

*Dangerous Goods.*—Local authority administration : No new licensing authorities were appointed under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Amendment Act, 1920, during the year. Inspection work in licensing authority districts was maintained, but not to the same extent as in previous years. Department administration : Inspection of districts under departmental control was necessarily somewhat curtailed, but even so a considerable amount of ground was covered, and all those districts more urgently requiring inspection were visited. 2,055 licenses were issued, as compared with 1,922 for the previous year.

*Accidents.*—One fatal accident was reported during the year. The victim of this accident had been cleaning his clothes with benzine and afterwards struck a match to light a cigarette. The fumes from the petrol-impregnated clothing caught fire and the man subsequently died in hospital from the burns received. The prevalence of these home dry-cleaning accidents is distressing, but it is impossible to legislate against them and the only remedy is a fuller understanding of the hazards arising from the use of benzine for cleaning purposes.

Two interesting fires involving dangerous goods occurred during the year—one at Messrs. Dalgety and Co.'s drum compound at Hornby, the other in the benzole and tar distilling plant of the Christchurch Gas Co. at Christchurch. The former fire was the result of incendiarism, and the latter was initiated by a rupture of the "light-oil" still. In both instances dangerous goods in 44 gal. drums were involved in the fire, and these containers exploded and were thrown either by explosion or "rocketing" distances up to 60 ft. from the fire. The fires further emphasize the necessity for restricting storage of these containers to isolated depots. It is therefore proposed to amend the regulations to prohibit the storage of petrol in drums in any depot which is closer than 50 ft. to a "protected work."

As usual, reports were received of a number of fires which occurred during refuelling of cars. These fires were directly traceable to omission of the precautions laid down by the regulations. No personal injury or serious fire damage was sustained in any of these accidents. The experience of similar fires over a number of years indicates that the fire hazard to the building is not as great as was anticipated, and it is proposed to amend the regulations to permit the installation of petrol-pumps inside buildings if protected by approved "sprinkler" installations.

*Cinematograph Films.*—Administration : During the year ended 30th September, 1931, licenses were issued as follows (corresponding figures for the previous year in brackets) : Exhibitors, 404 (446) ; circuit exhibitors, 34 (51) ; renters, 16 (19) ; storage, 3 (6).

A very satisfactory standard of projection-room now obtains in theatres throughout the country. It has been found necessary, however, to require the provision of improved exit facilities in the case of a number of picture-theatres in country districts. Examinations of "quota" record-books disclose that exhibitors are, practically without exception, screening a greater percentage of British film than is required by the Act.

*Accidents :* Eight fires occurred during the projection of film, as against ten for the previous year. The outbreaks were confined to the spool of film in the magazine, except in one case in which the whole programme, together with an extra programme which should not have been in the projection-room, was burnt. The fire did not spread beyond the projection-room, but had the requirements of the regulations been carried out, it would have been confined to the one spool. As a result of this fire, a prosecution was taken against the firm concerned.

*Prosecutions :* Four prosecutions were taken during the year for breaches of the Act and regulations. The offences were : (1) Smoking in the projection-room ; (2) screening without license ; (3) storage of exposed film in the projection-room ; (4) storage of film in projection-room other than the programme in use.

RAFFLES.

Three hundred and twenty-five licenses under the authority of section 42 of the Gaming Act, 1908, were issued during the year, of which 279 were for works of art, thirty-nine for alluvial gold of the value of £100 or less, and seven for alluvial gold of the value of £4,000. The aggregate profit to the seven funds concerned was £93,722 18s. 7d., and the lottery duty imposed under the Stamp Duties Amendment Act of November, 1931, realized £13,867 16s. 6d., as disclosed in the following table :—

Art-union No. and Name.	Proceeds, Sale of Tickets (less Commission).			Expenses.			Prizes.			Profit.			Lottery Duty.			Net profit to Beneficiaries.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Aero Club ..	25,217	0	5	8,313	10	9	4,000	0	0	12,903	9	8	Nil			12,903	9	8
2. Aviation ..	26,564	4	0	9,088	3	8	4,000	0	0	13,476	0	4	..			13,476	0	4
3. Golden Wings ..	31,592	0	8	9,933	7	9	4,000	0	0	17,658	12	11	..			17,658	12	11
4. Rugby ..	19,899	3	4	8,963	2	10	4,000	0	0	6,936	0	6	..			6,936	0	6
5. Free Ambulance ..	25,351	11	0	7,109	8	6	4,000	0	0	14,242	2	6	..			14,242	2	6
6. Lucky Star ..	28,564	9	7	8,719	16	8	4,000	0	0	15,844	12	11	..			15,844	12	11
7. Black Cat ..	32,261	8	0	9,406	17	9	4,000	0	0	18,854	10	3	..			18,854	10	3
8. Lucky Dog ..	25,790	13	0	8,389	18	9	4,000	0	0	13,400	14	3	..			13,400	14	3
9. Golden Key ..	28,221	7	0	8,125	11	7	4,000	0	0	16,095	15	5	..			16,095	15	5
10. Big Windfall ..	25,142	5	8	8,058	15	0	4,000	0	0	13,083	10	8	..			13,083	10	8
11. Lucky Bird ..	25,553	8	0	8,039	6	8	4,000	0	0	13,514	1	4	..			13,514	1	4
12. Cancer ..	28,103	14	1	7,393	16	6	4,000	0	0	16,709	17	7	..			16,709	17	7
13. First Aid ..	24,745	10	6	7,605	18	2	4,000	0	0	13,139	12	4	3,105	2	3	10,034	10	1
14. Diggers ..	28,365	3	0	7,757	17	7	4,000	0	0	16,607	5	5	3,556	5	6	13,050	19	11
15. Lucky Strike ..	27,906	12	6	7,516	19	0	4,000	0	0	16,389	13	6	3,498	11	9	12,891	1	9
16. Happy Days ..	29,603	12	0	7,456	17	9	4,000	0	0	18,146	14	3	3,707	17	0	14,438	17	3