

The total number of "calls" received throughout the fire districts for 1920–21 was 1,168, as against 1,112 for 1919–20, an increase of 56, and which includes increases under the following headings: Fires, 540 (480)—increase, 60; chimney fires, 132 (124)—increase, 8; bush and rubbish fires, 226 (208)—increase, 18; out-of-district fires, 36 (25)—increase, 11; but a decrease in the number of false alarms, 275 (234)—decrease, 41.

Out of the 540 actual fires 14 are reported as due to incendiarism, 9 as having occurred on unoccupied premises, and 195 as of unknown origin. Of the 540 fires, 219 occurred in dwellinghouses, 36 resulting in total loss; 18 were damaged to the extent of from 50 to 90 per cent. of their value, 24 damaged from 25 to 50 per cent., and in the remaining 141 cases the damage ranged from slight loss to 25 per cent. of their value.

Losses throughout the fire districts: The three heaviest district losses occurred in Auckland (£113,885), Christchurch (£92,692), and Oamaru (£62,205). The total loss for the twelve months ending 30th June, 1920, amounted to £394,704.

The insured loss throughout the Dominion for the year ended 31st December, 1920, amounted to £452,890, and throughout the fire districts for the corresponding period the insured loss amounted to £327,051.

Appended are the following tables:—

1. Summary of calls attended by each brigade.
2. Fire loss in each district.
3. Annual cost of each brigade.
4. Summary of the causes of fires in each district.
5. Personnel and equipment of each brigade; also detailed reports dealing with each fire district.

I have, &c.,

THOS. T. HUGO,

Inspector of Fire Brigades.

The Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

1. SUMMARY OF FIRE CALLS.

District.	Fires.	Chimney Fires.	Bush, Grass, and Rubbish Fires.	False Alarms.	Out of District.	Totals.
Auckland	122	17	27	59	6	231
Balclutha	1	..	..	2	1	4
Christchurch	85	22	24	69	7	207
Dannevirke	7	..	1	..	1	9
Dargaville	4	..	..	..	..	4
Dunedin	77	44	39	51	2	213
Feilding	10	6	5	..	1	22
Gisborne	18	..	6	4	1	29
Greymouth	13	..	2	1	..	16
Hamilton	17	1	20	4	..	42
Hastings	16	..	12	..	..	28
Hawera	4	..	1	..	2	7
Hokitika	2	..	..	..	..	2
Kaitangata .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lawrence	1	..	..	..	..	1
Levin	8	1	1	..	..	10
Masterton	11	8	4	..	2	25
Milton	1	1	4	..	..	6
Napier	27	8	14	3	5	57
New Plymouth	11	..	3	2	..	16
Oamaru	6	..	3	..	1	10
Ohakune	1	..	..	..	..	1
Palmerston North	23	3	7	4	..	37
Petone	8	..	2	..	..	10
Port Chalmers	4	..	1	..	..	5
Rotorua	7	5	2	3	..	17
Taumarunui	6	3	1	..	..	10
Tauranga	2	..	1	..	..	3
Te Aroha	3	..	..	..	..	3
Timaru	6	1	8	3	1	19
Waihi	6	1	7	14	..	28
Waitara	1	..	..	..	..	1
Wanganui	22	7	27	12	6	74
Whangarei	4	..	..	1	..	5
Woolston	6	4	4	2	..	16
Totals	540	132	226	234	36	1,168