

1931.
NEW ZEALAND.

FIRE BRIGADES OF THE DOMINION

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1931, BY THE INSPECTOR OF FIRE BRIGADES.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The INSPECTOR OF FIRE BRIGADES to the Hon. the MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
Office of the Inspector of Fire Brigades (Department of Internal Affairs).

SIR,—

Herewith I have the honour to lay before you my twenty-third annual report for the year ending 31st March, 1931. My report this year is unavoidably very much curtailed and incomplete, this being due to my retirement from the office of Inspector of Fire Brigades on the 31st idem and to the fact that the last returns from the various fire districts are not received by this Department for some two months or more after that date, making it impossible at this date to finalize any of the tables or to draw any averages or deductions.*

Four new fire districts were constituted during the year—viz., Birkenhead, 13th May, 1930; Woodville, 30th June, 1930; Newmarket, 25th November, 1930; and Cambridge, 30th January, 1931.

The following is a list of the fifty-five Fire Boards now operating :—

Auckland	Hastings	New Plymouth	Tauranga
Balclutha	Hawera	Oamaru	Te Aroha
Birkenhead	Hikurangi	Ohakune	Te Awamutu
Cambridge	Hokitika	Onehunga	Timaru
Christchurch	Invercargill	Opotiki	Waihi
Dannevirke	Kaiapoi	Otaki	Waipukurau
Dargaville	Kaitangata	Pahiatua	Wairoa
Dunedin	Lawrence	Palmerston North	Waitara
Eltham	Levin	Petone	Wanganui
Feilding	Masterton	Port Chalmers	Wellington
Foxton	Milton	Pukekohe	Westport
Gisborne	Mount Roskill	Rotorua	Whangarei
Greymouth	Napier	Taihape	Woodville.
Hamilton	Newmarket	Taumarunui	

Circumstances have not permitted my visiting several of the fire districts, and the following is a list of the districts and the fire brigades inspected and reported upon :—

Auckland, December 15 and 16, 1930.	Oamaru, February 16, 1931.
Balclutha, February 10, 1931.	Onehunga, December 15, 1930.
Birkenhead, December 12, 1930.	New Plymouth, January 21, 1931.
Christchurch, February 18, 1931.	Otaki, December 3, 1930.
Dannevirke, September 23, 1930.	Pahiatua, November 19, 1930.
Dunedin, February 13 and 14, 1931.	Palmerston North, January 29, 1931.
Eltham, January 22, 1931.	Petone, January 13, 1931.
Feilding, January 19, 1931.	Port Chalmers, February 14, 1931.
Foxton, December 2, 1930.	Pukekohe, December 10, 1930.
Hamilton, February 26, 1931.	Rotorua, December 18 and 19, 1930.
Hastings, February 4, 1931.	Taihape, October 16, 1930.
Hawera, January 20, 1931.	Tauranga, February 24, 1931.
Invercargill, February 11, 1931.	Te Awamutu, February 27, 1931.
Kaiapoi, February 19, 1931.	Timaru, February 17, 1931.
Levin, October 15, 1930, and January 28, 1931.	Waihi, February 25, 1931.
Masterton, November 20, 1930.	Waipukurau, November 18, 1930.
Milton, February 12, 1931.	Waitara, January 23, 1931.
Mount Roskill, December 16, 1930.	Wanganui, September 8 and 9, 1930.
Napier, February 3, 1931.	Woodville, September 24, 1930.

* The statistics attached to this report were prepared after the 31st March, 1931.

During the inspection visits instruction in fire drill and in fire-prevention matters generally was given in the smaller towns.

Inspections have been made and reports furnished in respect of public buildings and institutions; advice has been given to Fire Boards and local bodies in regard to the purchase of fire-station sites, planning of new fire stations, water-supply improvements, purchase of new equipment, &c. Reports have been furnished to the Government Loans Board in regard to proposed improvements and new installations of water-supply in various towns.

In accordance with instructions, a special visit was paid to Napier and Hastings immediately following upon the outbreak of fires subsequent to the earthquake; also, I attended throughout the arbitration proceedings in the matter of retention or otherwise, by the Wellington Fire Board, of the present Central Fire-station site.

Following upon an invitation from the executive officers of the United Fire Brigades' Association, I attended their fifty-second annual conference, held at Nelson on the 9th March, and there delivered an address to the delegates dealing with fire-prevention matters generally. Whilst the conference was in session the inaugural meeting of the Incorporated Institute of New Zealand Fire Brigade Officers and Members was held, and members of the council of the institute elected. This institute has been founded with the particular object of improving the efficiency of the volunteer fire brigades, and in this respect should prove of great value to the fire service in this Dominion.

I have, &c.,
THOS. T. HUGO,
Inspector of Fire Brigades.

The Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS FOR FIRE DISTRICTS.*

District.	Population.	Insurance Companies' Premium Income.	Number of Fire Calls.	Fires involving Loss of Property.	Insurances on Property involved in Fires.	Insured Fire Loss.		Uninsured Fire Loss.		Total Fire Loss.	Average Total Fire Loss for Last Three Years.	Expenditure Authorized.		
						Buildings.	Contents.	Buildings.	Contents.			Year ending 31st March, 1930.	Year ending 31st March, 1931.	Year ending 31st March, 1932.
Auckland	113,600	168,827	498	215	1,031,575	32,139	81,555	325	690	114,709	77,940	22,000	22,300	21,500
Balclutha	1,570	2,158	7	2	300	155	50	..	..	21,167	158	320	260	210
Christchurch	89,500	120,449	340	272	162,980	11,252	7,758	827	1,330	3,398	41,748	13,850	14,300	12,600
Dannevirke	4,530	8,680	14	6	16,870	1,616	1,774	8	..	25,035	2,069	775	710	745
Dargaville	2,000	3,467	9	4	1,715	403	415	..	..	30,698	1,871	530	522	407
Dunedin	76,420	85,288	476	146	593,208	11,679	12,887	173	296	15,700	30,698	16,000	16,000	15,000
Eltham	2,050	2,434	2	2	1,650	590	..	..	..	1,484	1,484	648	421	372
Feilding	4,320	6,939	22	11	39,395	1,260	910	420	100	2,745	2,547	782	800	780
Foxton	1,770	1,992	10	4	1,840	390	175	6	55	2,702	2,702	487	491	458
Gisborne	14,200	24,307	58	26	37,960	6,866	6,139	1,946	3,607	18,558	10,905	2,200	2,300	2,558
Greytown	6,180	7,666	10	8	9,930	3,162	1,200	2,200	210	6,772	14,491	1,000	1,000	750
Hamilton	15,400	20,868	73	27	99,180	2,391	1,115	405	156	4,067	5,822	2,925	3,000	3,000
Hastings†	12,000	17,158	52	28	34,942	4,701	3,535	795	150	9,181	13,831	1,708	1,703	2,000
Hawera	4,700	8,237	38	12	28,775	482	401	23	26	932	4,272	1,275	1,230	1,230
Hikurangi	1,245	1,352	2	2	40	40	..	..	..	60	47	223	177	154
Hokitika	2,520	3,443	8	6	1,425	605	270	105	200	1,180	2,671	580	670	650
Invercargill	20,400	25,118	117	39	100,655	11,352	4,060	57	538	16,007	11,562	5,342	5,830	5,510
Kaipoi	1,710	2,237	10	2	1,650	17	..	..	..	17	2,518	704	560	540
Kaitangata	1,400	1,068	3	3	1,300	800	500	300	200	1,800	2,364	157	130	125
Lawrence	650	4,741	6	4	1,080	257	270	218	130	330	330	100	100	100
Levin	2,680	4,522	11	5	6,690	1,589	873	..	..	2,462	4,336	701	586	629
Masterton	8,600	14,330	30	9	15,510	3,343	4,548	875	2,545	11,311	4,876	1,872	2,100	2,102
Milton	1,550	2,410	6	2	8,175	40	..	..	..	40	15	200	200	190
Mount Roskill	6,220	6,286	17	4	800	380	..	25	5	410	2,937	1,209	1,135	1,150
Napier†	16,200	19,707	34	11	27,725	2,117	2,342	950	..	6,409	20,915	4,196	4,200	5,000
New Plymouth	15,900	8,797	20	7	13,180	1,544	1,426	190	1,083	4,243	6,534	2,085	2,528	1,998
Oamaru	7,600	1,249	15	11	9,925	5,035	3,775	1,300	1,715	11,825	5,365	1,455	1,495	920
Ohakune	11,160	9,996	25	3	1,425	592	130	75	9	766	2,803	450	450	430
Onehunga	1,300	2,157	3	3	1,215	41	..	..	..	109	111	1,783	1,620	1,785
Opoitiki	1,620	2,129	4	4	1,710	415	185	105	50	755	735	314	357	313
Otaki	1,560	3,631	6	4	12,200	1,429	6,455	1,491	2,400	11,775	4,597	383	335	340
Pahiatua	21,000	33,965	117	43	165,224	8,790	9,282	4,113	743	22,928	17,481	4,270	4,484	4,557
Palmerston North	11,000	19,615	29	11	10,735	2,535	855	100	126	3,616	4,329	1,945	1,789	1,565
Petone	2,580	2,448	4	4	3,600	520	242	100	100	984	984	212	216	216
Port Chalmers	2,510	3,511	7	1	..	..	..	..	15	15	48	447	787	724
Pukekohe	5,270	7,539	34	10	20,100	1,371	1,202	1,111	80	3,764	2,325	1,117	1,020	997
Rotorua	2,500	4,853	5	2	1,450	149	191	..	..	340	341	645	645	437
Talhape	2,560	3,521	9	4	2,175	98	122	..	..	220	1,114	640	500	575
Taurarunui	2,930	4,374	9	5	1,290	690	500	300	315	1,805	3,742	640	564	626
Te Aroha	2,480	3,954	8	2	1,000	462	202	50	..	714	820	635	649	533
Te Awamutu	1,840	3,315	5	4	4,260	600	261	180	100	1,141	923	500	460	440
Timaru	16,800	19,221	56	13	23,040	1,317	2,125	..	108	3,550	5,524	2,700	3,150	2,700
Waihi	3,020	2,866	35	7	2,840	325	1,474	4,025	85	5,909	3,759	731	664	715
Waipukurau	1,970	3,451	27	10	6,250	703	1,663	1,709	22	4,097	2,263	330	430	350
Wairoa||	2,620	4,358	17	7	188,901	58,486	60,404	15,885	5,967	140,742	50,654	678	714	700
Waitara	1,830	2,785	4	4	4,050	950	1,650	600	1,120	4,320	3,210	277	277	280
Wanganui	25,050	35,928	148	49	63,430	4,235	4,632	460	265	9,592	12,462	8,300	8,100	8,000
Wellington	111,500	209,283	1,065	260	2,094,384	25,531	30,779	1,111	1,712	59,133	152,002	30,400	30,400	30,400
Westport	3,940	4,372	5	4	3,400	217	100	40	..	357	3,468	800	800	700
Whangarei	7,600	8,964	22	11	11,053	2,700	2,625	870	375	6,570	5,191	1,462	1,123	1,163
	680,965	965,496	3,532	1,333	4,872,207	216,321	261,057	43,493	27,858	548,729	564,137	142,979	145,045	139,664

* Prepared subsequent to 31/3/31. † Excludes loss due to fires resultant from earthquake, but includes £1,900 fire loss which occurred after the earthquake during the period when adequate fire-fighting facilities were not available. ‡ All fire-brigade records destroyed in earthquake. § Does not cover full three-year period. ¶ Includes £140,292 fire loss which occurred after the earthquake during the period when adequate fire-fighting facilities were not available.

