

1917.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(REPORT FOR 1916, BEING THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 17 April, 1917.

Presented to Parliament pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 9, 1909, Section 19 (2).

Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales,
213 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 11 January, 1917.

Sir,

In compliance with the provisions of Section 19 (2) of the Fire Brigades Act, 1909, the Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales has the honor to report upon the operations of the Department under its control during the year 1916.

The triennial elections to the Board, under the Fire Brigades Act, in February last, resulted in the re-election of Alderman William Taylor, J.P., by the Councils of the Municipalities and Shires enumerated in Part I of Schedule 1, of the Act (Sydney and Suburbs); and in the return of Alderman Richard Shepherd, J.P. (Mayor of Berry), by the Councils included in Part II of such Schedule, unopposed; of Henry Frederick Francis, by the Insurance Companies, in the stead of Henry Wansey, J.P.; and of John Franklin Beswick, by the Volunteer Fire Brigades, in the room of Major Walter Cracknell, J.P.

Mr. Taylor has held office continuously as a member of the Fire Board since 1894, having represented the Suburban Councils on the Fire Brigades Board, Sydney, from that year until that body was superseded by the present Board in 1910, to which he was then elected as the representative of the City and Suburban Councils. Mr. Beswick, who had enlisted for Active Service abroad, was granted leave of absence in November.

The Estimates of Expenditure adopted for the year 1916, for the maintenance of the Fire Service in the various Fire Districts throughout the State, totalled £124,740, as shown in Appendix II. The estimate in respect of the Sydney Fire District was £87,213, while those of the 75 Country Fire Districts amounted to £37,527.

For the year 1917, the Estimates adopted amount to £142,743; that for the Sydney Fire District being £102,849; and for the 75 Country Fire Districts unitedly £39,894.

The returns of Assessed Annual Values of all ratable property, furnished in 1916 by the Councils of the Municipalities and Shires constituting the Sydney Fire District, amounted to £11,202,005, thus continuing to show an increase. This obtained in almost every individual return, the net increase being £503,830 upon the returns for the preceding year. It is of interest to note in this connection that for the year 1910 (the first year of the Board's regime) the proportion of the Municipal contributions to the Assessed Annual Values was 6s. 10d. in every £100 of assessment, in 1911, 6s. 8d.; 1912, 5s. 9d.; 1913, 6s. 10d. (similar to 1910); in 1914, 7s. (the highest point); 1915, 5s. 10d.; and in 1916, 5s. 5d. (the lowest point). For 1917 the percentage is 6s. 1d., so that notwithstanding the necessary additional levy the percentage compares most favourably with that of preceding years. Several causes operated in the compulsory advance, chief amongst which were the increased wages to members of the Permanent Fire Brigades, as mentioned hereafter; provision for the biennial issue of clothing to Volunteer Firemen; and the advance in price of commodities. The estimates in this and in the other districts which show an increase have, however, been made as low as possible, having due regard to efficiency.

The figures for 1917 are not available, but the contributions by Insurance Companies and firms in respect of the Sydney Fire District were in 1910 7·05 per £100 of premiums, in 1911 6·55, in 1912 5·62, 1913 6·4, 1914 6·6, 1915 6·02, and in 1916 5·81; showing that the first year of the Board carried the heaviest percentage and 1912 the lowest. In the remaining Fire Districts, the percentages for 1916 ranged from 2·67 to 20·2.

For the various Fire Districts, 84 Insurance Companies and 66 firms contributed during 1916.

In accordance with the desire of the Bland Shire Council, the township of West Wyalong in that shire which, by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of the 24th December, 1913, had been taken out of the operation of the Fire Brigades Act, was again brought under that statute by revocation of that portion of the proclamation which dealt with the area in question, *vide Government Gazette* of the 17th November, 1916. This township was included in Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Act when the measure passed into law, and was later grouped with the Municipality of Wyalong; the whole forming and being called the Wyalong Fire District. The district now under the operation of the Fire Brigades Act is however known as the West Wyalong Fire District,—the Municipality of Wyalong having been excluded from the Act in 1913. The Minister consented to the statutory limit of one fourth of a penny in the pound on the Unimproved Capital Value of ratable land in the township of West Wyalong being increased in accordance with Section 34 (1) of the Act; this action being requisite in order that sufficient funds to maintain an efficient Brigade might be available.

The Municipality of Moama, upon the recommendation of the Board in compliance with a request by the Council, was withdrawn from the operations of the Act by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of the 8th December, 1916, the Council desiring the step for financial reasons.

Consequent upon the return of the Unimproved Capital Value of all ratable property in the Municipality of Cobar as prescribed by the Fire Brigades Act showing a marked decrease to that of previous years, and the limit of one farthing in the pound upon such values being insufficient to provide a sum adequate to maintain a satisfactory Fire Brigade during 1917, advantage was taken of Section 34 of the Act, and the Minister's consent obtained to an increase of such statutory limit to one halfpenny in the pound.

Requests by the Shire of Blacktown, the Municipality of Prospect and Sherwood, and the Municipality of Smithfield and Fairfield, for portions of such Shire and Municipalities to be brought under the Fire Brigades Act and the Board's jurisdiction, are receiving consideration.

Part of the Municipality of Dundas was united to the Municipality of Ryde, and part of the Municipality of Ryde to the Municipality of Dundas; *vide Government Gazette* of the 8th September, 1916. The action did not affect the boundaries of the Sydney Fire District.

As notified in the *Government Gazette* of the 10th March, 1916, it was proposed to unite the Municipality of Jerilderie to the Shire of Wunnamurra, and to reconstitute the areas so united as a Shire, to be named Wunnamurra Shire; but owing to the necessity for enabling legislation, the matter could not be concluded.

The number of fire districts under the control of the Board for the year 1917 remains the same as for 1916, *i.e.*, seventy-six (76).

Calls to the number of 1,096 were recorded in the Sydney Fire District, being a decrease of 489 upon the previous year's return. They represented 914 fires other than chimney fires, of which there were 25, and 157 false alarms. Nine of the fires were on shipping, and 42 resulted in total destruction.

In the Country Fire Districts there were 560 alarms of fire.

Mention is particularly made of the serious and suspicious fires which occurred on the premises of Winns, Limited, J. Stedman, Limited, Public Supply Co-Operative Stores, Limited, Simpson's Bond, and others, and culminated in the famous I.W.W. case, in which twelve men were charged, *inter alia*, that they conspired, combined, confederated and agreed together maliciously to set fire to certain warehouses, storehouses, shops, and bags of chaff in Sydney and elsewhere in the State, with intent to injure. Upon the 1st December the men were convicted of conspiracy on various counts, and on the 2nd idem were sentenced by His Honor Justice Pring to terms of imprisonment ranging from five to fifteen years. The evidence clearly revealed the danger which had menaced Sydney, and the Board desires to record its appreciation of the work of the members of the Police Force in the case under review.

By proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of the 23rd June, 1916, as provided by Section 2, the Inflammable Liquid Act, 1915, became operative upon the 1st July, 1916; while regulations thereunder were published in the *Government Gazette* of the 16th June. The Board has under consideration a comprehensive scheme for the storage and supply of inflammable liquids at and for the various fire stations under its control.

Advice was received that it was not practicable for the Government to proceed with the Fire Brigades Amendment Bill affording the Board, among other matters, the power to deal with the storage risk of timber, lumber, and other inflammable material in and on trade premises.

The measure to amend the Height of Buildings (Metropolitan Police District) Act, 1912, referred to in last report, was assented to upon the 14th March, 1916, the Act being cited as the "Height of Buildings (Amendment) Act, 1916."

By it, Section II of the principal Act is repealed, and the following definition of "height" is inserted in its place:—"2. In this Act 'height' in relation to a building means the measurement taken from the mean level at the building line of the footway (if any) immediately in front of the face of building, or where the building faces the footways of more than one street, taken from the mean level of the building line of the footway which is lowest, or where there is no such footway, from the mean level of the ground before excavation, such measurement in any such case to extend to the top of the highest portion of the building which is intended to be occupied or used by any person for any purpose. Provided that space for water tanks or reservoirs, lift or elevator machinery upon the top of a building, although intended to be so occupied, shall not, if constructed on a design approved by the Minister, be taken into account in determining the height of the building."

Section 4, Subsection (1) part (b) of the same Act, which read that—" (b). No such building shall be erected of or increased to greater height than 100 feet outside the City of Sydney without the approval of the Government Architect. Provided that in the case of any building exceeding 100 feet in height, the Fire Commissioners of New South Wales shall first certify to the Chief Secretary that adequate provision has been made in respect of such building for protection against fire," is amended by the omission of the paragraph in question, and the insertion of—" (b). Shall not be erected or increased to a greater height than 100 feet without the issue of a permit by the Minister nor unless the skyline of the building be approved by him and the Chief Officer of Fire Brigades first certifies to the Minister that adequate provision has been made in respect of such building for protection against fire,"

Section 4 of the new Act empowers the Governor to make regulations prescribing the conditions to be complied with before the certificate of the Chief Officer of Fire Brigades is given under Section 4, and fixing the fees which may be made for permits and certificates under this Act. These were published in the *Government Gazette* of 20th October, 1916.

An Act to provide a State Provident Fund for persons employed by the State or by certain other bodies, and for the families of such persons; to provide a system of voluntary saving by such persons; to amend and repeal various Acts; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto, was assented to on 26th April, 1916. Superannuation Act, 1916.

Section 1 prescribes that except where otherwise provided, the measure shall come into operation on the first day of the financial half-year next after the expiration of six months after the proclamation of peace between Great Britain and Germany and her allies.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales is included in Schedule III to the Act, as "Employer."

A deputation of representatives of the Municipal Councils of Balmain, Drummoyne, and Hunter's Hill waited upon the Minister on the 10th October to urge the provision of additional Floating Fire Fighting Appliances for Port Jackson. Fire Float.

The Minister, in reply, stated that in view of the present period of financial stringency it was deemed an inappropriate time to give effect to the recommendations of the deputation. In this connection it may be mentioned that the waters of the harbour are beyond the jurisdiction of the Board. By Section 20 of the Fire Brigades Act, however, members of a Fire Brigade, with engines and appliances, are permitted to go beyond the limits of any area to which the Act applies for the purpose of extinguishing any fire; and, by Section 22, the Board is authorised to recover certain charges, limited by a Schedule, for services rendered by the Fire Brigade.

The new Waverley Fire Station was opened for service in May, the work being carried out at a cost of £4,570. The station at Lane Cove was completed in February, and that at Annandale in September; while the removal of the Canterbury Fire Station, as foreshadowed in last report, was undertaken in April. In addition, improvements and alterations were effected at various stations. Fire stations and sites. Sydney Fire District. Waverley, Lane Cove, Annandale, Canterbury.

At the request of the Board, a new site at Waterloo has been resumed pursuant to the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act, at the intersection of Bourke and Elizabeth-streets, opposite the existing station, and plans for a suitable building are under consideration. The purchase of a new site at St. Peters, having a frontage of 90 ft. to King-street by a depth of 109 ft. along Sutherland-street, was completed; also that of sites at Bankstown and Mosman, the former having a frontage of 66 ft. to Chapel-road by a depth of 165 ft., and the latter a frontage of 87 ft. 1 in. to Military-road by a depth of 161 ft. 2 in. along a lane 20 ft. wide. Waterloo, St. Peters, Bankstown, Mosman.

The leases of the temporary fire stations at Eastwood and Freshwater were extended for three years and two years respectively. Leases. Eastwood, Freshwater.

A small area, triangular in shape, along the rear boundary of the Kogarah Fire Station site was resumed *vide* notification in the *Government Gazette* of the 28th April, 1916, as part of an addition to the St. George's District Cottage Hospital. The Board preferred a claim of £30 as compensation in this regard. Resumption by Government of portion of Kogarah site.

Information having been received of the proposal by the Government to resume the Circular Quay Fire Station in connection with the City Railway, the Board, after careful consideration of the whole situation, decided to apply to the "Housing Board" for additional land at York-street North to that under review in last report, for the purpose of re-establishing and amalgamating the Circular Quay Fire Station with that at York-street North, the latter structure being most inadequate for requirements. After negotiations, approval was given to the sale to the Board of a site having a frontage of 100 feet to York-street North with a through depth to Princes-street, for £6,000. The amount of compensation in connection with the proposed resumption of the Circular Quay Fire Station site has been set at £29,500. In order to minimise delay, a sketch plan for the proposed new Fire Station was prepared by the Board's Architects and is receiving the attention of the Board. It is considered that with the scheme as outlined above, and improvements at Head Quarters Fire Station, the fire protection of the northern end of the City will be well maintained. Circular Quay Fire Station. York-street North Fire Station.

It is of interest to note that the erection of the Circular Quay Fire Station was begun on the 7th July, 1891, completed and occupied on the 25th January, 1893, the work being carried out by Messrs. Banks and Whitehouse, builders, under the supervision of the Government Architect. A temporary station was provided on the site in September, 1890.

The following works, mentioned in last report as being in course of construction and contemplated were completed:—New stations at Glen Innes in January; Kiama in March; Bega, Moree, and Wickham in July; Albury in August; and alterations and additions at Wagga Wagga, Berry and Waratah in March, June, and October respectively. The new stations at Inverell, the contract price for which is £3,739, Muswellbrook £755 10s., and Camden £329 15s., however, will not be finished until the early part of 1917. Country Fire Districts. Glen Innes, Kiama, Bega, Moree, Wickham, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Berry, Waratah, Inverell, Camden, Muswellbrook.

In addition, a new station was provided at Cessnock at a cost of £1,341, and officially opened in October; while a sub-station in Swift-street, Wellington, was also established during the year. Cessnock, Wellington.

A new site at Dubbo, situated on the south-western corner of the sports ground, was, by arrangement with the Municipal Council, vested in the Board. It is proposed to erect a new station thereon in place of the present inadequate structure in Macquarie-street. Sites. Dubbo.

At Homeville, land having a frontage of 66 feet by a depth of 112 feet 11 inches was purchased for £70, and tenders are being invited for the erection of a new station at a probable cost of £300. A site was also acquired at Tenterfield for £150; and negotiations are proceeding for land at Queanbeyan and Mittagong for £175 and £200 respectively. Homeville, Tenterfield, Queanbeyan, Mittagong.

Sites reserved or dedicated.

Sites for fire stations at Bathurst, Beecroft, Broken Hill (railway town), Gilgandra, Moree, Muswellbrook, South Grafton, and Wellington have been dedicated, and those at Deniliquin, Parkes, and West Broken Hill reserved—the Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales being appointed trustee in each instance. The board was also appointed trustee of the site previously reserved at Armidale and the addition to the site at Kurri Kurri.

Leases.
Coff's Harbour,
Molong,
Taree,
Mittagong,
Sale of late
Newcastle Cen-
tral Fire Station.

The leases of the temporary station at Coff's Harbour and the stations at Molong and Taree were renewed, and as a temporary measure for the protection of Mittagong, a building was rented to house fire appliances.

An offer of £1,000 for the premises formerly known as the Newcastle Central Fire Station, which formed the subject of litigation between the Attorney-General and the Newcastle Municipal Council as mentioned in the Board's report for 1914, was accepted by the Board in December.

Fire Brigades
Property Bill.

The Fire Brigades Property Bill, wherein it is proposed to transfer to the Board the properties resumed or otherwise acquired by the Crown, has not yet been dealt with by Parliament. It is hoped that the measure will be considered next session.

Fire Alarms.

During the year six (6) Telephone Fire Alarms were established in the Sydney Fire District—one each at Annandale, Auburn, Granville, Kogarah (Oatley), Lidcombe, and Rockdale; while fifty-seven (57) additional fire alarms were provided in the country fire districts at Albury (1), Ballina (4), Bathurst (2), Glen Innes (5), Goulburn (4), Gunnedah (4), Kempsey (2), Lismore (5), Lithgow (4), Moree (2), Mudgee (4), Narrandera (4), Parkes (4), South Grafton (4), Tamworth (5), Taree (2), and Wellington (1).

The total number of street fire alarms in the Sydney fire district is now 446, exclusive of fourteen special alarms; and in the country 213. In addition there are in the former district 150 private fire alarms, ninety-three sprinkler installations in the premises of fifty-three firms, nine of the Kirkby system, and twenty-nine May-Oatway. Three sprinkler installations, in the premises of two firms, are connected to the Newcastle Fire Station, while there are also eighty-six private alarms in country Fire Districts.

In consequence of the late delivery of Telephone Fire-alarm Instruments on account of the war, followed by the moulders' strike, a number of alarms for which approval had been given could not be provided.

Fire Alarm
Pillars.

Owing to the undergrounding of telephone lines in Sydney and suburbs, and elsewhere, and the removal of telephone posts, a fire-alarm pillar was designed, and received the approval of the Sydney Municipal Council and the postal authorities. It is intended to instal these pillars as the necessity arises.

War.

The Board is pleased to record that a member of the Clerical Staff, Captain R. M. Sadler, was awarded the Military Cross for displaying great courage and fine leadership in France.

The number of Permanent Firemen (Reservists) who have been called upon for Active Service is now eleven; those who have volunteered, forty-one, irrespective of four officers from the Clerical Staff, one from the Mechanical, and one from the Electrical Staffs. The enlistments from the ranks of the Volunteer Fireman total 190.

Brigade.
Strength.

The authorised strength of the Permanent Staff in the Sydney Fire District is at present 320, while fifty-one permanent men are stationed in the Country Districts.

Mittagong,
Bankstown.

A Brigade, consisting of ten volunteer firemen, with necessary equipment, was established in February at Mittagong, and one at Bankstown, of six volunteers, in March.

Long Service
Medals.

Eleven (11) Long Service Medals were awarded during the year; the recipients being Station Officers J. Creeke, H. Hannan, R. F. Nichols, and W. Shaw; Sub-station Officers J. Bowden and A. Haining; and Firemen F. Bowron, W. Maunsell, F. Morris, F. Ryan, and W. Scadding.

Deaths.

J. Stanchell.

The death of Farrier J. Stanchell on the 19th July, 1916, from natural causes, removed from the Board's service one of the remaining pioneers of the permanent force, he having joined the Fire Brigade Service on the 1st July, 1884, upon the passing of the Fire Brigades Act of that year. Previously he was a member of the Insurance Companies Brigade.

G. T. Broad-
hurst.

The Board also records with regret the decease of Mr. G. T. Broadhurst, clerk of works, upon the 16th October. Under his supervision a number of Fire Stations in the country and suburbs were erected. He joined the Board's service permanently as clerk of works on the 12th November, 1909, but from 1899 was employed from time to time in that capacity. As a member and Captain of the Waverley Volunteer Fire Brigade, his connection with the Fire Brigade Service dated from 1890. Station Officer W. McNiven was appointed to the vacant position.

Motor Fire
Engines.

Motor Pumping Fire Engines were completed in the Board's workshops and installed at the Fire Stations in Albury, Casino, and Gordon; while Motor Hose Carriages were similarly provided at Annandale, Beecroft, Hamilton, Head Quarters, Lane Cove, Vacluse, and Waverley, Notwithstanding increases in prices of materials and wages, the reduction in the cost of production of these appliances, forecasted in last report, was realised.

A Motor Pumping Engine was transferred to the Woollahra Fire Station, and a new Salvage Motor Appliance, designed and constructed by the Board's Staff, was placed in commission at Headquarters Fire Station, replacing that obtained from England in 1907.

Horse-drawn
appliances, &c.

A horse-drawn Turbine Fire Engine was substituted at Young for a Manual Fire Engine, a Chemical Hose Carriage placed in commission at Stockton, while a Horse Hose Reel and a Hand Hose Cart were provided for Broadmeadow Fire Station and the Sub-station at East Moree respectively.

Hose.

Hose to the extent of 64,000 feet was ordered for replacements and additions in various Fire Brigades in the Sydney and Country Fire Districts. By reason of the trade in England having been organised by the Ministry of Munitions into Classes A, B, and C in accordance with its relative importance from the point of view of the prosecution of the war, the question of the Board's supplies of hose on order from Messrs. McGregor & Co., of Dundee, Scotland, was brought under the notice of the Minister for Munitions by the Agent-General for New South Wales in London, on the Board's behalf, with the result that a Class "B" Priority Certificate was granted. It is expected that a shipment will shortly be received.

The Fire Brigade Employees' Union of New South Wales preferred a log of claims for increased wages and improved conditions of employment, the Award made in 1913 expiring on the 22nd January, 1916. The matter, when before the Wages Board, was narrowed, by consent, to the question of wages, with the right of either party to apply for a variation of the Award after the war. The Board, however, in its new Award made no alteration to the rates of pay obtaining under the old. The Union thereupon appealed to the Arbitration Court, and on the 19th July His Honor Justice Edmunds delivered his Judgment, allowing the Appeal and ordering the Award to be amended by an increase in the wages of 1s. per day (such increase to take effect from the 1st September, 1916); the man in charge of the Hose Department (or any person appointed to act temporarily during his absence) 11s. per day, and assistant of that Department 9s. 6d. per day.

Fire Brigade
Employees'
Union—New
Award.

Application was later made by the Union on the 29th August, 1916, to the Government Employees' Group No. 3 (Fire Brigades) Board to vary the Award as amended by the Court as abovementioned, by the deletion of the clause relating to wages, and its substitution by one providing 6d. a day additional increase to the various ranks of firemen. The application came before the Wages Board on the 30th September, 1916, when the Chairman ruled that the matter could not be dealt with by the Board. The Union thereupon lodged an Appeal to the Court, and such Appeal is still pending.

The Board of Fire Commissioners granted increases to the various grades of Fire Brigade Officers, to members of the Special Service Class, and an increased retaining fee to the members of the Boolaroo, Kurri Kurri, Weston, and Abermain Fire Brigades.

Increase of pay
and fees.

The Board, as will be seen from the foregoing, was faced with a strenuous and peculiarly difficult and trying year, but is pleased to be able to report that it feels the duties imposed upon it by the Fire Brigades Act have been faithfully and well carried out.

Notwithstanding difficulties, supplies essential to the Fire Brigade Service have been provided with comparatively little or no delay, and by the methods adopted by the Board stocks are well maintained.

During the year the President (the Hon. E. H. Farrar, M.L.C.) and members of the Board systematically visited and inspected fire brigades in various country towns, with results so beneficial from the point of economy and efficiency that it is the intention to continue this policy.

In conclusion, attention is invited to the information contained in the report by the Chief Officer of Fire Brigades and other appendices.

We have, &c.,

E. H. FARRAR,
W. TAYLOR,
HENRY F. FRANCIS,
RICHARD SHEPHERD.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year ended 31st December, 1916.

REVENUE.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance unexpended of Estimates, 1915.....			15,286 2 1	By Clothing.....		4,505 4 11	
„ Contributions—				Fire Appliances, Minor.....		532 8 5	
Government.....		41,580 0 0		Fire Expenses.....		129 1 2	
Insurance Companies.....	41,372 2 4			Podder.....		4,027 9 3	
Firms.....	207 17 8	41,580 0 0		Fuel.....		192 9 7	
Municipalities and Shires (Sydney Fire District)	29,071 0 0			Furniture, Fittings, &c.....		294 6 1	
Country Municipalities and Shires.....	12,509 0 0	41,580 0 0		Gratuities.....		83 5 9	
Lake Macquarie Shire in respect of Boolaroo Fire District (Special).....		25 0 5		Harness.....		61 1 3	
„ Services rendered.....		2,266 6 9		Hire of Horses.....		323 3 8	
„ Sale of materials.....		648 17 10		Horses.....		145 19 9	
				Hose.....		1,835 16 2	
				Life Assurance.....		295 19 9	
				Lighting.....		1,669 13 4	
				Medical Fees.....		48 3 0	
				Petty Expenses.....		64 10 0	
				Printing, Postage, Stationery.....		577 0 3	
				Rates.....		3,148 19 0	
				Rent.....		3,213 6 10	
				Repairs and Replacements.....		3,944 1 7	
				Salaries.....		66,901 3 2	
				Shoeing.....		409 7 3	
				Station Repairs.....		2,015 0 3	
				Sundries.....		29 10 10	
				Sundry Materials.....		2,153 13 2	
				Telephones and Electric Plant.....		1,403 1 0	
				Telephone Maintenance.....		650 2 1	
				Tools and Utensils.....		1,067 13 8	
				Travelling, Cartage, and Freight.....		1,906 14 11	
				Volunteers, Payments to.....		9,515 11 0	
				Insurance, Stations, &c.....		64 4 10	
							111,213 1 11
				Equipment, Charge for.....		6,405 3 10	
				Property, Charge for.....		7,661 16 11	
							14,067 0 9
				Administration.....			6,010 9 8
				Balance unexpended of Estimates, 1916.....			11,675 14 9
			£142,966 7 1				£142,966 7 1

Administration Account for Year ended 31st December, 1916.

1916.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1915.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31—To Audit Fees.....	105 0 0		Dec. 31—By Balance from 1915.....		78 16 4
Board Fees.....	600 0 0		Cost of Administration as per Estimates, 1916—		
Exchange.....	83 2 9		A Division, 41%.....	3,555 8 11	
Furniture, Fittings, Plant, &c.....	300 0 0		B „ 7%.....	725 19 5	
Guarantee Premiums.....	18 13 9		C „ 7%.....	415 5 10	
Insurance, Stations.....	21 11 6		D „ 7%.....	233 3 2	
Law Costs.....	50 19 0		E „ 7%.....	261 4 6	
Life Assurance.....	8 13 2		F „ 7%.....	235 2 5	
Printing, Postage, Stationery, &c.....	334 2 7		G „ 7%.....	145 4 8	
Repairs—Sundry.....	0 17 1		H „ 7%.....	184 9 9	
Salaries.....	3,696 19 6		I „ 7%.....	254 11 0	
Sundries.....	26 10 8				
Sundry Materials.....	2 11 10				
Telephone Maintenance.....	14 13 9				6,010 9 8
Travelling.....	383 13 6				
		5,647 19 1			
To Balance forward to 1917.....		441 6 11			
		£6,089 6 0			£6,089 6 0

Balance-sheet as at 31st December, 1916.

LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	PROPERTY AND ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fund Account.....	54,790 18 3	Land—		
Administration Account.....	441 6 11	As at last Balance.....	17,275 0 6	
Property and Equipment Fund.....	49,392 4 4	Additions, 1916.....	1,865 16 1	19,140 16 7
Debentures.....	£100,000 0 0	Buildings—		
„ Accrued interest.....	1,500 0 0	As at last Balance.....	81,625 7 9	
	101,500 0 0	Additions, 1916.....	17,540 2 9	99,165 10 6
Reserve for Fire Appliances.....	270 0 0	Plant Account.....		1,155 9 6
Reserve for Land and Buildings.....	122 0 0	Fire Appliances—		
Contractors' Deposit Trust Account, as per contra.....	189 10 6	As at last Balance.....	63,164 13 3	
Life Assurance Trust Funds, as per contra.....	278 12 6	Additions, 1916.....	6,833 2 8	69,997 15 6
Revenue and Expenditure Account.....	11,675 14 9	Stocks on hand, 31/12/1916—		
		Stores.....	4,220 8 3	
		Electrical.....	2,644 0 10	
		Workshops.....	8,223 6 8	15,087 10 9
		Cash—		
		Petty—Brigades.....	142 0 0	
		Secretary.....	10 0 0	152 0 0
		Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, Ltd.		13,493 1 5
		Contractors' Deposit Trust Account.....		189 10 6
		Life Assurance Trust Funds at Fixed Deposit.....		278 12 6
				£218,660 7 3
				£218,660 7 3

We certify that we have examined and audited the books and vouchers of the Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales, and that the Revenue Account and Balance-sheet correctly set forth the position of the Board at the 31st December, 1916, as disclosed by the books.

Sydney, 10th January, 1917.

JAS. ROBERTSON, H. RUSSELL CRANE & Co.,
Public Accountants.

APPENDIX II.

ESTIMATE of Expenditure for the Year 1916.

One-third payable by the Municipal or Shire Councils interested in the respective Fire Districts, one-third by the Government, and one-third by the Fire Insurance Companies insuring property within such Districts.

Fire District.	Total.		Fire District.	Total.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1. Albury Municipality	816	0 0	60. Singleton Municipality	291	0 0
2. Armidale "	462	0 0	61. South Grafton "	234	0 0
3. Ballina "	276	0 0	62. Sydney—		
4. Bathurst "	714	0 0	The City of Sydney		
5. Bega "	291	0 0	Alexandria Municipality		
6. Berry "	150	0 0	Annandale "		
7. Boolaroo Township, in Lake Macquarie Shire	138	0 0	Ashfield "		
8. Bourke Municipality	135	0 0	Auburn "		
9. Bowral "	165	0 0	Balmain "		
10. Braidwood "	102	0 0	Bankstown (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 18th November, 1914)		
11. Broken Hill "	3,891	0 0	Bexley Municipality		
12. Camden "	222	0 0	Botany "		
13. Campbelltown "	165	0 0	Burwood "		
14. Casino "	666	0 0	Canterbury "		
15. Cessnock—			Concord "		
Cessnock Township } in Cessnock Shire. }	267	0 0	Darlington "		
16. Cobar Municipality	186	0 0	Drummoyne "		
17. Coff's Harbour Town, in Dorrigo Shire (the additional area gazetted 3rd January, 1912)	231	0 0	Dundas (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th November, 1913)		
18. Condobolin Municipality	186	0 0	Eastwood Municipality (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th November, 1913)		
19. Coonamble "	252	0 0	Enfield Municipality		
20. Cootamundra "	330	0 0	Erskineville "		
21. Corowa "	150	0 0	The Glebe "		
22. Cowra "	273	0 0	Granville "		
23. Deniliquin "	180	0 0	Homebush "		
24. Dubbo "	228	0 0	Hunter's Hill "		
25. Forbes "	273	0 0	Hurstville "		
26. Gilgandra—The Gilgandra Urban Area, in Gilgandra Shire	225	0 0	Kogarah "		
27. Glen Innes Municipality	369	0 0	Lane Cove "		
28. Goulburn "	1,014	0 0	Leichhardt "		
29. Grafton "	618	0 0	Lidcombe "		
30. Grenfell "	150	0 0	Manly "		
31. Gunnedah "	318	0 0	Marrickville "		
32. Hay "	162	0 0	Mascot "		
33. Inverell "	648	0 0	Mosman "		
34. Jerilderie "	117	0 0	Newtown "		
35. Junee "	300	0 0	North Sydney "		
36. Katoomba "	873	0 0	Paddington "		
37. Kempsey "	204	0 0	Parramatta "		
38. Kiama "	162	0 0	Petersham "		
39. Kurri Kurri—			Randwick "		
Kurri Kurri Township } in Cessnock Shire. }			Redfern "		
Weston "			Rockdale "		
Abermain "			Ryde "		
Tarro Shire (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 17th November, 1915)	696	0 0	St. Peters "		
40. Lismore Municipality	1,206	0 0	Strathfield "		
41. Lithgow "	579	0 0	Vaucluse "		
42. Liverpool "	591	0 0	Waterloo "		
43. Maitland—			Waverley "		
Maitland, East "			Willoughby "		
Maitland, West "			Woollahra "		
The Township of Lorn, in Bolwarra Shire			Hornsby Shire (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th November, 1913)		
Cessnock Shire (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 20th October, 1915)	1,962	0 0	Ku-ring-gai Shire (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th November, 1913)		
44. Mittagong Municipality	237	0 0	Warringah Shire (the part described in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 18th November, 1914)		
45. Moama "	Nil.				
46. Molong "	174	0 0	63. Tamworth Municipality	573	0 0
47. Moree "	294	0 0	64. Taree "	270	0 0
48. Morpeth "	117	0 0	65. Temora "	390	0 0
49. Moss Vale "	186	0 0	66. Tenterfield "	240	0 0
50. Mudgee "	258	0 0	67. Tumut "	210	0 0
51. Murwillumbah "	288	0 0	68. Wagga Wagga "	855	0 0
52. Muswellbrook "	189	0 0	69. Walgett Township, in Walgett Shire	180	0 0
53. Narrandera "	240	0 0	70. Wallsend Municipality (as re-constituted <i>vide Government Gazette</i>) 20th October, 1915	264	0 0
54. Newcastle—			71. Wellington Municipality	252	0 0
The City of Newcastle			72. West Wallsend—		
Adamstown Municipality			Estellville Township { in Lake Macquarie Shire. }	183	0 0
Carrington "			Holmesville "		
Hamilton "			West Wallsend "		
Lambton "			73. Windsor—		
Lambton, New "			Windsor Municipality	693	0 0
Merewether "			Richmond "		
Stockton "			74. Wollongong "	435	0 0
Waratah "			75. Yass "	201	0 0
Wickham "			76. Young "	234	0 0
55. Nowra "	165	0 0			
56. Orange "	684	0 0			
57. Parkes "	231	0 0			
58. Penrith "	405	0 0			
59. Queanbeyan "	141	0 0			

£124,740 0 0

APPENDIX III.

CONTRIBUTIONS by the Municipal and Shire Councils.

Council	Contribution.			Council.	Contribution.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1. Adamstown	57	5	3	69. Ku-ring-gai Shire	481	15	10
2. Albury	272	0	0	70. Lake Macquarie Shire, for the Township of Boolaroo	46	0	0
3. Alexandria	256	11	11	71. Lake Macquarie Shire, on account of Estellville, Holmesville, and West Wallsend	61	0	0
4. Annandale.....	327	16	3	72. Lambton	61	10	7
5. Armidale	154	0	0	73. Lambton, New	50	11	9
6. Ashfield.....	805	16	6	74. Lane Cove	176	15	0
7. Auburn	228	2	11	75. Leichhardt	514	19	2
8. Ballina	92	0	0	76. Lidcombe.....	123	18	2
9. Balmain	740	12	11	77. Lismore	402	0	0
10. Bankstown	80	4	8	78. Lithgow	193	0	0
11. Bathurst	238	0	0	79. Liverpool.....	197	0	0
12. Bega	97	0	0	80. Maitland, East	128	9	9
13. Berry	50	0	0	81. Maitland, West	446	5	0
14. Bexley	250	0	0	82. Manly	493	8	3
15. Bolwarra Shire, on account of the Township of Lorn	48	10	4	83. Marrickville	999	9	6
16. Botany	120	10	8	84. Mascot	178	18	7
17. Bourke	45	0	0	85. Merewether.....	119	6	2
18. Bowral	55	0	0	86. Mittagong	79	0	0
19. Braidwood	34	0	0	87. Moama .....	...	...	...
20. Broken Hill	1,297	0	0	88. Molong.....	58	0	0
21. Burwood	431	7	2	89. Moree	98	0	0
22. Camden	74	0	0	90. Morpeth	39	0	0
23. Campbelltown	55	0	0	91. Mosman	668	17	9
24. Canterbury	595	14	8	92. Moss Vale	62	0	0
25. Carrington.....	125	2	4	93. Mudgee	86	0	0
26. Casino.....	222	0	0	94. Murwillumbah	96	0	0
27. Cessnock Shire, on account of the Townships of Cessnock and Aberdare.....	89	0	0	95. Muswellbrook.....	63	0	0
28. Cessnock Shire, on account of the Townships of Kurri Kurri, Weston, and Abermain	228	13	6	96. Narrandera	80	0	0
29. Cessnock Shire, on account of the Townships of Homeville, Telarah, Rutherford, and Mayfield	30	14	11	97. Newcastle	1,036	19	11
30. Cobar	62	0	0	98. Newtown	753	3	10
31. Concord	179	15	10	99. North Sydney.....	1,471	7	10
32. Condobolin.....	62	0	0	100. Nowra	55	0	0
33. Coonamble.....	84	0	0	101. Orange	228	0	0
34. Cootamundra	110	0	0	102. Paddington	665	12	0
35. Corowa	50	0	0	103. Parkes	77	0	0
36. Cowra.....	91	0	0	104. Parramatta	278	19	5
37. Darlington.....	82	10	1	105. Penrith.....	135	0	0
38. Deniliquin	60	0	0	106. Petersham	694	19	11
39. Dorrigo Shire, on account of Coff's Harbour Fire District.....	77	0	0	107. Queanbeyan.....	47	0	0
40. Drummoyne	409	11	8	108. Randwick	1,265	0	3
41. Dubbo	76	0	0	109. Redfern	639	2	2
42. Dundas	39	15	11	110. Richmond	95	10	11
43. Eastwood	6	6	2	111. Rockdale	483	4	0
44. Enfield	107	15	9	112. Ryde.....	253	9	1
45. Erskineville	146	4	0	113. Singleton	97	0	0
46. Forbes	91	0	0	114. St. Peters	203	15	2
47. Gilgandra Shire, on account of the Gilgandra Urban Area	75	0	0	115. Stockton	89	17	4
48. Glebe	596	13	5	116. Strathfield	222	16	11
49. Glen Innes.....	123	0	0	117. Sydney.....	9,216	19	4
50. Goulburn	338	0	0	118. Tamworth	191	0	0
51. Grafton	206	0	0	119. Taree	90	0	0
52. Grafton, South.....	78	0	0	120. Tarro Shire, portion gazetted 17th November, 1915	3	6	6
53. Granville	247	2	7	121. Temora	130	0	0
54. Grenfell	50	0	0	122. Tenterfield	80	0	0
55. Gunnedah	106	0	0	123. Tunut	70	0	0
56. Hamilton	377	18	5	124. Vacluse	123	10	5
57. Hay	54	0	0	125. Wagga Wagga	285	0	0
58. Homebush	40	9	7	126. Walgett Shire, on account of the Township of Walgett	60	0	0
59. Hornsby Shire	234	18	4	127. Wallsend	88	0	0
60. Hunter's Hill	151	3	4	128. Waratah	275	15	7
61. Hurstville	204	10	2	129. Warringah Shire	49	5	10
62. Inverell	216	0	0	130. Waterloo	254	2	8
63. Jerilderie	39	0	0	131. Waverley.....	817	1	6
64. Junee	100	0	0	132. Wellington	84	0	0
65. Katoomba	291	0	0	133. Wickham.....	295	12	8
66. Kempsey	68	0	0	134. Willoughby	618	8	5
67. Kiama	54	0	0	135. Windsor	135	9	1
68. Kogarah.....	290	8	9	136. Woollahra	847	14	3
				137. Wollongong.....	145	0	0
				138. Yass	67	0	0
				139. Young	78	0	0
				Total	£41,580	0	0

APPENDIX IV.

CONTRIBUTORY INSURANCE COMPANIES AND FIRMS, &c.

Insurance Companies.

1. Alliance Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
2. Assurance and Thrift Association (Ltd.)
3. Atlas Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
4. Australian Alliance Assurance Co.
5. Australian Amicable Assurance Assn. (Ltd.)
6. Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Society (Ltd.)
7. Australian Provincial Assurance Assn.
8. Australasian Mutual Insurance Co.
9. Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance Company.
10. Bombay Fire and Marine Insurance Company (Ltd.)
11. British Crown Assurance Corporation (Ltd.)
12. British Dominions General Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
13. British and Foreign Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
14. Caledonian Insurance Co.
15. Canton Insurance Office (Ltd.)
16. Catholic Church Property Insur. Co. of Australasia (Ltd.)
17. Central Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
18. Century Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
19. City Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
20. Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
21. Commercial Union Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
22. Derwent and Tamar Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
23. Employers Liability Assurance Corporation (Ltd.) of London.
24. Farmers and Settlers' Co-operative Insurance Co. of Australia (Ltd.)
25. Federal Mutual Insurance Co. of Australia (Ltd.)
26. Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.
27. General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corp. (Ltd.)
28. Guardian Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
29. Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society (Ltd.)
30. Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
31. Insurance Office of Australia (Ltd.)
32. Java Sea and Fire Insurance Co.
33. Lancashire Insurance Co.
34. Law Union and Rock Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
35. Legal Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
36. Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co.
37. Lloyd's London.
38. London and Lancashire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
39. London Assurance Co.
40. L'Union Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
41. Manchester Assurance Company.
42. Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
43. Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
44. Merchants Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
45. National Benefit Life and Property Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
46. National Insurance Co. of New Zealand (Ltd.)
47. National Insurance Society (Ltd.)
48. Netherlands' Lloyd (Ltd.)
49. New South Wales Methodist Church Fire Insur. Fund.
50. New Zealand Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
51. North British and Mercantile Insurance Co.
52. North Queensland Accident Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
53. Northern Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
54. Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society (Ltd.)
55. Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation (Ltd.)
56. Palatine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
57. Patriotic Assurance Co.
58. Phoenix Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
59. Queensland Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
60. Reliance Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
61. Royal Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
62. Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation (Ltd.)
63. Samarang Insurance Co.
64. Scottish Union and National Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
65. South British Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
66. Standard Fire and Marine Insur. Co. of New Zealand (Ltd.)
67. State Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
68. Sun Insurance Office.
69. Switzerland General Insurance Co.
70. Sydney Fire Office.
71. Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
72. Triton Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
73. Union Assurance Society (Ltd.)
74. Union Insurance Society of Canton (Ltd.)
75. Union Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
76. United Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
77. Victoria Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
78. Victoria General Insurance and Guarantee Co. (Ltd.)
79. West of Scotland Insurance Office (Ltd.)
80. Western Assurance Co.
81. Western Australian Insurance Co.
82. World Marine Insurance Co.
83. Yangtze Insurance Association (Ltd.)
84. Yorkshire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)

Firms, &c.

1. Aronsen & Co.
2. Australian Drug Co. (Ltd.)
3. Australian Films (Ltd.)
4. Briscoe & Co. (Ltd.)
5. Brown & Co.
6. Bennett and Barkell (Ltd.)
7. Broken Hill South Silver Mining Co.
8. Buckingham, William
9. Beard, Watson (Ltd.)
10. Chown Bros. and Mulholland (Ltd.)
11. Cocks, Arthur, & Co. (Ltd.)
12. Cooke, John, & Co. Pty. (Ltd.)
13. Cowan, Alex., & Sons (Ltd.)
14. Colonial Paper Co. (Ltd.)
15. Capper, E. P., and Sons
16. Cohen & Co.
17. Collins Bros. & Co. (Ltd.)
18. Dawson, H., and Co.
19. Deuchar, W. G.
20. Elliott Bros.
21. Farmer & Co. (Ltd.)
22. Farleigh, Nettheim & Co.
23. Foys, Mark, Ltd.
24. Grace Bros.
25. Groves & Co.
26. Hagon, Blackburn & Co.
27. Harland, William, and Sons
28. Hoffnung, S., and Co.
29. Holmes, Storey & Co.
30. Harrison and Attwood
31. Hordern Bros.
32. Hudson, G. and Son (Ltd.)
33. International Harvester Co. of Australia (Ltd.)
34. Jones, David (Ltd.)
35. Lion and Moseley
36. Levy, J. A.
37. Lassetter, F., & Co.
38. Lever Bros. (Ltd.)
39. McArthur, W. & A.
40. McCathie's (Ltd.)
41. Markwald, Son, and Abel
42. Myers and Solomon
43. New Zealand & Australian Land Co. (Ltd.)
44. New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency
45. Phizackerley, I.
46. Petersen, Boesen & Co. (Ltd.)
47. Parbury, Henty & Co.
48. Proud's (Ltd.)
49. Perdriau Rubber Co. (Ltd.)
50. Reckitts (Oversea) Ltd.
51. Richards, B., and Son
52. Scott, A. M., and Co.
53. Swan, R. C., and Co.
54. Sweet Bros.
55. Sands, John (Ltd.)
56. Salenger Bros.
57. Studebaker Corporation of Asia (Ltd.)
58. Tillock & Co.
59. Turner and Henderson.
60. Vacuum Oil Co., Newcastle
61. Vacuum Oil Co., Sydney
62. Walker and Hall.
63. Western Electric Co.
64. Wiggins, Teape & Co.
65. Wilson, J. R. (Ltd.)
66. Yuill, G. S., & Co. (Ltd.)

APPENDIX V.

Attendances at Board Meetings.

	Meetings.	
	Present.	Absent.
Hon. Ernest Henry Farrar, M.L.C. (President)	45	1
* John Franklin Beswick	29	7
† Major Walter Cracknell	5	...
‡ Henry Frederick Francis	41	...
§ Alderman Richard Shepherd, J.P.	41	5
|| Alderman William Taylor, J.P.	42	4
¶ Henry Wansey, J.P.	5	...

Ordinary meetings, 46. Extraordinary meetings, Nil.

* Elected in the room of Major Cracknell, 8th February, 1916. † Term expired 8th February, 1916. ‡ Elected in the room of Mr. Wansey, 4th February, 1916. § Term expired 15th February, 1916. Re-elected unopposed. || Re-elected 1st February, 1916. ¶ Term expired 4th February, 1916. Mr. Beswick granted leave of absence 16th November, 1916, whilst on active service.

APPENDIX VI.

New South Wales Fire Brigades,
Headquarters, Castlereagh-street,
Sydney, 8 January, 1917.

The Secretary, Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales, Sydney.

Sir,

I have the honor to present the following Report upon the working of the New South Wales Fire Brigades during the year 1916.

“ A ” DIVISION—SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

The number of calls to fires or supposed fires was 1,081, in addition to which the brigades attended 15 calls to chimney fires.

Of the former, 157 were false alarms, 10 proved to be only chimney fires, and 914 were actual fires.

The total number of calls of all descriptions amounted to 1,096, being a decrease on the previous year of 489. The wet season which prevailed, especially during the months of March and November, was responsible for the decrease in the number of bush and grass fires which usually occur at these periods of the year.

The names of firms where the most serious fires occurred are as follows :—

Date.	Locality.	Occupier.	Business.
24 Jan. ...	48 King-street, Newtown.....	Elvy & Thorne	Furniture Manufacturers.
25 April... 183 Pitt-street		Hardware Club	Club.
15 May ... McEvoy-street, Alexandria.....		Acme Bedstead	Bedstead Manufacturers.
1 June ... Lackey-street, City		G. A. L. Simpson	Bond.
24 June ... Liverpool-street, City		Winns, Ltd.	Drapers.
27 July ... 125-135 Clarence-street, City		J. Stedman, Ltd.	Manufacturing Confectioner.
15 Aug. ... Lord-street, Botany		J. Bayley & Sons	Tanners.
31 Aug. ... 362-368 Pitt-street, City		Public Supply Co-Operative Stores.	Drapers.
30 Sept. ... 361-363 George-street		Beard, Watson, Ltd.	Warehouseman.
2 Oct. ... Ross-street, Glebe		Grace Bros.	Furniture Repository.
24 Oct. ... 355-357 Kent-street		J. Connell & Co.	General Importers.

A large increase has occurred in serious fires, also doubtful or suspicious fires which have been due to malicious intent.

The number of suspicious fires has been 156. Of these the police have been instrumental in securing 13 convictions. Included in the 157 false alarms are 27 malicious alarms.

In all 32 persons were burned at fires, and four succumbed to their injuries.

First Aid was rendered by the Brigade in most cases.

There are now 446 street telephone fire alarms.

The distance covered by the vehicles of the brigade was 46,982 miles.

The number of horses now in use is 93.

The number of horses sold was 7; and 7 died.

In addition to attending fires and keeping the plant and stations in order, 62,837 eight-hour watches were kept; 12,864 hydrant inspections were made; 51,387 telephone inspections; 433 inspections of buildings, and 253 theatre and public halls inspections.

The watchroom registered 136,900 incoming calls, and 105,200 outgoing calls.

About 30½ miles of hose were in use at fires.

During the year there were 9 ship fires.

The strength of the brigade has been increased by 3 men, making a total of 320.

During the year 31 men joined the brigade, and 9 resigned their appointments for military service, leaving a shortage of 17 men in the permanent staff, exclusive of 11 naval and military reserves, whose vacancies have not yet been filled.

The volunteer staff has also been depleted by 68 resignations.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The special service staff has been responsible for the periodical inspection and care of 187 buildings belonging to the State and Commonwealth Governments, which contain 1,268 hydrants, 1,276 branches and nozzles, 1,778 chemical extinguishers, and 107,520 feet of hose.

All the hose and appliances are tested annually.

ACCIDENTS

ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES.

The following list enumerates the number of accidents and injuries to officers and men in the execution of their duty:—

Nature of Accident.	No.
Injury to knee	2
„ feet and legs	8
„ hands	6
„ arms	5
„ head and face... ..	2
„ body	5
Total	28

There were 58 cases of illness.

During the year 2 deaths occurred, viz. :—Mr. J. Stanchell, farrier; Mr. G. T. Broadhurst, clerk of works.

WATER.

The quantity of water used in extinguishing fires was approximately 6,520,643 gallons; of this quantity about 61,445 gallons were taken from the harbour.

BUILDING ACT.

Great activity has been shown in building operations during the past year, and legislation is required in this direction.

The Height of Buildings Act has been amended in the direction of providing a comprehensive set of rules and regulations.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS ACT.

The Inflammable Liquids Act, together with by-laws and regulations relating to the storage and transit, has come into force, and should be the means of minimising this important fire risk.

FIRE FLOAT.

Nothing has yet been done in the matter, and it is again urged that a properly equipped fire float should form part of the equipment of the fire brigade.

SALVAGE CORPS.

The number of miles travelled was 362, and over 800 sheets were used with considerable advantage in minimising the damage by water. The old Merryweather engine and chassis used for salvage purposes has been replaced by an up-to-date 2-ton Garford engine and chassis.

MOTOR FIRE ENGINES.

The Light Motor Fire Engines constructed in the workshops have proved very satisfactory, but the output is limited on account of the difficulty of obtaining parts from England.

NEW FIRE STATIONS.

New Stations have been opened at the following places :—Bankstown, Annandale, Lane Cove, making the present total 35 permanent and 27 volunteer stations.

The Police, officials of Water and Sewerage Board, Harbour Trust, and Tramways, have been of very great assistance, and their valuable co-operation is very highly appreciated.

COUNTRY FIRE BRIGADES.

The number of calls received by the Country Brigades during the year to fires, or supposed fires, was 560, being a decrease of 283 on the previous year.

The most serious fires which occurred were the following :—

Date.	Occupier.	Business.	Locality.
15 Feb. ...	Brunton & Co.	Flour Mills	Barber and New streets, Gunnedah.
16 „ ...	Ross, Ltd.	General Merchants	Byron and Campbell streets, Inverell.
21 „ ...	Tamworth Amusement Co.	Amusements	Marius-street, Tamworth.
5 Mar. ...	Newcastle and Suburban Co-operative Society.	Universal Providers	Charlton-street, Wickham.
7 April ...	Meakes and Wheeler ...	Store.....	Bank-street, Hay.

At the end of the year there were 51 permanent men, and 924 volunteers.

The standard of efficiency in country districts has been greatly improved by the erection of new stations, fire alarms, and the replacement of equipment, where practicable, by standard gear. The service generally has derived great benefit by periodical inspections and drills.

New Stations have been erected in Fire Districts as follows :—

Cessnock.	Singleton.
Wickham.	Kiama.
Glen Innes.	Bega.
Moree.	Albury.

Fire Alarms have been established as follows :—

Bathurst	Ballina.
Lithgow.	Kempsey.
Mudgee.	Lismore.
Parkes.	South Grafton.
Wellington.	Taree.
Glen Innes.	Narrandera.
Gunnedah.	Goulburn.
Moree.	Albury.
Tamworth.	

INSPECTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS.

The Fire Hydrants in the various fire districts have been periodically inspected, and where necessary the Municipal Councils have attended to hydrants found to be defective, and the work of placing tablets to indicate the positions of the hydrants is, where required, being carried out.

I have, &c.,

N. G. SPARKS,
Chief Officer.

APPENDIX IX.
SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.
SUMMARY of Localities for 1916.

City and Suburbs.	Class of Fire.									Total No. of fires.	False alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.					Attended with engine, and reported as house fires.	Attended with hand-pump only.	
	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.					
CITY—														
Belmore Ward	22	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	5	...	...	31
Bligh "	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	...	...	16
Bourke "	24	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	12	...	...	39
Camperdown "	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	5	...	...	14
Cook "	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	1	...	13
Denison "	16	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	7	...	...	25
Fitzroy "	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	1	...	...	14
Flinders "	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Gipps "	13	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	1	1	...	19
Lang "	22	10	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	36	11	...	...	47
Macquarie "	24	7	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	33	9	...	1	43
Phillip "	18	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	22	14	1	...	37
Pymont "	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	4	1	1	19
Total.....	186	43	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	236	79	4	2	321
SUBURBS—														
Alexandria	14	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	20	2	...	1	23
Annandale	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	3	...	...	11
Ashfield	12	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	6	...	...	25
Auburn	7	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	10	1	...	...	11
Balmain	18	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	3	...	1	26
Bankstown .....	...	7	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	9	...	...	...	9
Beecroft.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Bexley	2	7	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	11	...	...	...	11
Botany	5	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	8	...	...	1	9
Burwood	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	11	1	...	...	12
*Baulkham Hills Shire	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Canterbury	6	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	16	...	...	1	17
Concord	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	1	9
Darlington.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Drummoyne	7	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	1	...	1	25
Dundas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Enfield .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Erskineville	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
*Fairfield.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Glebe	19	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	23	4	...	1	28
Granville	8	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	13	...	...	2	15
Homebush	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Hornsby .....	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	2	...	...	8
Hunter's Hill	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	5
Hurstville.....	4	8	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	13	2	...	...	15
Kogarah	7	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	1	...	...	14
Kuring-gai Shire.....	8	10	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	19	1	...	1	21
Lane Cove.....	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Leichhardt	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	1	1	...	13
Lidcombe	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	1	...	...	5
Manly	10	11	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	27	1	...	...	28
Marrickville.....	20	15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	36	5	...	...	41
Mascot	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
Mosman	4	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	2	...	...	21
Newtown	22	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	26	6	...	...	32
North Sydney	29	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	2	...	1	47
Paddington	20	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	2	...	...	34
Parramatta	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	9
Petersham	7	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	...	...	13
Prospect and Sherwood .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Randwick	15	15	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	34	2	1	...	37
Redfern	11	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	4	1	1	21
Rockdale	4	14	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	19	1	1	...	21
Ryde	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	7	8	...	...	15
St. Peters	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Strathfield.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	1	2	...	7
Thornleigh.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Vaucluse	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	6
Warringah Shire.....	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Waterloo	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	11
Waverley	11	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	15	...	1	...	16
Willoughby	9	9	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	20	...	...	...	20
Woollahra	20	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	2	...	...	32
*The Harbour	7	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	9
Total	567	294	...	11	...	...	37	5	...	914	157	11	14	1,096

SUMMARY of Localities for 1916.
COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Locality	Class of Fire.									Total No. of fires.	False alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.					Attended with engine, and reported as house fires.	Attended with hand-pump only.	
	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.					
Aberdare (Cessnock Shire) .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Abermain .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Adamstown	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Albury	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	...	...	13
Armidale	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	4
Ballina	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	...	...	10
Bathurst	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	7
Bega	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Boolaroo	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Bourke	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	5
Bowral	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Braidwood	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Broken Hill	31	12	...	...	...	...	12	2	...	57	17	1	...	75
Camden	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Campbelltown	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Carrington	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Casino	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	1	...	...	8
Cessnock Shire	5	2	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	11	...	...	...	11
Cobar	2	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Condobolin	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Coonamble	4	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	8	...	...	...	8
Cootamundra .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Corowa	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Cowra	6	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	...	...	3	11
Coff's Harbour	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Deniliquin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Dubbo	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Forbes	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	7	...	1	1	9
Glen Innes .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Gilgandra	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Goulburn	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	...	...	11
Grafton	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
Grafton, South .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Gunnedah	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Hamilton	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	1	...	1	14
Hay	1	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Inverell	9	2	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	14	1	1	...	16
Jerilderie .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Junee	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Katoomba	8	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	13	6	...	...	19
Kempsey	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Kurri Kurri (Cessnock Shire)	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Lambton	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Lambton, New .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Lismore	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	13	...	...	...	13
Lithgow	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	6
Liverpool	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	14
Maitland, East .....	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Maitland, West	10	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	13	...	2	...	15
Merewether	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Mittagong	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Moama	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Moree	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	8
Morpeth	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Mudgee	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	1	...	...	6
Murwillumbah	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Muswellbrook	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Narrandera	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Newcastle	18	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	2	...	3	28
Orange	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	2	...	...	7
Parkes	9	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	15	1	...	...	16
Penrith .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Queanbeyan	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Richmond	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Singleton	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Stockton .....	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	7

SUMMARY of Localities for 1916—continued.

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Locality.	Class of Fire.									Total No. of fires.	False alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.					Attended with engine, and reported as house fires.	Attended with hand-pump only.	
	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.	In-sured.	Not in-sured.	Un-known.					
Tamworth	11	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	13	2	...	...	15
Taree	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Temora	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Tenterfield	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
Tumut	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Wagga Wagga	15	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	19	...	...	1	20
Walgett	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Wallsend	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Waratah	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	4
Wellington	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Weston (Cessnock Shire) .....	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Wickham	4	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	3	10
Windsor	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Wollongong	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	1	...	6
Yass	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Young	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
The Harbour	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Total.....	284	124	...	5	...	...	61	11	...	485	50	11	14	560

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.—Summary of Trades for 1916—*continued.*

Trades.	Class of Fire.									Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
Motor Garages, Motor Cars, and Motor Bicycles.	29	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
Museums	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Music Shops.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Newsagents and Stationers.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Newspaper Printers and Publishers.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Nursery.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Offices	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Oil and Grease Manufacturers..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Opticians	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Painters	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Paint and Varnish Manufacturers.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Paper Mills	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Pavilion and Pleasure Grounds	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Patent Roofing Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Photographers	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Physical Culture Schools	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Picture Frame Makers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Poultry Shops	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Printers.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Private Dwellings	205	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	3	.....	249
Produce Merchants and Fuel Merchants.	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8
Railway and Tramway Department.	2	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Residential Chambers.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Restaurants	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Rope Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Rubber Manufacturers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Saddle and Harness Makers ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Scale Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Schools	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Snaeds.....	2	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Ships.....	7	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9
Smallgoods Factory.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Smelting Works	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Soap Manufacturers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Stables	5	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Stores	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Stove Manufacturers	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Tailors	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Telegraph and Electric Light Poles.	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Tent and Tarpaulin Makers ...	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Timber Yards, Saw Mills	10	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Universal Providers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Unoccupied Dwellings.....	7	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	2	.....	16
Unoccupied Saw Mills .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Unoccupied Shops .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Vacant Land .....	.....	185	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	185
Varnish Manufacturers	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Venetian Blind Factory	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Venetian Lath Factory	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Warehousemen	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Wharf	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Wheelwrights	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wicker Work and Basket Manufacturers.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wood Bending Works	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Woolen Mills	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Yards .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total	567	294	.....	11	.....	.....	37	5	.....	914

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.—Summary of Trades for 1916.

Trades.	Class of Fire.									Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
Bakers and Pastrycooks	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Billiard Saloons .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Boarding-house	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	11
Boot Shops	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Brewers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Bridges .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Builders and Contractors .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Buildings in course of erection	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Butchers	7	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9
Butter Factory	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Carriers .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Chemists	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Churches	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Clubs	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Coachbuilders	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Commission Agent	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cordial Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Dairy .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Dentists	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Drapers and Mercers	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Dressmakers and Milliners	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Exhibitions, Halls, and Theatres	5	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Electric Lights Stations .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Fancy Goods	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Farms	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	5
Fishmongers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Flour Mills	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	8
Fuel Merchants .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Furniture Manufacturers	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Furniture Warehouse	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
General Merchants	6	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
General Store	9	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Grocers	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	7
Hairdressers and Tobacconists	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Hospitals and Asylums	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Ice and Cold Storage Works	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Iron Foundries	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Jewellers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Laundry .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Licensed Victuallers	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	16
Manufacturing Confectioners	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Mines	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Motor Garage, Motor Cars, Bicycle Shops.	12	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	17
Newsagents	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Painters and Decorators	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Piano Agents	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Printers and Stationers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Private Dwellings	115	33	.....	.....	.....	.....	36	9	.....	193
Produce Merchants	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Railway and Tramway Department	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Recreation Grounds .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Restaurants	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Saddle and Harness Makers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	4
Schools	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
School of Arts	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sheds	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	4
Ships	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Show Grounds	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Smallgoods Shops .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Soap and Candle Manufacturers	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Stables	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	4
Stores	5	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8
Tailors	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Timber Merchants, Saw Mills, and Box Factory.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Universal Providers	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Unoccupied Dwellings	7	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1	.....	19
Vacant Land .....	.....	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Wharf .....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Woollen Mills	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Yards .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total	284	124	.....	5	.....	.....	61	11	.....	485

APPENDIX XI.

HOURLY and Daily Summary of Calls for 1916.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Hours.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total.	Hours.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total.
A.M., 1.....	4	7	2	5	9	1	8	36	P.M., 1.....	7	14	8	4	4	6	10	53
" 2.....	5	3	3	1	8	2	9	31	" 2.....	3	8	14	15	7	5	12	64
" 3.....	1	5	2	3	2	2	3	18	" 3.....	3	18	19	7	4	7	11	69
" 4.....	4	5	4	2	2	2	2	21	" 4.....	6	7	13	13	8	10	4	61
" 5.....	2	1	1	2	5	1	3	14	" 5.....	10	8	15	6	7	7	17	70
" 6.....	2	2	2	1	6	1	3	17	" 6.....	5	16	13	10	11	8	8	71
" 7.....	1	1	1	1	3	11	5	22	" 7.....	7	6	17	6	14	17	12	79
" 8.....	2	4	3	1	2	2	4	18	" 8.....	8	11	15	12	10	11	11	78
" 9.....	2	4	4	5	3	3	7	28	" 9.....	5	11	17	5	9	10	8	65
" 10.....	7	5	6	6	5	5	5	39	" 10.....	6	7	10	7	8	13	10	61
" 11.....	4	5	4	4	...	10	11	41	" 11.....	1	5	9	8	6	7	11	47
" 12.....	3	6	3	4	3	3	10	32	" 12.....	7	11	8	12	7	9	7	61
Total ...	37	46	35	38	48	43	70	317	Total ...	68	122	158	105	95	110	121	779

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Hours.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total.	Hours.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total.
A.M., 1.....	...	7	1	2	2	4	1	17	P.M., 1.....	6	2	6	...	4	1	6	25
" 2.....	3	4	1	3	3	3	5	24	" 2.....	3	4	8	2	3	5	4	29
" 3.....	5	2	4	3	3	1	2	20	" 3.....	1	4	4	7	6	2	6	30
" 4.....	1	3	2	2	2	3	...	14	" 4.....	2	2	2	3	4	2	4	19
" 5.....	2	1	1	1	2	...	1	8	" 5.....	1	2	3	2	3	6	6	19
" 6.....	3	1	1	3	1	...	1	10	" 6.....	5	4	2	3	4	3	5	26
" 7.....	4	2	...	3	1	1	1	12	" 7.....	7	13	5	7	12	6	4	54
" 8.....	1	3	1	2	1	...	1	9	" 8.....	4	11	4	5	6	8	12	50
" 9.....	2	2	...	3	...	2	1	10	" 9.....	1	6	4	9	4	6	8	38
" 10.....	2	3	...	4	2	3	1	15	" 10.....	3	3	1	9	4	2	9	31
" 11.....	3	5	4	4	4	5	6	31	" 11.....	1	2	1	3	2	3	5	17
" 12.....	7	3	4	6	4	2	6	32	" 12.....	2	2	2	5	4	3	3	20
Total ...	33	36	19	36	28	24	26	202	Total ...	36	55	42	55	56	42	72	358

APPENDIX XII.

WEEKLY Summary of Calls for 1916.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Week.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.	Fires.	Chimney, with Engine.	Total.	Week.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.	Fires.	Chimney, with Engine.	Total.	
1st, ending Jan.	7	4	...	29	...	33	28th, ending July	14	1	10	1	13
2nd "	14	7	...	57	...	64	29th "	21	...	9	...	11
3rd "	21	1	...	49	...	50	30th "	28	2	19	...	24
4th "	28	6	1	29	...	36	31st "	Aug. 4	...	7	...	9
5th "	Feb. 4	4	...	32	...	36	32nd "	11	8	1	15	24
6th "	11	2	...	15	...	17	33rd "	18	3	1	13	17
7th "	18	1	...	23	...	24	34th "	25	4	1	22	28
8th "	25	3	...	14	1	18	35th "	Sept. 1	3	...	22	25
9th "	March 3	2	...	11	...	13	36th "	8	2	...	12	14
10th "	10	1	...	10	...	11	37th "	15	2	2	25	36
11th "	17	...	...	11	...	11	38th "	22	5	...	29	34
12th "	24	2	...	12	...	14	39th "	29	1	...	11	12
13th "	31	2	...	19	...	21	40th "	Oct. 6	2	...	14	16
14th "	April 7	1	...	7	...	8	41st "	13	3	...	12	15
15th "	14	1	...	14	...	15	42nd "	20	1	1	13	15
16th "	21	1	...	12	...	13	43rd "	27	6	...	15	21
17th "	28	3	1	24	...	28	44th "	Nov. 3	3	...	17	20
18th "	May 5	2	...	20	...	22	45th "	10	2	...	21	23
19th "	12	3	...	16	...	19	46th "	17	3	...	10	13
20th "	19	4	...	15	...	19	47th "	24	6	...	13	19
21st "	26	6	...	18	...	24	48th "	Dec. 1	6	...	13	19
22nd "	June 2	7	...	13	...	25	49th "	8	1	...	15	16
23rd "	9	1	1	17	...	19	50th "	15	3	...	9	13
24th "	16	2	...	13	1	16	51st "	22	2	...	19	22
25th "	23	1	...	14	2	17	52nd "	31	4	...	17	21
26th "	30	7	...	15	...	22	Total	157	14	914	11	1,096
27th "	July 7	...	2	18	1	21						

WEEKLY Summary of Calls for 1916—continued.
COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Week.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.	Fires.	Chimney, with Engine.	Total.	Week.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.	Fires.	Chimney, with Engine.	Total.
1st, ending Jan. 7 ...	1	...	18	1	20	28th, ending July 14 ...	1	1	6	...	8
2nd " " 14 ...	1	1	24	...	26	29th " " 21 ...	1	...	8	...	9
3rd " " 21 ...	1	...	14	...	15	30th " " 28 ...	1	...	5	...	6
4th " " 28 ...	2	1	13	...	16	31st " " Aug. 4 ...	...	...	7	...	7
5th " Feb. 4 ...	1	1	21	...	23	32nd " " 11 ...	...	...	10	...	10
6th " " 11 ...	1	...	4	...	5	33rd " " 18 ...	2	...	7	...	9
7th " " 18 ...	2	...	18	1	21	34th " " 25 ...	1	...	8	...	9
8th " " 25 ...	...	...	8	...	8	35th " Sept. 1 ...	1	...	5	...	6
9th " Mar. 3 ...	4	...	10	...	14	36th " " 8 ...	2	1	7	...	10
10th " " 10 ...	...	...	14	...	14	37th " " 15 ...	2	1	11	1	15
11th " " 17 ...	1	1	11	1	14	38th " " 22 ...	...	...	7	...	7
12th " " 24 ...	...	...	13	...	13	39th " " 29 ...	2	...	4	...	6
13th " " 31 ...	1	1	11	1	14	40th " Oct. 6 ...	1	...	4	1	6
14th " April 7 ...	2	1	6	...	9	41st " " 13 ...	...	...	3	...	3
15th " " 14 ...	1	1	5	...	7	42nd " " 20 ...	...	...	14	...	14
16th " " 21 ...	1	...	7	...	8	43rd " " 27 ...	1	...	14	...	15
17th " " 28 ...	...	...	10	...	10	44th " Nov. 3 ...	...	...	5	...	5
18th " May 5 ...	...	...	5	1	6	45th " " 10 ...	...	...	8	...	8
19th " " 12 ...	1	...	10	1	12	46th " " 17 ...	1	...	6	1	8
20th " " 19 ...	2	...	10	...	12	47th " " 24 ...	...	...	8	...	8
21st " " 26 ...	...	...	10	...	10	48th " Dec. 1 ...	...	...	5	...	5
22nd " June 2 ...	...	...	6	...	6	49th " " 8 ...	1	...	10	...	11
23rd " " 9 ...	1	1	16	1	19	50th " " 15 ...	1	...	5	...	6
24th " " 16 ...	2	...	5	...	7	51st " " 22 ...	1	...	9	...	10
25th " " 23 ...	2	1	8	...	11	52nd " " 31 ...	1	1	12	...	14
26th " July 7 ...	2	1	9	...	12						
27th " " 14 ...	1	...	11	1	13	Total	50	14	485	11	560

APPENDIX XIII.
MONTHLY Summary for 1916.
SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Months.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Class of Fire.									Totals.
		Attended with Engine, and reported as house fire.	Attended with hand-pump only.	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
				Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
January	21	.....	1	63	102	.....	1	...	.....	8	1	.....	197
February	8	1	.....	35	42	.....	...	...	.....	1	...	.....	87
March	6	.....	.....	42	13	.....	...	...	.....	3	...	.....	64
April	7	.....	1	33	19	.....	1	...	.....	5	3	.....	69
May	17	.....	.....	56	13	.....	1	...	.....	7	1	.....	95
June	15	3	.....	50	8	.....	2	...	.....	4	...	.....	83
July	6	2	5	48	7	.....	1	...	.....	3	...	.....	72
August	18	1	3	58	13	.....	2	...	.....	3	...	.....	98
September	17	2	2	51	28	.....	1	...	.....	...	...	.....	101
October	14	.....	1	42	15	.....	2	...	.....	...	...	.....	74
November	17	.....	.....	46	14	.....	...	...	.....	1	...	.....	78
December	11	2	.....	43	20	.....	...	...	.....	2	...	.....	78
Total	157	11	14	567	294	.....	11	...	.....	37	5	.....	1,096

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Months.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Class of Fire.									Grand Total.
		Attended with Engine, and reported as house fire.	Attended with hand-pump only.	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
				Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
January	5	1	3	38	31	.....	...	...	.....	9	1	.....	88
February	5	1	.....	23	17	.....	3	...	.....	1	3	.....	53
March	5	2	2	31	12	.....	1	...	.....	9	...	.....	62
April	4	.....	2	19	5	.....	1	...	.....	4	...	.....	35
May	3	2	.....	27	6	.....	...	...	.....	5	1	.....	44
June	7	1	3	31	4	.....	...	...	.....	4	...	.....	50
July	4	1	1	21	6	.....	...	...	.....	4	...	.....	37
August	4	.....	2	22	5	.....	...	...	.....	8	1	.....	40
September	6	1	.....	16	7	.....	...	...	.....	5	1	.....	38
October	2	1	.....	17	14	.....	...	...	.....	5	2	.....	41
November	1	1	.....	19	7	.....	...	...	.....	2	1	.....	31
December	4	.....	1	20	10	.....	...	...	.....	5	1	.....	41
Total	50	11	14	284	124	.....	5	...	.....	61	11	.....	560

APPENDIX XIV.

COMPARISON of Calls from 1906 to 1916, inclusive.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Calls.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
False alarms	80	108	114	91	106	155	163	170	185	178	157
Chimney alarms	58	70	66	53	40	49	37	28	31	41	25
Fires, slight.....	494	594	526	666	643	824	950	1,327	1,117	1,303	861
,, serious	12	11	8	12	7	20	22	16	12	3	11
,, total destruction	14	31	33	28	18	44	37	47	42	60	42
Total.....	658	814	747	850	814	1,092	1,209	1,588	1,387	1,585	1,096

COMPARISON of Calls from 1910 to 1916, inclusive.

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Calls.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
False alarms.....	22	23	16	21	29	47	50
Chimney alarms	15	26	27	40	35	23	25
Fires, slight	286	362	528	512	498	636	408
,, serious	4	4	4	3	9	10	5
,, total destruction	118	126	147	143	122	127	72
Total	445	541	722	719	693	843	560

APPENDIX XV.

SUMMARY of Causes of Fires for 1916.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Back-fire	10	Matches, children playing with	40
Bath-heater, overheating of	1	,, rats at	7
Beeswax, turpentine, fat, &c., boiling over.....	9	Malt, overheating of	1
Blower defective.....	1	Oil, boiling over of	4
Burglars	1	Overheating of air pump and compressor	2
Burning rubbish.....	47	,, boiler	1
Castings in contact with wood work.....	1	,, exhaust pipe	3
Candle	27	,, drying room	2
Chemicals, explosion of	1	,, film	4
Clothing in contact with fire.....	4	,, flue	1
Doubtful	5	,, incubator	7
Electric iron, overheating of.....	1	,, oven or stove	2
,, motor, fusing of	1	,, smoke house.....	1
,, wires, fusing of	31	,, controller.....	1
,, wires, short circuit of.....	5	,, furnace	1
Explosion of gunpowder	1	,, brooder.....	1
Fireplace defective.....	2	,, magic lantern	1
Fireworks	6	,, retort	2
Fire, careless use of	1	,, gas engine	1
Flue, defective	3	,, machinery	3
,, foul	26	Painters at work.....	2
Fumigating	1	Smoking tobacco.....	7
Gas bracket	12	Sparks from another fire	1
,, escape of	9	,, fire.....	27
,, fittings, defective	9	,, flue	6
,, ring	10	,, forge	1
,, stove, overheating of	1	,, furnace fire	4
Glass retort, bursting of	2	,, locomotive	7
Hot ashes	15	,, oven or stove	4
Incendiarism	6	Spirit lamp, upsetting of	3
Iron, overheating of	1	Spontaneous ignition	13
Kerosene lamp, explosion of.....	2	Sun's rays	2
,, ,, upsetting of.....	6	Tar, boiling over of	25
,, ,, stove, upsetting of.....	2	Unknown.....	161
Kiln, overheating of	1	Vapour of spirits in contact with flame	27
Light thrown down	279		
Lightning	3		
Lime, slaking of	5		
Matches, careless use of	16		
		Total	939

SUMMARY

SUMMARY of Causes of Fires for 1916—continued.

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Acetylene gas, explosion of	1	Matches, children playing with.....	15
Back-fire	9	" rats at	7
Beeswax	4	Oil, boiling over of	1
Burning rubbish	12	Overheating of exhaust.....	1
Candle	23	" film	3
Clothing in contact with flame.....	1	" flue	1
Defective fireplace.....	1	" incubator.....	5
Electric light wires, fusing of	1	" boiler	1
" " " short circuit of	1	" gasheater	1
Fire, careless use of	1	" oven or stove	2
Flue, foul.....	29	Phosphorus	2
" defective	1	Plumbers at work	1
Fumigating.....	1	Smoking tobacco.....	8
Gas fittings, defective.....	2	Sparks from adjoining flue.....	3
Gas, escape of.....	1	" fire	32
" " " bracket	2	" flue	3
" " " ring.....	5	" locomotive	6
Gas heater, defective	1	" ladle.....	1
Generator, explosion of	1	Spirit lamp, upsetting of	1
Hot ashes.....	10	Spontaneous ignition	4
Incendiarism	2	Steel furnace, falling in.....	1
Kerosene lamp, explosion of.....	1	Tallow from defective still in contact with fire	1
" " upsetting of.....	6	Tar, boiling over.....	8
" " " stove, careless use of.....	1	Unknown	160
" " " upsetting of.....	1	Vapour of spirits in contact with flame	12
Light thrown down	107		
Lightning	1		
Lime, slaking of	1		
Matches, careless use of.....	3		
		Total	510

APPENDIX XVI.

SUMMARY of how Fires were reported to the Brigade for 1916.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Calls given by—	Fires.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Total
			Attended with Engine and reported as house fires.	Attended with hand-pump only.	
Automatic sprinkler alarms and fire-alarms.....	6	12	.....	.....	18
Citizen at Station.....	203	17	1	11	232
Fire-alarms	140	43	3	.....	186
G.P.O., per telephone	492	78	6	2	578
Newspaper reports	21	.....	.....	.....	21
Police, at Station	17	4	1	1	23
Police, per telephone	9	2	.....	.....	11
Private fire-alarms	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Private telephones	5	1	.....	.....	6
Seen from Station.....	11	.....	.....	.....	11
Seen when in the vicinity	6	.....	.....	.....	6
Seen when proceeding to another fire	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Total	914	157	11	14	1,096

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Calls given by—	Fires.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.		Total.
			Attended with Engine and reported as house fires.	Attended with hand-pump only.	
Citizen at Station	212	6	5	6	229
Fire-alarms	35	36	1	.....	72
G.P.O., per telephone.....	193	6	5	5	209
Letter	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Newspaper reports	4	.....	.....	.....	4
Police, at Station	10	.....	.....	.....	10
Police, per telephone	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Private fire-alarms	5	1	.....	.....	6
Private telephone	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Railway Department	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Ringling fire bell	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Seen from Station	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Seen whilst in the vicinity	5	.....	.....	2	7
Seen when returning from another fire.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Whistles blowing alarm	9	1	.....	.....	10
Total	485	50	11	14	560