

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1851

Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Friday 3 January 1851, page 2

FIRE, POLICE, AND INSURANCE.

One of those disastrous fires, with which we are occasionally visited at this season of the year, broke out on the Woodforde Estate, Captain Duff's property, on Monday last, and continued raging through that, and the whole of the two following days, without attracting the notice of a single policeman, or bringing a particle of assistance from that source to the spot.

This we take to be evidence of a want of sufficient interest in these matters on the part of those having the direction of the police, but it is a minor and trifling consideration, as compared with the gross negligence of the different Insurance offices in town on such occasions, not more than one of which, as far as we are aware, has a fire-engine, and that one never being properly manned, or in effective working order, whenever a calamity of this kind arises.

We do not wish to speak with unbecoming severity on such matters, but we think it little short of a swindle for the offices in town to take people's premiums on their policies against fire, and then leave them, not only without adequate protection, but without any protection at all. It may be all very well to say, that they insured against eventual loss, and that any amounts they may lose by fire—that is, to the extent of their insurance—will be made up, but it ought to be remembered, that the amount insured does not in many cases cover one-half the property, and that it is both to the interest of the Insuring and Insured, that there should be as few calls upon the former for indemnification as possible.

These brief hints are not thrown up hastily, or without due regard to the interests of the different insurance offices, and we hope they will receive them therefore in the spirit intended. The least they could do, would be to have an engine each, and among them, with some little assistance from the Government, or hereafter from the Corporation perhaps, a fire-brigade might be got up, and be held ready for duty, whenever their services might be required.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 9 December 1851, page 3

The Cornwall Fire and Marine Insurance Company. — It is well known that the Tasmanian Company, having its headquarters in Launceston, has established an efficient and successful Branch in this city, under the agency of Mr. Abraham Scott. A large fire-engine, made by Tilley, of London, has lately been received, and was most satisfactorily proved at the Torrens on Saturday, the 29th ult., in presence of more than 200 spectators. Thirty men may be advantageously employed at the engine, and judging from the effects produced upon two stout dogs which were unceremoniously played upon, some people were of opinion that the force of the jet was sufficient, if perseveringly applied, to knock a hole in a stone wall of moderate thickness. Nothing will be wanting to ensure, whenever required, the prompt attendance and effective employment of the engine. A fire-brigade of 50 men is in course of formation, of whom 10, namely an engineer, a foreman, and 8 firemen, will be provided with an appropriate uniform, and kept regularly in pay at the expense of the establishment. The 40 members of the fire-brigade not in constant pay will be occasionally exercised, and

liberally remunerated when called out. Everything will be arranged in conformity with printed rules, and thus each man will be in his appointed place with a full understanding of the duty he is expected to perform. The uniform coats, made by Mr. White, of King William-street, are of excellent navy blue cloth, with C. I. C. and a numeral in scarlet cloth on the collar. A sufficiency of implements, with axes, belts, and every other requisite, will be always kept in good order and at hand for any emergency. The outfit so liberally provided by the Cornwall not only vouches for the prosperity of the Adelaide Branch, but will doubtless incite other Insurance Offices to undertake similar organizations.