

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1864

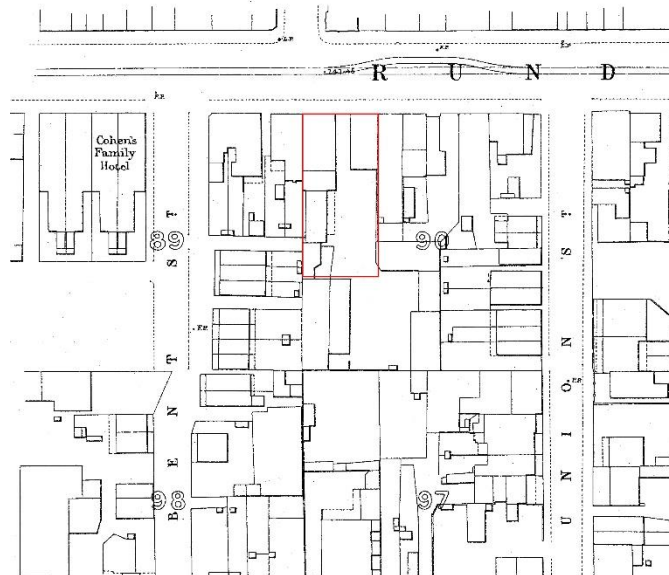
ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.			
(Office—Government Buildings, King William Street.)			
<i>Manager of Waterworks</i> —B. Boothby, jun.			
<i>Clerk</i> —J. Borrow			
<i>Collectors of Water-rates</i> —W. T. Cooper, J. Jowett, R. Whayman			
<i>Turncocks</i> —Chas. Seymour, Valve-house, East Park Lands			
Geo. Harris, Margaret Street, North Adelaide			
S. Boddington, Chancery Lane, Wakefield Street.			
FIRE BRIGADE.			
By Act No. 6 of 1862, the Governor is authorized to appoint a Superintendent of Fire Brigade (nominated and paid by the Insurance			
Companies), who has command of all Fire Brigades and engines. He may cause to be pulled down and removed adjacent buildings necessary to prevent extension of fires. He may recover expenses of attendance of Brigade at fires from owners, occupiers, or insurers. Police to maintain order at fires.			
<i>Superintendent of Fire Brigade</i> —Arthur Jno. Baker, 2, Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders Street.			
FIRE-ENGINE STATIONS.			
(Each of which is supplied with a hose-reel, 200 feet of hose, together with standards, keys, and ladders, &c.)			
No. 1 Station, Rundle Street east; Foreman, Geo. Barlow, and two assistants in charge			
" 2 Station, Blyth Street; Foreman, J. Carvosso, and assistant, J. H. Howe			
" 3 Station, Waymouth Street east; Foreman, Government Turncock, J. Platts, and assistant, Mervyn			
" 4 Station, Margaret Street, N.A.; Foreman, Government Turncock, G. Harris, and assistant, N. Clarke			
Two fire bells are erected at the Adelaide Police Station, King William Street, next the General Post Office, which are rung on occasions of alarm of fire. Fire main-plugs are fixed at short distances in nearly every street. In case of fire information should be given at once to the nearest of the above places or Police Station.			
The following rewards are offered for early notice of fires;—			
REWARDS.			
Alarm: First person giving notice of any fire to Superintendent of Fire Brigade at 2, Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders Street, entitled to	...	...	£0 10 0
First Brigade Reel at any fire	...	...	3 0 0
Second " " "	...	...	2 0 0
Third " " "	...	...	1 0 0
The Foreman of the Reel that arrives first at any fire takes command until relieved by the Superintendent.			

From the Boothby Directory and Almanac 1864

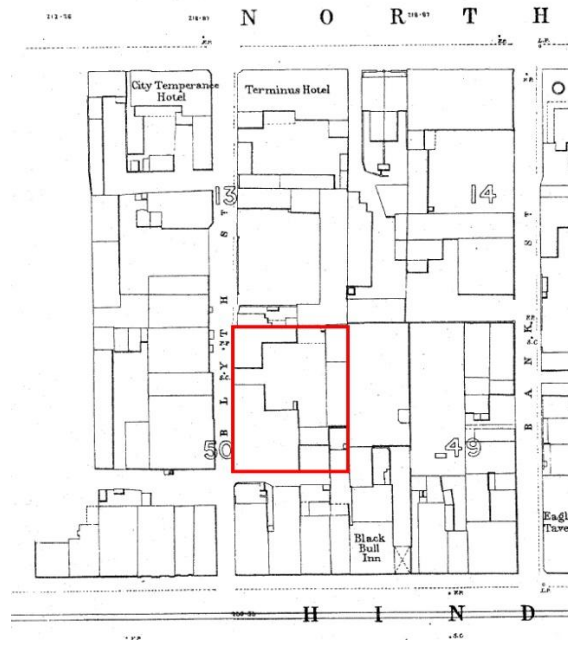
Locations in South Adelaide of Fire Reel locations



No 1 Station, Rundle Street East, with George Barlow, foreman, and two assistants. The reel was kept at the Barlow and Sons Coachbuilding works, South side of Rundle Street between Bent and Union Streets. The location, opposite the Tavistock buildings became the location to the new Frome Street between North Terrace and Pirie Street, joining Ackland Street.



No 2 Station on Blythe Street was at the works of Samuel Carvosso's and Jonathon G. Coulls, Coachbuilders, East side and half way between North Terrace and Hindley Street. Samuel Carvosso foreman with J. H. Howe as assistant.



No 3 Station is located somewhere along Wakefield Street East, with the Government turncock Mr. J. Platts and Mervyn as an assistant.

No 4 Station is in North Adelaide, somewhere in Margaret Street with Government turncock George Harris as Foreman and Mr N. Clarke as assistant.



Fire bells are present at the Police Station in King William Street, next to the General Post Office on Victoria Square.

Each Fire Engine Station is supplied with a hose-reel, 200 foot of hose, together with standards, keys and ladders along with other small items.

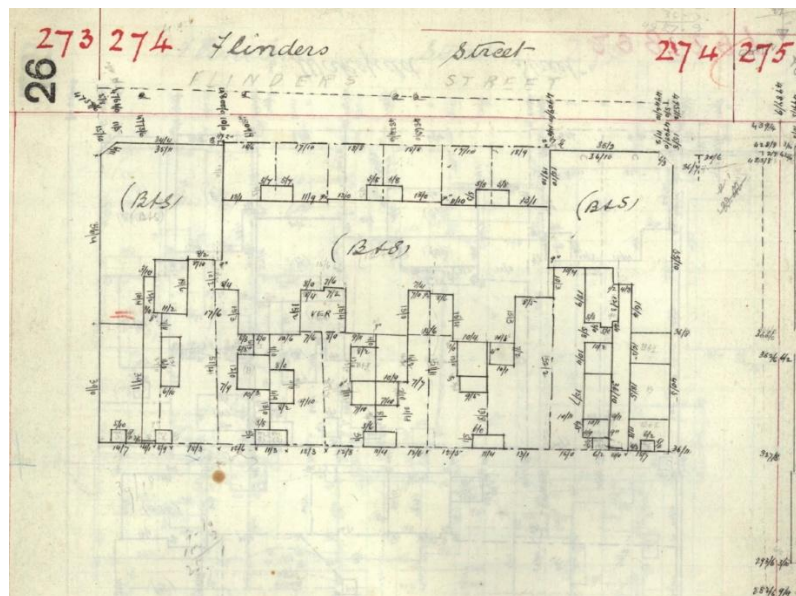
Dorsetta Terrace, location of the Superintendent of Fire Brigade.



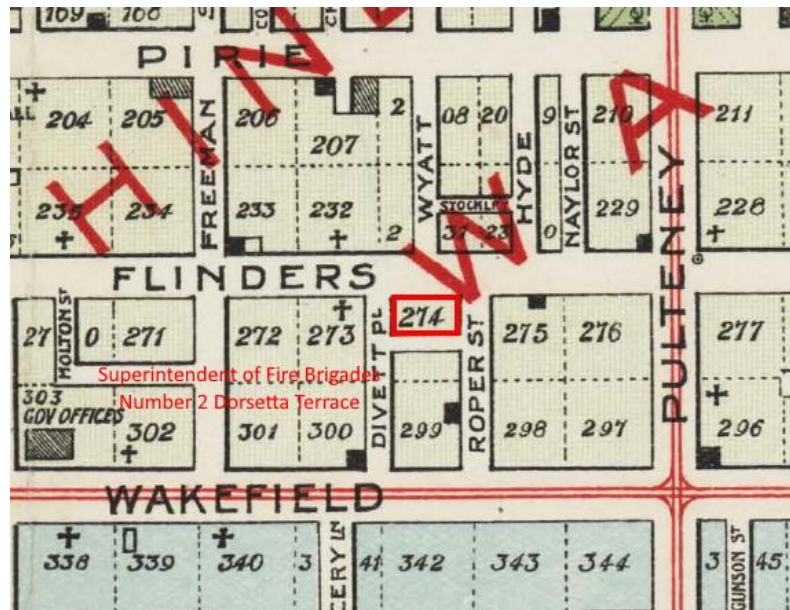
State Library of South Australia - Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders Street, Adelaide [B 855], Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders Street, Adelaide, south side in March 1922, photographed before alteration. "Dorsetta Terrace was erected by Emmanuel Solomon in the 1850s. The central two storey part comprises 6 houses and will shortly be built on to the street alignment forming shops etc. and the first floor will be converted into offices" [Letter from Davies and Wooldridge, architects, March 24, 1922, no. 34257.] On the right is Divett Place and the Howard College stands on the west corner of Roper Street. A.G. Schroeder, Land Brokers, occupies the corner premises at number 81. For alternate view see B 859. For the subsequent appearance of this block see B1546. 1922. Photographer, Government Photolithographer (S.A).



State Library of South Australia - Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders St, Adelaide [B 859], Dorsetta Terrace, Flinders Street, Adelaide, south side in March 1922, photographed before alteration. "Dorsetta Terrace was erected by Emmanuel Solomon in the 1850s. The central two storey part comprises 6 houses and will shortly be built on to the street alignment forming shops etc. and the first floor will be converted into offices" [Letter from Davies and Wooldridge, architects, March 24, 1922, no. 34257.] On the right is Divett Place and the Howard College stands on the west corner of Roper Street. For alternate view see B 855. For the subsequent appearance of this block see B1546. 1922. Part of Acre 274 Collection



Dorsetta Terrace - Smiths Survey 1880



State Library of South Australia - Excerpt from Robert S. Frearson's plan of the City of Adelaide, 1905. [C296].

Stubble Burning and Bush Fire Act 1864

The Stubble Burning and Bush Fire Act.

This Act was passed in the session of 1864 for restraining the negligent or wilful destruction of property by fire, and provides that any person wilfully or negligently destroying, injuring, or endangering property by setting on fire or burning timber, grain, straw, stubble, hay, grass, or other produce or material growing, lying, or being in any place whatever, shall, on conviction, forfeit a penalty not less than £3 nor exceeding £10. Holders of annual depasturage licences to give one day's notice of intention to burn scrub, &c., within hundreds to Crown Lands Ranger. No fire shall be lighted for burning stubble, &c., between 1st *November* and 15th *April*, unless between 6 and 10 o'clock in the afternoon. District Councils have power to alter the hours of burning in their districts by notice in the *Government Gazette*, and by fixing same on door of District Council Office for 30 days.

No stubble shall be burned between 1st November and 15th April without giving neighbours one day's notice; nor without having on the spot at least four persons to assist in preventing spread of such fire; nor without ploughing or clearing at least three feet round inside the fence. Penalty £3 to £10.

No ignitable wadding to be used between 1st September and 30th April. Penalty, £5.

Person carrying gun on land of another person liable to examination of such gun. Penalty for opposing or refusing to give name, £2 to £5.

Travellers lighting fires for cooking, &c., to clear, before lighting such fire, a space of ground around the same of a radius of ten feet in the least of all grass, bushes, and leaves or branches of trees; and having *lighted or used* any such fire neglecting to extinguish the fire fully before leaving, the same liable to a penalty of £2 to £5.

Every person who shall, during November, December, January, February, March, and April, smoke in the open air within twenty yards of any stable, rick, stack, or stubble, or *field of hay, corn, or straw*, &c., unless in a town or village. Penalty, 10s. to £2.

Blasting trees, &c., within months of November to April, without having at least four persons present to prevent any fire arising therefrom. Penalty, £5.

Coroners or Justices of the Peace to hold inquests on all fires.

Act does not take away or affect any right of action or other remedy which any person may have in respect of any loss or damage occasioned by any fire, or for any trespass committed.

All penalties may be recovered in a summary way before any two or more Justices of the Peace. Appeal to Adelaide Local Court.

Police constables and Crown Lands Rangers have received strict instructions to lay informations and enforce penalties for any violation of the Bush Fire Act of 1864.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 23 January 1864, page 3

GREAT FIRE AT UNLEY FARM.

About 2 o'clock on Monday, the 18th January, smoke was seen in the direction of Parkside, which caused apprehension that some of the large private residences in that quarter were on fire. A reporter from this establishment was quickly on the scene, and ascertained, so far as information could under such exciting circumstances be obtained, that a spark from the portable steam-engine working a thrashing machine had lodged in a heap of straw, ignited

it, and caused the conflagration. At that time the flames were confined to the refuse of the thrashing-floor; but they formed several large heaps, and the intense heat, extent of flame, and large bodies of ignited matter driven by the strong hot wind then blowing, threatened destruction to all the buildings on the farm. The men employed on the premises and others who came to their assistance unfortunately directed their attention to securing the safety of comparatively valueless articles of furniture in the dwelling-house, while expensive agricultural implements and vehicles were being consumed-We noticed Messrs. Macaulay and Ashwin, Surveyors of the Central Board, usefully employed in tugging a reaping-machine beyond the reach of the flames, but unfortunately there was no person possessed of such judgment to guide the large amount of labour that was available upon the ground. Two detectives and Mr. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, arrived, but not in time to be of any material service. The slaughter house caught fire with a fat bullock within it which had been knocked down for slaughter but not dispatched, and such was the rapidity with which the flames consumed the structure that the slaughterman had barely time to secure his own safety, and had to abandon the carcase of the bullock to the devouring element. As in the great fire of London, the names appeared in this case to leap over vast intervals, and even to catch and consume buildings far to windward. The stables followed the fate of the slaughterhouse, notwithstanding great efforts made to save them; and then the piggery and other outbuildings, containing rendered fat and crushed bones, were successively consumed. Mr. Crossman was at an auction sale at Good-wood, when he saw indications of fire in the direction of his residence. He proceeded home rapidly, but only arrived to find all his property, the dwelling-house alone accepted, in flames or in ashes. Under the direction of Mr. Crossman, several men mounted with him the roof of the dwelling-house, and, in an atmosphere as stifling as the simoom, contrived, by pouring water on the shingled portion of the roof (part being covered with galvanized iron), to preserve the house. The horses were early in the visitation let loose, but some of the pigs are supposed to have been burnt to death; and it was pitiful to see the cats, accustomed to live in the stables, die there rather than leave, notwithstanding many efforts made to drive them away. It is supposed that, in addition to the outbuildings totally consumed, 100 bags of oats were lost; there were also a large stack of oats to be thrashed and an immense pile of straw. Further on there was a stack of skinless barley, containing, it was estimated, 2,400 bushels; another stack of Cape barley, estimated at 550 bushels; and a large stack of English barley, the contents of which were not estimated, totally consumed. We have heard it said that the men in charge of the steam-engine were remark-ably sober and careful operatives; but, on the other hand, we heard it said that the straw had before taken fire, and that it was contrary to com-mon sense to use a steam-engine on such a day in the position which that employed by Mr. Cross-man occupied in reference to such an immense mass of inflammable matter. We regret to say that Mr. Crossman was altogether uninsured. The efforts to confine the fire to the ruins of Unley Farm on Monday night were successful Mr. Crossman. and his servants were on the alert all night, as a freshening of the wind might at any moment have sent the flames towards the dwelling-house, which had in the day been saved with great difficulty. Mr. Michell, of King William-street, and Mr. Fox, of Sturt-street, who had both been on the ground, but left in the evening, returned after 11 o'clock, and remained with Mr. Crossman until 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning. As there was no water supply, the men were compelled to let the fire burn itself out, the great object being to prevent its extension, beyond the farm. To expedite the work of destruction that could not be arrested, a large wheel was drawn by chains through the charred heaps of straw and unthrashed corn, so as to separate

them, and by exposure of the partially consumed matter to the air render the combustion more complete, and the embers easier to extinguish. By such means the immense masses of burning straw, &c., were rapidly reduced to smouldering heaps of ashes, and the danger of the fire extending beyond them greatly diminished.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 12 February 1864, page 2

ALARM OF FIRE.—On Thursday, about 1 o'clock, the fire-bell rang out an alarm, and sent an anxious and excited crowd in the direction indicated. Before any of those so directed arrived at the scene of the fire it had been completely suppressed. It appeared upon enquiry that some plumbers employed on the roof of the Albion Hotel, Morphett, went to dinner, leaving, with most reprehensible negligence, their portable furnace with ignited charcoal in the gutter or on the parapet. The wind, it is supposed, sent some sparks under the galvanized iron with which the old shingle roof had been covered, and the weather-beaten material caught fire like touch paper, but burning, owing to its confined situation, without flame. A child happened to go into a room but little used by day, found it full of smoke, and gave an alarm. Mr. Heed, the landlord, immediately made for the roof, calling for assistance. Some men having gained the roof, it took but an instant to tear off a sheet or two of galvanized iron, and water from a tap in the bar having been brought to bear upon the fire by means of a flexible tube, through a skylight, the fire, at one moment very threatening, was completely extinguished. Police sergeant Plunkett happened in going his rounds to be near the Albion when the outcry of fire was raised. He immediately dispatched the policeman doing duty in Hindley-street to the station to cause a general alarm by ringing the fire-bell. Having seen the fire extinguished, Sergeant Plunkett started off to the station and caused the ringing of the bell to be discontinued. On his way he met a Waterworks turncock with a reel, and informed him there was no occasion for his services; the man, however, went on and satisfied himself that he was not wanted. Mr. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, was on the ground soon after the alarm was given, but not until the fire had been extinguished.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 22 December 1864, page 2

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A destructive fire occurred on Wednesday night at the warehouse of Messrs. J. T. Church & Co., corner of Currie and Peel streets. The alarm was given by Mr. A. Henderson at the Police Station between 12 and 1 o'clock, and the fire-bell was at once sounded. Its peal, though none the loudest, soon woke many of the citizens, who quickly hastened to the scene of the disaster. Mr. C. E. Tidemann, at whose auction mart opposite a ball was being held, was, with some of his friends, among the first to arrive, and they saw a large body of fire in the cellar, besides clouds of smoke escaping from the building. The Police were in early attendance with two fire-hoses; but a considerable delay arose in finding the fire-plugs from which the water was to be procured. Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, was aroused at 10 minutes past 1 o'clock, and was on the spot very shortly afterwards. By this time his assistants had also arrived, and they at once set to work. They attached the hoses to the fire-plugs, and a strong body of water was immediately ejected into the upper and underground rooms, which were still burning fiercely. The conflagration, however, being confined within the building, considerably lessened the apprehension at first felt for the adjacent premises, Messrs. Tolley & Co.'s. A continuous stream of water was applied to the fire, and shortly before 3 o'clock it was sufficiently extinguished to allay apprehension of any

further danger. The stock of Messrs. Church and Co. consisted chiefly of fancy goods, such as toys, and other inflammable articles. As a consequence, they were mostly, if not all, destroyed; in fact, the shop appeared to have been completely gutted by the devouring element. After the fire was subdued Mr. Baker entered the premises, and found that the office had not been injured. The cellar had about three to four feet of water in it when the Superintendent and two of the firemen entered; they went through it, and with buckets completely extinguished the fire that had taken hold of the floor and beams of the shop. The fire is supposed to have commenced in the cellar. We understand that the property is insured, but we are unable to state to what amount. Mr. J. T. Church, the head of the firm, is at present in England; and during his absence Mr. Nottram has been managing the business. We are informed by Mr. Tidemann that about 8 o'clock in the evening he saw a light, apparently a candle, in the shop; but as doubtless an inquest will be held this and other circumstances will be fully enquired into.

Adelaide Express (SA : 1863 - 1866), Saturday 24 December 1864, page 3

INQUEST ON THE FIRE, CURRIE-STREET.

Dr. Woodforde, the Coroner, held, at the White Horse Inn, Currie-street, on Friday morning, an investigation into the circumstances connected with the origin of the fire which occurred during Wednesday night in the warehouse of Messrs. J. T. Church & Co., at the corner of Currie and Peel-streets. A respectable Jury of 15 having been empanelled, Mr. J. M. Linklater was chosen Foreman. The Coroner and Jurors then went to the scene of the fire. On entering the store the extent of the damage done by the fire was apparent. Many goods were still on the shelves charred and burnt, while on the floor were lying in indescribable confusion the debris of the stock of a fancy-warehouse. In the cellar there was a considerable quantity of water and we understand a good deal of water had also soaked through into the adjoining cellars, doing some damage to the goods there.

The Coroner drew the attention of the Jury to the cellar-window in Peel-street. There were gratings in the window-frames, placed about six or seven inches apart, and the only protection before them was a piece of board, which at night was placed against the bars, and during the day was thrown back to admit light to the cellar.

Mr. Ingleby attended for the Colonial Insurance Company, of Victoria; Mr. Cooper for the Queen Insurance Company; and Mr. Fenn for Messrs. Church & Co.

Alexander Henderson, confectioner, Hindley-street, was the first witness called. He said, on Wednesday night, about half-past 12 o'clock, he was passing along the foot of Peel-street, when he saw a glare of light proceeding from Church & Co.'s premises. Went up immediately, and looked through the north cellar window. About 10 or 12 feet inside from the window he saw a fire burning. There was no shutter up to prevent him seeing the flames. Could not see fire in any other part of the building, and if there had been any he thought he should have seen it. There was no one there when he first arrived, but as he was running to the Police-Station to give the alarm he saw a man pass across Peel-street westward. Called out "fire," but he took no notice.

By Mr. Ingleby—The fire appeared to him to be in the centre of the cellar, and the flames were all in one spot, and about a yard square. It had not then caught the ceiling. Did not see the ladder nor the partition. Did not hear any water running. By Mr. Cooper—The fire was

exactly opposite the window. Did not know the person he saw as he was going to the Police-station.

Fritz Hienrich Barenhorz stated that he lived at the Wellington Inn, Currie-street. He first saw the fire at about ten minutes past 1 o'clock on the previous morning. He had been standing in Currie-street, at the corner of Peel-street, for about five minutes, but he saw no one about. He saw the fire first coming out of the cellar window in Peel-street. There was a piece of wood up against the window, which fell back and attracted his attention. He ran to the window, and looking down saw the whole cellar in flames. He thought he was the first who saw the fire. He ran across to Mr. Tidemann's on the other side of the road, where a ball was being held, and called him but he did not come. When he came back he saw a man up Peel-street look in at the window and then say he would go up to the Police-Station.

By Mr. Ingleby—About a quarter of an hour after first seeing the fire he heard the fire-bell. Could not see what was burning, but it smelt as if deal was burning. Did not hear any water running. Called out "fire" four or five times and two policemen came up in about five minutes after he saw the fire. There was no fire in the upper part of the building.

By Mr. Cooper—Had not been smoking. Could not say how long the fire had been burning when he first saw it. Had not seen anyone come from the neighborhood of the premises while he was standing there.

By Mr. Fenn—Peel-street was dark as night; but Currie street was very light. The moon was up, but was still low. Could not have seen anyone in Peel-street.

By the Coroner—Heard the clock strike 1 before he was standing at the corner of Peel-street. Was certain the time at which he said he saw the fire was correct, because of this circumstance.

Police-Constable Martin Doherty stated that he was on duty on the previous morning, and about five minutes past 1 o'clock he came into Currie-street from Light-square. Saw Constable Mortimer, who was on duty in Currie-street, and called out to him that there was a fire on his beat, as he saw smoke rising apparently from the stores opposite Mr. Tidemann's. Both ran down to Church & Co.'s place and found it to be on fire. Previous to getting there heard a call, but could not say what it was, nor could he see any one. There was no one at the fire when they arrived. The fire showed nowhere else but at the north cellar window. Mortimer at once ran to the Police-Station, and witness proceeded to Mr. Baker's, the Superintendent of Fire Brigade.

By Mr. Ingleby—Fixed the time because he heard the town clock strike one when he was in Light-square.

By Mr. Cooper—Smoke only was issuing from the front of the store. Did not see any fire or smoke coming from the south cellar window.

Alexander Henderson was recalled, and said, though he had stated the fire occurred at half-past 12, he could not be sure that it was not 1 o'clock.

By Mr. Ingleby—Ran all the way from the store to the Police-station, and met a policeman coming out.

Arthur John Baker said he was Superintendent of Fire Brigades. Yesterday morning at 10 minutes past 1 o'clock he was called to the fire by Police-Constable Doherty, Arrived at Church's about 20 minutes past 10 o'clock. There was a crowd of persons there, and one of the hose reels from Hindley-street arrived at the same time. When he arrived the fire was in the upper as well as the lower portion of the building, and smoke and flame were issuing from the cellar and shop windows. All the premises were on fire. While he was endeavoring to find the fire-plug some one burst open the door in Peel-street. Subdued the fire in about two hours, and then entered the building with Inspector Hamilton. His impression was that the fire began in the northern part of the cellar. Saw nothing to excite suspicion. There were about three feet of water in the cellar, and cases and nests of American tubs were floating about. Put out all the fire in the beams. After doing that he returned to the northern end of the cellar and found that the Waterworks tap was running in a full stream. It was turned on to the full extent and on trying to stop it he found the screw useless, and the stop cock in front of the building had to be shut off. Did not understand the construction of the taps used by the Waterworks authorities sufficiently to state how they would be affected by fire. Two hoses were playing into the building for nearly two hours. The nozzle of the hose was about the same size as the Waterworks tap. The tap was running when he entered the cellar. Had not seen any cases of lucifer matches there.

By Mr. Cooper—Should not have thought there could have been more than 18 inches of water thrown from the hoses. His impression was that the tap had been running all night. Was of opinion (after seeing the lower part of the ladder) that there was no water in the cellar when the fire began.

By Mr. Fenn—Did not know whether the cellar was usually wet.

One of the jurors was called, and questioned as to the effect of fierce fire upon the tap, but as he could give no positive evidence, the Coroner did not place his statement or record.

George Dodgson, jun., plumber and glazier, said he had examined the tap in the cellar of Messrs. Church & Co.'s store, and found that a portion of the washer in the valve was destroyed, leaving an outlet for the water. Believed it had been destroyed by the boiling water in the tap. Could not account for the screw of the tap being found entirely up. Did not think a jet from a hose would turn the thumb-plate.

The enquiry was adjourned at a quarter past 1 o'clock for half an hour.

On re-assembling, Mr. J. S. Young was absent, but arrived some time afterwards, and was reprimanded by the Coroner.

Henry Mottram, manager for Mr. Church during his stay in England, stated that he was engaged on the premises till half-past 5 o'clock on Wednesday evening. At that time he went home and did not return until after the fire had broken out. When he left the premises the rest of the employees were there, viz., Stephen Church, Edward Flemming, Christopher Cooper, and Eli Knowles. Had been stocktaking, and left Mr. Church in charge. He was always the last one there, and took the keys home with him. Thought they would have finished their work about 10 o'clock. Did not usually stay on the premises after 6 or 7 o'clock. They were all very steady lads during business hours. Could not surmise the cause of the fire. Had no matches or other dangerous articles in the store. The stock consisted of cutlery, hardware, brushware, fancy-ware, and toys. The lads had no duty in the cellar. All they could have gone there for was to wash their hands. Never knew any of them to smoke. Could not account for

the tap being found running. There was glass in the north cellar window, but he could not say whether it was perfect or not. There was no glass at the other cellar window, A match or lighted cigar thrown in at the window would find goods sufficiently inflammable to catch fire. Had been connected with the premises twelve months, and there had been no occurrence of fire before. Did not now think the cellar gratings were sufficiently protected against wilful or accidental fire from without. The Insurance Companies in which he was insured had never remonstrated with him respecting them.

By Mr. Ingleby—There were toys and crockery stored at the northern end of the cellar.

By Mr. Fenn—The greater portion of the goods were in paper wrappers.

Stephen Boaz Church stated that he had charge of the stock of his uncle, Mr. J. T. Church. On Wednesday evening he was at the premises. Mr. Mottram left about 6 o'clock. Remained taking stock with Edward Flemming (the apprentice), Christopher (the packer), and Eli Knowles. Remained upstairs taking stock till about half past 10 o'clock, when they finished work. They then went into the cellar, and he carried a paraffin lamp, which was turned down for safety. The paraffin lamp was the only light on the premises at the time. Went into the cellar to wash their hands. Were not there more than five minutes, and placed the light at first on the counter at the side of the tap; but not thinking it safe he shifted it to near the window, where he put it on a looking-glass on the counter. Thought it unsafe at the first because there were some scrubbing brushes near. No matches 'were lighted in' the cellar, nor any smoking. On leaving the cellar he turned down the lamp again, and no one returned into the cellar. Immediately after returning from the cellar he put out the lamp, and they all left the premises, he shutting the side door. Did not know at all how the fire occurred. Could swear the tap was not left running. The cellar windows in Peel-street had glass in with the exception of one pane, which had been broken and replaced with tin. No one during the evening took the candle or lamp into the cellar.

By Mr. Cooper—Did not believe any fire had been communicated from without unless a window had been previously broken.

By the Coroner—Had no suspicion of anyone.

By Mr. Ingleby—Blew the lamp out from the bottom of the chimney.

Edward Gilbert Flemming, an apprentice to Messrs. Church & Co., corroborated Mr. Church's evidence. He added that there was a quantity of rubbish in the areas in front of the windows in Peel-street. A match or cigar thrown into the rubbish might soon set fire to it.

Christopher Cooper, packer at Mr. Church's store, gave similar evidence to the last two witnesses.

The Coroner said the cause of the fire was clouded in mystery. The evidence was straightforward and bore upon it the impress of truth. If the fire originated in side it must have been from a spark accidentally communicated from the lamp, but it was quite possible that it might have been ignited from without if a person had determined to do so. He did not think much attention need be paid to the tap being turned on, because that would hardly be used against a person wishing to set the place on fire. However he would leave them to consider their verdict.

The jury, after some minutes' consideration, handed in the following verdict to the Coroner:—The jury are of opinion that the fire originated in the brush room, and was apparently purely accidental."

The Coroner said that verdict quite met his views.

Messrs. Church & Co's stock was insured in the Colonial Insurance Company of Victoria to the extent of £2,500, and the premises are insured in the Queen Insurance Company we believe for £500.