	10.45 p.m.	"Hingcheong" Stonecutters, Matsshed at Yammati, .....	..	Attempted arson,	Put out by occupants.
TOTAL,.....\$				1,708.00		