

1917-18.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF NEW
SOUTH WALES.

(REPORT FOR 1917, BEING THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.)

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 28 February, 1918.

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

The Colonial Secretary, Sydney.
Sir,

Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales,
213 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 10 January, 1918.

The Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales has the honor to present its Report upon the operations of the Department under its control for the year 1917, in accordance with the direction contained in Section 19 (2) of the Fire Brigades Act, 1909.

For the carrying out of the provisions of the Act in the various Fire Districts throughout the State for the year 1917, the Estimates of Expenditure amounted to £142,743, as shown in Appendix II. Of this, the amount for the Sydney Fire District was £102,849, and for the 75 Country Fire Districts £39,894. Estimates of expenditure.

Notwithstanding that provision had to be made for insurance to cover the Board's liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act as mentioned hereafter, and for increase of wages as awarded by the Arbitration Court approximating £4,500, by the strict economy exercised and effected by the Board, the Estimates adopted for the year 1918 totalled £142,743, being a similar sum to last year—that for the Sydney Fire District being £102,693, and for the Country Fire Districts unitedly £40,050. In the case of the Sydney Fire District the Estimate showed a reduction of £156 compared with the previous year, and in the Country an increase of £156, but the inclusion of various Fire Districts under the Act, enumerated later, was more than responsible for the increase.

The returns of Assessed Annual Values of all ratable property furnished in 1917 by the Municipal and Shire Councils in the Sydney Fire District amounted to £11,725,696. New areas furnished £29,150 of the increase of £523,691 over the returns of the previous year. The proportion of the Municipal and Shire contributions in that Fire District to the Assessed Annual Values is for the year 1918, 5s. 10d. per £100, being three pence (3d.) per £100 lower than that of 1917, and similar to that which obtained in 1915.

Eighty-four Insurance Companies and 90 Firms contributed during the year in respect of various Fire Districts; such contributions in the Sydney Fire District represented 6·01 per £100 of premiums, while the percentage in the remaining Fire Districts ranged from 2·108 to 18·63. Insurance Companies and Firms.

By proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of the 2nd November, 1917, the Fire Brigades Act, 1909, and the Fire Brigades Amendment Act, 1910, were applied to the portions of the Shire of Blacktown and the Municipality of Prospect and Sherwood therein described; the grouping of those areas with the Municipalities and Shires forming the Sydney Fire District, being notified in the *Government Gazette* of the 23rd idem. The boundaries of the said Fire District were in consequence altered and extended. Fire Districts. Additions. Blacktown, Prospect and Sherwood.

The provisions of the said Acts were also applied to the Municipality of Narrabri by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of the 2nd November, 1917; and to portion of the Municipality of Cooma, and the portion of the Municipality of Central Illawarra known as the Township of Port Kembla, by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of the 9th November and 16th November, 1917, respectively. The action in each instance was taken upon the recommendation of the Board at the request of the Council interested. Narrabri. Cooma. Central Illawarra.

The Board acceded to the request of the Jerilderie Municipal Council for the withdrawal of that municipality from the operations of the Fire Brigades Act, and recommended its exclusion as on and from the 31st December, 1917—the matter was effected by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* of 2nd November, 1917. In submitting the request the Council represented that it could not afford to pay the small contribution levied by the Board in respect of the fire protection of the district, owing to the revenue obtainable being insufficient for purposes other than a Fire Brigade. Withdrawal. Jerilderie.

As

As a consequence of the foregoing alterations, the number of Fire Districts under the control of the Board at the end of the year 1917 was 78.

In order that provision might be made to carry out much needed repairs and renovations to the West Wall-end Fire Station, and for increased retaining fees to the local Volunteer Firemen to place them on a similar footing to members of other Brigades in the northern district, the Minister upon the recommendation of the Board, consequent upon a special request of the Lake Macquarie Shire Council, consented in terms of the Fire Brigades Act to an increase of the statutory limit of one farthing in the pound upon the Unimproved Capital Value of all ratable property in the Fire District, by one eighth of a penny in the pound.

In the Sydney Fire District, the number of calls recorded was 1,090, being six (6) less than in the preceding year, and the lowest since the year 1910. 159 of that number proved to be false alarms, 38 chimney fires, 15 fires on shipping; while other fires numbered 878, of which 44 resulted in total destruction.

The calls to fires in the Country Fire Districts amounted to 575.

Further particulars in regard to fires are furnished elsewhere; but attention is specially directed to serious fires which occurred on Shipping at a time when tonnage was most valuable.

The scheme referred to in the previous Report was placed in operation during the year, and provides for the storage and use of inflammable liquids in conformity with the Act.

With regard to the measure to amend the law with respect to compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment, and for disability incurred from industrial and other diseases; to repeal the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1910, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1897; to amend certain other Acts; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto; cited as the "Workmen's Compensation Act, 1916," and assented to on the 13th December, 1916; which provided that such come into operation on the 1st July, 1917—the Board covered its liability by insurance.

A new agreement was entered into with the Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners, in the matter of the use of the Trust's Fire Floats in dealing with fires, which superseded that of the 22nd December, 1910.

An Interstate Fire Brigades Conference was convened by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Melbourne, and held in Melbourne on the 2nd November, at which delegates from Brisbane, Hobart, Country Fire Brigades Board of Victoria, Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and New South Wales attended; this Board being represented by the President (the Hon. E. H. Farrar, M.L.C.) and Chief Officer N. G. Sparks. Amongst other matters, the following resolution was submitted and carried:—

"That the Boards in each State be requested to have an estimate prepared of the value of property owned by the Commonwealth Government protected by the various State brigade organisations, with a view to some equitable arrangement being made for the reimbursement of the State Brigades either by an annual subsidy or its equivalent in the fire alarm and telephone services: That the Secretary of the Melbourne Board take the preliminary step to carry out the resolution and on receipt of the necessary data, a conference be convened to consider and act on same."

Improvements and necessary repair works were effected at a number of the Stations in the Sydney Fire District; and the erection of a new Station at Waterloo, as forecas'ed in the last Report, was undertaken. It is expected that this will be ready for occupation in January, 1918, when the old Station property will be submitted for sale. At Bankstown the Board purchased a property in a suitable position, and made necessary alterations to provide for the fire appliances and accommodation for a married man, at a total cost of £930. This course was more economical and advantageous than the erection of a building on the site in Chapel Road purchased in July, 1916, which will now be disposed of. The site at the corner of Homebush-road and The Avenue, Strathfield, was, with the consent of the Crown, sold to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage for £600 in February. Possession of the site referred to in last Report, at York-street North, City, was accepted as on and from the 1st November. The resumption by the Government of the Circular Quay Fire Station has not been completed; and it is understood will remain in abeyance for some time; consequently, in view of the extensive repairs necessary to the existing York-street North Fire Station, it is proposed to close that Station as an active fire-fighting unit, and transfer the appliances and staff to other Stations in the City in such a manner that the fire protection of the locality will not be affected. The provision of a new Station was contingent upon the receipt of the compensation money from the Government for the resumption of Circular Quay Fire Station.

The new Fire Stations at Camden, Muswellbrook, and Inverell, indicated in last Report as being under construction, were completed—the first in January, and the remaining two in March; the old Fire Stations in Camden and Inverell being sold for £20 and £14 15s. respectively.

At Homeville in March a Fire Station was completed, the site being acquired for the purpose in the previous year, while extensive alterations and additions to the Bathurst Fire Station were effected in November at a cost of £845.

Tenders were accepted for the erection of new Stations at Walgett (£463), Hay (£559), Carrington (£758), East Maitland (£778); but these will not be finished until early in the new year, the unfortunate strike experienced throughout the State having delayed the Contractors for the work in each case. Provision for a Reel Shed at North-East Ballina has also been made, and, in addition, necessary repairs and renovations to Fire Stations throughout the Country, as required, were undertaken.

By the motorization of the Goulburn Fire Station, it was found that the North Goulburn Fire Station could be eliminated without impairing the efficiency of the service, and in the subsequent sale of the building £30 10s. was realised. The site situated at the intersection of Logan and Manners streets, Tenterfield, purchased in August, 1916, was subdivided, and portions submitted for sale, sufficient for the purpose of a new station being reserved. Owing to the action of the Bathurst Municipal Council in meeting the Board in the matter of acquiring the old Fire Station property, the land purchased by the Board for the erection of a new station in 1914 for £210 was no longer required, and was sold during the year for £225. The Board appreciates the attitude of the Council, which from a financial and fire-fighting

fighting standpoint was of benefit to the district. Improvements were carried out to the Denilquin Fire Station, and as a consequence it was decided to retain that property for fire purposes, and to relinquish the new site in Napier-street, reserved in 1916.

The purchase of sites at Queanbeyan and Mittagong was completed, while the Board was appointed trustee of those at Broken Hill, Cessnock, Gunnedah, Muswellbrook, and Wellington, which had previously been reserved for Fire Brigade purposes.

An additional 20-feet depth along the rear boundary of the Muswellbrook site was, with the consent of the council, dedicated as an addition thereto.

The determination of a common boundary line between the Broken Hill Central Fire Station and the Town Hall, which are both erected upon the one allotment (dedicated in June, 1893, for the dual purpose), has been approved by the Minister for Lands in terms of an agreement arranged between the Broken Hill Municipal Council and the Board. The division of the allotment and the re-dedication of each portion for its respective purpose will definitely establish the boundaries of the area controlled by each body.

The Murwillumbah Municipal Council has consented to 42-feet frontage with a through depth of the reserve for a Town Hall in Murwillumbah-street, being made available as a site for a Fire Station. This position is most suitable, and when the action in the direction indicated be completed, it is proposed to erect an up-to-date station without delay.

Steps are being taken to resume a site for a new Fire Station at the intersection of Mary and Devon streets, Wallsend; while at Port Kembla, the Minister has approved of a site being made available having 66 feet frontage to Darcy-road, the railway line for the harbour works being at the back thereof.

Leases of Fire Station properties at Coff's Harbour and Morpeth were renewed for one year, and that of East Greta for two years. At Leura a site was rented in a position adjacent to the risks of that locality, and a suitable building to house a hose-cart erected thereon.

The total number of street fire alarms in Sydney and suburbs is now 459, exclusive of 15 special alarms—13 telephone fire alarms and 1 special alarm being installed during the year at Concord (2), Epping (Hornsby) (1), Glebe (2), Granville (1), Marrickville (4), Prospect and Sherwood (2), Westmead (Blacktown Shire) (1), and Mosman (1 special).

In the country the total number of alarms is 242—29 being erected in 1917, at Adamstown (1), Albury (1), Carrington (2), Corowa (2), Hamilton (2), Homeville (Cessnock Shire) (1), Inverell (4), Katoomba (1), Lambton (1), Merewether (1), Newcastle (2), New Lambton (3), Tighe's Hill (Wickham) (1), Wagga Wagga (2), Waratah (1), Wickham (2), and Wollongong (2). In addition to 157 private fire alarms, there are connected to various Fire Stations in the city and suburbs 102 sprinkler installations in the premises of 56 firms, 10 of the Kirkby system, and 31 of the May-Oatway type. Three sprinkler installations in the premises of two firms are connected to the Newcastle Fire Station, and 96 private alarms to stations in various country districts. In a number of other respects the electrical system of the Department in the areas under the Board's control has been improved.

The Board, however, regrets to report that the fire alarm system has been suffering severely by thefts from fire alarm boxes of telephone instruments, batteries, and other essential parts. Apart from the monetary loss to this Department, there is the consideration that owing to the war it is almost an impossibility to obtain replacements; furthermore, the community is exposed to grave risk, for the means by which alarm of fire should be transmitted having been maliciously placed out of commission, the destruction of lives and property might readily result. The Board has issued repeated warnings through the press of its intention to deal severely with offenders, and will take the utmost advantage of the Fire Brigades Act to that end. Among the Municipalities affected may be mentioned the City, Annandale, Ashfield, Bexley, Erskineville, Granville, Hurstville, Kogarah, Rockdale, and Waverley.

The undergrounding of the telephone wires in Sydney and suburbs by the Commonwealth authorities is proceeding. This course removes the danger of the Brigade being hampered in its operations by the overhead wires, to which attention has been frequently called by the Board. The Telephone Department has also notified its intention to allot uniform numbers to all telephone exchange services connecting Country Fire Stations, and the Board expresses its appreciation of this action.

The authorised strength of the permanent staff for the Sydney Fire District was for 1917, 320; while fifty-one permanent men were stationed in country districts.

A brigade consisting of ten volunteer firemen was re-established at West Wyalong under the Board, as from the 1st January, 1917, the district having been brought under the operations of the Fire Brigades Act in the latter part of 1916; while at Homeville a brigade of five volunteer firemen, with necessary equipment, was provided in April.

In response to representations by the local Municipal Council, the designation of the Willoughby Fire Station was changed to Chatswood, and that of East Willoughby to Willoughby.

The King's Police Medal, which was awarded to Third Officer Sydney Watson and Fourth Officer John Francis Ford, was presented by the Chief Secretary (the Hon. G. W. Fuller, M.L.A.). These officers were the first recipients of the decoration in the New South Wales Fire Brigade Service.

Long Service Medals were awarded to Station Officers W. Davenport and C. Richardson, Sub-station Officers F. J. Bathie and S. A. Tuck, and Firemen R. Griffiths and G. Turner.

Dr. Reuter E. Roth, D.S.O., V.D., the Board's medical adviser, returned from active service in War. February, and in June His Majesty the King conferred the honour of C.M.G. upon him.

By the death of First-class Fireman G. W. M. King (Sergeant, Royal Horse Artillery), who was killed in action, the number of permanent firemen (reservists) called up for active service was reduced to ten.

Mr. W. A. Hobbs, one of the six officers of the clerical staff who volunteered, was invalided home owing to illness, and resumed duty.

Fireman D. R. McLennan, who enlisted in 1915, was granted his discharge by the military Authorities owing to wounds, and was re-appointed to the Fire Service as telephone operator. The

Queanbeyan.
Mittagong.
Broken Hill.
Cessnock.
Gunnedah.
Muswellbrook.
Wellington.

Muswellbrook.

Broken Hill.

Wallsend.
Port Kembla.

Leases.
Coff's Harbour.
Morpeth.
East Greta.
Leura.

Fire alarms.

Thefts of fire
alarm instru-
ments and parts.

Undergrounding
of telephone
wires.

Uniform num-
bers for Country
Fire Station tele-
phone services.

Brigade
strength.

West Wyalong
brigade re-
established.
Homeville.

Willoughby and
East Willoughby
designation
changed.

Medals.
King's Police
Medal.

Long Service
Medals.

The enlistments now stand at 47 permanent and 199 volunteer firemen, 6 from the clerical, 2 from the mechanical, and 2 from the electrical staffs.

Petrol motor pumping fire engines were constructed and completed in the Board's workshops, and installed at Ashfield and Parramatta in the Sydney Fire District, and in the Country at Bathurst, Broken Hill, Goulburn, Wagga Wagga, and West Maitland; the latter being in substitution for a Dennis-Gwynne engine, it being considered more suited to the requirements of the district. The Dennis-Gwynne engine, after overhaul, was placed at the Glebe Fire Station. A motor hose and ladder carriage, the first of a new type of appliance made in the Department, was stationed at North Sydney, and proved very satisfactory. A lorry for instructional purposes and for use as a tender in case of fire was added to the list of motor appliances, and superseded the old horse-drawn tender.

At Bega, Concord, Molong, New Lambton, and Queanbeyan, horse-drawn turbine engines were substituted for the old appliances; while a 450-gallon steam fire engine was sent to Broken Hill as an additional pumping unit during the industrial crisis. At West Wyalong a manual engine replaced one which needed extensive overhaul; a hand hose-cart was provided for the sub-station at Leura as a first-aid appliance, and a hose-reel at Homeville.

As the war prevented the supply of the pumps required for motor appliances which were ordered from England in June, 1915, the Board approved of experiments being made with a view to their construction in the workshops. Experiments resulted in the production of a pump more efficient than those previously imported, and at less cost; and to expedite their manufacture, additional plant was provided. A number of Garford chassis of types suitable for fire brigade purposes were purchased from Messrs. Dalgety & Company, Limited, Sydney, agents, and anticipating difficulty in obtaining supplies owing to the war, the Board has placed orders for forward deliveries to meet future requirements. The special petrol chassis ordered from the Hewitt-Lullow Auto Co. to replace that of the electric ladders supplied in 1909 is expected to arrive shortly. This substitution will make for a more effective appliance, and was rendered necessary by the inability to obtain renewals of essential parts. The Board's application for a priority certificate for the construction and supply of a Hatfield motor fire engine, under order since May, 1915, from Messrs. Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., England, was unsuccessful.

Forty-four thousand one hundred feet of hose was received from Messrs. McGregor & Co., of Dundee, Scotland, in part execution of the order placed with that firm in 1916.

With regard to the appeal to the Arbitration Court by the Fire Brigade Employees' Union, referred to in last Report, whereby it was sought to have the award of the Government Employees' Group No. 3 (Fire Brigade) Board, published in *Government Gazette* No. 93 of the 26th May, 1916, as varied by order of the Court published in *Government Gazette* No. 139 of the 4th August, 1916, amended; his Honor Judge Edmunds, on the 16th March, 1917, granted the application for increase of sixpence (6d.) a day to the various ranks of firemen, to take effect from the 20th February, 1917. Later, the Board of Fire Commissioners endeavoured to obtain a variation of the award to provide for the utilisation of the services of firemen, in case of emergency, when on station premises though on leave, time and a half to be allowed for leave so lost; and the deduction of the charges for rent and lighting of quarters from wages. The union contended that an agreement had been made when the award was under consideration that conditions should remain the same and only the matter of wages dealt with until after the war; that objection was raised, therefore, to a variation of the award so far as the leave was concerned, but not to the matter of deductions for rental and lighting charges. On the other hand, the Board submitted that it was only seeking for the incorporation in the award of practices which had obtained since 1884.

His Honor Judge Rolin, on the 20th September, varied the award by adding to clause 6 the following provisoes, viz.:—

- (a) Provided that in all cases where the employees reside on the premises of the employers the sum of eight shillings per week shall be deducted from the wages of all married men, and the sum of one shilling and threepence per week shall be deducted from the wages of all single men.
- (b) Provided further that there shall be deducted from the wages of all employees residing on the premises of the Board of Fire Commissioners the cost of gas or electric light used by them as ascertained by the meter at the rate charged by the supplying authority, and where no meter is installed, the deduction shall be one shilling per week for married men, and threepence per week for single men.

In March the Board granted an increase of sixpence (6d.) a day to officers below the rank of Divisional Officer throughout the Service, and in October an increased living allowance, in addition, to all officers at Broken Hill as from the 31st May. The retaining fees of the members of the West Walsend and Camden Volunteer Fire Brigades were increased as from the 1st August, 1917, and 1st January, 1918, respectively.

The Board dealt exhaustively with the question of consolidating and centralising fire stations in the Sydney Fire District, with a view to minimising the cost of the fire service, and at the same time to preserve the high standard of efficiency. After a comprehensive review of the whole situation, a scheme was evolved and adopted, whereby it is considered that this end can be attained. The scheme is sectional in its operation, and provides for motorized central stations, and the elimination of those found to be non-essential by reason of the more speedy method of transport of men and appliances. For the furtherance of the scheme it is hoped that amending legislation will be enacted in the forthcoming session of Parliament, whereby fire station properties acquired by the Government for fire brigade purposes in the fire districts of the State will be vested in the Board.

The districts within the Sydney division have been reapportioned, and the number of District Officers actively engaged in that capacity reduced from seven to three, with the re-establishment of a Divisional Officer in Sydney. Those District Officers will be provided with runabout motor cars for inspectional duties, and which will be fitted to carry stores and first-aid fire appliances.

An inspector from the Department of Audit examined the books of the Board and reported that the Board's accounts were very satisfactory throughout, and that in every direction he found careful attention to detail on the part of the Board's officers. Audit.

Inspections of Fire Brigades in various country towns were continued by the President (the Hon. E. H. Farrar, M.L.C.), and members of the Board, with excellent results.

For further information, a report by the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigades, together with a number of other appendices, are furnished.

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, 1917.

REVENUE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance unexpended of Estimates, 1916.....					11,675	14	9	By Clothing.....		5,046	4	7			
„ Contributions—								Fire Appliances, Minor.....		267	15	2			
Government.....				47,581	0	0		Fire Expenses.....		89	8	6			
Insurance Companies.....	46,835	19	2					Fodder.....		3,467	5	10			
Firms.....	745	0	10					Fuel.....		176	12	2			
Municipalities and Shires (Sydney Fire District).....	34,283	0	0		47,581	0	0	Furniture, Fittings, &c.....		184	2	2			
Country Municipalities and Shires.....	13,298	0	0					Gratuities.....		278	14	3			
				47,581	0	0		Harness.....		54	16	7			
„ Sale of horses.....	107	19	9					Hire of Horses.....		325	5	8			
„ Sale of materials.....	2,556	15	11					Hose.....		1,544	0	4			
„ Services rendered.....	3,135	0	4					Life and Accident Assurance.....		1,302	8	11			
				6,199	16	9		Lighting.....		1,537	12	0			
								Medical Fees.....		25	4	0			
								Petty Expenses.....		76	17	7			
								Printing, Postage, Stationery.....		552	1	7			
								Rates.....		3,285	13	0			
								Rent.....		3,508	2	3			
								Repairs and Replacements.....		4,100	10	11			
								Salaries.....		74,294	14	9			
								Shoeing.....		307	0	3			
								Station Repairs.....		2,550	4	6			
								Sundries.....		72	0	9			
								Sundry Materials.....		3,005	6	11			
								Telephones and Electric Plant.....		1,109	10	9			
								Telephone Maintenance.....		629	17	3			
								Tools and Utensils.....		955	6	5			
								Travelling, Cartage, and Freight.....		1,719	9	9			
								Volunteers, Payments to.....		9,672	9	0			
								Insurance, Stations.....		61	14	0			
													121,181	9	
								Equipment, Charge for.....		8,250	9	3			
								Equipment, Reserve for.....		1,039	7	6			
								Property, Charge for.....		8,942	14	0			
													18,232	10	9
								Administration.....					6,565	12	7
								Moama transferred to Fund Account.....		141	15	3			
								Refund to Moama Municipal Council.....		70	17	8			
													212	12	11
								Balance unexpended of Estimates, 1917.....					14,426	4	8
													£160,618	10	9

Administration Account for Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1917.

1917.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1917.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dec. 31—To Audit Fees.....		105	0	0				Dec. 31—By Balance from 1916.....					441	6	11
Board Fees.....		600	0	0				Cost of Administration as per Estimates, 1917—							
Furniture.....		166	2	0				A Division, 4%.....		3,955	14	8			
Guarantee Premiums.....		18	18	9				B „ 7%.....		781	10	4			
Exchange.....		112	4	5				C „ 7%.....		437	1	6			
Law Costs.....		27	19	0				D „ 7%.....		257	9	11			
Life Assurance.....		13	5	10				E „ 7%.....		257	17	9			
Printing, Postage, and Stationery.....		274	0	8				F „ 7%.....		238	17	0			
Repairs—Sundry.....		3	10	6				G „ 7%.....		157	12	0			
Salaries.....	3,730	7	11					H & I „ 7%.....		479	9	5			
Sundries.....		15	17	4									6,565	12	7
Sundry Materials.....		30	8	2											
Telephone Maintenance.....		24	17	4											
Travelling.....		307	3	7											
Insurance, Stations.....		39	14	9											
					5,469	10	3								
To Balance forward to 1918.....					1,537	9	3								
					£7,006	19	0						£7,006	19	6

Balance-sheet as at 31st December, 1917.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	PROPERTY AND ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fund Account.....		67,350	13	6	Land—		19,140	16	7			
Administration Account.....		1,537	9	3	As at last Balance.....		9,321	1	3			
Property and Equipment Fund.....		60,875	15	11	Additions, 1917.....					23,461	17	10
Debentures.....	£100,000	0	0		Buildings—							
„ Accrued interest.....	1,500	0	0		As at last Balance.....		99,165	10	6			
		101,500	0	0	Additions, 1917.....		15,363	0	2			
Reserve for Fire Appliances.....		1,309	7	6						114,528	10	8
Reserve for Land and Buildings.....		722	0	0	Plant Account.....					1,155	9	6
Contractors' Deposit Trust Account, as per contra.....		361	0	6	Fire Appliances—							
Life Assurance Trust Funds, as per contra.....		493	5	10	As at last Balance.....		69,997	15	6			
Revenue and Expenditure Account.....		14,426	4	8	Additions, 1917.....		6,957	13	4			
										76,955	8	10
					Stocks on hand, 31/12/1917—							
					Stores.....		3,203	11	11			
					Electrical.....		2,821	2	9			
					Workshops.....		10,876	3	10			
										16,900	18	6
					Cash—							
					Petty—Brigades.....		142	0	0			
					Secretary.....		10	0	0			
										152	0	0
					Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, Ltd. ..					6,181	15	6
					„ „ Fixed deposit ..		3,344	0	0			
					„ „ Accrued interest.....		41	10	0			
										3,385	10	0
					Contractors' Deposit Trust Account.....					361	0	6
					Life Assurance Trust Funds at Fixed Deposit.....					498	5	10
										£248,580	17	2

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, 1917, as disclosed by the books.

Sydney, 9th January, 1918.

ROBERTSON, CRANE, AND GIBBONS,
Public Accountants.

APPENDIX II.

ESTIMATE of Expenditure for the Year 1917.

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.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Albury Municipality	870 0 0	59. Singleton Municipality	281 0 0
2. Armidale "	534 0 0	60. South Grafton "	276 0 0
3. Ballina "	210 0 0	61. Sydney—	
4. Bathurst "	792 0 0	The City of Sydney	
5. Bega "	273 0 0	Alexandria Municipality	
6. Berry "	150 0 0	Annandale "	
7. Boolaroo Township, in Lake Macquarie Shire	183 0 0	Ashfield "	
8. Bourke Municipality	135 0 0	Auburn "	
9. Bowral "	135 0 0	Balmain "	
10. Braidwood "	102 0 0	Bankstown " (the part de-	
11. Broken Hill "	4,503 0 0	scribed in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 18th	
12. Camden "	201 0 0	November, 1914).	
13. Campbelltown "	150 0 0	Bexley Municipality	
14. Casino "	714 0 0	Botany "	
15. Cessnock—		Burwood "	
Cessnock Township		Canterbury "	
Aberdare-Urban Area, } in Cessnock	498 0 0	Concord "	
(formerly known as } Shire.		Darlington "	
the Township of }		Drummoyne "	
Aberdare)		Dundas " (the part de-	
16. Cobar Municipality	186 0 0	scribed in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th	
17. Coff's Harbour Town, in Dorrig Shire		November, 1913).	
(the additional area gazetted 3rd Jan-	240 0 0	Eastwood Municipality (the part de-	
uary, 1912)		scribed in <i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th	
18. Condobolin Municipality	174 0 0	November, 1913).	
19. Coonamble "	231 0 0	Enfield Municipality	
20. Cootamundra "	375 0 0	Erskineville "	
21. Corowa "	192 0 0	The Glebe "	
22. Cowra "	240 0 0	Granville "	
23. Deniliquin "	171 0 0	Homebush "	
24. Dubbo "	282 0 0	Hunter's Hill "	
25. Forbes "	243 0 0	Hurstville "	
26. Gilgandra—The Gilgandra Urban Area, in		Kogarah "	
Gilgandra Shire	225 0 0	Lane Cove "	
27. Glen Innes Municipality	369 0 0	Leichhardt "	102,849 0 0
28. Goulburn "	1,002 0 0	Lidcombe "	
29. Grafton "	678 0 0	Manly "	
30. Grenfell "	144 0 0	Marrickville "	
31. Gunnedah "	264 0 0	Mascot "	
32. Hay "	162 0 0	Mosman "	
33. Inverell "	927 0 0	Newtown "	
34. Jerilderie "	96 0 0	North Sydney "	
35. Junee "	291 0 0	Paddington "	
36. Katoomba "	903 0 0	Parramatta "	
37. Kempsey "	186 0 0	Petersham "	
38. Kiama "	156 0 0	Randwick "	
39. Kurri Kurri—		Redfern "	
Kurri Kurri Township } in Cessnock		Rockdale "	
Weston " } Shire.		Ryde "	
Abermain " }	696 0 0	St. Peters "	
Tarro Shire (the part described in		Strathfield "	
<i>Government Gazette</i> , 17th Novem-		Vaucluse "	
ber, 1915).		Waterloo "	
40. Lismore Municipality	1,179 0 0	Waverley "	
41. Lithgow "	591 0 0	Willoughby "	
42. Liverpool "	594 0 0	Woollahra "	
43. Maitland—		Hornsby Shire (the part described in	
Maitland, East, "		<i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th Novem-	
Maitland, West, "		ber, 1913).	
The Township of Lorn, in Bolwarra Shire		Ku-ring-gai Shire (the part described in	
Cessnock Shire (the part described in	1,959 0 0	<i>Government Gazette</i> , 12th Novem-	
<i>Government Gazette</i> , 20th October,		ber, 1913).	
1915).		Warringah Shire (the part described in	
44. Mittagong Municipality	276 0 0	<i>Government Gazette</i> , 18th Novem-	
45. Molong "	174 0 0	ber, 1914).	
46. Moree "	288 0 0	62. Tamworth Municipality	573 0 0
47. Morpeth "	117 0 0	63. Taree "	228 0 0
48. Moss Vale "	147 0 0	64. Temora "	384 0 0
49. Mudgee "	261 0 0	65. Tenterfield "	309 0 0
50. Murwillumbah "	231 0 0	66. Tumut "	150 0 0
51. Muswellbrook "	201 0 0	67. Wagga Wagga "	903 0 0
52. Narrandera "	141 0 0	68. Walgett Township, in Walgett Shire	180 0 0
53. Newcastle—		69. Wallsend Municipality (as re-constituted	
The City of Newcastle		<i>vide Government Gazette</i>) 20th October, 1915	264 0 0
Adamstown Municipality		70. Wellington Municipality	423 0 0
Carrington "		71. West Wallsend—	
Hamilton "		Estellville Township { in Lake	
Lambton "		Holmesville " } Macquarie	192 0 0
Lambton, New "	8,037 0 0	West Wallsend " } Shire.	
Merewether "		72. West Wyalong, Township in Bland Shire ..	288 0 0
Stockton "		73. Windsor—	
Waratah "		Windsor Municipality	693 0 0
Wickham "		Richmond "	
54. Nowra "	189 0 0	74. Wollongong "	549 0 0
55. Orange "	681 0 0	75. Yass "	219 0 0
56. Parkes "	255 0 0	76. Young "	174 0 0
57. Penrith "	429 0 0		
58. Queanbeyan "	162 0 0		

£142,743 0 0

APPENDIX III.

APPENDIX III.

CONTRIBUTIONS by the Municipal and Shire Councils.

Council	Contribution.			Council	Contribution.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1. Adamstown	63	5	5	70. Ku-ring-gai Shire	616	13	6
2. Albury	290	0	0	71. Lake Macquarie Shire, for the Township of Boolaroo	61	0	0
3. Alexandria	295	1	11	72. Lake Macquarie Shire, on account of Estellville, Holmesville, and West Wallsend	64	0	0
4. Annandale	373	18	1	73. Lambton	63	15	6
5. Armidale	178	0	0	74. Lambton, New	58	7	7
6. Ashfield	943	6	0	75. Lane Cove	213	15	5
7. Auburn	269	12	6	76. Leichhardt	588	12	3
8. Ballina	70	0	0	77. Lidcombe	192	0	4
9. Balmain	835	3	10	78. Lismore	393	0	0
10. Bankstown	142	5	0	79. Lithgow	197	0	0
11. Bathurst	264	0	0	80. Liverpool	198	0	0
12. Bega	91	0	0	81. Maitland, East	125	7	9
13. Berry	50	0	0	82. Maitland, West	446	17	0
14. Bexley	305	4	2	83. Manly	614	0	1
15. Bland Shire, on account of the Township of West Wyalong	96	0	0	84. Marrickville	1,160	17	10
16. Bolwarra Shire, on account of the Township of Lorn	51	1	3	85. Mascot	218	17	4
17. Botany	138	3	8	86. Merewether	130	2	5
18. Bourke	45	0	0	87. Mittagong	92	0	0
19. Bowral	45	0	0	88. Molong	58	0	0
20. Braidwood	34	0	0	89. Moree	96	0	0
21. Broken Hill	1,501	0	0	90. Morpeth	39	0	0
22. Burwood	509	12	6	91. Mosman	794	9	0
23. Camden	67	0	0	92. Moss Vale	49	0	0
24. Campbelltown	50	0	0	93. Mudgee	87	0	0
25. Canterbury	772	0	6	94. Murwillumbah	77	0	0
26. Carrington	129	19	2	95. Muswellbrook	67	0	0
27. Casino	238	0	0	96. Narrandera	47	0	0
28. Cessnock Shire, on account of the Townships of Cessnock and Aberdare	166	0	0	97. Newcastle	1,069	2	3
29. Cessnock Shire, on account of the Townships of Kurri Kurri, Weston, and Abermain	228	13	7	98. Newtown	858	14	0
30. Cessnock Shire, on account of the Townships of Homeville, Telarah, Rutherford, and Mayfield	29	14	0	99. North Sydney	1,716	12	1
31. Cobar	62	0	0	100. Nowra	63	0	0
32. Concord	247	1	0	101. Orange	227	0	0
33. Condobolin	58	0	0	102. Paddington	749	4	6
34. Coonamble	77	0	0	103. Parkes	85	0	0
35. Cootamundra	125	0	0	104. Parramatta	328	4	10
36. Corowa	64	0	0	105. Penrith	143	0	0
37. Cowra	80	0	0	106. Petersham	807	16	2
38. Darlington	92	11	4	107. Queanbeyan	54	0	0
39. Deniliquin	57	0	0	108. Randwick	1,516	4	9
40. Dorrigo Shire, on account of Coff's Harbour Fire District	80	0	0	109. Redfern	724	12	11
41. Drummoyn	491	11	8	110. Richmond	96	13	3
42. Dubbo	94	0	0	111. Rockdale	573	17	5
43. Dundas	51	16	7	112. Ryde	317	10	1
44. Eastwood	7	2	3	113. Singleton	97	0	0
45. Enfield	162	16	10	114. St. Peters	247	9	11
46. Erskineville	164	0	9	115. Stockton	109	2	5
47. Forbes	81	0	0	116. Strathfield	261	16	8
48. Gilgandra Shire, on account of the Gilgandra Urban Area	75	0	0	117. Sydney	10,639	15	1
49. Glebe	672	10	6	118. Tamworth	191	0	0
50. Glen Innes	123	0	0	119. Taree	76	0	0
51. Goulburn	334	0	0	120. Tarro Shire, portion gazetted 17th November, 1915	3	8	5
52. Grafton	226	0	0	121. Temora	128	0	0
53. Grafton, South	92	0	0	122. Tenterfield	103	0	0
54. Granville	292	19	6	123. Tumut	50	0	0
55. Grenfell	48	0	0	124. Vacluse	146	8	4
56. Gunnedah	88	0	0	125. Wagga Wagga	301	0	0
57. Hamilton	411	12	11	126. Walgett Shire, on account of the Township of Walgett	60	0	0
58. Hay	54	0	0	127. Wallsend	88	0	0
59. Homebush	47	4	7	128. Waratah	326	12	10
60. Hornsby Shire	284	1	9	129. Warringah Shire	58	8	7
61. Hunter's Hill	178	10	7	130. Waterloo	291	9	9
62. Hurstville	239	8	1	131. Waverley	1,033	10	11
63. Inverell	309	0	0	132. Wellington	141	0	0
64. Jerilderie	32	0	0	133. Wickham	316	19	6
65. Junee	97	0	0	134. Willoughby	756	5	6
66. Katoomba	302	0	0	135. Windsor	134	6	9
67. Kempsey	62	0	0	136. Woollahra	992	16	3
68. Kiama	52	0	0	137. Wollongong	183	0	0
69. Kogarah	346	12	11	138. Yass	73	0	0
				139. Young	58	0	0
				Total	£47,581	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. Australasian Mutual Insurance Co.
8. Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance Company.
9. Bombay Fire and Marine Insurance Company (Ltd.)
10. British Crown Assurance Corporation (Ltd.)
11. British Dominions General Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
12. British Traders' 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. Commonwealth Insurance Co.
23. Dalgety & Co. (Ltd.)
24. Derwent and Tamar Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
25. Employers Liability Assurance Corporation (Ltd.) of London.
26. Farmers and Settlers' Co-operative Insurance Co. of Australia (Ltd.)
27. Federal Mutual Insurance Co. of Australia (Ltd.)
28. Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.
29. General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corp. (Ltd.)
30. Guardian Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
31. Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society (Ltd.)
32. Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
33. Insurance Office of Australia (Ltd.)
34. Java Sea and Fire Insurance Co.
35. Lancashire Insurance Co.
36. Law Union and Rock Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
37. Legal Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
38. Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co.
39. London and Lancashire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
40. London Assurance Co.
41. L'Union Fire Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
42. Manchester Assurance Company.
43. Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
44. Maritime Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
45. Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
46. Merchants Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
47. National Insurance Co. of New Zealand (Ltd.)
48. National Insurance Society (Ltd.)
49. Netherlands' Lloyd (Ltd.)
50. New South Wales Methodist Church Fire Insur. Fund.
51. New Zealand Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
52. North British and Mercantile Insurance Co.
53. North Queensland Accident Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
54. Northern Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
55. Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society (Ltd.)
56. Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation (Ltd.)
57. Palatine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
58. Patriotic Assurance Co.
59. Phoenix Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
60. Queensland Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
61. Reliance Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
62. Royal Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
63. Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation (Ltd.)
64. Samarang Insurance Co.
65. Scottish Union and National Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
66. South British Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
67. Standard Fire and Marine Insur. Co. of New Zealand (Ltd.)
68. State Assurance Co. (Ltd.)
69. Sun Insurance Office.
70. Switzerland General Insurance Co.
71. Sydney Fire Office.
72. Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
73. Triton Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
74. Union Assurance Society (Ltd.)
75. Union Insurance Society of Canton (Ltd.)
76. Union Marine Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
77. United Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
78. Victoria Insurance Co. (Ltd.)
79. Victoria General Insurance and Guarantee Co. (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. Alexander & Brodziak.
2. Aronsen & Co. Pty. (Ltd.)
3. Australian Drug Co.
4. Australasian Films (Ltd.)
5. Ball, B. J. (Ltd.)
6. Beard, Watson (Ltd.)
7. Bennett and Barkell
8. Briscoe & Co. (Ltd.)
9. Brown & Co.
10. Buckingham, W.
11. Capper, E. P., & Sons
12. Chown Bros. and Mulholland (Ltd.)
13. Cocks, Arthur, & Co. (Ltd.)
14. Cohen, G. J.
15. Cohen & Co., S.
16. Collins Bros. & Co. (Ltd.)
17. Colonial Paper Co. (Ltd.)
18. Cooke, John, & Co. Pty. (Ltd.)
19. Cowan, A., & Sons (Ltd.)
20. Eaton, J. W. (Ltd.)
21. Elliott Bros. (Ltd.)
22. Farmer & Co. (Ltd.)
23. Farleigh, Nettheim & Co.
24. Foys, Mark, Ltd.
25. Fulford, C. E. (Australasia), Ltd.
26. Gotthelf, M.
27. Grace Bros.
28. Groves & Co.
29. Hagon, Blackburn & Co.
30. Harland, W., & Sons
31. Harrison & Attwood
32. Hoffnug & Co.
33. Hordern & Sons (Ltd.), Anthony
34. Hordern Bros.
35. Hudson, G. & Son (Ltd.)
36. International Harvester Co. of Australia (Ltd.)
37. Ireland, J. (Ltd.)
38. Jones, David (Ltd.)
39. Keep, John & Sons (Ltd.)
40. Keep, John, Trustees Late
41. Kemp, Campbell & Co.
42. Lassetter, F., & Co.
43. Lever Bros. (Ltd.)
44. Levy, J. A.
45. Lion and Moseley
46. Loudon, A.
47. McArthur, W. A.
48. McCathie's (Ltd.)
49. McWilliam, P.
50. Markwald, Son, & Abel.
51. Moss, Lawrence, E.
52. Mungo Scott & Co.
53. Myers and Solomon.
54. New Zealand & Australian Land Co. (Ltd.)
55. New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Co.
56. Parbury, Henty, & Co.
57. Pattison, A.
58. Paul's Real Estate & Finance Co. (Ltd.)
59. Paul, Dr. C. N.
60. Paul, Dr. G.
61. Paul, Dr. W. O.
62. Perpetual Trustee Co. (Ltd.)
63. Perdriau Rubber Co. (Ltd.)
64. Petersen, Boesen, & Co. (Ltd.)
65. Proud's (Ltd.)
66. Phizackerley, I.
67. Reckitt's (Oversea) (Ltd.)
68. Richards, B., & Son.
69. Salenger Bros.
70. Sands, John (Ltd.)
71. Scott, A. M., & Co.
72. Shelly, Harry.
73. Swan, R. C., & Co.
74. Sweet Bros.
75. Studebaker Corporation of Australia (Ltd.)
76. Sydney Steam Carpet Beating & Cleaning Co. (Ltd.)
77. Tillock & Co.
78. Turner & Henderson.
79. Vacuum Oil Co., Sydney.
80. Vacuum Oil Co., Newcastle.
81. Vicars, John, & Co.
82. Walker & Hall.
83. Wallis Bros. (Ltd.)
84. Western Electric Co. (Ltd.)
85. Wiggins, Teape, & Co.
86. Williamson, Croft, & Co.
87. Willington Bros. (Ltd.)
88. Wills, W. D. & H. O. (Ltd.)
89. Wilson, J. & R. (Ltd.)
90. Yuill, G. S., & Co.

APPENDIX V.

Attendances at Board Meetings.

	Meetings.	
	Present.	Absent.
Hon. Ernest Henry Farrar, M.L.C.	42	...
* John Franklin Beswick .....	...	...
Henry Frederick Francis	42	...
Alderman Richard Shepherd, J.P.	37	5
Alderman William Taylor, J.P.	35	7

Ordinary meetings, 42. Extraordinary meetings, Nil.

*Mr. Beswick granted leave of absence, whilst on active service.

Notz.—The personnel of the Board remained as elected in February, 1916.

APPENDIX VI.

New South Wales Fire Brigades,
Headquarters, Castlereagh-street,
Sydney, 9 January, 1918.

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 1917.

"A" DIVISION—SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

The number of calls to fires or supposed fires was 1,065, in addition to which the brigades attended 25 calls to chimney fires. Of the former, 159 were false alarms, 13 proved to be only chimney fires, and 893 were actual fires.

The total number of calls of all descriptions amounted to 1,090, being a decrease on the previous year of 6.

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

Date.	Locality.	Occupier.	Business.
1917.			
27 Aug. ...	192 Castlereagh-street, Sydney	Australian Feature Film Company.	Cinematograph Film Importers.
28 Aug. ...	Tyser Wharf, Miller's Point	s.s. "Morinda"	Steamer.
6 Sept. ...	Tyser Wharf, Miller's Point	Burns, Philp & Co.	Store.
7 Oct. ...	York House, York-street, Sydney	G. & R. Wills.	Clothing and Woollen Merchants.
6 Dec. ...	Cameron's Wharf, Greenwich	W. R. Carpenter, Ltd. ...	Copra Stores.

The number of suspicious fires has been 3. Of these the police have been instrumental in securing 2 convictions.

Included in the false alarms, viz., 159, are 12 malicious alarms.

There were in all 41 persons burned at fires, 11 of whom succumbed to their injuries.

First Aid was rendered by the Brigade in most cases.

There are now 459 street telephone fire alarms.

Continual thefts of portions of fire-alarm apparatus are taking place in spite of the vigilance of the police, and the offer of a reward. It will be necessary, in the near future, to substitute a different instrument to reduce the loss to a minimum.

The number of horses now in use is 78. During the year 18 were sold and 2 died.

Inspections were made, in company with Chief Officer Lee, of Melbourne, of the Naval College, Jervis Bay, and Victoria Barracks, Sydney, and a joint report on the fire protection of the institutions forwarded to the Federal authorities.

In addition to attending fires and keeping the plant and stations in order, 63,086 eight-hour watches were kept; 13,892 hydrant inspections, 53,337 telephone inspections, 350 buildings, and 294 theatre and public halls inspections were made.

The watch-room registered 149,560 incoming calls, and 95,700 outgoing calls.

About 114,612 feet of hose were in use at fires. During the year there were 15 ship fires.

The strength of the brigade up to the end of December was 320. Twenty new members joined the brigade, and 26 resigned, leaving a shortage of 26 on the permanent staff, exclusive of 9 naval and military reservists, whose vacancies have not yet been filled, as great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining suitable men.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The special service staff has been responsible for the periodical inspection and care of 207 buildings belonging to the State and Commonwealth Governments, which contain 1,282 hydrants, 1,591 branches and nozzles, 1,869 chemical extinguishers, and 110,600 feet of hose.

All the hose and appliances are tested annually.

INJURIES AND SICKNESS.

Injury to feet and legs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" hands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
" arms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" head and face	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
" body	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49

WATER.

The quantity of water used in extinguishing fires was approximately 4,022,243 gallons; of this quantity about 1,293,621 gallons were taken from the harbour.

BUILDING

BUILDING ACT.

The by-laws in connection with and governing composite steel and concrete and steel-framing construction, passed by the City Council, are now in operation, and it is anticipated that many buildings of this type will be erected in the future.

INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL.

It is hoped that the Fire Brigades Act will shortly be amended to enable regulations to be made relating to the storage of timber on roofs, accumulation of trades refuse, straw, paper, &c.

FIRE FLOAT.

The recent fire at the Texas Oil Stores, Greenwich Point, clearly demonstrated the necessity of providing the Brigade with a floating fire engine for the protection of the foreshores of the harbour.

In the case under review the Board had to pay another Department for the use of its floats, without which the Brigade would have been powerless, and very heavy damage would have resulted owing to the inaccessibility of the site from the land side and distance from water mains.

Fortunately the floats were available, and the greatest use made of them; but at any time a fire may occur on the extensive foreshores of the harbour, when the Brigade would have to rely on its own resources, and, in the absence of a floating equipment, would be heavily handicapped in an attempt to confine a fire within reasonable limits.

SALVAGE CORPS.

Very useful work has been performed by the Salvage Corps in minimising damage by water. The number of fires attended was 138, and 510 sheets were used. The number of miles travelled was 358.

MOTOR FIRE ENGINES.

Motor appliances have been installed at :—
Parramatta.
Ashfield.

North Sydney.
Glebe.

FIRE STATIONS.

The present number of fire stations are :—34 permanent and 23 volunteer.

FIRE BRIGADE BAND.

The band, which was established in 1916, have during the past year given performances in aid of Charities and Patriotic Funds, which have been greatly appreciated by the organisers of the various movements.

EDUCATIONAL CLASS.

An educational class was established in the early part of the year, and has been well attended and highly appreciated by the members.

The Police, officials of the Water and Sewerage Board, Sydney Harbour Trust and Tramways, have as usual given their hearty co-operation, and the assistance rendered on many occasions has been highly valued.

COUNTRY FIRE BRIGADES.

The number of calls received by the Country Brigades during the year to fires, or supposed fires, was 575, being an increase of 16 on the previous year.

The most serious fires which occurred were :—

Date.	Occupier.	Business.	Locality.
9 May, 1917	School of Arts.....	.....	Balo-street, Moree.
11 " "	J. S. Taylor.....	General Store.....	Broadway, Junee.
17 Aug., "	W. Waters.....	Timber Merchant.....	Crown-street, Wollongong.
27 Nov., "	F. W. Dorry.....	Hairdresser.....	Gosport-street, East Moree.
10 Dec., "	E. Butcher.....	Wire Merchant.....	Marshall-street, Cobar.

Recent visits to some of the important country towns have brought under notice important fire risks which are prevalent—viz., hotels, shops, and country stores.

The former are principally constructed of wood with narrow corridors, and many have shops underneath the bedrooms. Patrons of the establishment are generally composed of a floating population.

With regard to shops, these are in many instances adjoining and under one roof, the dividing walls only extending above the ceilings; consequently a whole block may be regarded as one fire risk.

A serious fire risk is also incurred by the construction of many country stores which have a large floor space without internal divisions, and in many cases have an unbroken front of glass windows.

The fire protection of the above mentioned risks generally consist of dry Chemical Extinguishers of tube pattern containing a powder.

Although a great improvement has been made in the Fire Brigade personnel and equipment, it is obvious that, unless the various local authorities enforce more stringent regulations in building construction, the magnitude of a fire occurring must depend upon fortuitous circumstances under present conditions.

Periodical inspections have been made and drills carried out under the supervision of officers sent from Sydney, which has improved the standard of efficiency and benefited the country brigades.

New Brigades were formed at Homeville and West Wyalong.

Additional Fire Alarms have been established at :—

Newcastle District.	Katoomba.
Wollongong.	Albury.
Homeville.	Inverell.
Corowa.	Wagga.

MOTOR APPLIANCES.

Motor Appliances have been installed at :—
Bathurst.
Wagga.

Broken Hill.
Goulburn.

INSPECTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS.

The Fire Hydrants in the various fire districts have been periodically inspected, and the Municipal Councils have attended to defective hydrants, and, where required, have placed tablets to indicate the positions of the hydrants.

I have, &c.,
N. G. SPARKS,
Chief Officer.

12

1,106

APPENDIX VIII. Summary of Working Plant, 1917—Country Fire Districts.

New South Wales Fire Brigades.	Permanent Men, including Officers.	Partially-paid Firemen.	Bicycles.	Buggies.	Carts and Vans for conveying Hose, &c.	Chemical Hose Carriages.	Chemical Extinguishers.	Gas Heaters on Steam Fire Engines.	Hand-pumps.	Horses.	Hose Carriages.	Hose, feet of, 3½ in., unlined.	Hose, feet of, 2½ in., unlined.	Hose, feet of, 2½ in., lined.	Hose, feet of, 2½ in., unlined.	Hose, feet of 1 in. Rubber.	Hose, feet of 1 in., lined.	Hose Reels.	Coal Tenders.	Jumping Sheets.	Currie Ladders.	Roof Ladders.	Telescopic Ladders.	Ladders, Pompier.	Ladders, Scaling.	Ladders, Small.	Ladders, Various.	Manual Engines.	Turbine Engines.	Motor Fire Engines.	Motor Hose Carriages.	Respirators.	Steam Fire Engines.	Sociables.	Smoke Helmets.	Suction Pipe, feet of.	Mechanical Fire-alarms.	Telephone Fire alarms.	Telephone Shutter Switch-boards.	Telephones erected.	Telephone and Fire-alarm Wire, miles of.		
Abermain	10	10	1	1	1,400	10	1	4	1	
Adamstown	10	13	1	1	1	1,900	30	10	1	4	1	1	
Albury	1	9	1	1	..	1	2,868	..	426	..	40	20	1	4	1	
Armidale	10	3,070	10	1	4	1	
Ballina	10	2,200	20	1	4	1	
Bathurst	1	10	1	3	..	2,750	100	25	10	1	4	1	
Bega	10	1,300	4	1	
Berry	10	1	1,500	30	10	1	5	
Boolaroo	10	2,100	25	10	1		
Bourke	10	1	1,600	10	1	
Bowral	10	1	2,600	30	10	1	
Braidwood	10	1,700	10	1	
Broadmeadow	10	1,600	25	10	1	
Broken Hill	13	7	1	..	1	..	4	..	2	6	1	10,400	40	30	1	1	1	2	2	1
Camden	10	1	..	1	..	1	1,700	10	30	1	
Campbelltown	10	1	..	1	2,100	26	1	
Carrington	10	1	1,700	30	10	1	
Casino	1	8	1	..	1	..	3	..	1	2,500	25	20	1	
Cessnock	12	1	2,100	25	20	1	
Cobar	11	1	2,700	50	10	1	
Coff's Harbour	9	1,500	70	70	1	
Condobolin	10	1,400	25	20	1	
Coonamble	10	1,800	10	10	1	
Cootamundra	10	1,400	30	10	1	
Corowa	10	2,600	40	20	1	
Cowra	10	1	1,500	10	10	1	
Deniliquin	10	1,200	20	20	1	
Dubbo	10	2,500	10	10	1	
Forbes	10	1	2,700	10	10	1	
Gilgandra	10	2,200	10	10	1	
Glen Innes	10	1	1,600	50	20	1	
Goulburn	2	18	1	2	..	200	3,400	30	20	1	
Grafton	1	10	1,850	60	40	1	
Grafton (South)	10	1	1,450	10	10	1	
Grenfell	10	1	1,000	10	
Greta (East)	5	950	1		
Gunnedah	10	2	1,400	3	10	1	
Hamilton	1	9	1	2,000	40	10	1	
Hay	10	1	2,050	20	20	1	
Homeville	5	1,000	
Inverell	1	10	1	..	2	2,750	120	30	10	1	
Jerilderie	10	1	1,000	
Junee	10	2	3,050	30	20	1	
Katoomba	1	12	..	..	1	..</																																				

APPENDIX IX.
SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.
SUMMARY of Localities for 1917.

City and Suburbs.		Class of Fires.									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	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	4	...	...	16
Bligh	"	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	4	...	...	15
Bourke	"	25	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	13	...	1	42
Camperdown	"	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	...	...	12
Cook	"	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	...	1	11
Denison	"	13	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	3	...	...	21
Fitzroy	"	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	...	...	12
Flinders	"	9	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	1	14
Gipps	"	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	5	...	...	10
Lang	"	32	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	39	14	...	...	53
Macquarie	"	23	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	27	15	2	...	44
Phillip	"	20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	9	2	...	33
Pymont	"	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	...	1	11
Total		167	38	...	4	...	...	...	...	209	75	4	4	292
SUBURBS—															
Alexandria		7	7	...	...	...	1	1	...	16	1	...	...	17
Annandale		8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	...	...	14
Ashfield		15	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	1	1	...	22
Auburn		2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Balmain		22	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	5	...	2	34
Bankstown		...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Beecroft		2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Bexley		1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Botany		2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	1	7
Burwood		4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	1	10
*Baulkham Hills		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Canterbury		10	6	...	...	...	2	1	...	19	...	...	...	19
Concord		4	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
Darlington		2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	4
Drummoyne		4	10	...	...	...	1	1	...	16	2	...	...	18
Dundas		1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	2
Eastwood		...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Enfield		2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	1	...	...	6
Erskineville		3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	5
Glebe		13	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	9	...	1	26
Granville		6	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	9
Homebush		2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	4
Hornsby Shire		1	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	1	...	1	7
Hunter's Hill		4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	...	8
Hurstville		12	3	...	...	...	4	1	...	20	2	...	1	23
Kogarah		8	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	13	1	...	...	14
Kur-ring-gai Shire		1	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	1	2	1	12
Lane Cove		3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	1	...	13
Leichhardt		10	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	15	2	...	...	17
Lidcombe		3	5	...	...	...	2	1	...	11	...	...	2	13
Lindfield (Kur-ring-gai Shire)		...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Manly		8	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	15	2	...	1	18
Marrickville		22	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	26	2	...	...	28
Mascot		10	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	16	...	...	...	16
Mosman		5	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	5	...	...	31
Newtown		14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	7	1	2	25
North Sydney		25	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	7	...	1	47
Paddington		17	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	23	4	1	...	28
Parramatta		3	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	1	...	...	8
Petersham		8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5	...	...	18
*Pennant Hills		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
*Prospect and Sherwood		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pymble (Kur-ring-gai Shire)		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Randwick		30	15	...	...	...	3	1	...	49	6	...	...	55
Redfern		19	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	2	...	1	26
Rockdale		12	15	...	...	...	3	...	...	30	...	...	1	31
Ryde		4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	...	8
St. Peters		6	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	1	...	12
Strathfield		1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Vaucluse		2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	8
Warringah Shire		1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Waterloo		5	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	3	...	2	17
Waverley		8	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	13	...	...	...	13
Willoughby		11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	1	...	...	22
Woollahra		19	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	1	...	3	32
*The Harbour		11	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	14
Total		561	280	...	5	...	35	9	...	893	159	13	25	1,090	

*Outside Fire Brigade area.

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.
SUMMARY of Localities for 1917.

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.					
Abermain (Cessnock Shire)	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Adamstown	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
Albury	6	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	13	3	...	...	16
Armidale	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Ballina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bathurst	6	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	4	...	...	19
Bega	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Berry	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Bolwarra Shire	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Boolaroo	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	3
Bourke	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Braidwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Broken Hill	24	15	...	...	...	...	11	3	...	53	6	...	...	59
Campbelltown	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Carrington	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	6
Casino	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	...	8
Cessnock Shire	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Cobar	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	6	...	...	...	6
Condobolin	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	9
Coonamble	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Cootamundra	2	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
Corowa	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	5
Cowra	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	6	...	...	1	7
Coff's Harbour	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
*Cudgegong Shire	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Deniliquin	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Dubbo	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Forbes	4	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	9	2	1	1	13
Glen Innes	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	4	...	...	8
Gilgandra	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Goulburn	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8	3	1	...	12
Grafton	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Grafton, South	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Grenfell	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	6	...	...	...	6
Gunnedah	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	1	...	...	6
Hamilton	2	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	12	...	...	2	14
Hay	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Inverell	4	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	11	1	1	5	18
Jerilderie	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Junee	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	...	8
Katoomba	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Kiama	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Kempsey	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Kurri Kurri (Cessnock Shire)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	3
Lambton	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Lismore	9	17	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	27	...	2	...	29
Lithgow	8	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	12	...	...	...	12
Liverpool	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	1	...	...	7
Maitland, East	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Maitland, West	7	4	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	13	2	...	1	16
Molong	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Moree	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	5	2	...	...	7
Morpeth	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Moss Vale	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Mudgee	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	5	1	...	...	6
Murwillumbah	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Muswellbrook	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Mittagong	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Narrandera	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Newcastle	16	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	4	...	...	28
Nowra	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Orange	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	3	...	...	10
Parkes	8	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	13	...	...	...	13
Penrith	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Queanbeyan	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Richmond	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Singleton	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Stockton	2	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	...	...	...	8

* Outside N.S.W. Fire Brigade area.

SUMMARY of Localities for 1917—*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.....	8	3	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	15	1	...	...	16
Taree.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Tarro Shire.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Temora.....	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	...	...	...	9
Tumut.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	3
Wagga Wagga.....	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	1	8
Walgett.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
Wallsend.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Waratah.....	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	2	9
Wellington.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6	...	...	...	6
Weston (Cessnock Shire).....	3	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
West Wyalong.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	9	...	...	...	9
Wickham.....	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	1	7
Windsor.....	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	6
Wollongong.....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Yass.....	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Young.....	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	6
*The Harbour.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total.....	264	150	...	6	...	...	63	19	...	502	45	9	19	575

* Outside the Fire Brigade area.

APPENDIX X.

Trades.	Class of Fire.									Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
Asphalter		1								1
Artificial Flour Manufacturers	1									1
Bacon Curers	1									1
Bakers	5									5
Bag Merchants	6									6
Basket Factory	1									1
Bedstead Manufacturers		1								1
Boarding-houses and Residential Chambers.	13									13
Boat-builders	1									1
Boot Shops	3									3
Boot Manufacturers	2									2
Box Factory	2	1					1			4
Brewers	2									2
Bridges		1								1
Builders and Contractors	5							1		6
Buildings in course of erection or demolition.	1	4					1			6
Butchers	8	1								9
Bottle Yards		1								1
Canister Manufacturers	1									1
Carpenters and Joiners	1									1
Carriers	1									1
Cardboard Box Manufacturers	1									1
Chemists and Druggists	4									4
Cinematograph Exhibitions	2									2
Cinematograph Film Importers				1						1
Clothing Manufacturers	3									3
Clothing and Woollen Merchants.				1						1
Clubs	1									1
Coachbuilders	1									1
Confectioners and Fruiterers	8						1			9
Copra Stores				1						1
Cork Manufacturers	1									1
Circus	1									1
Coopers	3									3
Churches	2									2
Dealers	1									1
Dentist	2									2
Drapers	4									4
Dressmakers and Milliners	3									3
Distillers	2									2
Electric Light and Telegraph Poles.		7								7
Electric Light (Sub-station)		1								1
Electricians	2									2
Engineers	8	3								11
Exhibitions, Halls, and Theatres	10									10
Fibre and Plaster Manufacturers.	1									1
Fishmonger	3									3
Furniture Manufacturers and Cabinet-makers.	7						2			9
Glass and Bottle Manufacturers		5								5
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	3									3
Grocers	16									16
General Stores	6									6
Hairdressers and Tobacconists	6	2								8
House, Land, and Estate Agents	3									3
Hospitals and Asylums	2	5								7
Hardware Merchants	2									2
Indent Agents	2									2
Ironmongers	1									1
Iron Founders	4									4
Kalsomine Works	1									1
Knitting Manufacturers	1									1
Laundries							1			1
Licensed Victuallers	9	1								10
Loco. Sheds	1									1
Machinery Merchants	2									2
Manufacturing Chemists	2									2
Manufacturing Confectioners	2									2
Markets	1									1
Merchants and Importers	3	1								4
Mercers and Drapers	1									1

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.—Summary of Trades for 1917—*continued.*

Trades.	Class of Fire.									Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
Metal Works	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Motor Garages, Motor Cars, and Motor Cycles.	29	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	43
Monumental Masons .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Military Barracks .....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Newspagents and Stationers.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Newspaper Printers and Publishers.	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Nursery.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Offices	5	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Oil and Colour Manufacturers..	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Oil Merchants	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Paint and Varnish Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Paper Mills	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Patent Roofing Manufacturers	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Piano Warehouse	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Picture Frame Makers and Moulders.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Phonograph Importers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Plumber and Gasfitters	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Printers.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Private Dwellings	233	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	3	.....	281
Produce Merchants and Fuel Merchants.	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Post and Telegraph Offices ...	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Pottery .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Racecourse	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Railway and Tramway Department.	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	21
Restaurants	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Rope Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Saddle and Harness Makers ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Schools	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Sheds.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Ships.....	12	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Smallgoods Factory.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Soap Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Stables	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Stationers.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Stores	6	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9
Stove Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sewing Machine Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Street Lamps .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Soft Goods Warehouse	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sydney Cricket Ground.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tailors	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Tent and Tarpaulin Manufacturers.	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Timber Yards, Saw Mills and Joinery Works.	6	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Tents .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tobacco Factory	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Unoccupied Dwellings	9	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	2	.....	16
Unoccupied Shops .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Unoccupied Sheds .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Upholsterers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Vacant Land .....	.....	159	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	159
Vehicles .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Warehousemen	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Wharves .....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Wheat Stacks	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Woollen Mills.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wool Scourers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wire Manufacturers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wool Brokers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wine and Spirit Merchants ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Yards	2	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Total.....	564	20	.....	5	.....	.....	35	9	.....	833

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.—Summary of Trades for 1917.

Trades.	Class of Fire.									Grand Total.
	Slight.			Serious.			Total Destruction.			
	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	Insured.	Not insured.	Unknown.	
Auctioneers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Butter Factory	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2
Bakers and Pastrycooks	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Banks	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Boarding-houses	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9
Boot Shops	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Bridges .....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Breweries .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Broom Manufacturers .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Bicycle Manufacturers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Butchers	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Coach Factory	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Carrier .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Chemist	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Churches	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cold Storage and Ice Works...	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cordial Manufacturers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Council Chambers .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Chaff Mills	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Confectioners .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Coachbuilders	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Dairy .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Dentists	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Drapers and Mercers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	4
Dock	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Exhibitions, Halls, and Theatres	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Electroplaters	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Furniture Store .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Farms	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	3	.....	8
Fishmongers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fruiters and Greengrocers	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Flour Mills	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Furniture Manufacturer	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	3
Gasworks .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
General Merchants.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
General Stores.....	7	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9
Grocers	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Seed Merchants	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Ship Chandlers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Hospitals	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Hairdressers and Tobacconists	7	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Iron and Steel Works.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Jewellers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Livery Stables	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Licensed Victuallers	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Mines	4	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Milliner	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Motor Garages	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Motor Cars	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	4
Motor Cycles	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Optician	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Offices	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Newspaper Printers and Pub- lishers.	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Printers and Stationers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Private Dwellings	105	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	9	.....	170
Produce Merchants.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Post and Telegraph Offices...	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Plumbers and Gasfitters.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Railway and Tramway Department	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Restaurants	3	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
School of Arts .....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Sheds.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	6
Schools	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Stores	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	10
Smallgoods Shops	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Signal Box .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Stables	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Saddle and Harness Makers ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2
Show Grounds	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Timber Merchants, Saw Mills, and Box Factory.	5	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Tailors	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Unoccupied Dwellings	3	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	5	.....	26
Undertakers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Umbrella Makers	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Vacant Land .....	.....	82	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	82
Wool and Skin Merchants	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Wine Merchants.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total	264	150	.....	6	.....	.....	63	19	.....	502

APPENDIX XI.

HOURLY and Daily Summary of Calls for 1917.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Hours.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total.	Hours.	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	Total.
A.M., 1.....	2	4	6	2	6	3	3	26	P.M., 1.....	7	3	8	4	9	6	13	50
" 2.....	4	4	1	5	5	2	7	28	" 2.....	12	11	6	8	7	13	11	66
" 3.....	2	...	3	6	2	1	2	16	" 3.....	6	10	5	7	5	12	8	53
" 4.....	3	2	5	5	2	2	2	21	" 4.....	9	11	8	6	4	4	21	63
" 5.....	3	4	5	2	6	1	1	22	" 5.....	4	13	7	6	7	6	7	50
" 6.....	2	10	1	...	3	...	4	20	" 6.....	13	13	9	7	16	15	12	85
" 7.....	3	2	3	1	3	6	8	26	" 7.....	13	13	8	11	7	15	12	79
" 8.....	1	7	5	4	...	2	6	25	" 8.....	10	14	11	13	20	15	10	93
" 9.....	...	4	5	2	6	3	4	24	" 9.....	5	8	12	10	6	16	9	66
" 10.....	10	3	3	6	8	8	8	46	" 10.....	6	11	12	5	13	14	10	71
" 11.....	5	7	8	7	7	3	10	47	" 11.....	4	3	3	7	8	6	5	36
" 12.....	3	4	6	4	3	3	6	29	" 12.....	10	8	5	5	1	7	12	48
Total ...	38	51	51	44	51	34	61	330	Total ...	99	118	94	89	101	129	130	760

HOURLY and Daily Summary of Calls for Year 1917.

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	2	1	5	2	3	2	22	P.M., 1.....	2	4	5	6	2	6	...	25
" 2.....	3	4	5	2	2	3	4	23	" 2.....	1	4	...	3	6	1	3	18
" 3.....	3	3	3	4	2	3	4	22	" 3.....	3	5	2	7	2	5	2	26
" 4.....	3	1	2	2	3	4	...	15	" 4.....	3	2	2	1	4	3	9	24
" 5.....	1	...	4	2	1	1	6	15	" 5.....	2	4	4	5	4	4	6	29
" 6.....	...	...	...	4	...	2	2	8	" 6.....	3	5	4	6	7	6	3	34
" 7.....	...	...	2	...	2	1	1	6	" 7.....	7	7	3	8	8	4	5	42
" 8.....	...	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	" 8.....	7	10	5	9	5	12	7	55
" 9.....	2	2	3	4	2	2	4	19	" 9.....	2	7	7	3	7	4	12	42
" 10.....	2	3	2	...	2	...	2	11	" 10.....	1	8	5	4	6	6	7	37
" 11.....	5	1	2	9	1	2	4	24	" 11.....	6	4	2	9	3	2	5	31
" 12.....	7	1	1	1	3	3	3	19	" 12.....	5	2	1	2	2	4	6	22
Total ...	33	19	26	34	21	24	33	190	Total ..	42	62	40	63	56	57	65	385

APPENDIX XII.

WEEKLY Summary of Calls for 1917.

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	...	16	1	21	28th, ending July 15 ...	5	1	17	...	23
2nd " " 14 ...	2	...	13	...	15	29th " " 22 ...	...	2	24	...	26
3rd " " 21 ...	4	...	20	...	24	30th " " 29 ...	...	1	15	2	18
4th " " 28 ...	4	...	16	...	20	31st " " Aug. 5 ...	1	2	9	...	12
5th " Feb. 4 ...	7	...	10	...	17	32nd " " 12 ...	1	2	16	1	20
6th " " 11 ...	3	...	8	...	11	33rd " " 19 ...	3	1	17	...	21
7th " " 18 ...	3	...	20	...	23	34th " " 26 ...	1	3	30	1	35
8th " " 25 ...	5	...	19	1	25	35th " " Sept. 2 ...	1	2	20	1	24
9th " March 4 ...	3	...	19	...	22	36th " " 9 ...	4	...	38	...	42
10th " " 11 ...	...	...	18	...	18	37th " " 16 ...	2	1	17	2	22
11th " " 18 ...	5	...	14	...	19	38th " " 23 ...	5	3	14	...	22
12th " " 25 ...	...	...	16	...	16	39th " " 30 ...	1	...	16	...	17
13th " April 1 ...	2	...	19	...	21	40th " " Oct. 7 ...	4	...	25	...	29
14th " " 8 ...	5	...	27	...	32	41st " " 14 ...	6	...	14	...	20
15th " " 15 ...	...	...	30	...	30	42nd " " 21 ...	3	1	22	...	26
16th " " 22 ...	3	...	12	...	15	43rd " " 28 ...	6	...	20	...	26
17th " " 29 ...	2	...	11	...	13	44th " " Nov. 4 ...	3	...	19	...	22
18th " May 6 ...	3	...	12	...	15	45th " " 11 ...	3	...	11	...	14
19th " " 13 ...	3	...	20	...	23	46th " " 18 ...	2	...	13	1	16
20th " " 20 ...	3	...	22	1	26	47th " " 25 ...	2	...	8	...	10
21st " " 27 ...	5	...	14	...	19	48th " " Dec. 2 ...	1	...	17	...	18
22nd " June 3 ...	6	...	12	...	18	49th " " 9 ...	5	...	5	...	10
23rd " " 10 ...	2	1	19	...	22	50th " " 16 ...	3	...	21	...	24
24th " " 17 ...	7	1	18	...	26	51st " " 23 ...	6	...	24	...	30
25th " " 24 ...	2	2	10	1	15	52nd " " 31 ...	1	1	16	...	18
26th " July 1 ...	6	1	10	1	18						
27th " " 8 ...	1	...	20	...	21	Total	159	25	893	13	1,090

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.
WEEKLY Summary of Calls for 1917.

Week.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.	Fires.	Chimney, with Engine.	Total.	Week.	False Alarms.	Chimney Fires.	Fires.	Chimney, with Engine.	Total.
1st, ending Jan. 7 ...	..	...	13	...	13	28th, ending July 15 ...	...	1	11	...	12
2nd " " 14 ...	1	...	14	...	15	29th " " 22 ...	1	...	16	1	18
3rd " " 21 ...	...	...	13	...	13	30th " " 29 ...	...	1	18	1	20
4th " " 28 ...	2	...	9	1	12	31st " Aug. 5 ...	...	...	7	1	8
5th " Feb. 4 ...	1	...	4	...	5	32nd " " 12 ...	...	...	4	...	4
6th " " 11 ...	2	...	7	1	10	33rd " " 19 ...	1	1	6	...	8
7th " " 18 ...	1	...	12	...	13	34th " " 26 ...	...	...	12	1	13
8th " " 25 ...	1	...	15	...	16	35th " Sept. 2 ...	...	2	11	1	14
9th " Mar. 4 ...	1	...	11	...	12	36th " " 9 ...	1	...	20	...	21
10th " " 11 ...	4	...	13	...	17	37th " " 16 ...	1	1	6	...	8
11th " " 18 ...	1	...	6	...	7	38th " " 23 ...	2	1	4	...	7
12th " " 25 ...	1	...	11	...	12	39th " " 30 ...	2	...	7	...	9
13th " April 1 ...	...	...	13	...	13	40th " Oct. 7 ...	1	...	2	...	3
14th " " 8 ...	...	...	19	2	21	41st " " 14 ...	1	1	4	...	6
15th " " 15 ...	1	...	12	...	13	42nd " " 21 ...	1	...	9	...	10
16th " " 22 ...	1	1	11	...	13	43rd " " 28 ...	1	...	4	...	5
17th " " 29 ...	1	...	11	...	12	44th " Nov. 4 ...	1	...	7	...	8
18th " May 6 ...	1	...	13	...	14	45th " " 11 ...	...	...	2	...	2
19th " " 13 ...	...	1	18	...	19	46th " " 18 ...	...	...	6	...	6
20th " " 20 ...	...	...	9	...	9	47th " " 25 ...	...	1	6	...	7
21st " " 27 ...	1	1	11	...	13	48th " Dec. 2 ...	1	...	3	...	4
22nd " June 3 ...	2	1	10	...	13	49th " " 9 ...	1	1	6	...	8
23rd " " 10 ...	2	...	13	...	15	50th " " 16 ...	...	...	7	...	7
24th " " 17 ...	...	...	8	...	8	51st " " 23 ...	1	...	9	...	10
25th " " 24 ...	1	3	6	...	10	52nd " " 31 ...	...	...	14	...	14
26th " July 1 ...	2	...	9	...	11						
27th " " 8 ...	2	2	10	...	14						
						Total	45	19	502	9	575

APPENDIX XIII.
SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.
MONTHLY Summary for 1917.

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	17	1	...	33	37	.....	...	...	.....	2	1	.....	91
February	16	1	.....	33	18	.....	...	...	.....	3	...	.....	76
March	9	.....	.....	48	22	.....	...	...	.....	2	...	.....	81
April	12	.....	.....	55	29	.....	...	...	.....	5	...	.....	101
May	14	1	.....	48	16	.....	...	...	.....	2	2	.....	83
June	19	2	5	49	11	.....	...	...	.....	4	...	.....	90
July	8	2	5	46	29	.....	...	...	.....	3	1	.....	94
August	6	2	8	46	28	.....	2	...	.....	3	2	.....	97
September	13	3	5	55	31	.....	1	...	.....	4	2	.....	114
October	20	.....	1	68	17	.....	1	...	.....	5	...	.....	112
November	9	1	.....	39	13	.....	...	...	.....	...	1	.....	63
December	16	.....	1	39	29	.....	1	...	.....	2	...	.....	88
Total	159	13	25	564	280	.....	5	...	.....	35	9	.....	1,090

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.
MONTHLY Summary for 1917.

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	4	1	.....	29	19	.....	...	...	.....	3	...	.....	56
February.....	4	1	.....	24	9	.....	...	...	.....	7	1	.....	46
March	7	.....	...	29	10	.....	...	...	.....	6	3	.....	55
April	3	2	1	30	12	.....	...	...	.....	9	5	.....	62
May.....	4	.....	3	30	11	.....	2	...	.....	7	3	.....	60
June.....	5	.....	3	23	14	.....	...	...	.....	3	1	.....	49
July.....	3	2	4	22	24	.....	...	...	.....	8	3	.....	66
August	1	2	2	15	13	.....	1	...	.....	5	...	.....	39
September	6	1	3	19	15	.....	...	...	.....	7	1	.....	52
October	4	.....	1	12	6	.....	...	...	.....	3	...	.....	26
November	1	.....	1	13	7	.....	1	...	.....	...	...	.....	23
December	3	.....	1	18	10	.....	2	...	.....	5	2	.....	41
Total	45	9	19	264	150	.....	6	...	.....	63	19	.....	575

APPENDIX XIV.

COMPARISON of Calls from 1907 to 1917, inclusive.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Calls.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
False alarms	108	114	91	106	155	163	170	185	178	157	159
Chimney alarms	70	66	53	40	49	37	28	31	41	25	38
Fires, slight	594	526	666	643	824	950	1,327	1,117	1,303	861	844
„ serious	11	8	12	7	20	22	16	12	3	11	5
„ total destruction	31	33	28	18	44	37	47	42	60	42	44
Total	814	747	850	814	1,092	1,209	1,588	1,387	1,585	1,096	1,090

COMPARISON of Calls from 1910 to 1917, inclusive.

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

Calls.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
False alarms.....	22	23	16	21	29	47	50	45
Chimney alarms	15	26	27	40	35	23	25	28
Fires, slight	286	362	528	512	498	636	408	414
„ serious	4	4	4	3	9	10	5	6
„ total destruction	118	126	147	143	122	127	72	82
Total	445	541	722	719	693	843	560	575

APPENDIX XV.

SUMMARY of Causes of Fires for 1917.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

Back-fire	19	Matches, careless use of	15
Beeswax, turpentine, fat, &c., boiling over.....	11	Matches, children playing with	35
Burning rubbish.....	46	„ rats at	9
Candle	27	Mo'or, overheating of	1
Clothing in contact with fire.....	6	Molten glass	1
Collapse of kiln	1	Oil, boiling over of	1
Electric iron, overheating of.....	2	Overheating of furnace	7
„ motor, overheating of	3	Overloading of current.....	1
„ wires, fusing of	22	Overheating of smoke house.....	5
„ wires, short circuit of.....	16	„ drying room	2
Flame in contact with sulphur.....	1	„ cupola	2
Friction of machinery	1	„ stove pipe	1
Films, overheating of	3	„ incubator	4
Fireplace defective.....	1	„ air brake	1
Fireworks	4	„ boiler	1
Fire, careless use of	2	„ bath-heater	2
Flue, defective	8	„ brooder	1
„ foul	38	„ exhaust pipe	1
Fumigating	5	Painters at work.....	2
Fat, boiling over of	1	Phosphorous	1
Flue, overheating of	1	Plumbers at work	1
Gas bracket	4	Smoking tobacco.....	6
„ escape of	8	Sparks from fire	27
„ fittings, defective	12	„ flue	4
„ ring	5	„ locomotive	18
„ stove, overheating of	5	„ oven or stove	3
Glass retort, bursting of	4	Spirit lamp, upsetting of	3
Glue, boiling over	2	Spontaneous ignition	15
Hot ashes	8	Spirit stove, explosion of	4
Incendiarism	2	Sparks from explosion pot	1
Iron, overheating of	1	Sparks from boiler	1
Kerosene lamp, explosion of.....	3	Tar, boiling of	33
„ „ upsetting of.....	9	Unknown.....	154
„ stove, explosion of.....	2	Vapour of spirits in contact with flame	23
Light thrown down	243		
Lightning	3		
Lime, slaking of	16		
		Total	931

COUNTRY

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

SUMMARY of Causes of Fires for 1917—*continued*.

Back-fire	4	Lime, slaking of	2
Beeswax, turpentine and disinfectants, &c., boiling over...	2	Matches, careless use of	6
Burning rubbish	16	" children playing with	10
Bedwarmer, overheating of	1	" rats at	17
Candle	15	Overheating of smoke house	1
Defective copper	1	" copper	1
Electric light wires, fusing of	7	" film	1
" " short circuit of	2	" oven or stove	1
" cables, fusing of	1	" flue	2
" iron, overheating of	2	" incubator	2
Fire, careless use of	1	" machinery	2
Flue, foul	30	Oil, boiling over of	1
" defective	2	Smoking tobacco	4
Gas stove, overheating of	1	Sparks from adjoining flue	3
" escape of	2	" fire	26
" bracket	1	" flue	5
" fittings, defective	1	" furnace fire	1
Hot ashes	8	" locomotive	12
Incendiarism	1	Spontaneous ignition	5
Iron holder, overheating of	1	Spirit lamp, upsetting of	2
Kerosene, careless use of	1	" explosion of	2
" lamp, careless use of	1	Tar, boiling over	12
" " explosion of	4	Unknown	161
" " upsetting of	5	Vapour of spirits in contact with flame	10
" stove, explosion of	2		
Light thrown down	127	Total	530
Lightning	1		

APPENDIX XVI.

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.

SUMMARY of how Fires were reported to the Brigade for 1917.

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	9	33	.....	.....	42
Citizen at Station	223	16	.....	10	249
Fire-alarms	106	43	4	2	155
G.P.O., per telephone	484	56	8	10	558
Newspaper reports	13	.....	.....	.....	13
Police, at Station	18	2	.....	.....	20
Police, per telephone	13	5	.....	.....	18
Private fire-alarms	5	1	.....	.....	6
Private telephones	12	1	1	1	15
Railway and Tramway Department .....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Seen from Station	9	1	.....	2	12
Seen when in the vicinity	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Total	893	159	13	25	1,090

COUNTRY FIRE DISTRICTS.

SUMMARY of how Fires were reported to Brigade for 1917.

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	234	5	5	12	256
Fire-alarms	47	30	1	.....	78
G.P.O., per telephone	193	7	3	6	209
Newspaper reports	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Police, at Station	9	.....	.....	.....	9
Private fire-alarms	3	2	.....	.....	5
Seen from Station	1	.....	.....	1	2
Seen when in the vicinity	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Whistles blowing alarm	7	1	.....	.....	8
Private telephone	2	.....	.....	.....	2
Total	502	45	9	19	575