

Various wet and dry drills were carried out in a satisfactory and efficient manner, and the several stations with the plant and appliances were found to be in their usual good order and condition.

At the time of my visit the fire-station gauge registered a pressure in the town mains of only 48 lb. The reservoir had been undergoing repairs, but was then in course of being refilled.

During the year eleven fires occurred in the district, or one less than during the previous year. The fire loss for 1918-19 amounted to £966, as against £1,732 for 1917-18, a decrease of £766.

MASTERTON.

An inspection of the Masterton Brigade was made on the 30th January last. The following report covers the inspection:—

SIR,—

16th January, 1919.

An inspection of the Masterton Fire Brigade and its equipment was made on the 13th instant, when there were present at the inspection muster the Superintendent, Deputy, and twenty-two firemen; these, with one fireman on leave, accounting for the full membership then on the roll.

Various drills with hydrants, hose, ladders, and the chemical equipment were carried out in a satisfactory manner; also, the motor with the steam fire-engine was taken for a trial run, which proved quite satisfactory.

Several (about eight) of the brigade members are without belts and axes, which are a very necessary part of a fireman's outfit, and they should be so equipped; also, half a dozen canvas collapsible water-buckets are required.

I note that the new lengths of suction-hose for the steam fire-engine, although, I understand, ordered some time ago, are not yet to hand.

The motor ran very well, but the magneto, which was burnt out, has been taken off the machine altogether, and it is now running on a battery and coil ignition only. With the view of reliability all fire-motors should be fitted with dual ignition; therefore I have to recommend that a new magneto be provided. It is remarkable that the bosses of both back wheels should have carried away, and as, according to my information, on both occasions the accidents happened when the machine was on a straight run on a level road, it points to weak construction of that particular part. Several of the fittings of the chemical extingueur apparatus are quite out of date, and the working arrangements are not as efficient as they should be. The alterations to the interior of the hose-box, as carried out by your Superintendent, are a considerable improvement, and in accordance with modern methods of working. I note the motor is fitted with the left-hand drive, which is certainly not an advantage.

I have, &c.,

THOS. T. HUGO,

Inspector of Fire Brigades.

R. Brown, Esq., Secretary, Fire Board, Masterton.

During the year seven actual fires occurred in the district, as against ten during the previous year, a decrease of three. The fire loss for 1918-19 amounted to £6,146, as compared with £258 for 1917-18, an increase of £5,888.

MILTON.

An inspection of the Milton Brigade and its equipment was made on the 6th March, 1919, when at the inspection muster there were present the Superintendent, Deputy, and six firemen; these, with three on leave, accounting for eleven out of a total strength of twelve then on the roll.

Certain drills were carried out in a satisfactory manner, and the station and appliances were in good order and condition.

No improvement has yet been made in the water-supply for fire-extinction purposes in this town, and a serious fire loss may occur at any time in direct consequence.

Two fires occurred in the district during the year, one more than took place during 1917-18. The fire loss for 1918-19 amounted to £25, a decrease of £75 as compared with the previous year.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

An inspection of the New Plymouth Brigade and its equipment was made on the 10th October, 1918.

Various drills with the motor pump, escape-ladder, &c., were carried out in a satisfactory manner, and the stations with the plant and appliances were found to be in good order and condition.

During the year twelve fires took place in the district, as against nine during the previous year, an increase of three. The fire loss for 1918-19 amounted to £1,812, as compared with £1,632 for 1917-18, an increase of £180.