



REPORT

BY THE FIREMASTER

ON THE WORK OF THE

City of Dundee Fire Brigade

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December 1914.

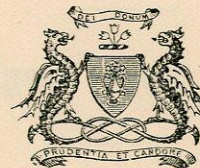
FEBRUARY 1915.

Dundee:

PRINTED BY DAVID WINTER & SON, CASTLE STREET.

1915.

F/D/1/11



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Members of Police and Lighting Committee, 1914-15.

Lord Provost DON.	MESSRS GEORGE ROBERTSON.
Bailie BUIST.	„ A. M. STRACHAN.
„ NICOLL.	„ G. A. JOHNSTON.
Hospital-Master MECHAN.	„ ROBERT ALLAN.
Messrs W. S. MELVILLE.	„ J. G. KINMOND.
„ DAVID NEAVE.	„ F. L. M'GRADY.

Mr W. S. MELVILLE, *Convener.*

CITY OF DUNDEE.

Fire Brigade Roll of Honour.

EUROPEAN WAR.

The following members of the Brigade, in answer to their country's call, resigned their positions for military and naval service :—

Fireman George Johnston, Jun., Royal Naval Division.
Fireman Anthony Keenan, Royal Naval Division.
Fireman Wm. M. Forbes, Sergeant, C. Squadron, 10th Reserve Cavalry.
Fireman Alexander Manson, Sergeant, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
Fireman Thomas Cass, Lance-Corporal, Army Service Corps.
Auxiliary Fireman Jos. Lawrence, National Reserve.
Auxiliary Fireman Jas. Matthew, Royal Garrison Artillery.

The Town Council in all its Departments (except the Police Force) has resolved, as regards Corporation employees who have joined or may yet join the Colours :—

In the case of Married Men—

To make up the income of the home to each man's full wages ;

In the case of Unmarried Men—

To pay the difference between their pay from the Army or Navy and their ordinary wage ;

And further,

To keep each man's place open for him.

REPORT.

CENTRAL FIRE STATION,
DUNDEE, *February 1915.*

To the Honourable
THE POLICE AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my eleventh Annual Report on the work of the City Fire Brigade for the year ending 31st December 1914.

The Fire Brigade received 251 calls to fires, or supposed fires. Of this number,

- 186 were to fires in the City.
- 8 were to fires beyond the City boundaries.
- 30 were to chimney fires.
- 24 were to false alarms of fire.
- 3 were to pumping-out jobs.

- 128 calls were received between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- 123 calls were received between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Compared with the preceding year, this number shows an increase of 16 calls.

- 125 calls were received by Exchange Telephone.
- 89 " " Police Telephone.
- 2 " " Harbour Telephone.
- 7 " " Street and Private Fire Alarms.
- 27 " " Police or Strangers.
- 1 call was received by Postal Telegram.

The supposed causes of Fires may be summarised as follows :—

Lights carelessly thrown down	-	-	-	46
Naked Lights, Gas Escapes, Electric Lights, and Paraffin Oil Lamps	-	-	-	26
Defective building construction	-	-	-	24
Hot Ashes	-	-	-	21
Sparks from Fires, Chimneys, and Engines	-	-	-	21
Children playing with fire	-	-	-	10
Overheating Stoves, Furnaces, and Flues	-	-	-	5
Fat, Tar, and Oil boiling over	-	-	-	4
Burning Rubbish	-	-	-	4
Friction of Machinery	-	-	-	3
Lightning	-	-	-	1
Plumber with hot bolt	-	-	-	1
Spontaneous Combustion	-	-	-	1
Cat knocking over matches	-	-	-	1
Incendiarism	-	-	-	1
Smoking in Bed	-	-	-	1
Not Ascertained	-	-	-	24

Description of Property in which Fires occurred :—
Butcher's Shop 1, Bakers and Confectioners 6, Building under construction 1, Bank 1, Brokers' Shops 2, Cellars 11, Church 1, Calender 1, Coachbuilder 1, Dwelling-houses 71, Draper and Clothier 1, Fruit Shops and Stores 4, Furniture Stores 2, Fishing Boat 1, Farm Steadings 3, Funeral Undertaker 1, Greenhouses 2, Grocers and Wine Merchants 4, Hardware Merchants 3, Hotels 5, Halls 2, Hairdresser 1, Institutions 3, Jute on Field 2, Jute and Flax Warehouses 3, Metal Warehouse 1, Masonic Temple 1, Oil Store 1, Offices 6, Oilcake Works 1, Railway Waggon, Fences, and Sleepers 5, Stationers and Printers 3, Sheds 3, Schools 2, Sawmill 1, Stores (various) 9, Steamships 2, Stackyards 4, Stable and Hay Loft 1, Sleeping Caravan 1, Tenements 6, Tarpaulin Works 2, Wood Yard 1, Waste Stores 5, Workshop 1, Yards 5.

On 186 days there were no calls.

„ 122	„	was one call.
„ 43	„	were two calls.
„ 13	„	„ three calls.
„ 1	„	„ four calls.

The loss occasioned by Fires within the City is estimated at £31,006; the value of property at risk being £603,420. The estimated loss by Fires within the City for the previous year was £72,684.

The loss occasioned by Fires which the Brigade attended beyond the City boundaries is estimated at £6,805, the value of property at risk being £23,360.

For extinguishing fires and watching within the City, the amount recoverable from proprietors and occupiers where fire occurred is £508. 4s. 3d. For the previous year the amount was £557. 1s. 9d.

For special services rendered—pumping out ships and a pond—the amount received was £29. 2s. 6d.

For the attendance of the Brigade at fires beyond the City boundaries, and including a contribution of £100 from the County Council of Forfarshire, the amount recovered and received was £268. 19s. 0d. For the previous year the amount was £292. 8s. 0d.

The amount received from Theatres and Public Places of Entertainment for the services of firemen was £383. 12s. For the previous year the amount was £489. 3s. 0d.

The total income earned from the above-mentioned sources by the Department for the year ending 31st December 1914, including £100 from the Dundee Harbour Trustees, was £1,289. 17s. 9d. For the previous year the total income was £1,578. 4s. 5d.

No. 2 Steam Fire Engine (Shand-Mason), 350 gallons capacity, was sold to Denny and Dunipace Town Council for £90.

The nett cost of the Department for the financial year ending 15th May 1914 was £2,561. 14s. 4d. For the previous year the amount was £1,903. 3s. 2d.

The amount paid (including retaining fees) to the Auxiliary Staff for attendance at fires, drills, and at places of entertainment for the year was £400. 9s. 6d. For the previous year the amount was £664. 9s. 9d.

The members of the Brigade, both permanent and auxiliary, are insured by the Corporation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906.

The health of the men in the Brigade was fairly good. There were several cases of ordinary sickness, and in consequence firemen were absent from duty for a few days in each case.

There were two cases of injury to firemen while in the execution of their duties, viz.:—Injury to abdomen, 8 days incapacitated from duty; overcome by gas fumes, 1 day incapacitated from duty.

Two burning accidents came under the notice of the Brigade during the year. The first occurred in a dwelling-house at Ferry Road, where a child, 14 months of age, was burned to death before the arrival of the Brigade.

The second occurred at Arklay Street, where a man, 70 years of age, in attempting to extinguish an outbreak of fire on the first floor of a Work, was overcome, and fell to the ground floor, where he was found by the Brigade. He was taken to the Royal Infirmary, where he died shortly after admission.

Other burning accidents occurred in the City, but were not reported to this Department.

Of the fires which occurred within the City, 6 resulted in damage amounting to £1,000 or over in each case.

The most serious losses incurred were in premises occupied by—

1. Messrs Wallace & Co., Waste Works, City Road.
2. Messrs Hill & Renny, Flax and Jute Warehouse, Baltic Street.
3. Mr William Cowley, Calender, Cowgate.
4. Empire Theatre Picture House, Rosebank Street.
5. Mr Charles D. Braid, Oil Store, Commercial Street.
6. Nursing Home under construction, Elliot Road.

In 50 cases of fire, chiefly in workmen's dwelling-houses, the contents were not insured; thus the loss fell heavily upon the occupants.

The Petrol Motor Tender Escape, which has now been in commission over six years, has given entire satisfaction, and has been the first machine turned out to all fires within the City boundaries.

The Petrol Motor Turbine Pump, 75 h.p., self-starting, which has been in commission for nearly three years, has also given entire satisfaction, having been used during the present year at 1 fire within the City and at 5 fires beyond the City boundaries with good effect.

The boilers of the 2 Steam Fire Engines have been dropped during the year and thoroughly overhauled by the Staff. The Insurance Company's Inspectors report the boilers as being in much the same condition as last year.

6 Single Valve Hydrants have been introduced where new water mains have been laid down and 9 existing hydrants found defective have been cut out and replaced by

valve hydrants. 7 extra hydrants have been put down at Broughty Ferry.

Special Services—1,868 turns of duty have been performed by the Staff at theatres and public places of entertainment in the City.

Cinematograph Theatres—At these places of entertainment where a fireman is not on duty during the performance, the fire appliances are inspected and cleaned and the staffs drilled and instructed in the use of the fire appliances on the premises, for which a charge of 5/- per week is made against proprietors. Some proprietors prefer to have a fireman from this Department, for which they pay 15/- per week.

The authorised strength of the Brigade is now as follows:—

Permanent Staff—

- 1 Firemaster.
- 1 Deputy Firemaster (2nd Officer).
- 1 Lieutenant (3rd Officer).
- 13 Firemen (2 being Motor Mechanic Drivers).
- 1 Fireman (Coachman and Motor Driver).
- 1 Coachman.

Auxiliary Staff—

- 3 Auxiliary Lieutenants.
- 1 Auxiliary Engineer.
- 15 Auxiliary Firemen.
- 3 Extra Coachmen, Hired.

During the year the Northern Fire Station was discontinued, the men and equipment being transferred to the Central Fire Station.

During the year an order was placed with Messrs Leyland Motors Ltd., Leyland, Lancashire, for one new Motor Turbine Pump. Owing to the War, delay has been occasioned in the production of this firm's fire vehicles.

The erection of a new District Fire Station in Brown Street, Broughty Ferry, was sanctioned during the year, and this station should be ready for service in the month of May next.

There are Four Fire Stations :—

1. Central, West Bell Street.

Staff—

17 Permanent Men and 6 Auxiliary Firemen.

Appliances—

- 1 40-horse power "Argyll" Petrol Motor Fire Tender Escape.
- 1 75-horse power Self-starting "Argyll" Petrol Motor Turbine Pump with Escape.
- 1 Steam Fire Engine (Shand Mason), 350 gallons capacity.
- 12,600 Feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ -in. Canvas Hose, fitted with instantaneous couplings.
- 1 70-ft. Horsed Fire Escape and Hose Tender combined.
- 2 Horses belonging to the Department.
- 22 Stand Pipes, which can be used for any type of fire hydrant within the City.
- 37 Branch Pipes.
- 6 Chemical Extincteurs carried on motor vehicles.
- 4 Pompier Ladders.
- 4 Electric Hand Lamps.
- 2 Smoke Helmets and other gear.

2. Southern, Harbour Fire Station, King William IV. Dock.

Staff—

- 1 Permanent Fireman on duty from Central.
- 8 Auxiliary Firemen, all connected by alarm bells with this station.

Appliances—

- 1 Steam Fire Engine (Shand Mason), 600 gallons capacity.
- 1,000 Feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ -in. Canvas Hose.
- 2 Stand Pipes.
- 1 Electric Hand Lamp.
- 6 Branch Pipes and other gear.
- Horses and Driver supplied by a contractor under agreement.

3. Western Station, Bank Street, Lochee.

Staff—

- 3 Auxiliary Firemen, all connected by alarm bells with Lochee Police Station.

Appliances—

- 1 Horse Hose Reel.
- 1 Hand Hose Cart.
- 1,800 Feet Canvas Hose.
- 4 Stand Pipes.
- 4 Branch Pipes.
- 1 Electric Hand Lamp.
- 1 Chemical Extincteur and other gear.
- Horse and Driver supplied by a contractor.

4. Eastern (Broughty Ferry) Station, Brown Street.

Staff—

- 1 Permanent Fireman.
- 2 Auxiliary Firemen, all connected by alarm bells with the Broughty Ferry Police Station.

Appliances—

- 1 Horse Hose Reel.
- 1 Horse Fire Escape.
- 1,400 Feet Canvas Hose.
- 2 Stand Pipes.

- 3 Branch Pipes.
- 1 Electric Hand Lamp.
- 2 Chemical Extincteurs and other gear.
- Horse and Driver supplied by a contractor.

The following are the Scales of Pay :—

PERMANENT STAFF.

2nd OFFICER, Deputy Firemaster.

On Appointment	...	...	...	£2	0	0	per week
After one year	...	...	...	2	2	6	"
" two years	...	...	...	2	5	0	"
" three years	...	...	...	2	7	0	"

3rd OFFICER, Lieutenant.

On Appointment	...	...	...	£1	14	0	per week
After one year	...	...	...	1	16	0	"
" two years	...	...	...	1	17	0	"
" three years	...	...	...	1	18	0	"

1st MOTOR MECHANIC DRIVER.

On Appointment	...	...	...	£1	10	0	per week
After one year	...	...	...	1	12	6	"
" two years	...	...	...	1	15	0	"
" three years	...	...	...	1	17	0	"

FIREMEN.

On Appointment—Fourth Class Firemen	...	...	...	£1	5	0	per week
After one year—Third Class Firemen	...	...	...	1	6	0	"
" two years—	"	"	"	1	7	0	"
" three years—Second	"	"	"	1	8	0	"
" four years—	"	"	"	1	9	0	"
" five years—	"	"	"	1	10	0	"
" six years—First	"	"	"	1	11	0	"
" seven years—	"	"	"	1	12	0	"
" eight years—	"	"	"	1	13	0	"

Men not provided with free quarters are allowed a maximum of 26/- per month and all taxes paid in lieu of quarters. Single men are allowed 4/6 per week. All ranks are provided with Uniform and Water Boots, and an allowance of 9d. per week is allowed for light. Extra pay at the rate of 1/- per hour is allowed when attending fires outwith the City boundaries, and 2/- per night allowed when watching at salvage fires, which is equally divided among the members of the Permanent Staff.

SALARY AND WAGES PAYABLE TO AUXILIARY STAFF.

RANK.	Salary per Annum.	Drill Pay.	Allowance for turning out.		Rate for first 8 hours.	Remainder at
			Turn out.	Premium.		
1st Lieutenant	£9	2/- p. drill	2/6		2/-	1/-
2nd Do.	8	"	"	1st man at each station receives 2/-.	"	"
3rd Do.	7	"	"	2nd man at each station receives 1/-.	"	"
1st Engineer	7	"	2/-		"	"
2nd Do.	6	"	"		"	"
Fireman	4	"	"		"	"

The following leave is granted to the Deputy Firemaster and men :—

General leave one day every fortnight from 7 a.m. till 7 a.m. next day. Sunday is divided into three parts for the purpose of leave. Four men being on leave from 6 a.m. till 1 p.m.; four men from 1 p.m. till 6 p.m.; four men from 6 p.m. till 11 p.m. Annual leave of 14 days is granted to each member of the staff.

The staff has been regularly employed during working hours keeping the plant in order, in addition to executing all the paint work, horse shoeing, joiner work, plumber work, and all other necessary repairs at the stations.

The street hydrants and underground water tanks have been inspected, tested, and cleaned during the year, and new indicating plates where required have been put up.

All the fire hydrants within the City have been stuffed with hay to prevent freezing as far as possible.

The staff has been regularly drilled and instructed in the use of the various appliances in the Department, and has also attended the Public Gymnasium, Ward Road, for gymnastic instruction.

In conclusion, I beg to express my hearty thanks to the Convener and members of the Police and Lighting Committee for their valuable assistance, as well as to the Chief Constable, Water Engineer, City Engineer, Electrical Engineer, and Gas Engineer, and their subordinates for assistance rendered at fires.

I annex Tabular Statements showing :—

Table 1. General Information.

- „ 2. Showing how fires were extinguished.
- „ 3. Number of fires and estimated loss.
- „ 4. Comparative Table showing the number of calls received, and estimated loss since 1905.
- „ 5. Comparative Table showing strength of staff, revenue and expenditure, since 1901.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. WEIR,

Firemaster.

TABLE I.

Confined to floor of origin	...	...	...	...	177
Extending beyond one floor	...	...	...	...	13
Extending to adjoining buildings	...	...	...	...	4
Extending beyond adjoining buildings	...	...	...	...	0
In wood shed buildings	...	...	...	...	9
On streets and open places	...	...	...	...	11
On unoccupied premises	...	...	...	...	5
Number of times the motors and horsed appliances at Central and District Stations were out simultaneously—all out except Broughty Ferry	...	...	...	...	3
Occupants removed to a place of safety by Brigade					1
Number of lives lost at Fires	...	...	...	...	2
Population of City	...	...	...	...	176,300
Area—acres	...	...	...	...	5,990
Valuation of the City	...	...	...	...	£1,100,170
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	41,627
Mileage of streets and roads—miles	...	...	...	...	123·141
Extreme length of City from East to West					7¼ miles
„ breadth „ North to South					3¼ „
There are Firms in the City with Warehouses for Jute and Flax to the number of about	...	...	...	...	103
Cost of maintenance of the Brigade, including interest and sinking fund	...	...	...	...	·81d

TABLE II.

SHOWING HOW FIRES WERE EXTINGUISHED.

By Police, Strangers, or Occupiers of Premises	...	58
„ Firemen, with Buckets	... ..	27
„ „ „ Brigade Hand Pump	... ..	10
„ „ „ Chemical Extincteurs	... ..	46
„ „ „ 1 Street Hydrant and 1 Line of Hose	30	
„ „ „ 2 Street Hydrants and 2 Lines	„	8
„ „ „ 2 „ „ 3 „ „	2	
„ „ „ 3 „ „ 4 „ „	1	
„ „ „ 3 „ „ 5 „ „	1	
„ „ „ 4 „ „ 4 „ „	1	
„ „ „ 4 „ „ 5 „ „	1	
„ „ „ 4 „ „ 6 „ „	1	
„ „ „ 5 „ „ 8 „ „	1	
„ „ „ 1 Motor Pump, 3 Hydrants, and 4 Lines of Hose	... ..	1
„ „ „ 1 Motor Pump and 2 Lines of Hose	4	
„ „ „ 1 „ 3 „	1	
„ „ „ 1 Steamer, 5 Hydrants, and 7 Lines of Hose	... ..	1

31,800 Feet of Canvas Hose and 81 Street Hydrants have been used in connection with the above during the year.

TABLE III.

The loss at Fires within and beyond the City, which the Brigade attended, was Estimated by Assessors and Owners of Property to be as under :—

99 Fires under	£5	
48 Fires over	5 and under £25	
9 „	25 „	50
7 „	50 „	100
4 „	100 „	200
5 „	200 „	300
7 „	300 „	400
2 „	400 „	500
1 „	500 „	600
2 „	600 „	700
1 „	700 „	800
1 „	800 „	900
0 „	900 „	1,000
2 Losses of	1,000 City	
1 Loss of	1,350 „	
1 „	2,000 „	
1 „	5,000 „	
1 „	13,000 „	
1 „	2,615 County	
1 „	2,500 „	

TABLE IV.

Comparative Table showing the number of Calls received by the Department, and the Estimated Loss by Fire in the City since 1905.

Year.	Calls Received.	Chimney Fires.	Alarms of Fire.	Actual Fires.	Serious Fires. City.	At risk in the City.	Loss in the City.
1905	130	21	11	98	1	£178,212	£7,890
1906	159	16	10	133	5	1,227,600	*369,217
1907	199	20	22	157	2	589,910	19,001
1908	175	31	15	129	6	380,200	29,046
1909	185	25	33	127	5	316,005	19,047
1910	163	20	25	118	5	296,472	15,617
1911	243	30	24	189	6	363,735	44,600
1912	206	17	23	166	10	381,300	78,999
1913	235	30	23	182	6	512,680	72,684
1914	251	30	27	194	6	603,420	31,006

* Year of Great Whisky Fire.

TABLE V.

Showing the Strength of the Brigade, Revenue and Expenditure during the Municipal Year ending 15th May.

Year.	Strength of Brigade (Permanent).	Strength of Brigade (Auxiliary).	Revenue.	Net Expenditure.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1901-1902	8	22	290 4 5	1,638 7 5
1902-1903	8	21	263 8 4	1,705 7 9
1903-1904	8	18	224 19 3	1,557 6 1
1904-1905	10	14	684 7 11	1,274 4 8
1905-1906	10	14	564 13 5	1,391 18 11
1906-1907	16	20	1,494 5 9	1,572 12 6
1907-1908	16	20	894 0 9	1,817 0 8
1908-1909	16	20	1,149 9 1	2,002 0 5
1909-1910	16	20	1,111 0 7	2,094 12 9
1910-1911	16	20	1,171 4 1	2,033 14 5
1911-1912	16	36	1,671 2 11	2,088 2 11
1912-1913	16	36	2,052 8 9	1,903 3 2
1913-1914	18	19	1,444 19 10	2,561 14 4