

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1849

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 6 January 1849, page 3

About two o'clock yesterday intelligence reached the Police station that an alarming bush fire was approaching town by the way of the Company's Mill. Sergeant Cromie and Police Constable Stuart started at once to Mr Sontham's sections, where the conflagration was then raging with awful fury, there being a strong sirocco blowing at the time. But promptly burning a well conceived cordon round some hay stacks, they were preserved; but the herbage to an immense extent, was destroyed. The fence at one side of the private road, immediately beyond the "Maid and Magpie" public-house, was at one period on fire in several places, but the grass at each side of it being burned off, its total destruction was averted. Many hundred logs, of every magnitude, were in a state of vivid combustion on the property as late as five o'clock; when we left the spot, the imminent danger of the conflagration's extending having subsided on the destruction of the grass and lighter matter. The Police Commissioner was on the spot during the crisis, as also was Inspector Tolmer, and a party of the Mounted Police with the fire engine, which was worked most effectively as long as a supply of water could be obtained from the creek. It was reported that a bedridden female was in a house which the fire was approaching; Cromie and Stuart started through the smoke and flame and conveyed her to a place of safety; but a sudden and slight change of the wind drove the fire in another direction, and the house was preserved. The fire broke out at about eleven o'clock, a.m., on Mr Stow's road, and caught Mr Gilbert's sections, rented by Mr Weare, and consumed all the grass-feed and a considerable quantity of fencing, Valued at £50. It then passed on to Mr J. B. Cornish's, and burnt about 400 bushels of wheat and about 150 bushels of barley, and the fencing of 40 acres of reserved feed. Mr Cornish's loss is estimated at £200. From his farm, the fire crossed the road and proceeded to the Company's sections, burnt all the feed, and damaged a number of fine horses. It then caught Mr Sanford's, doing similar havoc; loss estimated at £100. On Mr John Southam's section the fire destroyed all the grass-feed, and burned one horse to death, the loss on that property has been estimated, but we hope incorrectly so, at five hundred pounds. We exceedingly regret the heavy loss sustained by Mr Cornish. He is an old colonist, has long been striving with a family of ten children, and had hoped that this year would have repaid him for many years of toiling and industry. We should be glad to receive any contributions by those of Mr Cornish's friends who sympathise with him in his heavy calamity.

South Australian (Adelaide, SA : 1844 - 1851), Tuesday 9 January 1849, page 2

LOCAL NEWS.

On Sunday, between one and two o'clock, a cigar carelessly thrown among the chips, by the cooper's yard, at the back of the Victoria Hotel, fired them, and threatened Hindley-street with a conflagration. Mr Cobbin, the keeper of the stables, chanced to notice the accident in time, and the burning mass was deluged with water. Unless more care is exercised, we shall certainly have a fire some day which will clear off one or both sides of our leading thoroughfares.

Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Monday 6 August 1849, page 3

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

[To the Editor of the Adelaide Times.]

MUNICIPAL BILL.

Exchange, Saturday, Aug. 1849.

Sir,—In pursuance of the Instructions from the public meeting held in this place this day-week, we have to report to the citizens of Adelaide, that having obtained an appointment with the Hon. Colonial Secretary and the Hon. the Advocate General to meet this day, we, the undersigned, (in the absence of Mr Francis Hutton, who was in the country); had a very satisfactory meeting with those gentlemen, who gave every possible attention to all our suggestions as we went through the bill as printed, al-most clause by clause, and to whom we handed new matter for their consideration (which will be seen by the following list) and was promised that all our communications should have their best attention ; and we have every reason to believe that a very useful and practical bill will be offered to the citizens; one indeed that will be worth their acceptance.

The following is the new matter referred to .—

VII. In like manner the water carts should be licensed, and regulations to be made for their plying. This to include regulations for the casks being full during the night, and the carters being aiding in the extinction of accidental fires. The question of Corporation—fire engines is important. Power may be given to have engines and a fire brigade, if the spread of building and the increase of population requires it.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 18 August 1849, page 2

FOR Sale, at Mr. MULLER'S, next door to Mr. Pybus's, Leigh Street, two compact Fire Engines, portable by hand, and capable of being worked by hand power. The principle was applied with remarkable effect at the great fire in Hamburg, and patent rights were secured by the inventor, in England, Denmark, and Russia. The larger of the two engines is offered at £18, and may be worked by four men, and will not only draw water from a depth of between 70 to 80 feet, at the rate of thirty gallons a minute, but discharge it with corresponding rapidity and force, so as to reach objects from 70 to 80 feet dist.nt. The relative powers of suction and discharge possessed by the lesser engine, offered at £10, extend to 50 or 60 feet of depth and the like of projection, and twenty gallons a minute. It may be worked effectually by two men. The engines may be used as pumps only, with the application of half the manual labour required for their double purpose, and would be found admirably adapted to breweries and manufactories, or other purposes where quantity and celerity are required. For viewing, trial, or other proof, and particulars, apply as above.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 12 December 1849, page 3

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

The former Native School, lately used as a depot for Irish orphans and invalid immigrants, was burnt down on Sunday morning last. The fire was first discovered about half-past 5 o'clock, and originated in a workshop adjoining the building, into which an emigrant is known to have entered with a lighted pipe. Before any engines arrived, or any considerable supply of water could be got from the neighbourhood, the flames had made such progress that it was deemed necessary to provide for the safety of the contiguous buildings, by cutting off the communication, which was boldly executed by a number of strangers and the

blacks under the direction of Mr Tolmer. The troops arrived when their services were little required, and his Excellency reached the scene of devastation just in time to hear the quaint remarks of a gentleman who assured Sir Henry there would be a good riddance of F sharps and B flats. We regret to hear that a few emigrants lost some of their apparel by the conflagration, which might have been arrested by an early supply of water. Why are not the water-carriers licensed, and compelled, under forfeiture of their licences, to keep a load of water on their premises, to be ready in case of emergency? Such a requisition applying to each waterman would always enable the police to command many tuns of water in a very short time. Again, why are not the Government fire engines kept in working order by their being exercised by the force once or twice a week ? The Bank engine was useless for want of exercise ; and three engines on the ground were all but useless for want of water.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 29 December 1849, page 3

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Monday, about noon, a fire broke out in the stables of James Frew, Esq., Fullarton, near Glen Osmond. The day being dry and hot, the flames spread with rapidity, and the only supply of water was almost instantly cut off by the burning of the well frame. The adjoining houses occupied by the farm servants caught fire immediately, and, with the stables, were burnt to the ground in about a quarter of an hour. The entire horse "Teazer," which was in the stable at the time, and another horse, were removed at the first alarm. The rest were in the fields ; but harness for twenty horses, a cart, weighing machine, several ploughs, a quantity of farming implements and stores, were destroyed. The loss cannot be less than from four to five hundred pounds ; but severe as this is, Mr Frew may be congratulated on so much of his property having escaped. The stable and outhouses stood between the stack-yard and his residence, within fifty yards of each. In the former are two hundred tons of hay and a thousand bushels of corn uninjured. The roof of the latter caught fire on three sides, and was with difficulty preserved, while the sparks, blown over it, ignited the stubble in a field several hundred yards beyond. There, the flames ran over the section, setting fire to the fence which divides it from that of Mr Wm. Ferguson, whose corn, just cut, was with difficulty saved, and the fire extended to within a few yards of his barn and stack-yard. This is the second time Mr Frew has suffered from fire, having lost property in the same way six years ago, to the extent of twelve hundred pounds. We regret to learn that he is uninsured. The fire is supposed to have originated from a person smoking in the stable. On last Monday night, or early on Tuesday morning, a fire broke out in a rick of hay belonging to G. R. Edward, on the Port Road, and consumed the whole, containing about forty tons. The premises on which the fire originated join Mr Lines's; and but for the praiseworthy exertions used by the Port police and sur-rounding settlers, his property must have fallen a prey to the devouring flames. The origin of the fire is not yet known. About ten o'clock yesterday morning, a fire broke out at Port Adelaide, in a house rented by Thomas Raines, belonging to Mr Wooldridge. The fire was discovered by Mr Hales, who was passing at the time. He immediately called the attention of the proprietor to the fact, who, with the assistance of his neighbours, succeeded in getting the flames under, but not before the skirting of the wall had been partially consumed. The fire first originated in a chest of clothes, and is supposed to have been caused by a person smoking a pipe over the chest; but we are happy to say the loss sustained does not exceed £5. Had it remained undiscovered till ten minutes later, the chances are, that we should have had another destructive fire in that quarter, as the whole of the adjoining houses are principally built of wood.