

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1860

Mr. Arthur J. Baker, the Fire Brigades Superintendent determined that the Police are to be notified not to attend fires with the engine, but to assist with the preservation of property and crowd control.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 4 January 1860, page 3***

### THE FIRE-ENGINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REGISTER.

Sir — in several reports on fires that have appeared in the newspapers lately, the Cornwall Fire Brigade are represented as being dilatory in their movements, while the Imperial, Alliance, and Royal Companies Brigade, with Mr. Hills, the Superintendent of Brigade, are praised for their activity. We therefore take the present opportunity of in-forming you and the public generally : — 1st. That when fires occur the police do not immediately, and frequently not at all, give us the alarm. 2nd. That the police-bell is seldom heard at this end of the town. 3rd. That as our business consists in extinguishing fires rather than furnishing reports, when the Cornwall Brigade arrives first at a fire there is generally no mention of it in the newspapers. 4th. That Mr. Carvosso has given us per-mission to ring his bell, which would give an excellent alarm if the police gave us earlier in formation respecting fires. 5th. That horses are kept in our yard at night for the purpose of taking the engine with as little delay as possible to fires. 6th. That Mr. Hills is the Superintendent only of the Imperial, Alliance, and Royal Insurance Companies Brigade. 7th. That Mr. Scott, the Agent of the Cornwall Insurance Company, has frequently expressed his satisfaction at the prompt attention and endurance of the men forming the Cornwall Brigade, of which we are the managers. We are, Sir, &c., PAPPIN & JONES. Blyth-street, Adelaide, December 31, 1859.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 7 January 1860, page 5***

### EXTINGUISHING FIRES.

Fire and water are subjects which at this time of the year invariably come in for a large amount of discussion. The reason for this is, that every summer we have a great deal too much of the one with too little of the other, so that the question invariably recurs how "a balance of power" between these antagonistic elements is to be brought about. Shakspeare makes Benvolio exclaim—" Tut, man! one fire burns out another's burning." But instead of this being true of bush fires, except, indeed, where a barren circle is burnt around property to prevent the approach of danger, we know that from one conflagration a dozen are produced, and therefore the doctrine of "like cures likes" must in this case be abandoned. We wish at the present moment however, to direct attention to one or two points in connection with the fires which have recently occurred in Adelaide, and of which class of conflagrations there will no doubt be further repetitions during the summer, if we are to judge of the future by the past.

In reference to town fires generally we have over and over again, in previous years, dwelt upon the want of organization amongst those to whom the public look for assistance in such disasters. But in what has taken place at the two large fires which have already occurred this summer, not only has the evil referred to been fully exemplified, but there have been indications that the men whose duty it is to give aid in such cases are as deficient in

knowledge with regard to a proper mode of action individually as they are of organization generally. At the fire which occurred a few nights ago on South-terrace, for instance, we find according to the report published in these columns, that a premature outbreak of the conflagration was caused by a policeman having intentionally broken open the cellar-window. By this means a current of air was, of course, admitted to the interior of the building, and the flames, which were previously confined, burst out before any means were at hand to check them. At the Stepney fire, also, we are assured that a blunder exactly similar was committed almost as soon as the fire was discovered, though in this case we have no reason to suppose that it was the act of a constable or any other person in authority. With regard to the first instance, however, there appears to be no doubt; and the question, therefore, naturally presents itself, why the police are not instructed as to a common-sense course of action when an alarm of fire is given. Judging from circumstances connected with the two disasters which have lately occurred, it would appear that they either do not interfere at all, or they interfere rashly. It is well known that the Stepney fire was seen from all parts of Adelaide within ten minutes of its breaking out; yet the constables patrolling the streets took no notice of it. No alarm-bell was rung, no engine was got out, and, we believe, no report of the fire was made by the police, as usual, to the proper authorities either that night or during the whole of the following day. At the South-terrace fire, it is true, the police engine was well worked, and did admirable service; but this probably was no compensation for the evil resulting from the blunder committed by the constable who officiously broke in the window, and thus gave the fire the start of the engines. Under the circumstances, then, the public have a right to expect some explanation with regard to these two disasters, and also to demand, if there be no code of instructions for the guidance of the police force in such matters at present, that there should be one drawn up and enforced without delay.

In a climate such as this it is impossible that the too general tendency to regard fires as private disasters can be indulged in for ever. Every year's experience must lead us nearer and nearer to a realization of the fact that during three months out of the twelve we are standing front to front with a public enemy—an enemy whose terrible power must be driven back by all possible means, and whose presence at our doors is a thousand times more dangerous both to life and property than the possible invasion of our shores by some foreign despot. We must, therefore, not only have the energies of our police force directed more to this matter than is considered necessary in cold climates, but it must be seen whether it is not possible to do something more towards the general protection by special legislation on the subject. In some countries persons in business are compelled by law to keep various means for extinguishing fires always in readiness upon their premises; and then, with regard to the reckless use of pipes, cigars, and lucifer matches, even if it were found impossible here to enforce the strict laws which many persons propose, there should certainly be in both town and country a heavy penalty imposed on all offenders convicted of wilful carelessness in the use of dangerous combustibles.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 14 January 1860, page 3***

#### FIRE AT WALKERVILLE BREWERY

On Monday morning, the 8th instant, at about a quarter-past 3 o'clock, an alarm of fire was received in Adelaide, and it was found that the malthouse of Thompson's Brewery, Walkerville, was on fire. The Imperial engine started at once, and arrived at the

conflagration in about half an hour. The Police engine also made its appearance on the spot; but scarcely any water could be got from the Torrens or elsewhere, as the force-pump at the brewery was unfortunately broken on Saturday last. The building was therefore soon destroyed. The malthouse, which was the property of Mr. Levi, was insured. The malt stored in the place, and which belonged to Mr. Goss, was also insured.

#### THE INQUEST.

The enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at the Walkerville Brewery on Monday morning, the 9th instant, was held at the Sussex Arms, Walkerville, on Tuesday, before the Coroner, Mr. Woodforde, and a respectable Jury of 15, of whom Mr. J. W. Bowman was selected Foreman. Mr. Knox, solicitor, attended to watch proceedings on behalf of the Cornwall Insurance Company.

The Jury, having been sworn in, proceeded to the premises where the fire happened. They found that the store or malthouse only had been destroyed. The brewery, which is situated about 30 feet to the north of the malthouse, was not injured at all. This at first sight occasioned great surprise, inasmuch as its close proximity to the fire, and being entirely composed of wood, made its utter destruction seem inevitable. It was, however, explained by some persons who were present at the conflagration that the wind was blowing from the north-west, which would carry the flames away from the direction of the brewery. A shed, erected against the south side of the wall of the store, containing a chaise, wheelbarrow, and a dog, the property of Mr. Letchford, of the Young Queen Inn, Freeman-street, Adelaide, fell a total prey to the devouring element.

On the return of the Jury the following evidence was adduced: —

James Thomson, of Walkerville, deposed that he was a brewer. The malthouse that was burnt was part of his property. Had let it for twelve months to Mr. Richard Goss. His term expires on Wednesday, the 11th inst. Was awakened by the watchman at half-past 12 o'clock on Monday morning, who told him the malt house was on fire. Went over immediately and found the middle portion of the building, where the grain was stored, on fire. The roof was just falling in as he reached the place. The brewery was a wooden building, situated about thirty feet north east of the malthouse. A strong wind was blowing from the building towards the river, which was the only thing that saved the brewery.

Notwithstanding this the brewery ignited, but it was speedily put out with some vinegar which was on the premises. There were only two hogsheads of water which could be got at. There was a very good well on the premises, but the force-pump was accidentally broken on Wednesday evening by his own men. Was in the habit of storing goods, by Mr. Goss's permission, in the malthouse when he had not accommodation in his own place. Had not been in the malthouse since Saturday. Kept two nightmen to reside on the brewery. There was a stretcher in the malthouse on which the nightmen had been in the habit of sleeping when they could get an opportunity. They had not to go in the malthouse for malt. Told them not to make any fires that night. There were bags, casks, and ale in the malthouse belonging to him to the value of £10. The bags were supposed to be insured, having paid Mr. Goss the premium for £100, as he used the kiln to dry malt, and he frequently had that amount stored in the malthouse. Had seen no one in there from Saturday night.

By a Juror—There had been no fire in the kiln under the malt since Saturday morning. The malt was removed the same day to his brewery.

By Mr. Knox—Did not know whether the bags, &c., had been insured in the Cornwall. Had no policy or receipts from Mr. Goss for his premium for insurance in the Cornwall Insurance Company nor any other Company. Believed there were at the time of the fire about 700 bushels of Cape malt and between 400 and 500 bushels of English, besides 600 sacks, all belonging to Mr. Goss, in the malthouse. There was a door underneath the middle of the building; it was never kept locked. One of the watchmen was named Richard Rusk. The English barley was good and saleable; the Cape was not so good. Both kinds had been stored there above four months. Some brewers used Cape barley malt. Goss could not have sold the Cape barley before the tenancy expired without a loss. Any person could have access to the malthouse at any time. The door leading into the upper floor where the malt was kept was always locked in the evening, but the door under-ground where the malt was worked was never kept locked.. Still it was possible for any one to get into the upper floor through the kiln.

Henry Bielstein, of North Adelaide, stated that he was a labourer in the employ of the last witness, Went to the brewery on Sunday night about 12 o'clock to work. Went down into the cellar where the beer was working to fill up the casks. Had been down there about half an hour when he saw a light coming through the hatchway. Said to himself "it can't be daylight yet.," and just as he had uttered those words he heard a crackling. Dropped his buckets at once, ran up, and saw the store or malthouse on fire, and apparently burning in the middle part of the building. Immediately gave the alarm, and called Mr. Thomson. Had not been in the malthouse this night. There was another watchman besides himself, named Rusk. He was not there on Sunday night—he was at home. When he first saw the fire, observed no one about the premises.

By Mr. Knox—Did not think Mr. Goss's house was more than 100 yards from the store. The fire could be seen from his place very well. Saw Mr. Goss at the fire. The last time he was in the malthouse was Saturday morning. Did not observe any combustible materials there then.

Richard Rusk, nightman at the brewery—Went to the brewery a quarter before 12 o'clock on Sunday night. Went into the cellar to see if his mate had come. He was not there. Went into the malthouse cellar to see if he had gone there to lay down. Went to the stretcher, but he was not there. Went over to Mr. Thomson's to deliver a message he had for him from Mr. Harvey, of the North-road, Knocked at his bedroom window and told him his message; then returned to his own house, which was close by. Shortly after he had been in bed his mate came and cried out, " Richard, Richard, the brewery is on fire !" Got up, put his trousers on, and ran down to the brewery. He found the malt-house on fire and burning fiercely. The roof had not then fallen in. Had been into Harvey's public-house on Sunday evening Drank a glass of wine and two nobbers of gin. Was perfectly sober when he got to the brewery. Never smoked either a pipe or a cigar. Saw no one about the premises when he went there the first time on Sunday night, nor any sign of fire.

By Mr. Knox—Noticed nothing combustible in the malthouse cellar except a few empty bags. Did not take any light into the cellar. The malt of either sort was not first-rate, but it was not damaged to his know-ledge. Did not see Mr. Goss until after he had returned from the Police Barracks, which was about 2 o'clock. Was at the fire about half an hour before he went to town, and during that time did not see Goss. He might have been there without his seeing him.

Mr. Thomson, recalled, said that the last witness appeared perfectly sober, so far as he could judge from hearing him speak. Went to the brewery about half-past 12. About 1 o'clock went to call Goss. He found him and his family astir, as his wife had called them previously. Observed that Goss did not do much towards extinguishing the fire. He only carried two buckets of water, to his knowledge; but his two sons exerted them-selves very much. Could not account for the fire. There were rats about the malthouse, but there were no marches about that they could have ignited.

Emily Packard, of Walkerville, deposed that between 8 and 9 o'clock she went with her two little brothers and Mr. Goss's two sons and daughter into the brewery yard. It was nearly dark, but moonlight. They went into the malthouse and remained there for about ten minutes. They were on the top floor where the malt was. They did not go in for any particular purpose. They were going for a walk, when Miss Goss asked her whether she would like to look in the store. She having assented, Mr. Francis Goss went home for the key at his sister's request and opened the door. He also brought from home a bit of a sperm-candle, which he lit with a match in the store. Did not notice what became of the match, but he blew the candle out and put it in his pocket. Recollected his locking the door.

By a Juror—The candle was fetched to see themselves weighed.

By Mr. Knox — Did not know if young Mr. Goss gave the key to his father after they had returned from the malthouse.

Richard Goss, of Walkerville, made a statement to the effect that the malthouse which was destroyed had been occupied by him. Rented it of Mr. James Thomson, from the 11th January, 1859, to 11th January, 1860). Could not give the Jury any account of the origin of the fire. Had not been in the store since Saturday morning. Knew nothing of the fire until Mrs. Thomson called him on Monday morning, between 1 and half-past 1 o'clock. Mr. Thomson came about three minutes afterwards. Dressed instantly, and when he got to the fire the roof had fallen in. Had between 1,500 and 1,600 bushels of malt in the store, About 500 of which was English malt, and the rest Cape. It was malt of his own making, and had been in his possession as malt about six months. Was of opinion that all of it was destroyed. Had about 600 cornsacks, some new and some old. Had insured for £100 the property belonging to Mr. Thomson which was kept in the malthouse in his name in the same policy. When he made that malt it was saleable, and Mr. Thomson bought some at 10s. per bushel for the English, and 8s. for the Cape. Had sold to Messrs. Thomson & Simms about a month ago some of the same malt at 9s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. Mr. Thomson offered to extend the lease of the store if he required it. Insured the malt in April last for £600, and on the 26th of November last for £200 more.

By a Juror—Had been burnt out of his corn store in Clonmel, Tipperary, about 14 years ago. Was insured, and had no difficulty in recovering.

By Mr. Knox—All the malt was in good order ; none warm or musty. Could not tell what was the value of the goods in the store belonging to Mr. Simms. There was no malt in the store belonging to any one but himself. His books were destroyed. Had always kept them in the store. There was no property of Mr. Levi's there. When his son returned with the key he hung it up above the mantelpiece. Did not touch it again until he was called up, when he took it with him to the fire. Considered he had lost property to the amount of over £700, exclusive of Mr. Thomson's.

W. K. Simms, brewer—Mr. Thomson had been brewing for him. Had occasionally bought malt from Mr. Goss. About a month ago bought some English malt from him. Had also bought Cape malt from him. Had frequently been in the malthouse occupied by Mr. Goss. Should say there were between 1,500 to 1,600 bushels of malt there about the time of the fire. Could buy at the present moment a better sample of Cape malt than Mr. Goss's for 5s. 9d. per bushel. The price of good English malt now was from 7s. to 7s. 6d. per bushel.

That was all the evidence.

The Coroner in directing the Jury to consider their verdict, remarked that it had happened in that enquiry, as in most other enquiries of the same kind, that there was a great deal of mystery and very little evidence to clear up that mystery. In the present case there was no evidence to convict anyone of the crime of incendiarism. Investigations of that nature almost invariably brought to light some disagreeable traits of character which they had rather not have heard; such as, for instance, looseness, slovenliness, &c. He could not help noticing the carelessness of Mr. Goss in keeping his books in a place where they could be easily got at by any one. Such conduct always left a nasty impression on the minds of the people.

The Jury retired into a corner of the room, and in a few minutes returned with a verdict to the effect that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

The Coroner, after thanking the Jury for their attention during the time the inquest lasted, which was about four hours and a half, dismissed them.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 19 January 1860, page 3***

**FIRE IN ROPER-STREET.**

On Wednesday afternoon, about half-past 4 o'clock, a large shed, full of hay and loose timber, almost immediately adjoining the Wheelwrights' Arms, Roper-street, from some cause un-explained took fire, causing immense alarm amongst the families inhabiting the street, as the houses in the neighbourhood of the fire are occupied chiefly by working people, who at that time of day were most of them from home. But luckily the fire was perceived by the men employed in the new buildings erected by Mr. E Solomon, in Flinders-street, the whole of whom, about 20 in number, rushed to the spot, and by their exertions the fire was prevented spreading to any extent, only a slight portion of the roof of an adjoining cottage being burnt ; but the whole of the shop was destroyed. The fire was so rapid that most of the mischief was done before the engines arrived. The Imperial, under Mr. Hills, with the Brigade, arrived first, and speedily got to work, and in a few minutes put the extinguisher upon what was then burning. The Police engine next arrived, which was afterwards followed by the Cornwall.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 6 February 1860, page 3***

FIRE IN NORTH ADELAIDE., -- On Saturday night, February 4, between 11 and. 12 o'clock, the whole of the fire bells in South Adelaide were set in motion by a report of a fire in North Adelaide. The engines turned out with extreme alacrity, as also did a great number of the water-carts, and proceeded to Tynte-street, where it was said the fire was raging. The police engine, with Mr. Inspector Reid and a body of the force, was the first to arrive, quickly followed by the Imperial with Mr. Hills and the brigade, the Cornwall bringing up the rear. When they arrived there were no signs of a conflagration, but it was found that the shop of Mr. Lester, in Tynte-street, had been on fire, and consumed some ribbons and a small

quantity of other stock ; but being seen by a passer by as soon as it caught light, and assistance and water being at hand and quickly directed upon it, the fire was in a few minutes extinguished, and before the engines arrived. Not a great deal has been burnt, but a considerable portion of the stock has been damaged by the water. It was rumored the fire was occasioned by a camphine lamp.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 7 April 1860, page 6***

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tuesday. April 3.

FIRES. A letter was read from Mr. Wright, agent of the Imperial Fire Insurance Society, wishing to know the views of the Corporation in reference to the appointment of a Superintendent of a Fire Brigade, and contributing towards the payment of such officer. Ordered to stand over till next meeting.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 19 May 1860, page 4***

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Fire Brigades.— We are glad to find that the various Insurance Companies have at length so far combined as to place the whole of their fire-brigades and fire-engines under a general system of management. They have selected as their Surveyor and Superintendent Mr. A. J. Baker, whose duty it will now be to make himself acquainted, as far as possible, with the construction of the various buildings throughout the city. On an alarm of fire, he will proceed at once to the spot, and direct the operations of all the brigades and engines, which have too often heretofore, from active rivalry, stood rather in each other's way than united for the preservation of property. Arrangements are in progress for placing the police engine, also, under Mr. Baker's care, in which case the policemen will be at liberty to act in their proper capacity instead of being drawn, as they have been formerly, to perform the duties of firemen.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 20 July 1860, page 3***

Alarm of Fire.-- On Thursday evening, a little before 7 o'clock, an alarm of fire was raised in town. The Police bell, and Barlow's bell were rung, and the steam whistle set up its shrill scream. The Superintendent reports on the first alarm of fire it was supposed to be in the East-terrace. The Imperial, Royal, and Alliance brigade and engine were out instanter, and went as far as the Stag Inn, Rundle-street. The Police engine was also out, and went as far as the Kent Town Hotel. The Cornwall engine was also ready, but got notice that it was a false alarm before they left their yard. The Superintendent went off towards the fire on the first alarm, which was promptly given him by the police, and found that the blaze was occasioned by Mr. G. M. Gally, burning some weeds and other rubbish on his premises, near the Britannia Hotel Norwood. The agents of the Insurance Companies are very wroth about it, and something has been said about seeking to recover from Mr. Gatty the expenses incurred. It is very desirable that some municipal regulation should be applied to matters of this kind, which we think might be done without inconvenience or annoyance to any party.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 21 July 1860, page 2***

Alarm of Fire.—On Thursday evening a blaze in the direction of Norwood caused some consternation in Adelaide; but it turned out to be only the burning of some stubble and rubbish, which it appears was flaring up in a very dangerous manner. We learn that the Imperial, Royal. and Alliance brigade and engine were out immediately, and went as far as the Stag Inn, Rundle-street. The Police engine was also out, and went as far as the Kent Town Hotel. The Cornwall got notice of its being a false alarm before they left their yard; but the engine was quite ready for service if it had been required. The Superintendent went off towards the blaze on the first alarm given him by the police, and found it originated on Mr. G. M. Galley's premises, who was burning some weeds and other rubbish.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 25 July 1860, page 7***

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, JULY 24.

SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr A. BLYTH would ask the Treasurer, whether it was the intention of the Government to appoint an officer as Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. It was desirable in case of fire occurring in the city, that some person should be placed in charge of the available force required for such an exigency, so that the police and fire brigade should be put under the control of one individual, as there were many un-insured buildings in the colony. The Government never made a practice of insuring, and it would sometimes be found necessary to pull down certain buildings in order to save others. At present there was no officer who was clothed with requisite authority, or who could feel justified in taking on himself such a responsibility, and it might be necessary to appoint an officer for this purpose who should be invested with a certain power from the Legislature.

The TREASURER replied that there had been a sum placed on the previous Estimates for such a purpose. The use of the police engine had been included, and also the sum of 200/. to be placed on the Estimates for working the engine.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 1 August 1860, page 3***

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, JULY 31.

FIRE BRIGADE.

Mr. A. BLYTH, pursuant to notice, asked the Hon. the Treasurer (Mr. Reynolds) whether the Government have arrived at any conclusion with reference to the appointment or recognition of a superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

The TREASURER replied - "The matter is now under the consideration of the Government, with the view of making some arrangements of that nature, and when any definite action is decided on, it will be communicated to the House."

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 25 August 1860, page 3***

FIRE AT STEPNEY

About midnight on Friday, 17th instant, a house belonging to Mr. Kadow, greengrocer, Hindley-street, situated at Stepney, on the Payneham-road, a short distance beyond the Maid and Magpie, and inhabited by Mrs. Emma Jenkins and four children, was discovered to be on fire. Information having been speedily conveyed through the police to the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, that officer hastily summoned five of his men, and proceeded with them in a spring cart to the place. On their arrival, they found a number of the residents living in the neighbourhood hard at work, endeavouring to subdue the devouring element, and they at once lent their assistance. No efforts, how-ever, were of much avail, for the fire continued to rage until that and the adjacent cottage were burnt to the ground. The Superintendent and his subordinates remained upon the spot till all danger of a break-out was over. We understand that the property is fully insured; but Mrs. Jenkins and her family, who had some difficulty in escaping with their lives, saved nothing of consequence from the fire, and have thus been placed in circumstances of great destitution.

#### THE INQUEST.

On Tuesday, 21st instant. Dr. Woodforde, Coroner, held an inquest at the Stepney Inn, Stepney, for the purpose of investigating the circumstances connected with a fire which had broken out on Friday night in some cottages, the property of Mr. Heinrich Kadow, situated on the Payneham-road. A respectable Jury was empanelled, and elected Mr. Alfred Weaver as their Fore-man. Mr. E. W. Wright, Agent for the Imperial Fire Insurance Company, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of that Company. The Jury, accompanied by the Coroner, proceeded to view the premises, which consisted of two cottages, one of which had been occupied by a Mrs. Jenkins, and the other was untenanted; and on their reassembling the following evidence was brought forward:—Emma Jenkins deposed that she earned her living by needlework. Occupied one of the cottages which had been burnt on Friday evening. Went to bed, as also did her children, about half-past 8 on that evening. Fell asleep in a short time, and in the middle of the night was awakened a scratching or crackling noise. The ceiling of her room was calico, and she heard something like large hail falling on it. Did not see nor smell any fire. Never thought of fire. Considered that it was a tempest. Called her little girl who slept in the same room, and she went into the front room and roused her elder sister. Asked the elder sister to get out and see what was the cause of the noise —whether it was hail or wind. She opened the door, looked out, and said, "Mother, there is a light in the road of a fire." Jumped out of bed. and ran into the road, looked around, and saw the fire coming through the roof of the cottage which was not occupied. There was very little wind at the time. She gave the alarm to the neighbours, but she was too frightened to remember much of the progress of the fire. Mr. James Cornish was the first person who came to render assistance. Was quite sober when she went to bed. When she first got up she did not see any one about the premises. Mr. Cornish was the first person she saw. Mr. Kadow was her landlord. Had lived on the premises three years. Owed him £14 or £15 for rent. He lived in the next cottage, which was separated from hers by a garden and fence. He had not been pressing her for rent. The un-occupied house was kept closed — nobody could have access to it. The gable window to the unoccupied house was also fired. By the Jury —The fire which was used for domestic purposes was in the front room, which had a plaster ceiling. It was always put out before they retired to rest. Did not keep any bark or fuel in the house. No one was in the house but herself and children on the night of the fire. By Mr. Wright —If the fire had commenced in her room she would have seen it when she awoke. The fire in the kitchen was only a small one, and that was always quenched with

water before they went to bed. Could not say whether Kadow assisted in putting it out; but he was there. Between the time of my first waking and discovering the fire might have been 10 minutes. Could not account for origin of the fire. Lost everything but a few hard things in the kitchen which Mr. Cornish saved. There were only a few matches in a box in the room she slept in by the side of the bed. Did not know of there being any others in the house. Elizabeth Ann Jenkins, daughter of the last witness, stated that she was 20 years of age. Lived with her mother in one of the cottages which had been burnt. Saw the light of the fire through the window between 12 and 1 o'clock, and when she went out into the road, where she observed the roof to be on fire. The fire spread very rapidly. Mr. Kadow was sent for twice, but witness could not say when he came. Saw him at the fire. He was helping to carry away some of the things. Nearly all the bedding was destroyed. Did not have time to dress. When she was awakened there was no fire in the house. The fire must have originated in the next house. Her brothers and sisters did not go into the unoccupied house to play. Mr. Kadow fastened it up last week. Had a dog, but he broke from his rope and went away. It was a good watchdog, and it was not the first time that he ran away. The dog would have barked if any one came near the house. When she was awakened by the fire she ran to look if the dog was close, and found it was. Never heard any one threaten to burn the house. No one could get in at the gable window without bursting it open. By the Jury —Put out her own candle when she got in bed. By Mr. Wright —When she first saw the fire in the roof it was not near the gable window, but it was in the same roof. All the front of the roof was in flames. Heinrich Kadow, gardener, said the cottages which were burnt were his freehold property. His property at Stepney, which consisted of six cottages and between two and three acres of land, was mortgaged to the amount of £350, with the exception of a vacant piece of land. Had paid up the interest regularly. Had insured all the cottages for £900 the Imperial Office, but they were separate insurances. The cottages which were burnt were insured for £350. Was in his own house on the night of the fire. A little child awoke him, and he got up directly, went outside, and saw the fire. Saw Mr. Cornish, sen., coming from his house when he was at the fire. Mrs. Jenkins was his servant. She was a sober woman. Was whitewashing the house one day last week. Saw that all the doors and windows were fastened. Had no idea what was the cause of the fire. Believed he was on good terms with all his neighbours. By the Jury —On the night of the fire, no one was in witness's house but himself. Had a shop in town, where his wife and daughter slept that night. Some one always slept at the shop. By Mr. Wright —The mortgage-deed expired three years ago, but he had liberty to keep the money as long as he liked, paying 15 percent. interest. Only one of his cottages were let at present. Put up the calico ceiling in Mrs. Jenkins's bedroom seven years ago, after he bought the property. It was insured before he put up the calico ceiling. The signature on the application (produced) to the Imperial Office was his. Thomas Vivian Cornish, farmer, deposed that he re-sided about 40 yards from the houses which were burnt. Did not see the beginning of the fire. Was called by Mrs. Jenkins's child. His son was at the house when he arrived there. Knew nothing of the origin of the fire. Had no grounds for suspecting any one. Went to call Mr. Kadow on the night of the fire. Did not see him till he returned to the fire. Believed the fire commenced in the unoccupied house. Both houses were on fire when he arrived. His son did not make use of any language which led witness to suspect any one of having fired it. Harrison Swan, plumber, said he was at the fire in question, but did not know anything of the origin of it. When he arrived at the cottages the place was all in flames, but could not say where they began. The front part of the roof of the unoccupied house had fallen in. From what he had seen of the houses since the fire he

should think their value at the present time, to at is before they were burnt, did not exceed £150. Knew Mr. Kadow. Did some work for him about four or five years ago. He paid for what he did. Was not on bad terms with him. By the Foreman —Was accustomed to value property. By Mr. Wright —The next cottage would have been burnt had they not pulled down the paling roof of a passage which connected them. There was not a very strong breeze at the time, it was partly in the direction of the cottage saved. An objection was made by the Foreman as to the questions which were being put. He thought they had been brought there to ascertain the origin of the fire, and not to know the value of the property. The Coroner, in charging the Jury, said, with regard to the observation which had been made about the enquiry taking an undue turn, it was not always necessary to travel from the main point in view; but such questions were rather important in this case, as there was no doubt it was the work of an incendiary ; and the duty of Juries was to protect Insurance Companies, as those societies had very often lost considerably by fires which had been wilfully caused. He then referred to the evidence, and said it was his opinion that it was the work of an incendiary. The room was then cleared, to allow the Jury to con-sider their verdict. After a very short deliberation they returned the following verdicts —"That the cottages were wilfully and feloniously set on fire by some person or persons to the Jury unknown." The Coroner said he thought they could not have come to a better conclusion, and it was now only for the police to keep an eye on the matter.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 29 October 1860, page 2***

The Fire Brigade -- It will be remembered that shortly before the rising of Parliament a Bill was introduced for the purpose of authorising the appointment of a Superintendent of Fire Engines, and of conferring certain powers on that officer with regard to proceedings in case of fire. The Bill was lost; but since Parliament has risen Ministers have devoted some attention to the subject, and the result is that instructions have been forwarded to the police authorities to the effect that in cases of future accidental fire the police engine is not to be taken out (the engines belonging to the several Insurance Companies being fully able to discharge all the water that can possibly be obtained), and the police themselves on arriving at the scene of fire are not to work the engines, but to place themselves at the disposal of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade (Mr. A. J. Baker), who will direct them how and where to act for the preservation of property, and to keep back the pressure of the crowd.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 17 November 1860, page 5***

Fire. — On Wednesday afternoon, as the 1 o'clock train was returning from the Port, and had just reached the Adelaide Gaol, a spark from the engine set fire to a tarpaulin, under which was placed some tools, which the men on the line had been using before dinner; they had put the covering over them for the purpose of protecting them from the heat of the sun. The articles being composed of inflammable materials, it was found impossible to stay the progress of the flames, and consequently the whole of the tools, consisting of a pair of smith's bellows, handles of hammers, picks, &c, &c., were, in a very short time entirely consumed. Two men arrived on the spot only a few minutes after the fire had commenced, yet they were unable to save anything of importance. The articles in question were placed on the north side of the line, and a strong south-westerly breeze was blowing at the time.

Had they been put on the other side, probably the fire would never have occurred, especially if the tarpaulin had not been put over them.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 24 November 1860, page 7***

POLICE COURT-ADELAIDE.

Saturday, November 17. [Before Mr. S, Beddome, P.M.]

DANGEROUS CHIMNEYS. —Robert Birrell was charged on an information, laid by Inspector Reading, with allowing a chimney, situated on his premises, to become in such a state as to take fire on the 11th November last. Defendant pleaded not guilty. Mr. Stow appeared for the prosecution, to which defendant raised an objection, stating that Mr. Stow, taking the place of Inspector Reading, would unnecessarily increase the amount of costs which he (in the event of his losing the case,) would (he supposed) have to pay. The Bench considered the objection groundless, inasmuch as Mr. Stow had received permission from Inspector Reading, and as the prosecutors were most likely to know what and who was necessary for the proper management of the case. Arthur John Baker, Superintendent of the Imperial Fire Brigade, stated that he was not present at the fire, but he appeared on behalf of the fire brigade, to state the amount incurred by it, which he estimated at £14 10s., a greater part of which was occasioned by having to pay the watermen for being there, although the water was not required. He had seen defendant since the fire, and had asked him to take a fair proportion of the expenses, but that gentleman had refused, stating that he must first prove that the fire originated on his premises. By defendant —That bill is the selfsame one that I showed to you. I could swear that there has been no alteration made in it since. There was no fee of one guinea for any services at the fire in the bill when you saw it. George Barlow, Captain of the Imperial Fire Brigade, stated that on the evening of the 11th inst, as an alarm of fire was given, he in company with some others took the fire-engine down to Mr. Birrell's residence, where they found a chimney on fire. The engine not being required, they mounted the roof of his house, and in a few minutes, they, with others, succeeded in effectually extinguishing the flames. The chimney was adjacent to the residence of defendant. By defendant— The chimney was a large one. There might have been more than one flue leading to it. Could not swear in which, flue the fire originated, could swear that the flames issued from a chimney connected with your residence. Other witnesses were examined, all of whom concurred that the chimney from which the flame issued was connected with the house occupied by the defendant. Defendant stated that the fire did not originate in the flue used by him, and that there was not the slightest necessity for the fire-engines at all. The Bench considered the charge proved, and inflicted a fine of 2/., and costs, 4/. 10s. to all.

***South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 1 December 1860, page 3***

Fire on the Railway.— About 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning a watchman on the Adelaide Railway Station discovered one of the closed trucks that had arrived by the 7 o'clock train from Kapunda), (containing wool, to be on fire. He immediately gave the alarm to the rest of the watchmen, and with their united efforts succeeded in staying the progress of the flames by dragging out the contents of the burning vehicle. The truck is chiefly injured at the top and sides. The wool is but little burnt— not nearly as much as was at first anticipated. The origin of the fire is not positively known, but it is supposed that a spark from the engine was

the cause of it; if so, it must have been smouldering from the time the train arrived till the time of its discovery— a period of seven hours.