

Appendix K.

REPORT OF THE CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE FOR THE YEAR 1926.

SUMMARY OF CRIME FOR 1926

1. The total number of cases reported to the Police during the year 1926 was 20,048 as against 16,783 in 1925 being an increase of 3,265 or 19.4%. The average for the last five years is 16,508.

2. For the year 1926 in Tables I and II the following offences have been transferred from "Serious" to "Miscellaneous":—Assaults—Minor; Women and Girls—Minor; Unlawful Possession; and Rogue and Vagabond. The total of these offences for the year is 657. In order to make a true comparison between the year 1925 and 1926, it is necessary to add this figure to the total 3713 shown in Tables I and II for Serious Offences 1926 and to deduct it from the total 16,335 shown for Miscellaneous Offences 1926.

3. After making this correction the figures shew that there were 4,370 Serious Cases in 1926 as against 3,771 Serious Cases in 1925, an increase of 599 cases or 15.8%. There were 15,678 Minor Cases in 1926 as against 13,012 in 1925 an increase of 2,666 or 20.4%.

4. Table I shows the number and character of the Serious and Minor Offences reported to the Police during 1925 and 1926 respectively and number of persons convicted and discharged in connection with these offences.

The following table shows in details the Serious Offences for 1925 and 1926:—

		1926			1925						
Table I	Offence.	Charge Cases	Cases without charge	Total	Charge Cases	Cases without charge	Total	Increase total	Increase %	Decrease total	Decrease %
Column 2	Burglary	7	46	53	4	54	58	..	...	5	8.6%
" 4	House & Godown Breaking	24	47	71	13	62	75	..	...	4	5.3%
" 3	Larceny	1,068	1,087	2,155	1,016	1,050	2,066	89	4.3%	...	...
" 3	" in Dwelling House	49	455	504	29	469	498	6	1.2%	...	...
" 4	" on Ships & Wharf	37	62	99	66	74	140	..	...	41	29%
" 4	Manslaughter	8	...	8	3	...	3	5	166.6%	...	...
" 4	Murder	11	16	27	10	13	23	4	17.4%	...	...
" 4	Attempted Murder	2	...	2	5	5	10	..	...	8	80%
" 1	Robbery and Assault with intent to Rob	25	96	121	34	136	170	..	...	49	28.8%
	Other serious offences not classified above	563	110	673	...	...	728	..	...	55	7.5%
	Serious offences total ...	1,374	1,829	3,713	...	...	3,771	..	...	...	...

Four charges of manslaughter were not proceeded with. At subsequent inquests verdicts of Accidental Death were returned.

Other Serious Offences in Tables I and II not specially classified above are as follows:

Column 4:—	1926.	1925.
Part Cutting and Wounding	5	24
„ Demanding money with Menaces	10	15
„ Forgery	19	17
„ Indecent Assault	5	1
„ Arson and Attempted Arson	1	5
„ Rape or Attempted Rape	1	4
„ Aiding and Abetting to Rape	—	1
„ Possession and Uttering Forged Banknotes	16	11
„ Falsification of Accounts	—	1
„ Conspiracy	10	2
„ Aiding and Abetting to Rob	2	1
„ „ „ „ Murder	1	—
„ Child Stealing	—	1
„ Perjury	3	1
„ Wounding and Causing Bodily Harm ...	15	13
„ Piracy	2	3
„ Bribery	25	—
„ Shooting with Intent	6	—
„ Explosive, possession of	2	—
„ Poison „ „	1	—
„ Administering Poison	1	—
„ Attempted to Defraud	5	—
„ Possession of Offensive Weapons	13	—
„ Unlawful Society	2	—
„ Taking Designation of Police Falsely ...	2	—
„ Imigrancy by Force	1	—
„ Seditious Documents	3	20
„ Bombs, possession of	2	—
„ „ Outrage	1	5
„ Border Outrage	—	30
Total	154	155

Four cases of Manslaughter against licensed motor-drivers were withdrawn by Police after a Coroner's Jury had brought in a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Table II shows Serious and Minor Offences for 1925 and 1926 (under a different classification) with the number of charge cases and cases without charge, number of persons convicted and discharged, and amount of property stolen and recovered.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT.

1. Mr. C. G. Perdue returned from leave on the 23rd January and resumed duty as Assistant Director of Criminal Intelligence. Chief Detective Inspector Grant retired on pension on the 24th November. Inspector T. Murphy was promoted to the vacant post. The Department has also lost Inspector Pincott, who proceeded on leave and pension on the 6th December, after excellent work in Kowloon District.

2. The strength of the Department on December 31st was:—

EUROPEANS.	
Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	11
Sergeants	5
Lance-Sergeants	17
Total	33

CHINESE.	
Inspectors	1
Principal Chinese Detectives	2
Sergeants	8
Lance-Sergeants	20
Constables	91
Total	122

3. Owing to shortage of men, it was not possible to keep a European detective in Hung Hom and Shaukiwan Divisions throughout the year.

4. The number of searchers employed on steamers and launches on December 31st was:—

	1926	1925
Europeans	6	6
Chinese (Regular)	85	45
Chinese (Temporary)	44	76
Females	31	29
Total	166	156

5. Two extra female searchers were engaged on October 17th one for Sai Kung and one for Castle Peak.

Temporary searchers are being replaced by regular Chinese police as fast as the strength of the Chinese regular contingent permits. Upon the resumption of communications with Canton in October, Police searchers resumed their usual duties on outgoing steamers, while Revenue officers resumed supervision

of incoming steamers. Most of the Chinese searchers are now accommodated, under two European officers, in the new Government building in Connaught Road Central. There is also an office (with searching-room) a convenient arrangement for police and public alike.

6. A glance at Table III, the table of Piracies committed in adjacent waters, shows how necessary searchers are. It is satisfactory to note that during the year no case of piracy occurred on a passenger ship outward bound from Hong Kong. A case occurred in a small cargo ship in which pirates had smuggled themselves on board as cargo coolies.

7. Crime connected with political affairs showed a big decrease. Agitators appeared to have found Hong Kong an unremunerative field for their activities. A large number of Chinese who obeyed the strike and boycott call of June 1925 drifted back to Hong Kong during 1926. Consequent unemployment was partly responsible for the increase in crime over 1925 figures. Another factor in the increase was the resumption of communications in October, which gave increased facilities for the ingress and egress of criminals domiciled in Chinese territory.

The Department is much indebted to the Police authorities in Macao for close co-operation throughout the year.

The Indian community continued its loyal attitude to the Government.

The unsettled conditions in China were reflected in the increased number of European destitutes and stowaways with whom the Police were called upon to deal. Most of these persons arrived from Chinese coast ports.

8. Table IV gives the number of Discharged Prisoners, Deportees and Vagrants dealt with by the Records Office during 1926.

GUARDS.

Number of Guards employed during the year:—

	1926.		1925
	Jan.	Dec.	
Steamer Guards (Indian)	206	290	203
Steam Launch Guards (Chinese)	Nil	4	Nil
Shore Guards (Indian)	323	321	340
Shore Guards (Chinese)	22	15	22
Special L. A. Gun Guards (Indian)	50	50	50
Guards on Strength but unemployed	99	25	110
	<u>700</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>725</u>

BONDS.

At the beginning of the year the Bonds for Steamers and Steam Launches were submitted to the Crown Solicitor for examination. The Bonds were re-numbered to show the actual number of ships with valid Bonds on 31st of December. Formerly the return showed total number of Bonds issued commencing with original number one.

The figures now stand as follows:—

Vessels under Bond 31.12.26 79

Total number of vessels that have been under Bond 31.12.26, 259.

CONDUCT.

Discipline throughout the year was good. There were 34 dismissals during the year for misconduct.

STRENGTH.

The strength on the 1st January stood at 719 and was gradually reduced to 637 in Sept. owing to lack of employment on ships through the Boycott. Recruiting was discontinued from Sept. 1925 and a large number of the older Guards went to India on leave. During the month of May the demand for Guards increased and Recruiting re-commenced. In October when the Boycott was lifted, the strength stood at 642. River steamers commenced running and on 31st December, 23 additional vessels had been supplied with Guards. Owing to the shipping revival it was found necessary to send an Officer to Singapore to recruit 50 men.

MUSKETRY.

All Guards were periodically exercised with the revolver and instructed in the use of Winchester rifles and Greener Guns. They also attended the new Range at So Kun Poo and fired their quarterly course.

FINGER PRINT DEPARTMENT.

A summary of work executed in this Department for the year 1926 is as follows:

	Number of finger prints examined.	Number of persons identified.	Number of records filed.	Number of convictions: Deportation Ordinance.	Number of convictions: under Market Ordinance.
1925	11,657	2,490	10,359	120	943
1926	12,986	3,079	11,799	92	1,190
Increase	1,329	589	1,440	...	247
Decrease ...	...	...	...	28	...

No. of records on file: 87,712.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT.

A summary of work executed in this Department for the year 1926 is as follows:

Photographs issued.	Size of Photo							
	1926.				1925.			
	¼	½	1/1	12 × 10	¼	½	1/1	12 × 10
To.—								
Criminal investigation Staff.....	396	67	279	233	285	58	7	44
Police Court and Supreme Court .....	...	...	...	520	...	...	...	358
Traffic Department ..	220	...	...	28	599	...	...	...
Deputy Superintendent of Police .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	192	...
Colonial Secretary's Office .....	...	...	...	79	...	...	...	...
Total	616	67	279	860	884	58	199	402
Grand Total	1,825				1,543			

GAMBLING.

Two hundred and thirty three gambling warrants were successfully executed during the year as against 286 in 1925. There was one case in which no conviction was obtained.

There were 99 lottery cases, compared with 50 in 1925.

During the year Police had occasion to stop several lotteries. The promoters appeared to be under the false impression that donation of a part of the proceeds to a philanthropic object rendered a lottery permissible.

PROPERTY REPORTED STOLEN AND PROPERTY RECOVERED.

The estimated value of property stolen during the year was \$484,382.53 as against \$584,578.61 in 1925 a decrease of \$100,196.08 or 20.6%.

The average for the last five years is \$641,866.38.

The value of property recovered during the year was \$53,359.30 or 11% of the value of the property stolen, as against \$52,022.09 or 8.9% of the property stolen in 1925, an increase of 2.1% in the ratio between the property stolen and property recovered.

LOST PROPERTY.

The following is a return showing Property lost or recovered:—

Year.	Articles reported lost.	Value lost.	Articles recovered and found but not reported lost.	Value of articles found.
1926	410	\$29,268.07	133	\$3,119.74
1925	349	24,948.60	157	2,523.10

Weights and Measures

Weights and Measures examined.	Correct.	Incorrect.	Total.	
			1926.	1925.
Foreign Scales	389	18	407	135
Chinese Scales	1,797	71	1,868	900
Yard Measures	250	...	250	296
Check Measures.....	590	...	590	395
Total.....	3,036	89	3,115	1,726

The following prosecutions were instituted under the Weights and Measures Ordinance.

Number of Cases.		Convictions.		Fines.	
1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
22	16	17	15	\$685	\$420.00

DANGEROUS GOODS.

The following prosecutions were instituted under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance.

Number of Cases.		Convictions.		Fines.	
1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.	1925.	1926.
52	26	52	25	\$2,515	\$1,000.00

ARMS ORDINANCE.

Table V shows Arms and Ammunition seized and confiscated during the year 1926.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

The following prosecutions were instituted under the Traffic Regulations (Notification No. 377: Government Gazette of 27th June, 1924):—(For the purpose of comparison 1925 figures are also inserted).

Year.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Withdrawn.	Discharged.	Remanded.	Result.
1926	6,000	5,712	168	67	53	\$22,730.50
1925	5,358	5,012	98	131	117	22,286.50
1926	2	...	2	...	...	...
1925	4	...	...	3	1	...

EXAMINATION OF MOTOR DRIVERS.

	1926.	1925.
Persons examined	854	1,010
Persons passed	576	652

The Total number of accidents reported during the year was 593 as against 497 in 1925:—

	1926.	1925.
1. Motor Vehicle	494	423
2. Truck	26	18
3. Ricksha, Chair and Bicycle.	12	5
4. Tram Car	61	51
Total	<u>593</u>	<u>497</u>

The Total number of FATAL accidents was 34 as against 44 in 1925:—

1. Motor Vehicle	22	34
2. Truck	2	3
3. Tram Car	10	7
Total	<u>34</u>	<u>44</u>

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING SEASON, 1926-1927.

1st January to 31st December, 1926.

Mechanical Transport Inspection.	1926.	1925.
Livery cars examined and refused licences	31	18
Motor Buses " " " " "	16	12
Taxi Cabs " " " " "	44	36
Total	<u>91</u>	<u>66</u>
Livery cars examined and granted licences	174	177
Motor Buses " " " " "	111	119
Taxi Cabs " " " " "	36	62
Commercial Motor Vehicles " " "	240	250
Total	<u>561</u>	<u>608</u>

Livery cars examined and found unfit for public use from various causes, and taken off the streets to be re-examined	248	72
Motor Buses examined and found unfit for public use from various causes and taken off the street to be re-examined	775	176
Taxi Cabs examined and found unfit for public use from various causes and taken off the streets to be re-examined	324	74
Commercial Motor Vehicles examined and found unfit for commercial use from various causes and taken off the streets to be re-examined	162	21
Private Motor Vehicles examined and found unfit for private use from various causes and taken off the streets to be re-examined	10	—
Total	1,519	343

The total number of Motor Drivers' licences suspended during the year was 20 as against 24 in 1925.

The total number of Motor Drivers' licences cancelled during the year was 8 as against 15 in 1925.

The Total number of Motor Vehicles licensed:—

From 1st July 1924 to 30th June 1925

From 1st July 1925 to 30th June 1926

Licences.

The following licences were issued during the year:—

	1925.	1926.
Public Jimrikshas	1,775	1,783
Private „	1,361	1,007
Public Chairs	896	676
Private „	171	143
Drivers and Bearers	17,838	16,598
Truck licences	1,261	1,109
Motor cars (Livery)	373	365
„ „ (Private)	834	905
„ „ (Drivers)	2,309	2,417
„ cycle (Licences)	429	463
„ „ (Drivers)	465	475
Money Changers	199	198
Pawn-brokers	133	110
Chinese Wine & Spirit licences	400	371
Auctioneer Licences	5	5
Billiard Tables and Bowling Alleys	5	4
Distillery Licences	13	33
Marine Stores	29	29
Game Licences	426	404
Hawkers	8,416	8,528
Dangerous Goods	1,036	976
Poisons	19	17

MENDICANTS.

During the year 1926 six hundred and one mendicants were arrested and dealt with as follows:—

41	mendicants	charged	before	the	Magistrate.
5	"	"	"	"	sent to Tung Wah Hospital.
1	mendicant	let	go	by	order of Hon. C. S. P.
20	mendicants	handed	back	to	parents.
335	"	"	"	"	sent out of Colony once.
198	"	"	"	"	sent out of Colony more than once.
1	mendicant	sent	out	of	Colony 20 times.

DEAD BODIES.

Table VI shows the number of unknown dead bodies found by the Police in the Streets and elsewhere during the year 1926.

DOGS ORDINANCE.

	1926.	1925.
Dogs Licensed	4,955	3,609
" " (free)	26	25
" Impounded	481	970
" Destroyed	1,872	331

PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGES.

The following certificates were obtained during the year 1926:—

31	Europeans	passed	1st	Cantonese
18	"	"	2nd	"
50	Indians	"	1st	Cantonese
25	"	"	2nd	"
1	"	"	3rd	"
29	"	"	1st	English
5	"	"	Full	"
34	Wei Hai Wei	"	1st	Cantonese
1	"	"	1st	English

MUSKETRY AND REVOLVER COURSE 1926.

A.—MUSKETRY: EUROPEANS.

204 Officers fired their Annual Musketry Course at High West Range during November 1926 and are classified as under. L.S.A33 Wynne obtained the highest score with .169 out of a possible 200.

Marksmen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
1st class shots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
2nd „	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	106
3rd „	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	33
Failures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
									<hr/>
									204
									<hr/>

A.—REVOLVER: EUROPEANS.

199 Officers fired the advanced revolver course at Kennedy Road Revolver Range as against 182 in 1925 and are classified as under:—

1st class shots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
2nd „	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	51
3rd „	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	113
Failure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									<hr/>
									199
									<hr/>

B.—MUSKETRY: INDIANS.

486 Indian fired their Annual Musketry Course and are classified as under:—

I.P.C.B. 268 and B. 88 both tied for the top score with 153 out of a possible 200 points.

Marksmen	10
1st class shots	30
2nd „	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	118
3rd „	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	275
Failures	53
									<hr/>
									486
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B.—REVOLVER: INDIANS.

482 Indians fired the Preliminary Revolver Course: possible score 110 points, 460 passed, 22 failed.

C.—Musketry: Cantonese Police are not armed with rifles.

C.—REVOLVER: CANTONESE.

505 Chinese fired the Preliminary Revolver Course: possible score 110 points. 421 passed, 84 failed.

D.—Musketry: Wei Hai Wei. This course was not fired.

D.—REVOLVER: WEI HAI WEI.

241 Wei Hai Wei men fired the Preliminary Revolver Course: possible score 110 points, 195 passed, 46 failed.

CONDUCT.

“A”—Contingent.

The conduct of the European Contingent (average strength 246) was good. The total number of reports against them was 89 as against 112 in 1925. There were 9 reports for being drunk or under the influence of drink as against 10 in 1925. Two were reported for sleeping on duty as against one in 1925. There were 24 reports for neglect of duty as against 29 in 1925.

“B”—Contingent.

The conduct of the Indian Contingent (average strength 572) was good. There were 628 reports as against 611 for the preceding year. For drunkenness there were 10 as against 12, for disorderly conduct 28 as against 59, for neglect of duty 42 as against 117, for absence from duty 12 as against 56, for grossing-up and idling on duty 133 as against 154, and for sleeping on duty 30 as against 45. Minor offences 273. 278 men had no report as against 241 in 1925. 5 Indian Policemen were convicted by the Police Magistrate (dismissed from the Force) 4 for accepting bribes and one for Malingering.

“C”—Contingent.

The behaviour of the Chinese Contingent (Cantonese) (average strength 576 as against 546 in 1925) was fair. There were altogether 1149 reports as against 1281 in 1925. For drunkenness there was one as against 2 in 1925, 105 for sleeping on duty as against 98, 29 for disorderly conduct as against 29, and 1014 for minor offence as against 1151. 125 men had no report as against 246 in 1925. 12 were convicted by the Police Magistrate (dismissed from the Force) 3 for smoking in opium divans and possession of prepared opium, 1 being under the influence of drink and disorderly, 2 for sleeping on duty, 1 for larceny, 1 for wilfully making a false report, 2 for desertion, 1 for receiving stolen property and 1 for accepting bribe.

“D”—Contingent.

The behaviour of the Chinese (Wei Hai Wei) Contingent (average strength 370) was fair. There were altogether 779 reports as against 1025 in 1925. For drunkenness there were 5 as against 7, 83 for sleeping on duty as against 153, 36 for disorderly conduct as against 47, and 655 minor offences as against 818 in 1925. 66 men had no report as against 70 in 1925.

13 were convicted by the Police Magistrate (and dismissed from the Force) 2 for larceny, 2 for sleeping on duty, 2 for misconduct, 2 for accepting bribes, 1 for being found in opium divan, 1 for obtaining money by false pretences, 2 for desertion; and one for allowing a prisoner to escape.

"W"—Water Police.

The conduct of Seamen, Coxswains, Engineers and Stokers (average strength 230) was fair. There were 322 reports as compared with 197 for the previous year. For disorderly conduct there were 16 as against 8 in 1925. 13 for neglect of duty as against 9, 233 for absence from station or launch and being late for duty as against 165, and 5 for sleeping on duty as against 3 for the previous year.

127 men had no report recorded against them as compared with 199 in 1925.

4 were convicted by the Police Magistrate, (dismissed from the Force) 2 for Intimidation, 1 for larceny and 1 for desertion.

HEALTH.

Admissions to Hospital during the last three years were as follows:—

Nationality.	1924.		1925.		1926.	
	Establishment of the Force.	Admissions.	Establishment of the Force.	Admissions.	Establishment of the Force.	Admissions.
Europeans....	235	93	246	168	246	148
Indians.....	504	513	564	409	572	368
Chinese.....	805	642	865	771	946	731

Return of Police treated in Government Civil Hospital for Fever or Dengue Fever during the year 1926:—

Nationality.	Old Territories.		New Territories.	
	Establishment of the Force.	Treated.	Establishment of the Force.	Treated.
Europeans,	226	15	20	6
Indians,	470	96	102	38
Chinese,	840	146	106	150

In addition to cases treated in Hospital for Fever or Dengue Fever, the cases treated for Fever in the various stations in the New Territories without being removed to Hospital were:—

Europeans.....26 Indians.....74 Chinese.....401

NEW TERRITORIES.

I.—DEPARTMENTAL.

1. *Establishment.*—The following important changes occurred in the police establishment during 1926:—

(a) Lok Ma Chau. On the 2nd May the W. H. W. Police at L. M. C. were replaced by Mohamedans, the latter being replaced by Sikhs on 1.11.26.

(b) Sheung Shui. On the 3rd May the W. H. W. Police were replaced by Mohamedans, the latter being replaced by Sikhs on the 22nd June.

(c) Ta Ku Ling. On the 22nd June the Mohamedan Police were replaced by Sikhs.

(d) Sai Kung. On the 22nd June the W. H. W. Police were replaced by Mohamedans.

On the 17th December a female searcher for launch searching duty was added to the establishment.

(e) Castle Peak. On the 23rd December one C. C. and one female searcher for launch searching duty were added to the establishment.

2. *Conduct.*—The conduct of the European Police was good. Three officers were reported.

The conduct of the Indian Police was fairly good, 22 men being reported.

The conduct of the Cantonese Police (detectives) was good, 3 men being reported.

The conduct of the W. H. W. Police was unsatisfactory. In addition to 111 ordinary defaulters, one Interpreter & 3 constables were convicted by the Police Magistrate.

3. *Buildings, Additions & Alterations to:*—(a) Sha Tau Kok. New married quarters for native police were completed on the 1st November. In the early part of the year the whole station was made mosquito proof.

(b) Taipo. New married quarters for native police were completed on the 30th May. In the early part of the year the whole station was made mosquito proof.

(c) Sai Kung. New married quarters for native police were completed on the 9th June.

(d) Sha Tin. The work of making the station mosquito proof, delayed from 1925, was completed in October.

(e) Ta Ku Ling. In the early part of the year the whole station was made mosquito proof.

(f) Au Tau. Accommodation for 6 police was provided in the Fire Brigade Building at Un Long, certain necessary alterations to the building being carried out at the expense of the local Kaifong. Occupied by Police 2nd December.

4. *Sickness*.—The following Table gives the Sickness Returns from all stations for 1926, the figures for 1925 being shown in comparison:—

Station	To Hospital Sick in Stn. with fever		To Hospital Sick in Stn. with fever other causes		To Hospital Sick in Stn. with fever other causes		To Hospital Sick in Stn. with fever other causes	
	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925	1926	1925
Sha Tau K'ok	37	41	43	123	14	15	—	—
Castle Peak	37	44	47	67	5	10	—	5
Tai Po	28	24	209	70	11	12	10	4
Au Tau	28	20	97	62	5	10	3	22
Sha Tin	25	42	11	24	7	4	—	2
Ping Shan	15	23	33	39	—	12	9	14
Sai Kung	9	21	21	26	10	3	4	—
Lok Ma Chau	9	26	12	29	11	16	1	5
Ta Ku Ling	1	10	21	23	3	6	—	—
Sheung Shui	2	10	11	24	11	14	—	—
Total	191	261	505	487	77	102	27	52

As the above table shows, there were 52 fewer cases of malaria than in 1925, but the improvement in this respect is one of figures only as a number of men incapacitated from the effects of this scourge had to be transferred elsewhere.

As in 1925, the men at Shataukok, Castle Peak and Taipo were the chief sufferers from malaria, the figures for the last named station being the highest on record, a somewhat remarkable fact seeing that the whole station was made mosquito proof before the advent of summer. Treatment given by the local Government Doctor explains the large number of men at Taipo sick with malaria in station, compared with the number sent to hospital.

With special reference to mosquito proofing it may be pointed out that the doors of rooms as at present provided—ordinary hinged doors—are quite unsuitable and apt to be left ajar. To remedy this swing doors should be provided.

To reduce the incidence of malaria, more attention should be paid to the surroundings of stations which are not good. Quinine treatment and mosquito-proofing will prove futile in preventing malaria as long as the surroundings of stations where mosquitos breed are not dealt with.

II.—GENERAL.

1. *Accidents (Traffic)*.—Total, 24. During the year 4 fatal & 20 non-fatal accidents were caused by motor traffic. The large increase in the number of motor vehicles operating within the N. T. calls for increased traffic control.

2. *Accidents (Various)*.—Total, 12. During the year 4 persons were killed as the result of accidents on the railway, 5 persons were drowned through the accidental upsetting of a boat in a creek near San Tin and 2 persons were accidentally drowned while bathing. A matched fire at Kam Tsin, Sheung Shui, caused the death of the occupant, an old man.

3. *Fires*.—Total, 11. A fire in a tailor's shop, Taipo Market, caused damage to the extent of \$400, all the other fires being small ones involving principally matcheds and straw stacks. There was one fatality—see "Accidents (Various)".

Hill Fires are now receiving special attention, and notices issued by the D. O. N. have been posted throughout the N. T. urging people to prevent such fires. Officers in Charge now furnish a weekly report on the cause and extent of all hill fires occurring in their districts.

4. *Crime*:—The following table shows the number of serious offences committed in the N.T. (N) during 1926:—

ON LAND.

Murder	2
Armed Robbery and Wounding	1
Robbery with Violence	1
Double Armed Robbery and Kidnapping	1
Armed Robbery and Kidnapping	5
Armed Robbery	11
Total	21

ON WATER.

Double Murder	1
Armed Robbery	4
Total	5

It is difficult to give comparative figures for 1925, owing to the fact that of a total of 47 serious offences committed in that year 30 were classed as Border Outrages. But considering the still disturbed conditions prevailing across the border the crime figures for 1926 are not inordinately high, *e.g.* the number of serious offences committed in 1924, was 21.

The better arming of villagers in the N.T. and the issuing of Verey Pistols to certain border and coastal villages, has doubtless had good effect in preventing outrages.

WATER POLICE.

Details concerning the Water Police are contained in Annexe A.

RECRUITING & POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL.

Details concerning recruiting and the Police Training School will be found in Annexe B.

REWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS.

I. His Majesty was pleased to award the King's Police Medal to Mr. William George Gerrard, Assistant Superintendent of Police, New Territory, for prolonged service distinguished by very exceptional ability and merit.

Sub-Inspector K.W. Andrew has been recommended for the King's Police Medal for the successful disposition of the Police on the occasion of the encounter with armed robbers at Kwai Chung, Gin Drinkers' Bay, on 2.12.26.

II. The following is an extract from a Despatch dated 30.12.25 from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the work done by the Police Force since the beginning of the Strike in 1925:—

“I have to express my satisfaction at learning of the loyalty displayed by the Chinese members of the Force and my appreciation of the work of the Police in this trying crisis”.

(Sd.) L. S. AMERY.

His Excellency the Governor also conveyed to all ranks of the Police Force his high appreciation of their loyal and efficient service throughout the period of the Strike and Boycott, and added his congratulations to those already offered by His Excellency Sir Edward Stubbs K.C.M.G.

III. His Excellency the Governor was pleased to grant Medals and Commendations for meritorious services rendered by them during the year 1926 to the following Police Officers:—

MEDALS.

L.S.A. 195 C. Goodwin	2nd Class Medal
P.C.C. 17 Chan Sau	2nd " "
P.S.C. 185 Tang Sang	3rd " "
P.C.C. 626 Mak Po Tai	4th " "
Engineer-in-Chief Li Fuk	4th " "
L.S.W. 17 Lee Tam	4th " "

COMMENDATIONS.

Detective Inspector W. Pincott
Sub-Inspector J. Perkins
" A.E.T. Brown
L.S.A. " 21 T. Carson
" 147 A.J. Johnson
Principal Chinese Detective Wong Lau
L.S.C. 90 Kwong Hung
" 75 Lo Kwong
P.C.C. 357 Tsoi Wing Kok
Stoker Leung Yiu (who was also granted a reward of \$10.00).

IV. The Captain Superintendent of Police was pleased to grant the following Police Officers rewards and commendations for good work done during the year 1926:—

REWARDS & COMMENDATIONS.

P.C.B. 88 Anwar Khan
L.S.C. 378 Wong Kin
" 6 Sin Chiu Tat
" 369 Lo Hoi
P.C.C. 219 Kwong Heung
" 312 Lai Lok
" 261 Tsui Nam
" 436 Yan Hoi
" 195 Tai Hing (for 2 occasions)
P.C.D. 104 Lian Tse Chuan
" 212 Ching Yun Ching
Coxswain W. 87 Tsang Fook
Seaman W.152 Liu U
" W.129 Wong Choi
" W.147 Ng Kam
" W.127 Lam Cheung
" W.153 Yau Shing
" W.148 Wong Cheung.

COMMENDATIONS.

Detective Inspector W. Pincott
" Sub-Inspector K.W. Andrew (twice)
" " F.W. Shaftain
" " G.A. Stimson
P.S.A. 32 T. O'Connor (twice)
" 5 A.V. Baker
" 19 C.R. Rozeskwy
" 29 A.E. Carey
L.S.A. 113 T.K. Whelan
" 18 R.R. McEwen
" 87 J.F. Kennedy
" 53 F.S. Elliott
P.S.B. 310 Shankar Khan
P.C.B. 495 Sapoorna Singh
" 177 Hayat Khan
" 455 Mohamed Ali
" 81 Mal Singh
" 37 Banto Singh
Detective Inspector Chu Heung
Principal Chinese Detective Lai Sui
P.S.C. 185 Tang Sang
L.S.C. 447 Chan Tim
" 345 Shek Tui
" 276 Yam Ping
" 134 Iu Kong
" 166 Kwan Hing Nam (twice)
" 303 Kwong Yee
" 113 Kwong Lun
" 378 Wong Kin
P.C.C. 252 Iu Muk
" 191 Ng Sze (twice)
" 377 Tang Chau
" 420 Chu Hong
" 428 Lau Fuk (twice)
" 596 Chu Piu
" 523 Pang Chee (3 times)
" 394 Lam Fuk
" 187 Chan Kam
" 61 Li Tim
" 551 Man Wan
" 608 Lo Kee
" 121 Tam Wun
" 432 Tong Wing
" 383 Li Yau Cheung
" 649 Chung Wai
" 643 Ng Fuk
" 626 Mak Po Tai (twice)
" 373 Ku Wong
" 11 Wong Tse Ming
" 219 Kong Heung
L.S.D. 13 Huang Hsuen Chen.

ESTABLISHMENT RETURN.

Return showing the Establishment and Casualties in the Force during the year 1926:—

Nationality.	Establishment of the Force.	Enlistments.	Deaths.	Resignations through sickness.	Resignations through expiry of terms of service or otherwise.	Dismissals or Desertions.	Total Number of Casualties.
Europeans, ...	246	18	1	5	7	8	21
Indians,	572	121	4	9	7	22	42
Chinese,	946	94	4	9	36	82	131
Water Police..	230	37	3	2	22	12	39
Total, ...	1,994	270	12	25	72	124	233

This number includes the Police paid by other Departments, also the Engineers, Coxswains, Stokers, seamen, but it is exclusive of:—

- 1 Captain Superintendent.
- 1 Deputy Superintendent of Police (Kowloon).
- 1 Director of Criminal Intelligence.
- 1 Assistant Director of Criminal Intelligence.
- 1 Assistant Superintendent.
- 2 Probationers.
- 1 Accountant.
- 1 Assistant Accountant.
- 2 Storekeepers.
- 1 Police Secretary.
- 23 Clerks.
- 11 Telephone Clerks.
- 70 Interpreters.
- 129 Messengers and coolies.
 - 2 Indians and 2 Chinese Constables who are employed by Private Firms.
- 2 Shroffs.

Actual Strength on the 10th December, 1926.

	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Total.
Present,	213	537	760	1,510
Sick or Absent on leave,	30	57	67	154
Excess over Estimates	...	22	...	22
Vacancies,	3	...	125	128
Total,	246	616	952	1,814

EXECUTIVE STAFF.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe returned from home leave on February 5th, 1926 and resumed duty as Captain Superintendent of Police.

Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse acted as Captain Superintendent of Police from January 1st to February 4th, 1926. He proceeded on home leave on March 6th and returned to the Colony on December 10th, 1926 and resumed duty as Deputy Superintendent of Police, Hong Kong.

Mr. D. Burlingham acted as Deputy Superintendent of Police in Kowloon from March 6th to July 15th and he was then appointed Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kowloon, on July 16th.

Mr. C. G. Perdue, A.S.P., acted as Deputy Superintendent of Police vice Mr. Burlingham on vacation leave from January 2nd to February 4th.

Mr. L. H. V. Booth, A.S.P., was seconded to the Harbour Department on February 1st and remained with that Department throughout the year.

Mr. W. R. Scott, A.S.P., proceeded on vacation leave on February 7th and resumed duty on March 6th. He proceeded to India on April 5th to study the language.

Mr. W. G. Gerrard acting Assistant Superintendent of Police was appointed to the substantive rank of Assistant Superintendent on May 2nd and continued in charge of the New Territories throughout the year.

Capt. H. F. Bloxham, Asst. Superintendent of Prisons, acted as Asst. Supt. of Police from February 1st to December 31st.

Table showing the Total Strength, Expenditure and Revenue of the Police Department for the years 1916 to 1926:—

Year	Total Strength	Expenditure	Revenue
1916	1,215	\$ 703,743	\$ 192,796
1917	1,229	694,115	210,071
1918	1,228	727,233	219,012
1919	1,228	840,977	225,031
1920	1,281	1,165,084	229,122
1921	1,341	1,443,627	259,876
1922	1,381	1,533,772	376,347
1923	1,589	1,633,847	349,443
1924	1,774	1,877,948	389,176
1925	1,965	1,898,823	375,832
1926	1,994	1,745,085	374,549

SPECIAL EVENTS.

I. The outstanding events of the year were first and foremost a very serious fire at the largest Hotel in the Colony on New Year's Day, a Bomb outrage in Kowloon unfortunately attended by loss of life, a very serious rain storm accompanied by floods and collapses and consequent loss of life and much material damage, two piracies attended by loss of life, the stranding of a Police cruising launch, as also the Sham Chun river Police Motor Boat and capture of her crew by Strike pickets, and finally in December a very successful engagement with Armed Robbers at Kwai Chung in the New Territories. Details of these events are given below.

II. A new institution, *viz.*, The Street Boys Club for waifs and strays under 18 years of age who normally live from hand to mouth, sleep in the streets, and are prospective criminals if left to their own devices, was opened at the Central Police Station and has so far proved a great success. Further details appear in the 1st Annual Report on this Club (Annexe C). It is hoped that the Club which has now moved to premises outside but still near Police Headquarters will continue to flourish as there is undoubtedly great need for such an institution to help lads who often, through no fault of their own, are suddenly left entirely unprovided for and thrown on their own resources. The Club gives the opportunity of earning an honest living, and encourages at the same time thrift and self-help.

1. *Hong Kong Hotel Fire, 1st January 1926*:—A very serious fire broke out on the top floor of the Hong Kong Hotel sometime before 9 a.m. on New Year's Day. There was some delay in calling up the Fire Brigade where the call was received at 9.08 a.m. by which time the whole roof of the main building lying between Des Voeux Road Central and Pedder Street was already involved. The building consists of 6 stories and difficulty was experienced in getting water at high pressure up to the top floor. Owing to the Hotel fire service being brought into use on the ground floor to play into the lift shaft, which the Hotel employes thought was on fire, no pressure was obtainable through this service on the upper floors, thereby giving the fire, which it is surmised originated in the Boys Quarters under the roof, a further hold before effective jets from without could be brought to bear on the flames. Assistance from the Navy and Military was obtained and by noon the fire was under control. By that time however the two upper floors had been completely gutted and portions of floors below were seriously damaged by fire and water. Later in the year the entire building was pulled down with the exception of the outer walls of the ground and 1st floors. No attempt has been made so far to rebuild the premises. No lives were lost among the occupants of the Hotel but unfortunately a sailor, who was helping the Fire Brigade, missed his footing and fell from an upper storey into the road below and was killed. Shortly after the fire His Excellency the Governor ordered an Enquiry to be

held to consider suggestions for the improvement of the Fire Fighting Organization. The Committee's report was laid before the Legislative Council on 27th May 1926. This report *inter alia* recommended an increase in the European personnel of the Brigade which has since been strengthened by 4 European Sub-Officers.

2. *Piracy of S. S. "Jade", 8th February 1926*:—On the 8th February at 2 p.m. while on a voyage from Kwong Chau Wan to Hong Kong, the French cargo steamer S. S. "Jade" was pirated by a number of 3rd Class passengers, who were being carried in the ship. The S. S. "Jade" had bullion on board to the value of \$83,000 dollars in Chinese 20 cent pieces and this was undoubtedly the objective of the pirates. Being a cargo steamer she does not come under the Piracy Prevention Regulations and though she had grilles, she carried no guards and only the Captain was armed. It was therefore an easy matter for even a small number of pirates (disguised as passengers) who should certainly not have been allowed on board, considering the nature of the cargo, to capture and pirate the ship which was taken into Fan Lo Kong harbour in Bias Bay and allowed to proceed to Hong Kong after being looted. There were no casualties.

3. *Hung Hom Bomb Outrage*:—The Canton Strike Committee made a great effort to bring about a second strike in Hong Kong at Chinese New Year in 1926. The effort proved a complete and dismal failure. The failure of the strike was followed by a plot to throw bombs at various places in Hong Kong. Two bombs were actually seized by the Police on March 2nd. It was known that 12 bombs had been sent to Hong Kong. One bomb only was actually exploded and this was in Hung Hom on the 10th March in Wuhu Street opposite Hung Hom Market and in front of house No. 75 outside the verandah, just as the Hong Kong & Whampoa Dock workers were returning to work after their midday meal. In all 8 persons were injured, one of whom succumbed to his injuries. With 2 exceptions, they were Dock workers. Unfortunately the perpetrator of the outrage escaped in the confusion following the explosion of the bomb and has not been traced since. It is, however, satisfactory to note that no further outrages of this nature occurred in the Colony during the remainder of the year. A further satisfactory feature was that the throwing of the bomb had no effect on the attendance of workers at the Docks, who were given additional Police protection. All the victims, who recovered, were compensated by Government as were also the relatives of the worker who was killed, in accordance with the provisions of the Government Proclamation on the subject of compensation to workers who were injured or killed, while carrying on their lawful avocation, by intimidators or other such criminals.

4. *Stranding of No. 4 Police (Cruising) Launch*:—At 9 p.m. on June 2nd the new Police Cruising launch No. 4, which had only recently commenced duty on the Mirs Bay beat, went aground in very hazy, wet weather on a reef running out to the north of Shelter Island Port Shelter near Hebe Haven, Sai Kung District. The sea was rough at the time and the launch was in danger of breaking up, but fortunately the sea moderated somewhat and as the tide rose, the launch came off. Thanks to the assistance rendered by one of the European Staff of Messrs. Bailey & Co.'s Yard, who happened to be on board testing the oil feed, the pumps were got to work again shortly after the stranding and the water was kept down sufficiently in the Engine room to keep the engines going. The Sub Inspector in charge of No. 4 then brought his launch to the lee side of Shelter Island where he remained until day light. He returned to Hong Kong at dawn under his own steam. He was towed from Lyeemun by the salvage-tug "Henry Keswick" so as to enable the pumps to be kept at full pressure. The launch was docked the same day when it was found that the bottom was badly corrugated. The entire bottom plates were replaced by the Hong Kong & Whampoa Dock Co. at a total cost of \$17,500 and the launch was on the run again within a month from the date of the stranding. The stranding formed the subject of an enquiry by the Harbour Master who exonerated the Officer i/c from all blame and commended him for the seamanlike manner in which he salvaged his craft after going on the reef.

5. *Stranding of No. 10 Motor Boat and capture of crew by Strike pickets*:—Some six weeks after the stranding of No. 4 Police launch on the 20th July a further mishap occurred to a Water Police craft. The Officer i/c No. 10 Motor boat, which patrols the Sham Chun river on the frontier and Deep Bay, taking advantage of the high water in the river, decided to patrol above the Railway bridge at Lowu to Man Kam To ferry. This patrol is possible after heavy rain when the river is full. At the time the river was in flood. He reached Man Kam To safely but on his return down river, the coxswain, owing to a regrettable error of judgment, tried to cut across a flooded bend in the river and grounded his motor boat on the Chinese side of the river well above ordinary high water mark. The efforts of the crew, who got overboard to get the boat back into the main stream, failed completely. The grounding took place at about 12.45 p.m. With the assistance of some Chinese on the river bank, the Sergeant i/c was getting the boat back into deep water, when the helpers were peremptorily called off by Strike Pickets, who have been guarding the Chinese side of the river since the Strike and Boycott was declared in June 1925. The pickets then opened fire on the crew of the motor boat, who took shelter on the lee side of their boat. Promiscuous firing at the crew continued until 6.30 p.m. when the Sergeant i/c seeing no chance of assistance arriving, agreed to hand over his arms temporarily on condition that further firing

should cease. After taking over the arms of the motor boat, the pickets then called upon the crew to accompany them to their Headquarters at Sham Chun which they did. Information of the incident reached Hong Kong early on the 21st July, when the Director of Education accompanied by the District Officer North and the Assistant Superintendent of Police New Territory proceeded to Sham Chun to demand the immediate release of the crew and the return of the arms of No. 10 Motor boat. Troops were also brought up to the frontier at Lo Wu. After some discussion the crew were released and sent back to Lo Wu. The arms were also returned to Lo Wu the same night. The work of salving the stranded Motor boat started on the following day. It took 5 days to dig her out and get her back into the main stream, the flood water having subsided almost immediately after the grounding. The boat was undamaged and in fairness to the pickets it must be stated that not one article was missing from the boat when salvaged. The work of salving was also carried on without interference on the part of the pickets above Lo Wu. However the Motor boat engaged in salvage work was twice fired on, when returning to Lok Ma Chau from No. 10 Motor boat for the night.

6. *Severe Rain Storm accompanied by landslides, collapses and casualties on 19.7.26*:—On the morning of 19th July following a very severe thunderstorm lasting all night and accompanied by lightning, which illuminated the sky incessantly, a series of landslides and collapses and much flooding of streets occurred, both in Victoria and Kowloon. The most serious landslide was at the Peak Pumping Station in the Pokfulam Road. A large boulder weighing approximately 3000 tons became dislodged, rolled down the hillside and completely demolished one end of the Pumping Station which supplies the Hill District with water. In its fall it demolished all the mains to the Hill District and Upper Levels, also the new and largest pumps. Four Chinese fitters who were attending the pumps at the time were crushed to death. This disaster occurred at 8.30 a.m. Very serious damage amounting to well over \$1,000,000 was done to roads, nullahs, cemeteries and Government works, and in addition much damage was done to private property. The rainfall amounted to 19" in 8 hours and 21" in 24 hours. For hours some of the main thoroughfares were 2 to 3 feet deep in water and when the water subsided, they were impassable owing to the silt left behind. The low level tramways were unable to run at all for 24 hours and only on certain sections for several days afterwards. By the end of the year much of the damage had been repaired but much work particularly on nullahs remained to be done.

7. *Piracy: The steam launch "Sai Kung"*:—To the long list of piracies in recent years involving loss of life must be added that of the steam launch "Sai Kung" running from Hong Kong to Sai Kung in the New Territories. This launch left Sai Kung on its homeward journey at 2.30 p.m. on the 12th September with 17 passengers. There were 3 Indian guards on duty

on the bridge. The launch was proceeding towards Hong Kong from She Wan where she had called contrary to her permit, when armed pirates, alleged to have been 5 in number, attacked the guards, seriously injuring one who later succumbed to his injuries. The remaining two guards, one of whom was wounded, were either thrown or jumped overboard and the launch was in the possession of the pirates, who proceeded to rob the passengers. However before they had completed their work, No. 2 Police launch hove in sight and, seeing the S. L. "Sai Kung" out of her course, steamed towards her. The pirates thereupon ordered the coxswain to head the launch for a fishing boat, which was sailing off the shore. They boarded the fishing boat and managed to escape ashore. However 3 of the 5 were arrested later on at Tap Mun New Territory by the crew of No. 4 Police Launch and committed for trial. Two were convicted and duly hanged and one was acquitted.

8. *Piracy: S. S. "Sunning"*:—The most notable piracy of the year was, however, the pirating of the s.s. "Sunning". On the 15th November at 3.40 p.m. the S. S. "Sunning" of the China Navigation Co. Ltd. (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) was captured by pirates while on a voyage from Amoy to Hong Kong with passengers and cargo. This piracy is almost unique in the history of piracies on the China Coast by reason of the fact that although the piracy which was organized from within was completely successful to begin with, yet it ended in complete failure. This was due to the courage and resource of her Officers, chief among whom were the Chief and 2nd Officers, who in spite of what appeared to be insuperable obstacles, succeeded in re-capturing the bridge from the pirates at about mid-night on the same date. The pirates in turn set fire to the ship and then left in two ship's boats, one of which was later captured by H. M. S. "Bluebell" which, seeing the fire, came to the "Sunning's" assistance about day break. The other boat was never seen again and it is presumed was lost with all its occupants. One European and a number of Chinese passengers and crew were lost and 22 suspects were brought to Hong Kong for trial, of whom 8 were convicted of piracy. Of these 6 were hanged and two await execution. The full story of the piracy and the re-capture of the steamer, which is told in the report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the circumstances of the piracy, shows what pluck and daring can accomplish and should prove a wholesome lesson to the pirate gangs who infest the coast and inland waters of South China. There is little doubt that practically the whole gang were accounted for and the ship, which was burnt out amidst above the main deck only, is once more on her usual run.

9. *Attempted Robbery & Kidnapping at Kwai Chung N.T.*:—One of the most successful efforts of the Police against armed robbers in recent years occurred at Kwai Chung in the New Territories on the night of December 2nd. Police received information that a gang of robbers intended to attack a dis-

tillery situated in a lonely position at the head of Gin Drinkers Bay, some distance from the village of Kwai Chung N. T. Preparations were duly made both on land and on the water to deal with the armed robbers on arrival. Police—Europeans and Chinese—were posted in and around the Distillery and a Police launch guarded the approach from the sea. In due course the robbers arrived in a junk and landed only to find themselves trapped. They put up a strenuous fight, which however ended in 4 of them being shot dead and 4 captured, all of them being later sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment. One got away by swimming out to sea but it is not known whether he actually escaped or was drowned. Thus out of a gang of 9, all but one were accounted for. The Sub Inspector in charge of the Police party had a very narrow escape, being fired at twice at point blank range by one of the robbers. The ammunition was fortunately defective and this undoubtedly saved his life. He in turn shot his assailant dead. Other Police were fired at but suffered no serious casualties.

10. *Strike & Boycott*:—The Strike & Boycott, which started in June 1925, continued until October when without any special negotiations, the pickets were everywhere withdrawn (e.g. in Canton, river ports and along the frontier) and normal relations were resumed.

As a result of the boycott and the enforcement of the Emergency Regulations, serious crime was successfully kept in check; the Bomb outrage being the only really serious event recorded. With the resumption of normal relations crime increased somewhat towards the end of the year but not to any serious extent.

E. D. C. WOLFE,
Captain Superintendent of Police.

12th May, 1927.

Table I.

RETURN OF SERIOUS AND MINOR OFFENCES REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED DURING THE YEARS 1925 AND 1926.

Serious Offences.						Minor Offences.																								
3 Larcenies and Larcenies in Dwelling- Houses.	4 Murder, Manslaughter and Other Felonies.	5 Offences against Ordinance of Protection of Women and Girls.	6 Receiving and Unlawful Possession.			7 Kidnapping.			1 Assault and Disorderly Conduct.		2 Gambling.		3 Drunkenness.		4 Nuisances.		5 Miscellaneous Offences.		6 Unlawful Possession.		7 Total of all cases									
			Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.		Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.						
4	4	1	4	3	2	...	...	...	18	22	4	...	...	27	28	...	...	45	46	17	...	...	89							
5	4	3	3	2	2	...	...	...	12	12	...	...	...	12	13	...	...	13	10	4	...	...	46							
1,770	1,053	159	329	181	109	61	60	4	356	300	104	10	5	1,121	1,121	181	507	2,605	205	22	23	446	452	15	10,789	16,205	1,540	...	...	16,639
1,779	1,061	163	336	187	113	61	60	4	357	301	104	10	5	1,151	1,373	185	507	2,605	205	61	64	446	452	15	10,847	16,261	1,540	...	...	16,783

Total Serious Offences 3,771.														Total Minor Offences 13,012.																	
														Receiving only.																	
6	5	1	5	3	2	9	9	2	1	1	15	16	58	60	1	94
3	3	...	10	8	3	...	...	...	10	11	3	...	...	7	7	...	...	19	19	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
820	1,128	160	554	402	133	8	7	4	118	86	61	15	13	291	339	71	558	1,903	161	16	16	513	531	10	14,580	20,087	1,700	258	49	19,905	
829	1,136	161	569	413	138	8	7	4	118	86	61	15	13	310	359	76	559	1,904	161	38	39	513	531	10	14,657	20,166	1,705	258	49	20,048	

YEARLY RETURN OF CRIME FOR THE WHOLE COLONY FOR THE YEAR 1926.

SERIOUS OFFENCES.	1925.			1926.			% Charge cases to total.	PERSONS CONVICTED.			PERSONS DISCHARGED.			VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN		VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED.		
	Charge cases.	Cases without charge.	Total cases.	Charge cases.	Cases without charge.	Total cases.		Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	\$	c.
Arms,	123	...	123	112	7	119	3	...	134	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	...
Assault (Serious),	258	...	258	4	...	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Assault with intent to rob,	1	...	1	2	...	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burglary,	4	54	58	7	46	53	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	4	...	5,951.65	319.83
Coimage Offences,	5	...	5	6	...	6	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deportation,	103	...	103	80	...	80	...	...	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Embezzlement,	18	44	62	22	59	81	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	8	104,194.46	1,478.22	...
House and Godown Breaking,	13	62	75	24	47	71	1	...	30	...	...	...	...	4	45,356.15	2,946.30	...
Intimidation and Extortion,	32	...	32	17	...	17	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
Kidnapping,	9	1	10	11	4	15	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
Larceny,	1,016	1,050	2,066	1,008	1,087	2,155	3	3	1,013	1	146	116,317.54	27,185.99	146	116,317.54	27,185.99	...	
Larceny from Dwelling Houses,	29	469	498	49	455	504	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	9	98,349.74	17,645.56	...
Larceny on Ships and Wharves,	66	74	140	37	62	99	1	...	37	...	...	...	...	1	10,974.37	1,146.00	...
Manslaughter,	3	...	3	8	...	8	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...
Murder,	10	13	23	11	16	27	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Murder, Attempted,	5	5	10	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Obtaining by False Pretences,	38	7	45	50	20	70	...	...	34	...	...	...	...	23	5,920.73	1,015.00	...
Receiving and Unlawful Possession,	357	...	357	118	...	118	...	...	86	...	...	...	...	61	...	...	...
Robbery,	33	136	169	23	96	119	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	16	38,377.46	1,092.90	...
Rogue and Vagabond,	77	...	77	8	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Women and Girls,	61	...	61	8	...	8	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Other Serious Offences,	174	64	238	135	20	155	...	...	99	...	...	...	...	52	58,940.43	529.50	...
Total,	2,435	1,979	4,414	1,794	1,919	3,713	8	11	1,684	3	3	382	3	382	484,382.53	53,359.30	...	

Included in Larceny (Serious : Table II) is the sum of \$34,611.07 "Larceny by Bailee" and \$20,158.47 "Larceny by Servant" of which \$14,184.72 was recovered.

Table II.—Continued.

YEARLY RETURN OF CRIME FOR THE WHOLE COLONY FOR THE YEAR 1926.

MINOR OFFENCES.	1925.			1926.			% Charge cases to total.	PERSONS CONVICTED.			PERSONS DISCHARGED.			VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN.		VALUE OF PROPERTY RECOVERED.		
	Charge case.	Cases without charge.	Total cases.	Charge cases.	Cases without charge.	Total cases.		Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	\$	c.
*Assault,.....	...	...	...	310	...	310	9	11	339	2	3	71	...	...	...	...
Damage to Property,.....	34	...	34	40	...	40	6	...	44	...	...	6	...	...	...	...
Dangerous Goods,.....	64	...	64	53	...	53	...	...	51	...	...	17	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness,.....	61	...	61	38	...	38	...	7	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forestry Offences,.....	457	...	457	391	...	391	...	1	443	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gambling,.....	507	...	507	335	...	335	...	...	1,668	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hawking Offences,.....	6,177	...	6,177	7,839	...	7,839	1	...	7,955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lottery Offences,.....	83	...	83	224	...	224	...	...	235	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mendicants,.....	38	...	38	45	...	45	...	...	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merchant Shipping Ordinance,.....	256	...	256	306	...	306	...	1	593	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Morphine,.....	1	...	1	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nuisances,.....	446	...	446	513	...	513	...	...	531	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Opium,.....	2,748	...	2,748	3,726	...	3,727	...	...	8,505	...	...	...	...	1,312	...	...
Revenue,.....	135	...	135	53	...	53	...	...	52	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
*Rogue and Vagabond,.....	...	...	...	50	...	50	...	...	48	...	...	...	...	5	...	...
Stowaways,.....	17	...	17	23	...	23	8	2	37	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
*Unlawful Possession,.....	...	...	...	258	...	258	...	...	233	...	...	...	...	49	...	...
Vagrants,.....	34	...	34	37	...	37	29	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vehicles and Traffic,.....	418	...	418	1,026	...	1,026	1	...	964	...	1	...	...	27	...	...
*Women and Girls,.....	...	...	...	39	...	39	...	...	41	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Miscellaneous Offences,.....	818	75	893	1,025	...	1,025	16	12	1,292	...	...	...	...	78	...	...
Total,.....	12,294	75	12,369	16,334	1	16,335	86	37	23,109	3	7	1,991	...	...	...	...
Grand Total,.....	14,652	2,054	16,706	18,128	1,920	20,084	94	48	24,842	6	10	2,373	...	...	484,382.53	53,359.30

* Shown in Serious.

Table III.

PIRACIES REPORTED TO HONG KONG POLICE DURING 1926 OTHER THAN BIAS BAY.

Date.	Ship, Name and address of Complainant.	Place of Occurrence.	Estimated No. of Pirates Dialect spoken.	Estimated Value of Property Stolen.	No. of Persons Kidnapped.	Remarks.
28.1.26.	Fishing Boat No. 3944	Muk Mun outside Lyunmoon, Chinese Waters	6, Hakka.	\$ 601.50	Nil.	Boarded from boat.
2.2.26.	Fishing Boat No. unknown	Yuet Mee near Sam Mun Customs, Chinese Waters	5, "	18.00	"	"
1.3.26.	Cheung Chu, 110 Wusung St. Cargo boat No. 1067 Y.	Man King Sha, Chinese Waters...	unknown.	unknown.	"	Master shot dead, 1 passenger and two crew wounded.
3.3.26.	Junk No. T1747H.	Sui Shan near Tai Shan	30 to 40, unknown.	900.00	11	Under pretence of pickets. Black S. L.
3.3.26.	Junk No. T685H.	Do.	Do.	2,500.00	14	Boarded from boat, taken to Sha Tau Chung.
4.3.26.	Fishing boat No. 2929C.	Sha Mi, Chinese Waters	6, Dialect unknown	200.00	1 male.	
12.3.26.	Fishing Boat No. unknown	Tong Ho near White Rock, Chinese Waters	7, "	260.00	"	
24.3.26.	Trading Junk No. T1589H.	Between Tong Lu & Lin Tin, Chinese Waters, Junk taken to a place near the Kam Sing Pass	12, "	848.00	Nil.	Boarded from launch, 2 women and 1 crew wounded.
20.4.26.	Trading Junk No. T5102H.	Off Tse Ling, Luk Fung District, C. T.	18, "	1,724.00	"	Boarded from boat, 1 man wounded.
3.5.26.	Trading Junk No. T3075H.	Tai Shan, San On District	5, Shun Tak D. Dialect.	660.00	1 male taken to Wong Kok of San On C.T.	Boarded from S. L. and taken to a place named Wong Kok C. T.
15.5.26.	Trading Junk No. T2435H.	Off Sim Leung Mui, Heung Shan District, Chinese Waters	8, Heung Shan Dialect.	540.00.	—	Boarded from Boat.
16.5.26.	Cargo Boat No. 2575V.	Off Mo To, Heung Shan District, Chinese Waters	12 San Wui Dialect.	240.00	1 male.	Boarded from boat, 1 woman wounded.
20.5.26.	Trading Junk No. T1589H.	Man King Sha, Heung Shan Dist., Chinese Waters. A letter from Pirates received from Tai Sha Tau near Canton	30, Dialect unknown	3,000.00	1 female & 5 males taken in the direction of Tung Kum.	Boarded from S. L.
19.5.26.	Trading Junk No. T4144H.	Wong Kok, Heung Shan District ...	12, "	758.00	Nil.	Boarded from S. L. Chinese Gun boat flying Chinese Naval Flag.

Table III, —Continued.

PIRACIES REPORTED TO HONG KONG POLICE DURING 1926 OTHER THAN BIAS BAY.

Date.	Ship, Name and address of Complainant.	Place of Occurrence.	Estimated No. of Pirates Dialect spoken.	Estimated Value of Property Stolen.	No. of Persons Kidnapped.	Remarks.
31.5.26. 20.6.26.	Fishing Boat No. unknown Fan Kwai Wing, 18 Gilman Bazaar, Cargo Boat No. unknown	Lap Sap Mi, Chinese Waters 5 miles from Tai O., N.W., Chinese Waters	3, Dialect unknown	\$ ^{c.} 70.00 (Recovered)	Nil.	Boarded from Boat, 6 persons killed, 3 sentenced to death, 1 discharged.
14.7.26.	Cargo Boat No. unknown	Fuk Kin Tau, Chinese Waters	3, " "	250.00	" "	Boarded from Boat.
9.8.26.	Trading Junk No. T4780H.	Tam Chau, Chinese Waters	5, " "	145.00	" "	Boarded from boat, boat taken to Kim Mun.
26.8.26. 3.9.26.	Junk No. T4684H. Junk No. T654H.	Shek Wan Bay Near Tai Chan Custom Str. Off Chek Wan	10, " "	—	3 males taken ashore near Tam Chau to Ng Ka Wai Village.	Boarded from Sampan, 1 man shot dead.
8.9.26. 12.9.26.	Trading Junk No. T1099H. Fishing Boat No. 2415	Shek Wan Bay Chek Wan	unknown.	230.00	Nil.	Boarded from boat, flying Picket Flag.
25.9.26.	Custom Launch, Kong Mun Chai	Chek Wan Bay, Chinese Waters 2 miles from Ping Hoi	6 taken to Shek Ki of Heung Shan District.	unknown.	1 male.	Boarded from Picket Launch S. L. Tai Sang?
30.9.26. 26.10.26.	Boat No. unknown Junk No. 1836	Between Kong Mun & Macao	1 Dialect unknown 6 Punti Dialect	30.00	Nil.	" "
28.10.26. 16.11.26.	Junk No. T1749H. Trading Junk No. T2327H.	Lap Sap Mi Pat Kai, Kong Mun	2 Dialect unknown 6 " " 10 " "	235.00 unknown. 100.00 5,300.00	(1 European Killed) 1 male. 6 males, 6 females unknown	Boarded from Sampan. Boarded from boat. Boarded from black Launch.
18.11.26.	Trading Junk No. T4605H.	Kau To Wan, Heung Shan 1 mile east of Waglan	5 or 6, " " 3 " "	17,000.00 3,554.00	Shan District. 1 male. 1 male pirate.	Boarded from 2 S. L. Boarded as passenger at Hong Kong.
10.12.26.	Trading Junk No. T3910H.	Fuk Wing Ti, Nam Tau Dist. Pak Tang Island, C.T. Bet, C.C. and Pak Sui, Heung Shan	30 " " 9 " "	Cargo sold by pirates at Ko Lan. 6,835.00 1,530.00	8 males taken to Sha Cheng of Sai On. 4 males and 2 females.	Boarded from Junk. Boarded from a sampan, junk taken to Tsoi Fung Kok.

Table III.—Continued.

PIRACERS OCCURRING IN BIAS BAY AND REPORTED TO HONG KONG POLICE DURING THE YEAR 1926.

Date.	Ship, Name and address of Complainant.	Place of Occurrence.	Estimated No. of Pirates of Dialect spoken.	Estimated Value of Property Stolen.	No. of Persons Kidnapped.	Remarks.
11. 2. 26.	French Steamer S.S. Jade	Between Kwong Chau Wan & H.K.	7	\$ 82,900.00	NIL.	Taken to Bias Bay.
6.10. 26.	Chinese Steamer S.S. "Hsin Fung"	Between Shanghai and Chefoo	30	72,000.00	"	"
13.11. 26.	French Steamer S.S. "Hanoi"	14 miles south of Nan Fung Island K.C.W. to H.K.	15	70,000.00	"	"
19.11. 26.	British Steamer S.S. "Sun Ning"	S.S. "Sun Ning" Between Shanghai and Hong Kong	25	Pirates were frustrated.	—	Steamer re-captured by Ship's Officers.
8.12. 26.	Trading Junk No. unknown	6 miles from Ping Hoi, Bias Bay.	6	10.00	—	Boarded from Junk.

Table IV.

Year	Number of Persons Banned from Hong Kong	Number of Persons Discharged from Victoria Gaol	Number of Persons Deported from Singapore and sent off	Number of Vagrants sent from Singapore and Re- patriated	Number of Undesir- ables re- turned from Dutch East Indies, and Re- patriated	Number of Vagrants sent from Saigon and Re- patriated	Number of Re- patriated from Balikpapan and dealt with	Number of Deportees sent from Bangoon and Re- patriated
1925	1,264	2,666	353	204	1,316	606	22	...
1926	1,185	2,370	546	156	378	nil	14	69
Decrease	79	269	...	48	938	606	8	...
Increase	...	...	193	...	...	...	...	69

Table V.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION SEIZED AND CONFISCATED DURING THE YEAR, 1926.

Description of Arms.	Arms Seized.	Ammunition seized.	In Store on December 31st, 1926.	
			Arms.	Ammunition.
Winchester Rifles	3	300	30	3,960
Rifles—Various	17	1,872	52	17,153
German Rifles	7	169	8	—
Mauser Pistols	165	36,583	2,003	338,027
Automatic Pistols	62	4,702	125	19,388
Revolvers	306	29,542	452	60,306
Shot Guns	Nil	75	—	850
Luger Pistols	117	19,821	491	50,649
German Machine Gun	1	—	1	—
Walking Stick Guns	2	303	2	303

Table VI.

DUMPED BODIES, 1926.

VICTORIA.				KOWLOON.				HARBOUR.				ELSEWHERE.				Total.																																		
Under one month.		1 year and under 5 years.		5 years and under 15 years.		15 years and over.		Under one month.		1 year and under 5 years.		5 years and under 15 years.		15 years and over.																																				
m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.																																			
26	13	6	34	2	70	53	...	8	1	29	2	39	22	5	209	181	4	70	61	1	10	9	23	3	2	...	7	16	8	9	7	1	7	4	33	10	6	6	1	5	10	10	1	21	16	2	3	3	19	2

Year.	Victoria.		Kowloon.		Harbour.		Elsewhere.		Total.		Males.		Females.		Unknown.		Children.		Adults.	
	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.	m.	f.
1921,	208		282		108		43		641		340		287		14		630		11	
1922,	382		392		137		30		941		527		407		7		890		51	
1923,	959		381		169		19		1,528		827		670		31		1,468		60	
1924,	579		819		219		99		1,716		968		715		33		1,610		106	
1925,	285		674		124		98		1,181		670		472		39		1,186		45	
1926,	268		637		110		99		1,114		644		430		40		1,020		94	

Annexe A.

REPORT ON THE WATER POLICE.

The strength of the Water Police during the year was 2 Inspectors, 2 Sub Inspectors, 4 Crown Sergeants, 24 Lance Sergeants (including 2 Lance Sergeants at Lok Ma Chau), 34 Coxswains, 116 Seamen, 36 Engineers, 35 Stokers, 4 Boatswains, 1 Motor Mechanic, 8 Detectives, 6 C.C. Searchers, 6 H. Searchers, 1 female searcher, 17 Boatmen making 300.

The above included all the detectives at the Water Police Station and those employed under the Piracy Prevention Ordinance.

Yearly Return of Changes in the Establishment during the year 1926.

Resignations	12
Dismissals	8
Struck off	4
Retirements	2
Deaths	3
Invalided	2
On transfer to Land Force or otherwise	8
	<hr/>
	39
Enlistments	37
Vacancies on 31/12/26	2
	<hr/>
	39

CRUISING LAUNCHES.

During the year under review Cruising Launches 1, 2 and 3 have been thoroughly overhauled besides being shipped quarterly when minor repairs were effected. These launches are in good order with the exception of No. 3 which is not very seaworthy and cannot proceed in rough weather. The Old No. 4 Launch having been condemned, the new No. 4 Launch, constructed at Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Co.'s Yard, was launched on April 8th 1926, underwent her trials on April 29th and commenced duty on May 22nd.

HARBOUR LAUNCHES.

Harbour Launch No. 8 having been condemned, ceased running on 25th November 1925 and has not been replaced, with the

result that No. 14 Launch, which previously was used as a "stand-by" Launch for use of Superintendents and to answer emergency calls, has been employed on Harbour Beats. Nos. 5, 6, 7, 9 and 14 have been overhauled and are in good condition. They have been employed on Harbour Beats throughout the year.

MOTOR BOATS.

Motor Boats Nos. 10, 11 and 12 have been overhauled regularly and are in satisfactory condition.

SEARCHLIGHTS.

Searchlights on Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14 Launches have been tested regularly and are in good order.

PULLING BOATS.

All Pulling Boats and gear are in good order.

WIRELESS.

No. 4 Launch is fitted with wireless and supplied with one operator. Wireless has been of very great value. It is hoped that all Cruising Launches will eventually be fitted with wireless and two operators supplied to each Launch. Authority has been obtained to fit wireless in No 2 Launch and work commenced in December 1926.

MUSKETRY.

Vickers Gun courses have been fired every quarter on Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 Launches. Guns are in good condition. Chinese boatswains, coxswains and seamen who normally carry firearms have been periodically exercised in the use of Revolvers and Winchester Rifles and courses have been fired.

Annexe B.

POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL REPORT FOR 1926.

I.—STAFF.

Principal	Insp. Paterson
Asst. Principal	S.I. McLellan
Barrack Sergt. and Drill Instructor	L.S.A. 68 Baker
Musketry Instructor	S.I. Booker
Asst. Musketry Instructor	L.S.A. 153 Fell
Physical Drill Instructor	P.S.A. 39 Hunt
Indian Teacher and Interpreter	Mr. K. Sohan Singh
First Chinese Teacher and Interpreter	Mr. Pun Yau Tong
Second Chinese Teacher and Interpreter	Mr. Yeung Siu Nung
Chinese Vernacular Teacher	Mr. Ng Cheuk Wah
Clerk	Mr. Lo Yu Hung
In Charge of Indian recruits	S.I. Miriam Baksh
„ „ Chinese „	Sgt. Major Kwong Tin Kan
Six Indian Drill Instructors.	
Two Chinese Drill Instructors.	

II.—RECRUITING TABLE FROM 1.1.26. TO 31.12.26.

	Euro- pean.	Indian.	Canton- ese.	District Watch- men.
Continuing instruction from 1925	18	57	57	7
Recruited	19	128	97	21
Passed out	21	68	110	22
Struck off	2	5	13	—
Continuing Instruction 1927	14	112	25	6

III.—EXAMINATIONS.

During the year twenty examinations were held for promotion. The following table shews the number of Officers who qualified for the various ranks.

	In- spector.	Sub In- spector.	Sergeant	Lance Sergeant.
Europeans	1	3	9	14
Indians	—	—	3	10
Chinese (Cantonese).....	—	—	—	—

IV.—SPECIAL TUITION.

Selected Northern Chinese regular police are at present undergoing special tuition in Traffic duties.

V.—DISCIPLINE.

The conduct of recruits was satisfactory on the whole. One European and four Cantonese recruits were dismissed for misconduct: one European and one Cantonese recruits were permitted to resign; and five Indian and ten Cantonese recruits were struck off as unsuitable for police duty.

Annexe C.

ANNUAL REPORT ON WORKING OF "STREET BOYS CLUB" FOR
1926.

The Street Boys Club was instituted in April 1926 with a view to providing a home, honest employment, and regular food, to homeless Chinese boys under the age of 18, who otherwise would have slept in the streets, lived on their wits, and sooner or later got into trouble for hawking without licences, theft, and snatching.

Accommodation has been provided for the members at Police Headquarters, and each boy on joining has been granted a small sum from the Police Court Poor Box, by the 1st Police Magistrate, to enable him to purchase a suit of clothes. Each member pays a monthly subscription of 25 cents to the Club, has been given a free hawkers licence, and lent a small sum of money with which to start his business.

At the end of May the membership numbered 12, which had risen to 20 at the end of the year.

In July the Ying Wah College Authorities very kindly took the boys as free night school pupils. They have been attending nightly and have almost all obtained good school reports.

In October arrangements were made for boys to be supplied with 2 meals a day at a cost of 20 cents per diem, which they pay for themselves at the end of the month. This ensures their getting regular meals. At the end of the year permanent employment had been obtained for 9 boys, all of whom are doing well.

Towards the end of the year an appeal for funds was issued to various European firms and Chinese friends, who generously subscribed \$2291.00.

This money will be chiefly used for the hire of new club premises somewhere near Police Headquarters, as owing to expansion at Police Headquarters, the present premises will soon have to be vacated.

It is significant that the average number of juvenile offenders in Victoria Gaol during the month of December has been 12 in past years whereas it was only 3 in December 1926.

REPORT BY THE CHIEF OFFICER,
HONG KONG FIRE BRIGADE.

1. *Cost of Fire Brigade*:—The cost of the Fire Brigade for the year 1926 was \$206,232.50 as compared with \$333,846.00 in 1925 and \$199,570.00 in 1924. Special Expenditure amounting to \$58,165.31 is included.

2. *New Fire Float*:—The new Fire Float, No. 3, was brought into use in April 1926.

3. *New Fire Station*:—The new Central Fire Station was completed and occupied in October 1926.

4. *Recruits*:—The Brigade is still somewhat hampered by the difficulty in finding suitable recruits. The number of firemen is still short of the Estimates (120). Motor Drivers are also difficult to obtain and the Brigade is now relying almost entirely on training its own men:

5. *Fire Brigade Enquiry*:—As the result of a very serious fire (details of which are given below) which occurred at the Hong Kong Hotel on the 1st. January 1926 a Committee of Enquiry was appointed by H. E. the Governor to enquire into the working of the Fire Brigade. As a result of this enquiry 4 additional European Sub Officers were provided for in the 1927 Estimates and other increases in personnel and equipment were agreed to.

6. *Special Events*:—

(i) One of the most serious out-breaks of fire with which the Brigade has had to contend in recent years occurred in the largest Hotel in the Colony, the Hong Kong Hotel, at 8.45 a.m. on the 1st. January 1926. Owing to a delay in calling the Fire Brigade the whole roof of this six storied building was involved before the Fire Brigade arrived. Difficulty was also experienced in getting water at high pressure up to the top floor. Assistance from the Navy and Military was obtained and by noon the fire was under control. By that time however, the 2 upper floors had been completely gutted and portions of floors below were seriously damaged by fire and water. No lives were lost among the occupants of the Hotel but unfortunately a sailor, who was helping the Fire Brigade, fell from an upper storey into the road below and was killed. Shortly after the fire H. E. the Governor ordered an Enquiry to be held to consider suggestions for the improvement of the Fire Fighting Organization. The Committee's report was laid before the Legislative Council on the 27th. May 1926.

(ii) On the 23rd July 1926 there was a severe rainstorm accompanied by landslides, collapses and casualties. There was also much flooding of streets both in Hong Kong and Kowloon. The most serious landslide occurred at the Peak Pumping Station in the Pokfulam Road, a large boulder weighing approximately 3000 tons became dislodged, rolled down the hillside and completely demolished one end of the Pumping Station which supplies the Hill District with water. Four Chinese fitters who were at work on the pumps were crushed to death. Damage amounting to over \$1,000,000 was done to roads, nullahs and buildings throughout the Colony. The rainfall amounted to 19" in 8 hours. Some of the main thoroughfares were 2 to 3 feet deep in water and when the water subsided, they were impassable owing to the silt left behind.

7. A full report giving details of the working of the Brigade during the year 1926, by the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade is attached.

E. D. C. WOLFE.
Chief Officer, Fire Brigade.

12th May, 1927.

REPORT BY SUPERINTENDENT,
HONG KONG FIRE BRIGADE.

CALLS TO FIRES.

The number of calls, received during the year totalled 170; 104 to fires, 31 to chimney fires, 29 false alarms, 5 to collapses or landslides, and 1 to a rescue from sewer.

There were 6 serious fires, details of which appear in Table IV.

Compared with the previous year (1925) there is a decrease of 10 calls.

Of the false alarms; 5 were maliciously given, 12 were due to electrical faults, while 12 were given with good intent.

LIVES LOST; PERSONS INJURED; PERSONS RESCUED.

Five persons lost their lives or received such injuries that they subsequently succumbed.

Two persons received minor injuries from which they recovered.

One person was rescued by means of Brigade appliances.

Eleven persons were extricated alive by the Brigade from collapses and landslides, while 6 corpses were recovered.

PERSON KILLED WHILE GIVING ASSISTANCE.

Able Seaman E.E. Batchelor of H.M.S. Hawkins was accidentally killed while assisting the Brigade at the Hong Kong Hotel fire on the 1st January 1926.

STAFF INJURED IN THE EXECUTION OF DUTY.

Injuries received by members in the execution of duty are summarised as follows:—

Injuries to head and face	1
„ „ hands and arms	4
„ „ body	3
„ „ feet and legs	2

HEALTH OF STAFF.

During the year there were 157 cases of illness mostly due to beri-beri and malaria.

COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi, K.C.M.G. was pleased to commend the members of the Fire Brigade on the work performed at the Hong Kong Hotel fire, (1/1/26), also to invest the undermentioned officers and men in connection with the Po Hing Fong disaster, (July 1925).

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Superintendent,
H.T. Brooks | } Medal of the
Order of St. John of
Jerusalem ... | } ("For conspicuous gal-
lantry in saving life
at imminent personal
risk". |
| Acting Station Officer,
P:T. Condon | | |
| No. 42 Fireman Fan Lam. | } "Bellios" Star
and \$100 | } ("For conspicuous
bravery". |
| No. 79 Fireman Lau Kiu.. | | |

Station Officer G. Saunders, was also invested by the Chief Officer, Hon. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, with the Long Service Medal of the Professional Fire Brigades Association.

The following members were commended by the Chief Officer during the year.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Foreman Sung Kwai | } For rescuing a woman from
drowning in the Harbour,
27/5/26. |
| No. 39 Fireman Cheung Kau | |
| Coxswain Leung Sai Lo..... | For rescuing a woman from drowning
in the Harbour, 21/11/26. |

STAFF.

The actual strength of the Brigade on the 31st December, 1926 was as follows:—

FIRE STAFF.

- 1 Chief Officer. (Hon. C.S.P.)
- 1 Superintendent.
- 2 Station Officers.
- 1 Consulting Engineer. (A.G.M.S.)
- 1 Mechanical Engineer.
- 1 Asst: Mechanical Engineer.

(Chinese)

- 10 Sub-Officers.
- 1 Head Foreman.
- 3 Foremen.
- 1 Asst: Foreman.
- 66 Firemen.

- 22 Motor Drivers.
- 6 Coxswains.
- 7 Engineers.
- 2 Engine Drivers. (land)
- 11 Stokers.
- 10 Seamen.

—
146
—

CLERICAL & OTHER STAFF.

(Chinese)

- 1 Clerk.
- 10 Telephone Clerks.
- 2 Mechanics.
- 3 Fitters.
- 3 Artisans.
- 6 Lift Operators.
- 10 Ambulance Attendants.

—
35
—

THEATRE AND OTHER DUTIES.

The number of duties performed by members of the Brigade at public and private entertainments during the year was 346; the number of four hour duties being 163, and eight hour duties 183, giving a total of 2,116 hours.

MOTOR AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The number of cases attended during the year by the respective Ambulances is shewn in the summary below from which it will be seen that the number of cases have increased year by year.

	Cases		Total	Distance Run (Miles).
	Police	Private		
No. 3 Ambulance (HongKong)	504	800	1,304	9,217
No. 2 " "	186	450	636	5,470
No. 4 " (Kowloon)	187	211	398	2,695
No. 1 " "	159	140	299	2,262
Total.....	1,036	1,601	2,637	19,644

	Last year (1926)	Previous years.			
		1925	1924	1923	1922
Cases attended ...	2,637	2,265	2,129	1,712	1,185

REVENUE.

Theatre and other duties	\$ 1,038.00
Motor Ambulance Service	\$ 7,911.00
Total.....	\$ 8,949.00

STREET FIRE ALARMS.

25 new Fire Alarms were installed in various districts during the year. Street Fire Alarms now number 42, viz:—30 in Hong Kong and 12 in Kowloon.

WATER SUPPLY.

Further and considerable improvements have been made during the year with regard to the water supply for fire fighting purposes; larger mains to replace smaller ones having been laid in the Central and Eastern districts of Hong Kong and in the Mong Kok and Kowloon City districts of the Peninsula.

Further advance has also been made by the substituting of Pedestal Hydrants for a number of ball hydrants.

The advantages Pedestal Hydrants have over ball hydrants are, with regard to fire fighting, so considerable that it is hoped the work will not be relaxed until all the ball hydrants in the Colony have been replaced by Pedestal Hydrants.

The quarterly inspection of hydrants by the Brigade was regularly carried out during the year.

Total number of hydrants inspected being:—

Hong Kong, (ball hydrants)	629
Kowloon, (do)	317
Hong Kong (pedestal hydrants)	82
Kowloon (do)	46
	<hr/>
	1,074
	<hr/>

GENERAL.

Staff. The Chief Officer, (the Hon. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe) and Station Officer G. C. Moss returned to the Colony from long leave on the 5th February. Mechanical Engineer E. F. Prown and Asst: Mech: Engineer P. H. P. Brown were engaged locally and appointed to the Brigade on the 1st March. Owing to their leaving the Colony Volunteer Officer Mr. R. M. Austin and Volunteer Fireman R. H. J. Brooks resigned their appointments and were struck off the strength as from the 5th December and 20th January respectively.

During the year 11 Chinese members resigned, 8 were dismissed, and 18 absconded. 58 Recruits were enrolled and trained as Firemen and passed out of the Drill Class into the Brigade, while 42 men were engaged and appointed to fill vacancies in other ranks of the Department.

The Brigade Motor Driving School was re-opened on the 22nd March and continued throughout the year. Four firemen qualified and were appointed as motor drivers in the Department.

Equipment. The new Fire Float (No. 3) was commissioned on the 7th April following successful steaming and pumping trials. Demonstrations of its pumping capabilities,—which total 4,000 gallons per minute,—greatly impressed the general public who witnessed them.

The undermentioned equipment was supplied during the year to the Brigade:—

- 1 "Saf Foam" battery, (comprising 3 units).
- 7,500 feet of Hose.

No. 1 Lorry, which was removed to the Kowloon Canton Railway workshops in 1925 with broken differential pinions was out of commission during the whole year; the sending of wrong sized pinions from Home being responsible for the delay.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 11 Appliances were completely overhauled while *Nos. 7 and 9 Appliances and Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 Motor Ambulances* received minor repairs.

No. 800 Car underwent a general and thorough overhaul during which 4 new mud-guards, a new apron, new hood, and new side curtains were fitted and the car was repainted.

No. 4 Land Steam Fire Engine was brought in from Tai Po, boiler lifted and cleaned, new valves and leathers fitted and the Appliance repainted. Very satisfactory tests were afterwards carried out and the appliance transferred back to Tai Po.

Nos. 1 & 2 *Fire Floats* were respectively docked for annual repairs and repainting.

Aberdeen Pontoon. The engine and boiler having become unfit for further service, the Aberdeen pontoon was placed out of commission altogether on the 12th January.

Fire Inspection Work shows a return of 55 Theatres, Cinemas, Factories, Oil installations, Garages, and Buildings inspected and reported upon, during the year besides 111 inflammable ceremonial structures. Chemical extinguishers were supplied to a number of Government buildings during the year thus providing them with a ready means of dealing with incipient fires.

The thanks of the Brigade are due to the Hong Kong Boy Scouts, the local Members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and the Naval and Military Forces who have generously and most appreciably assisted the Brigade from time to time.

H. T. BROOKS,
Superintendent, Fire Brigade.

8th March, 1927.

Table I

STATIONS AND APPLIANCES, 31st DECEMBER, 1926.

WHERE ALLOCATED.	CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHERS.																													
	Motor Tenders.	Motor Pumps.	Motor Trailer Pumps.	Motor Turntable Ladder.	Motor Trolley.	Steam Fire Engines.	Manual Fire Engines.	Hose Reels.	Fire Floats. (Steam)	Skiffs.	Fire Escapes. 55 ft.	Fire Escapes. 50 ft.	Double-Extension Ladders.	First Floor Ladders.	Scaling Ladders.	Hook Ladders.	Despatch Boxes.	"Miller" Soda-acid.	"Bahcock" Soda-acid.	"Morris" Fire-snow.	"Foamite".	"Safam" units.	Hand Pumps.	"Ajax" diaphragm.	"London" hand-controlled.	Metal, (copper).	Stairpipes.	Smoke Helmets. (bellows).	"Proto" self-contained breathing apparatus.	
Central Station.....	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wanchai Station	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kennedy Town Sub-station	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kowloon Station	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mong Kok Sub-station	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. 1 Fire Float	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. 2 Fire Float	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. 3 Fire Float	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shaokwan Village	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tai Po Village N. T.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Un Long Village	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cheung Chau Island	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Outlying Districts	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Store (Central)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	2	7	2	1	1	3	1	4	3	3	1	3	2	10	14	19	42	16	4	16	6	3	17	20	12	105	66	3	4	

3 Carry Fire Escapes.