

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1867

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.
 (Office—Government Buildings, King William Street.)
Manager of Waterworks—B. Boothby, jun.
Clerk—H. P. G. Sparks.
Collectors of Water Rates—W. T. Cooper, J. Jowett, W. Delano.
Turncocks—Chas. Seymour, Valve-house, East Park Lands
 Geo. Harris, Margaret-street, North Adelaide
 S. Boddington, Chancery Lane, Wakefield Street.

FIRE BRIGADE.
Superintendent of Fire Brigade—Arthur Jno. Baker, East Terrace,
 corner of Wakefield-street.

FIRE ENGINE STATIONS.
 (Each of which is supplied with a hose-reel, 200 feet of hose, together
 with standards, keys, ladders, &c.)

No. 1 Station, Rundle-street east. Foreman, Geo. Barlow.
 “ 2 “ Blyth-street. Foreman, J. Carvosso.
 “ 3 “ Waymouth-street. Foreman, Govt. Turncock.
 “ 4 “ Margaret-street, N.A. Foreman, Govt. Turncock.

Boothby Directory 1867



South Adelaide location Map 1867



North Adelaide location map 1867

No 3 Station in Waymouth Street East with Government Turncock J. Platts and Assistant Mervyn.

[Newspaper Articles for 1867](#)

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 5 January 1867, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Monday afternoon, the roof of Mr. Boord's house on North-terrace, caught fire, but was soon extinguished. Carvosso's reel was on the ground, and Mr. A. J. Baker was there also, but no damage was done other than to the roof of the building, which, was somewhat injured.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 23 January 1867, page 2

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

At this season of the year the danger of fire is a constant cause of anxiety to all householders and to the Insurance Companies. We heard last week from Kapunda of the destruction of fifteen hundred pounds worth of property in little more than an hour. But for a sudden and providential "slant of the wind," as a spectator termed it, that fifteen hundred might have been converted into as many thousands, for the Main-street of Kapunda lay exactly in the line of the fire, and the flames could have reached from house to house, right across the town, as easily as they reached from Judge's haystack to Mr. Pearce's timber-shed. On the same day one of the largest flour-mills in the colony — Messrs. Duffield & Co.'s, of Gawler— had a still more narrow escape. But for the proximity of a water-tank to the place where the fire originated the mill would not have been worth an hours purchase. In view of the utter neglect manifested by all of the provincial Corporations with regard to the means of preventing fire, such accidents ought to be taken as serious warnings. No doubt the provincial Corporations will discuss the matter at some of their next meetings, and enter

formal resolutions about it in their minute-books ; but similar twinges of the corporate conscience have been seen before to smooth themselves out again and end in nothing. Patriotism may be very good for making parliaments, but it is apt to be careless about the common things of life. The protection of property from fire is a commercial consideration, and must be taken up by those who have a commercial interest in it. We are not surprised, therefore, to hear that the attention of the various Fire Insurance Companies is being directed to the statistics of recent casualties. Mr. A. J. Baker, the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, has submitted to them a set of very interesting returns, which, having obtained a copy of, we now propose to analyse for the benefit of our readers. Return No. 1 shows the number of times the Brigade had been called out during the past seven years. The total number is 80, or 11 $\frac{3}{7}$ per annum. This includes 5 false alarms and 12 fires in chimney-flues, leaving 63 really dangerous cases. Of these 55 were in buildings or shops, 6 in stables or sheds, 1 in a hayrick, and 1 in a ship at the Port. Return No. 2 classifies the fires according to the period of the day when they occurred: — Eight between midnight and 6 o'clock in morning, five between 6 o'clock and midday, twenty-nine between midday and 6 o'clock in the evening, and thirty-eight between the latter hour and midnight. Actually more than three-fourths of the accidents by fire occur at a time when people are supposed to be most wide awake and best prepared for danger. Judging from Adelaide experience, it is unfair to the incandescent god to represent him as stealing upon us like a thief in the night, when he almost invariably makes an honest attack in open day — provoked, it may be, in many cases, by our own gross carelessness or want of precaution. Another point in this return is significant ; the large proportion of fires which take place in the evening (38), amounting to close on one-half of the entire number reported. In attempting to account for such a concentration of accidents into a particular part of the day we naturally bethink ourselves of the many workshops where fire has been used during working hours, and been insufficiently extinguished, or it may be not extinguished at all before leaving. Then there are other cases which one does not like to contemplate, but which are by no means rare in many places — wilful burning of insured property for the sake of the insurance-money, or even for a pretence to base a respectable insolvency upon. Such fires are also most likely to be heard of within a few hours of closing time. This branch of Mr. Baker's statistics is not a mere theoretic novelty or a stray coincidence. There is a basis of practical truth in it which the Insurance Companies ought to keep in view. It should be remembered that the return is not for one year only, but gives the aggregate result of seven years' experience. Return No. 3 classifies the fires according to locality. Mr. Baker appears to sub-divide his jurisdiction into three districts — the city, the suburbs, and the Port. To the first he assigns sixty of the eighty fires re-ported on, to the second fifteen, and to the third the wonderfully small number of five. Any one who has the slightest acquaintance with fire insurance statistics will observe that the above represents a very small average of casualties. To appreciate its smallness we must compare it with the extent of the liability to danger. According to the last census, there were within the municipal boundaries of Adelaide in 1865 upwards of 5,000 houses. That was the measure of our liability to danger from fire. The number of fires that actually occurred in 1866 was seventeen — very little more than a third per cent, of the buildings exposed to danger. But if we take the average of the whole seven years, which was about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per annum, the proportion of the casualties to the liability sinks to a sixth per cent. The number of houses in Kensington and Nor-wood is given at 919. If we debit this one Corporation with all the fires in the suburbs — about two per annum — we find the ratio to be very little more than a fifth per cent. In the Port there are said to be 603 houses of all

kinds. The average number of fires during the seven years was less than one per annum (five-sevenths), giving a ratio of casualties to liability of hardly an eighth per cent. As a rule our householders must exercise great care, or the average could not be kept so remarkably low. We know of no other city that can lay claim to greater exemption from this sort of danger; not even in the old country, where a humid climate diminishes the risk, especially out of doors, and where far more elaborate means than ours are available for checking fires. And not only is the number of casualties small, but the damage done is invariably trifling. The promptitude with which the Fire Brigade turns out, and the energy with which its operations are directed, have saved us during the past seven years from anything that would deserve the name of a serious catastrophe. The Insurance Companies who derive the principal benefit from this proved efficiency of the Brigade have not failed to compliment Mr. Baker upon it. In Return No. 4 the fires are classified according to the months in which they happened. The most fatal months were November, February, and March— the number of fires in these being 11 in the first and 10 in each of the other two. The least fatal months were May, June, September, and December, their respective totals being 4, 1, 4, 4. As the two last returns are worthy of examination in detail, we give them as furnished by Mr. Baker :—

Year	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	Tl.
January ...	2	1	1	0	2	2	1	9
February ...	3	0	0	3	3	0	1	10
March ...	0	0	5	0	2	0	3	10
April ...	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	7
May ...	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
June ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
July ...	2	3	0	0	2	1	1	9
August ...	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5
September...	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
October ...	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	6
November ...	3	0	0	1	0	5	2	11
December ...	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Total ...	13	8	9	10	11	10	19	80
In Adelaide	8	4	7	6	9	9	17	60
The Suburbs	5	3	2	3	2	0	0	15
Pt Adelaide	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	5
Total ...	13	8	9	10	11	10	19	80

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 28 January 1867, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

On Sunday morning, about half-past 7 o'clock, a fire broke out at the residence of Mr. John Hance, on North-terrace. It originated in the roof, which was thatched, but had recently been covered with galvanized iron, the thatch still remaining. On the discovery of the fire, the inmates were soon aroused, and the alarm having been given, in a short time a considerable number of neighbors collected, and they evinced that they had not come as mere idle lookers-on, but with the intention of rendering whatever service they possibly could. By their help Mr. Hance succeeded in removing the whole of the furniture out of the house, and thereby out of the reach of the devouring element. Information was speedily

conveyed to the Superintendent (Mr. A. J. Baker) of Nos. 1 and 2 reels, and he, together with his men and reels, were quickly upon the spot and exerted themselves in a praiseworthy manner. Water was soon thrown over the house, but it had little effect for some time, as it was prevented from reaching the fire by the galvanized iron, but that having been removed, it rapidly succumbed to the power of the water, and about 10 o'clock it was got under, yet not before the house was almost completely consumed. The brigade, with their numerous assistants, succeeded in totally extinguishing the fire just prior to 1 o'clock. The kitchen and sheds at the rear of the house, whither the furniture had been taken, fortunately escaped destruction, although for some time they were in imminent danger. The police on the occasion did good service by keeping the garden clear of persons who by their presence would have hindered rather than assisted those who were willing to work. As to the origin of the fire, the suppositions are more numerous than satisfactory. It is suggested that from the excessive heat of the weather, the thatch being connected with the galvanized iron, had ignited, and after smouldering had burst into flames; and it has also been thought, with perhaps equal probability, that the conflagration may have been occasioned by mice. But as these are merely suppositions we had better let the matter rest and await the result of the inquest. This house was one of the oldest in Adelaide, it having been erected about 25 years since. It was originally the dwelling of Mr. Arthur Hardy, and it has now shared the fate of the Government House, and most of the other principal old houses of the colony. We regret to state that it was not insured.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 31 January 1867, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

About 12 o'clock on Thursday a fire occurred in King William-street south, near the Brecknock Arms. From what we can gather it appears that the fire originated in a carpenter's shop belonging to Mr. Langsford. Some children called his attention to a fire, when he found a heap of shavings in a blaze. The flames quickly communicated to the shop and the adjoining dwelling-house, belonging to a Mr. Thompson, which were built of wood, were totally destroyed. The fire brigade was speedily on the spot, the No. 1 horse-reel (Barlowe's) being the first to arrive, and No. 3 second. The water was turned on and the fire was speedily extinguished. Adjoining, and in close proximity to the place where the fire occurred, are several other houses, which must have fallen a prey to the devouring element but for the prompt arrival of the fire brigade.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 2 February 1867, page 4

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

Fire on North-terrace.—Between 7 and 8 o'clock on Sunday morning a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. J. Hance, North-terrace. Mr. Hance was in bed when, smelling fire, he arose and asked one of his servants what was the cause. She ran outside and saw smoke proceeding from the west end of the roof, which was of galvanized iron over thatch. Many of the neighbours soon arrived and rendered prompt assistance in saving the furniture, all of which was removed, the only article much damaged being the piano. The fire had meanwhile spread along the whole top of the house, and in about 20 minutes the ceiling of Mr. Hance junior's, bedroom at the east side of the house fell in. Information had been sent to Mr. Barlow, who was speedily on the spot with No. 1 reel, the hose of which was fixed and made to play upon the roof. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, Mr. A. J. Baker, was

not long in making his appearance, and under his direction the upper portion of the wall was knocked down and some of the sheets of iron taken off to admit of the water being directed on to the thatch. The flames were not extinguished until past 8 o'clock, when one side of the roof was completely removed so as to allow the smouldering straw to be pulled down. A continual stream of water was poured on it till half past 12, when all fear of the fire again breaking out had ceased. Another reel was brought soon after Mr. Baker's arrival, and no exertions were spared by the Superintendent and men of the Fire Brigade and several of the neighbours in endeavouring to extinguish the conflagration. The space between the ceiling and the roof had, when the cottage was built, been filled in with straw, which with the thatch made about three feet of combustible material; and it is conjectured that the fire originated from the sun having heated the galvanized iron to such a degree as to cause the thatch to ignite. Mr. Hance can hardly assign another cause, as no fire has been lit in the house since the winter, the kitchen being detached. The whole of the roof and part of the walls are completely destroyed, and all the windows of the house broken. Although the partition-walls are still standing, the house is quite unfit to be again inhabited. The Insurance Companies have always refused to insure it, as the roof was of thatch. In June last, however, this was covered with galvanized iron, the person who performed the work having said that no danger was likely to arise from such being done. The house, which was one of the oldest in the colony, had been occupied by Mr. Hance between 17 and 18 years, previous to which Mr. Anstey, who had it erected 28 years ago, lived in it.

Fire in King William-street.—A fire broke out on the premises of Mr. William Langsford, carpenter, near the Brecknock Arms, King William-street, at about 20 minutes past 12 on Thursday. Mrs. Thompson, who lived next door, happened to come outside her house about that time, when she observed flames issuing from the workshop which was situated at the rear of Mr. Langsford's dwelling-house. She immediately gave the alarm, and in a short time a large number of persons had collected. But the fire had obtained too firm a hold to be got under, and through the workshop being of wood and the quantity of wooden materials surrounding the place it spread with fearful rapidity. After consuming the workshop, it spread to a stack of fire-wood on Mrs. Thompson's property, and thence it communicated with her house, which, being constructed entirely of wood, was quickly a burning mass. The flames spread with such rapidity that no opportunity was allowed of saving any of the furniture. The whole of the contents of Mrs. Langsford's house were in the meantime taken out and deposited in the street. Unceasing exertions were made to prevent the conflagration spreading. The wind at first was blowing from the west, driving the flames full on to Langsford's house, but fortunately it in a short time veered round to the south-west. Had it not been for this change the house must have been burnt. As it was, the roof of the kitchen, though covered with galvanized iron, ignited, and required unceasing vigilance to prevent it spreading, a plentiful supply of water being handed up in buckets to men on the roof. Two other houses contiguous to Thompson's were in great danger, but through the assistance of the neighbours they were pre-served uninjured. About a quarter of an hour after the alarm No. 3 horse-reel (Coulls's) arrived and subsequently No. 1 (Barlow's), although the latter commenced to play first. A hand-reel, under the charge of the turncock, Mr. Boddington, was also on the spot, and by these means, under the direction of the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, the fire was speedily brought under subjection. By about half-past 1 the flames were entirely extinguished, the damage being confined to the destruction of Thompson's house and the workshop attached to Langsford's place, in addition to a few minor injuries. The workshop contained a large number of tools, &c.,

besides a quantity of timber, and Mr. Langsford estimates his total loss at about £150. The case of Thompson, who is a gas-fitter in the employ of the Gas Company, and was at the time at Port Adelaide, is a very distressing one, not a single article of furniture or dress being saved. Being somewhat a bird-fancier he had built an aviary, in which were about 100 canaries, all of which were burnt, with the exception of about seven or eight. He has a wife and two children, and we understand a subscription has already been set afoot for their relief. The house belonged to Mr. Thos. Yeo, of Port Adelaide. None of the property was insured. No clue has been found to the origin of the fire. The Coroner visited the ruins during the afternoon, but, after making enquiries, did not think it necessary to hold an inquest.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 26 February 1867, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS.

Fire at Kooringa.— Between 11 and 12 o'clock on Friday night, the 25th inst, a fire broke out at the rear of the Burra Hotel, Kooringa. The whole of the stables and stockyards were burned to the ground, together with a favourite horse and trap belonging to Mr. John Brown, commercial traveller. The engine from the mines was brought out, but was of no service. An inquest was held on Saturday, by Mr. MacDermott, S.M., and a Jury, but no clue whatever could be obtained as to the origin of the fire.

Fire on North-terrace.— Between 7 and 8 o'clock on Sunday morning a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. J. Hance, North-terrace. Mr. Hance was in bed when, smelling fire, he arose and asked one of his servants what was the cause. She ran outside and saw smoke proceeding from the west end of the roof, which was of galvanized iron over thatch. Many of the neighbours soon arrived and rendered prompt assistance in saving the furniture, all of which was removed, the only article much damaged being the piano. The fire had meanwhile spread along the whole top of the house, and in about 20 minutes the ceiling of Mr. Hance, junior's, bedroom at the east side of the house fell in. Information had been sent to Mr. Barlow, who was speedily on the spot with No. 1 reel, the hose of which was fixed and made to play upon the roof. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, Mr. A. J. Baker, was not long in making his appearance, and under his direction the upper portion of the wall was knocked down and some of the sheets of iron taken off to admit of the water being directed on to the thatch. The flames were not extinguished until past 9 o'clock, when one side of the row was completely removed so as to allow the smouldering straw to be pulled down. A continual stream of water was poured on it till half past 12; when all fear of the fire again breaking out had ceased. Another reel was brought soon after Mr. Baker's arrival, and no exertions were spared by the Superintendent and men of the Fire Brigade and several of the neighbours in endeavouring to extinguish the conflagration. The space between the ceiling and the roof had, when the cottage was built, been filled in with straw, which with the thatch made about three feet of combustible material ; and it is conjectured that the fire originated from the sun having heated the galvanized iron to such a degree as to cause the thatch to ignite. Mr. Hance can hardly assign another cause, as no fire has been lit in the House since the winter, the kitchen being detached. The whole of the roof and part of the walls are completely destroyed, and all the windows of the house broken. Although the partition-walls are still standing, the house is quite unfit to be again inhabited. The Insurance Companies have always refused to insure it, as the roof was of thatch. In June last, however, this was covered with galvanized iron, the person who performed the work having said that no danger was likely to arise from such being done. The house, which was one of the oldest

in the colony, had been occupied by Mr. Hance between 17 and 18 years, previous to which Mr. Anstey, who had it erected 28 years ago, lived in it.

Fire in King William-street.— A fire broke out on the premises of Mr. William Langsford, carpenter, near the Brecknock Arms, King William-street, at about 20 minutes past 12 on Thursday, January 14. Mrs. Thompson, who lived next door, happened to come outside her house about that time, when she observed flames issuing from the work-shop which was situated at the rear of Mr. Langsford's dwelling house. She immediately gave the alarm, and in a short time a large number of persons had collected. But the fire had obtained too firm a hold to be got under, and through the workshop being of wood and the quantity of wooden materials surrounding the place it spread with fearful rapidity. After consuming the workshop it spread to a stack of fire-wood on Mrs. Thompson's property, and there it communicated with her house, which, being constructed entirely of wood, was quickly a burning mass. The flames spread with such rapidity that no opportunity was allowed of saving any of the furniture. The whole of the contents of Mrs. Langsford's house were in the meantime taken out and deposited in the street. Unceasing exertions were made to prevent the conflagration spreading. The wind at first was blowing from the west, driving the flames full on to Langsford's house, but fortunately it in a short time veered round to the south-west. Had it not been for this change the house must have been burnt. As it was, the roof of the kitchen, though covered with galvanized iron, ignited, and required unceasing vigilance to prevent it spreading, a plentiful supply of water being handed up in buckets to men on the roof. Two other houses contiguous to Thompson's were in great danger, but through the assistance of the neighbours they were pre-served uninjured. About a quarter of an hour after the alarm No. 3 Horse-reel (Coulls's) arrived and subsequently No. 1 (Barlow's), although the latter commenced to play first. A hand-reel, under the charge of the turncock, Mr. Boddington, was also on the spot, and by these means, under the direction of the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, the fire was speedily brought under subjection. By about half-past 1 the flames were entirely extinguished, the damage being confined to the destruction of Thompson's house and the workshop attached to Langsfond's place, in addition to a few minor injuries. The workshop contained a large number of tools, &c, besides a quantity of timber, and Mr. Langsford estimates his total loss at about £150. The case of Thompson, who is a gas-fitter in the employ of the Gas Company, and was at the time at Port Adelaide, is a very distressing one, not a single article of furniture or dress being saved. Being somewhat a bird-fancier he had built an aviary, in which were about 100 canaries, all of which were burnt, with the exception of about seven or eight. He has a wife and two children, and we understand a subscription has already been set afoot for their relief. The house belonged to Mr. Thos. Yeo, of Port Adelaide. None of the property was insured. No clue has been found to the origin of the fire. The Coroner visited the ruins during the afternoon, but, after making enquiries, did not think it necessary to hold an inquest.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 4 March 1867, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

The Adelaide Fire Brigades were called out at 6 o'clock on Monday morning for practice. The men were all punctual, and as the clock was striking 6, No. 1 and 2 Reels, with five fire-men on each, moved off, one eastward, the other westward, to the fireplugs. The plugs were opened, the stand-pipes screwed down, five lengths of hose-pipe run off the reel attached to the stand-pipe, the branch-pipe screwed on at the other end ; the whole of the

operations were completed and the two streams of water in full play in 1½ minutes. After well washing the shrubs and trees in front of Dr. Gosse's house, the signal was given to reel up. This manoeuvre occupied two minutes, after which the brigade took the hose to the trying yard. The reels, hose, and implements were all in good working order, and appear to be well taken care of. The time of the various manoeuvres was checked by Dr. Gosse and others present. No. 1 Reel had the water on some few seconds quicker than No. 2 reel, but that was from the different method adopted by each, under the Superintendent's instructions, so as to test both plans, as well as to ascertain the time occupied in getting the water into full play. The efficiency of our Adelaide Fire Brigade has often been proved at fires in the city, and in most cases the fires have been knocked out before they had time to become destructive. Much praise is due to the fireman for the promptitude with which they at all times, turn out on the first alarm of fire. There is a good spirit of emulation between all of the fireman at each of the fire brigade stations, which keeps them continually on the qui vive. [on the alert or lookout.]

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 9 March 1867, page 1

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

The Fire Brigade.—The Adelaide Fire Brigade turned out early on Monday morning for quarterly practice. It consists of two horse and two hand reels, one of the latter being stationed at North and the other in South Adelaide. As only the horse-reels were called out the staff of the other reels assisted the horsemen. The Brigade arrived at the appointed spot on North-terrace, near Rundle-place, with praiseworthy promptitude at about 6 o'clock. Reels Nos. 1 (Barlow's) and 2 (Coulls's) were present, with five men, including those belonging to the hand-reels. On a signal from the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, both bodies of men began executing with the utmost celerity the various motions connected with opening the fire-plugs, screwing on the stand-pipes, affixing the hose, running off the coiled hose to the requisite length, and turning on the water. All of these operations were performed in about a minute and a half, as timed by Dr. Gosse. No. 1 Reel, through an expedient discovered by them in the course of practice, which was not contained in the printed regulations, contrived to beat the others, and had a full stream of water in play some little time before them. By-and-by the order was received to reel up, which was done with the same dispatch as the previous manoeuvre. On the reels undergoing an official examination, they were found to be in excellent condition and working order. The efficiency of the Brigade has been frequently the subject of remark, and it promises well to continue.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 10 June 1867, page 2

THE NEWS BY THE MAIL.

Fire at Hutt-street.— Between 1 and 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, June 9, a fire broke out in a newly-built two-storeyed House in Hutt-street, be-longing to Mr. W. Gully, who lives next door. The house was the centre one of a row lately erected by Mr. Gully, and was unoccupied. The flames, which seemed to have originated in the rear of the premises, appear to have been first seen by a young man who happened to be near the spot, and on ascertaining the nature of the conflagration he at once gave information at the Police-Station. The men in charge of the various reels connected with the Fire Brigade were communicated with, and the police hastened to render what assistance they could. In the meantime, however, very material assistance had been afforded by Mr. A. J. Baker, the

Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, who resides in the neighbour-hood, and was awakened by the light of the fire. He was on the spot in a few minutes, and by his exertions and the efforts of the neighbours, who readily followed his directions, the fire was so far subdued as to confine it to the house in which it broke out, and with the subsequent assistance of the reels and the police it was speedily extinguished without any further mischief being done. We understand that the interior of the house was nearly gutted, the staircase and flooring and other portions of the woodwork being destroyed. If the roof had caught fire nothing could have saved the adjoining buildings. The origin of the fire is un-known. An inquest will be held at 2 o'clock to-day at the Arab Steed, Hutt-street.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 11 June 1867, page 3

INQUEST ON A FIRE IN HUTT STREET.

The Coroner, Mr. R. Ingleby, held an inquest at the Arab Steed Hotel, Hutt-street, on Monday afternoon, on a fire which had taken place in a house in Victoria-terrace, Hutt-street, the property of Mr. Robert Gully on the preceding Sunday morning. A Jury having been empanelled and Mr. James Broad elected foreman, they proceeded to view the scene of the conflagration. On their return the subjoined evidence was elicited : — William Gully, of Hutt-street, said he was the owner of Victoria-terrace. It consisted of 10 private houses and a shop. One of them was on fire on Sunday morning. First saw the fire about 2 o'clock. Lived next door to the house that was burnt. His attention was first attracted by his wife calling him and remarking upon noises in the next house. Went outside and saw a light shining out of the windows and the fanlight. Aroused all the tenants and then returned to his house. When he came out again the house which was on fire had been entered. Only remained in his house about a minute. Entered the burning house, and perceived that the staircase was burnt down, and that the fire was raging chiefly in the upper story. Saw Mr. Baker when he went into the house throwing water upon the fire. Was in the house about 5 o'clock on Saturday evening. When he left he fastened the front and back doors. The front ground-floor window was closed but not fastened. Could not say whether the back ground-floor window was up or down. Could not state if the upstairs windows were closed. Placed some tins of kerosine in the middle ground-floor room on Thursday or Friday last. About 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon he drew a gallon from one of the tins for a Mrs. Davis. Left it in six bottles near the front door. There was a quantity of loose timber in the middle room in addition to the kerosine. It was all deal—white and yellow. The timber did not belong to him, but to the carpenter, Mr. Henry Hawkes. The kerosine was placed close to the staircase, near the timber. The kerosine tins held four gallons each. Never took a light into the room on Saturday evening. It was not dark. He could not suggest anything as to the cause of the fire. By the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade (Mr. Baker) —Nearly all the woodwork in the house was completed. The staircase was boarded up and the ballusters were fixed on the landing. Thought a door was hung leading from the stairs to the parlor. By the Foreman—The carpenter was not working in the house on Saturday. Did not smoke. Went outside of his residence on Sun-day morning because his wife thought some one was breaking into the house, as they could hear cracking and the falling of timber. By a Juryman—There was no fire in the house on Saturday. Put the kerosine in the empty house because he had not room else-where. Closed the doors of the house securely on Saturday, so that the children should not go into it. The kerosine was a portion of the stock of the store. Henry Hawkes said he was the contractor for the carpenters' work of the house that was on fire last Sunday morning. Was last in the house on Saturday week. Left linings, mouldings, treads, and some

spare timber under the staircase. Several doors, &c., were in the various rooms. Never left any bagging under the stairs. There were shavings and chips lying about the rooms. Used the house as a work-shop. By Mr. Gully—Had some pannelling in the house. Intended to use it in the making of a partition. By a Juryman—Mr. Gully was in charge of the house. By the Coroner —Left a nail-box upstairs in one of the rooms. William Rowe, of Hutt-street said he was awoke on Sunday morning by hearing a person screaming fire. Got up and discovered that one of Mr. Gully's houses was on fire. Went to the front of the house. The door was fastened Did not notice the window. Some one burst the door open. Don't know who it was that did so. Proceeded home and obtained a bucket, and poured water upon the fire. Was unable to state who were there at that time. There were several persons. The fire was raging both upstairs and down. The staircase was destroyed when he entered the house. Rendered all the assistance he could to get the fire under. John Porter, of Parkside, said he was in Wakefield-street on Sunday morning early, when he saw one of Mr. Gully's houses on fire. He was in company with several others. Proceeded to the house. The front door was closed. Some female was carrying the furniture out of Mr. Gully's house. Went round to the back of the house, and broke open the back door. Previously assisted the female in removing the furniture. Could not say whether the front window near the ground was open or not. Never looked. On entering the house he found the middle room in a blaze, and the staircase down. The fire was also raging in the upper storey. Opened the front door from the inside. Could not say that he saw Mr. Rowe at the fire. Mr. Baker was at the house shortly after he was. Closed the front door again, in consequence of the wind. Obtained a ladder from a neighbouring house. Did not remember seeing Mr. Gully there, but he might nevertheless have been present. By the Foreman—The female whom he assisted to remove the furniture was apparently properly dressed. By a Juryman—He was the first, he believed, to throw water on the fire. Alfred George Chapman, of Hutt-street, stated that a little before 2 o'clock on Sunday morning a person passed his dwelling shouting fire. Went outside and saw the person who was shouting. Went to the house on fire. Saw some young men. The front window was down. Looked through it. Referred to the lower window. The furniture was being re-moved from Mr. Gully's house. Very little of the fire was to be seen from the front of the house, but at the back the flames were roaring. Went for the reel, and some man went for Mr. Baker. By a Juryman—Could confidently say the front lower window was closed Arthur John Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, said he was awoke about 25 minutes to 2 o'clock, on Sunday morning, by a light shining into his bedroom. Got up and perceived a house on fire. Dressed and went out, and was told that the fire was in Victoria-terrace. When he reached the house he discovered that the furniture was being removed from the two adjoining houses. Water was also being thrown by three or four people on the fire. Went into the house and found the floor of the upstairs middle room in a blaze. Threw the water he had in a bucket upon the floor, and returned for some more. Three buckets of water extinguished the fire on the floor. Just at that time the brigade arrived, and the hose was introduced through the front window, and the flames were quickly subdued. By Mr. Gully—There was nothing burning in the back upstairs room except the door. By a Juryman—The floor of the middle room upstairs was charred, and was bright in spots. Did not think the floor was charred by the burning of the staircase. Thought some combustible fluid must have been thrown over it. The charring might possibly have been occasioned by the wind, as the upstairs front and back windows were open. Mr. Gully, recalled, said he could not account for the remains of some bags being found under the stairs. The pieces produced had evidently been saturated with kerosine. When he left the house on Saturday

there were no bags near the kerosine. Could not account for the front upstairs window being up. Did not know who it was that went about shouting fire. Had no reason to suppose that anybody had set the house on fire for spite. The first six houses, commencing from the north, were insured in £1,500. Four of the other five were insured in £250, and the other one, the end shop, in £300. The houses were mortgaged for £2,500. The Coroner having summed up at consider-able length, The Jury returned a verdict "That the house was wilfully set fire to by some person or persons unknown ;" and added as a rider— "That ladders should be kept on all two-story houses, as there would have been no safety for the inmates had the fire occurred in one of the occupied buildings."

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 3 August 1867, page 2

Unaccountable Fire.—At an early hour on Friday morning, July 26, the policeman on the Currie-street beat discovered in the lobby of Temple-chambers, next Messrs. Whyte, Counsell, & Co.' store, a gunny bag which had contained coals burning just beside the staircase. The coals which it had contained appeared to have been turned out, and some one or more lucifer matches were found near them on the floor, but no clue has been obtained to the origin of the fire. No damage was done, with the exception of the side of the stair-case being slightly blackened. The Coroner did not consider it necessary to hold an inquest.

Fire in Franklin-street. — On the men connected with the establishment of Messrs. Duncan & Fraser (late Armour), coachbuilders, Franklin-street, going to work on Saturday morning, July 27, they found the flooring close to the wall on the south side in the upstairs or painting-room to be on fire, a hole having been burnt through, and some of the burning material falling through on the ground floor. A lad was dispatched for a fire-engine, and another for Mr. A. J. Baker, the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. Through some misconception the former did not go for the engine, but went to the Police Station instead. The persons on the premises, however, did not lose any time, but by the application of a few buckets of water extinguished the flames, and when Mr Baker arrived all danger had been removed. The fire seems to have been occasioned by a barrel of lampblack, made from vegetable mould, which was standing in the upper room, and which, it is thought, by becoming damp ignited by spontaneous combustion. The barrel and its contents were wholly consumed, as was also great part of the flooring, which in some places was burnt completely through. We understand that quite recently several of the front windows were repaired. If the broken panes had existed on the occasion of the fire the consequences through the air being allowed free ingress to the flames would no doubt have been very disastrous. As it was, the fire only smouldered. None of the carriages in either of the rooms were injured, and the damage was solely confined to the flooring, &c. We learn that storage on premises of lampblack is, on account of the inflammable nature of that article, and its liability to ignite spontaneously, strongly condemned by the Insurance Offices. We believe the building, which was owned by Mr Armour, and the stock of the present occupants, were insured. After the fire had been put out, the police communicated with the Coroner, who however, on enquiry into the circumstances, did not think it necessary to hold an inquest.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Saturday 7 September 1867, page 2

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

On Friday evening, the 6th inst, a fire broke out in one of the rooms at the White Hart Hotel, Hindley-street. The alarm having been given, Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, and several men, were promptly on the spot with No. 2 reel, which, however, was not brought into requisition ; a few buckets of water being found sufficient to extinguish the flames. Little or no damage was done.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1867), Saturday 14 September 1867, page 1

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On Monday morning a little commotion was caused in Rundle-street by an alarm of fire. The cause of the alarm turned out to be a chimney on the premises of Mr. Schlemilch, fruiterer, but the flames were soon put out. Mr. Baker, the Superintendent, and one or two of the reels were on the spot shortly after the alarm was given.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 28 September 1867, page 4

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

Friday. September 27.

In the House of Assembly

The Fire Brigade Bill was read a second time and considered in Committee.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 5 October 1867, page 4

THE PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Friday. September 27.

FIRE BRIGADE BILL, Second reading.

Mr. EVERARD, in moving the second reading of the Bill, remarked that there were in the city 15 or 16 Insurance Companies, who had organized a Fire Brigade, who had provided themselves with hose, reels, ladders, and other apparatus for extinguishing fires in Adelaide. The Bill enacted that certain expenses should be recoverable against parties obtaining the services of the Brigade at fires on such of their properties as were not insured. Its object, therefore, was to provide that those who neglected insurance should not be protected at the cost of those who went to the expense of insuring their properties. In all cases where the fires occurred on insured premises the cost was borne by the Companies. The schedule of fees merely claimed repayment for moneys paid out of pocket every time the Brigade was called out. The motion was carried, and the Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3. Passed.

Clause 4. Control and management of fire brigades.

Mr. FULLER asked if the clause would provide that private engines should come under the control of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades. The Hon. A. BLYTH imagined they would in case of fires. Unless there was some general superintendence very often unnecessary

destruction of property took place at fires. (Hear, hear.) Mr. FULLER pointed out that a person might wish to use his engine to save a property in a particular room.

Mr. BOUCAUT suggested to introduce the words "at any fire" before "have the command of all fire brigades and engines."

Mr. R. I. STOW remarked that the Superintendent might so apply the private engine as to save books which the proprietor did not wish to have saved. (A laugh.)

The clause, amended as suggested by the hon. member Mr. Boucaut was passed.

Clause 5. Superintendent may pull down. &c., buildings—proviso, that nothing in the clause shall deprive the owner or occupier of the buildings pulled down of his right to sue for any damage he might be entitled to recover.

The Hon. W. MILNE asked who would be responsible for the damage done in the destruction of premises. Who was to be sued? Mr. EVERARD presumed it would be the Insurance Companies. Considerable power ought to be given to the Superintendent at fires, and the presumption was that he was not likely to destroy premises which it was not actually necessary to destroy.

Mr. B. I. STOW said the clause seemed to introduce doubts where none need exist. If it was necessary to pull the building down, neither the Superintendent nor any other person would be liable for so doing. The propriety of pulling down buildings might safely be left to the "judgment of the Superintendent," as provided in the clause, and the proviso could be expunged.

Mr. BRIGHT thought something more specific was required than what appeared in the proviso. He knew that things might be done hurriedly at a fire which would be repented of afterwards, and he considered that some provision should be made as to who was to be the responsible party.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) pointed out that the clause applied to uninsured as well as insured property. Mr. BOUCAUT said the proviso was the same as existed in the present Act, and he regarded it as necessary.

Mr. R. I. STOW thought the best way to prevent difficulty would be to strike out the clause. For the public benefit property in the case of fires ought to be pulled down, and the protection was that a person could recover if the property was recklessly and needlessly destroyed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) concurred in the suggestion to strike out the clause.

Mr. TOWNSEND saw no objection to the clause being retained.

Mr. EVERARD preferred retaining the clause, and he thought the proviso was sufficient to protect the proprietor against needless damage. In all cases of fire a special authority should be given to the Superintendent.

Mr. R. I. STOW said there was no provision in the clause as to who could be sued. It merely conferred a power on the Superintendent which every subject possessed; and if this was

retained a doubt would be introduced as to whether other persons could act in the way he was thus specially authorized to Act.

The Hon. W. MILNE considered it a great in-consistency that the Superintendent should be authorized to pull down what buildings were in his judgment necessary, and that then under the latter part of the clause he could be sued for exercising that judgment in certain cases.

Mr. CARR remarked that without this clause the Superintendent would seem to be liable to be sued for damage and trespass; but it at all events protected him against an action of trespass.

Mr. R. I. STOW said the action in any case would be for trespass, and what was recovered would be damages.

Mr. CARR still contended that this clause protected the Superintendent against trespass which he would otherwise be liable for.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) said the Superintendent might pull down a building without the authority of this clause, and if he did wanton damage he would be liable for it. If the action was for trespass his justification in the former case would be that he did not pull down what was not necessary. In this instance the clause was unnecessary, and he hoped it would be struck out. He regretted that he had not had much time to give to the Bill. He had only seen it a short time before coming to the House, but he should have spoken on the second reading had he not been misled by the idea that several would have spoken before him.

Mr. BOUCAUT should support the striking out of the clause if it was now proposed to insert it for the first time, but the fact was it was in the present Act, and he should therefore go in favour of retaining it. If it was struck out it might give rise to the impression that there was some special reason for omitting it. He would also point out that when the other Act was passed the hon. member Mr. R. L Stow was Attorney-General and the Hon. Mr. Milne Commissioner of Public Works, and they both supported it. (A laugh.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) should, if it was intended to retain the clause, have to move to strike out the words "in his judgment" in the 32nd line. Mr. R. I. STOW would in that case move that the proviso be struck out.

The Hon. W. MILNE hoped, although he had been Commissioner of Public Works at the time the former Act was passed, that he would be allowed to alter his opinion if further light was thrown on the subject. (Hear, hear.) It appeared to him that the clause did not go far enough. The pulling down of the property was resorted to to protect contiguous houses, and those houses ought, in his opinion, to be assessed to assist in meeting the loss caused to the proprietor of the premises destroyed for their protection. (Hear.)

Mr. R. I. STOW moved to insert after Superintendent the words "or any other person." That, he remarked, would be simply declaring the law. Mr. ROUNSEVELL, in years past, had assisted as a member of the Fire Brigade in pulling down houses, and he had never had a doubt as to the right to pull them down.

Mr. COGLIN should go with the majority of the legal profession on this occasion, and he thought the hon. mover ought to be pleased to have the best legal authority in the colony to aid him.

The TREASURER (Hon. T. Reynolds) could not see the necessity for the retention of the clause after the expression of opinion of legal gentlemen in the House. Mr. EVERARD should have preferred to retain the clause; but as he was given to understand that any subject of Her Majesty was entitled to pull down any building requisite to be removed to pre-vent the spreading of a fire, he admitted that there would not be much need for it, They all knew the confusion that generally existed at fires, and his object had been to have one recognised head to take the entire control. If the law was as stated he could hardly understand the opposition to the clause.

The clause was struck out.

Clause 6. Remuneration for attendance of Fire Brigades, how contributed and recovered.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) hoped the hon. member would not take the next clause that day, as he had a doubt whether his object would be met by it.

Mr. EVERARD consented to the postponement of the clause.

Clause postponed.

Schedule.

Scale of charges for attendance of Fire Brigades on fires.

Mr. FULLER asked if these charges could be levied against a person who had merely a chimney on fire.

Mr. EVERARD said a chimney on fire frequently set fire to the house, and it would scarcely do for the Fire Brigade to lie by until they heard that the house had caught light. (Hear.)

Mr. BRIGHT thought some provision might be made that fire-bells should not be needlessly rung.

Mr. HAY believed under the Corporation Act a fine was levied upon persons allowing their flues to get alight, and he thought there should be a maximum sum to be paid under this Bill in the case of a chimney on fire. Mr. COGLIN said according to these items a person might be mulcted to the tune of £16 2s. simply for a chimney being on fire. That was altogether excessive. Mr. NEALES pointed out that the owners of small cottages by paying an inconsiderable fee could insure their property, and thus be saved the expense of this £16 2s. The Act was likely to lead people to insure, and was therefore beneficial.

Mr. FULLER said the amount might go up to £30 or £40 if the engine was kept for two or three hours; and, besides, the person was liable to a fine of £1 or 30s. under the Corporation Act in the case of a lighted chimney.

Mr. EVERARD remarked that 16s. premium to an Insurance Office would save the whole of these expenses in the case of a cottage valued at £200. He hoped this consideration would remove the objection of the hon. member Mr. Hay.

Mr. ROUNSEVELL could not see that the Insurance Offices had any right to come down to the House and compel persons to insure. This was a kind of legislation he could not concur in; and, besides, the fees mentioned here were altogether too high.

Mr. EVERARD said the owner of the insured property would be very much dissatisfied if the Fire Brigade came and on learning that the premises were not insured went away again. (Hear, hear.) He thought as the city was becoming so thickly peopled there was need that people should insure, and if insurance was generally adopted it would lead to the reduction of the insurance fees. Seeing that here were 15 or 16 offices taking insurance risks, he did not see that objection should be taken on the ground raised by the hon. Member Mr. Rounsevell.

Mr. BOUCAUT did not concur in the argument that these poor cottages should be compelled to insure, as the offices would likely charge high rates for them. It was hardly fair to try to compel these to insure. He would point out, however, that the fees in the case of a chimney would not mount up to anything like £16. as the fire would soon be got out, and there would be no charge for the second hour and so on.

Mr. HAY approved of the Bill, but he believed it would be inoperative unless the expense in case of chimneys being on fire was limited. Unless some charge was made the measure would have to be amended after the first poor tenement had been burned down. In the old country the fees did not exceed one guinea. If the intention was to compel persons to insure their property, it should be so expressed in the title.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) pointed out that, under the 6th clause, the owner as well as the occupier of the cottage was made liable. He did not think there could be any objection to the schedule, as he believed the fees were those which the Insurance Offices now paid.

Mr. BRIGHT could quite understand that this might become oppressive on a small cottager, as the engine might be kept for a considerable time on the premises. He thought £2 2s. for the first hour to the Superintendent was too high a charge.

Mr. ROUNSEVELL had no objection to these fees where the engines were called into requisition. He only wished that such high charges should not be made where there were false alarms.

Mr. EVERARD remarked that the rights and opinions of small proprietors or of individuals in a large city had often to give way to the public good—(Hear, hear)—and this was one of those instances. He contended that it was right and proper that persons should be compelled to insure, especially as a cottage, valued at £200, could be insured for 16s. He saw no hardship in the charges in the schedule.

Mr. COGLIN considered they were too high, and he objected to this attempt to compel poor people to pay an exorbitant sum to the Insurance Offices. He should go against the Bill in toto, as he chose to incur the risk of leaving his property uninsured. This was legislating for a few who got a large bene-fit from the public, and he must go against it.

Mr. FISHER hoped the Bill would be deferred for a week. In case of a chimney accidentally set on fire the owner would be subjected to a great hardship under the measure. He believed the Superintendent of Fire Brigades received £500 a year from the Insurance Companies—(No)—well, £400—and he thought that was sufficient without these large fees.

Mr. SUTHERLAND pointed out that the Insurance Company paid all these expenses if the properties were insured.

Mr. EVERARD consented to submit a new clause providing a maximum of £5 5s. to be paid in the case of its being only a chimney on fire. As to the salary paid to the Superintendent, that was given him in the capacity of Surveyor for the Insurance Companies.

Mr. COLTON thought the charge in any case for a chimney taking fire would not exceed £5 5s. There were some hundreds of cottages in the city not insured, and he did not think it was just to compel the proprietors to insure them. They ought not to legislate to protect the Insurance Companies to the disadvantage of small cottage-holders in the town.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. R. B. Andrews) remarked that people residing in the city must expect to yield something for the benefit of the city generally. (Hear, hear.) The Municipal laws prevented the putting up of small wooden tenements, on the ground that they were dangerous, and it could scarcely be objected that that provision involved less hardship to the artisan than this now before the House. He could not see that it would be any great hardship even to legislate so as to necessitate persons to insure their properties, for there was an organized brigade, and their services could in that case be secured free of cost.

The Hon. A. BLYTH thought the skilled artisans were altogether, generally speaking, too careful to neglect the insurance of their houses. The matter was one that affected the general weal of the city, and individual feeling must yield to that. As to the emolument given to the Superintendent, he considered it thoroughly deserved by the zealous efforts he had made to protect the property of the citizens.

Mr. FULLER thought it would be much the simpler plan to have a Bill requiring all parties to insure.

The TREASURER (Hon. T. Reynolds) fancied they were making too much of the chimneys afire altogether. Since the fine was imposed in case of a chimney catching fire the instances where this occurred had become very rare, and they were likely to become more rare if proprietors were made liable to pay the fees proposed by this Bill. As a general rule he believed the labouring classes did insure their property ; but there was a class in the community too mean to insure, but who were quite willing to get the advantage of other persons' forethought and outlay. He thought therefore it was only right that these persons should be made to pay something.

Mr. FISHER wished to know whether the Superintendent and his staff would be entitled to payment if they arrived after the fire was out. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. COGLIN knew an instance in which a chimney belonging to a Government building had been on fire and no fine was imposed. Was that mean ? The TREASURER (Hon. T. Reynolds) had not been aware of the fact, and the parties having charge of the chimney deserved to be reprimanded. (Hear, hear.)

Schedule agreed to.

House resumed, and the Committee obtained leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 25 November 1867, page 3

FIRE AT PORT ADELAIDE - DESTRUCTION OF MESSRS. J. DUNN & CO'S MILL.

Port Adelaide on Saturday morning, November 23, was the scene of a destructive fire, which destroyed the flour-mill of Messrs. J. Dunn & Co., together with about £1,000 worth of stock. It will be recollected that the mill was erected last year for Mr. J. Dunn, jun., and commenced working at the beginning of the present year; but that for the past two or three months the operations have been stopped, principally in consequence of an outrage which was perpetrated about that time owing to the firm having found it necessary to make a reduction in the wages of the employees. This circumstance has given rise to rumour that the fire was the work of an incendiary, but so far as can yet be ascertained its origin is involved in mystery, and no suspicion is attached to any person. It appears that since the mill has been idle a considerable quantity of wheat and flour intended for export had been stored in the different floors, awaiting the arrival of a vessel for its shipment. On Thursday and Friday the mill was in operation, for the purpose of clearing up a small quantity of wheat preparatory to taking stock and getting ready for the approaching harvest. Considerable additions were about to be made by setting up two extra pairs of stones, and a chimney shaft had just been completed for a new boiler. At the rear of the mill a large galvanized iron store had been erected, and was at the time nearly full of wheat, &c.—altogether about 1,000 tons. Fortunately the fire was confined to the mill, so that the contents of the store are uninjured. On Friday evening at 6 o'clock the mill was stopped, and when locked up everything appeared safe. The engine-driver, Gill, extinguished the fire in the boiler, which is detached from the building, and the mill was left without any person in charge. About a quarter past 5 on Saturday morning. Gill, on rising, observed smoke issuing from the roof, and about the same time Constable Leahy, as he was leaving his house to go on duty, also discovered the fire, and calling on one of Mr. Reynolds's men, sent to the Police-Station to give the alarm whilst he proceeded to the mill, where Gill also arrived about the same time. The smoke was then issuing in large volumes from the south-east corner of the roof, and from the upper storey of the smut-house. Gill immediately attached a hose to a water-pipe on the south side, and went in to the engine-house, but could not reach the fire from that part. In the meantime the police had called out Mr. Ashmeade, head turncock, who proceeded with them to obtain the hose-reel, and in a short time it was attached to the fire-plug. Before this could be done the flames burst out from the upper windows on the north side. Mr. J. Dunn, jun., had arrived by this time, and entering the shed at the rear he pushed open the fire-proof door leading to the mill, and found the fire raging furiously at that end of the building from the ground floor upwards. The door was again closed, and several persons having by this time collected, the doorways were backed up with bricks, and the efforts of Mr. Ashmeade and others in charge of the waterworks hose were employed to prevent the fire extending to the shed, whilst the hose of the Insurance Companies, in charge of Mr. H. Simpson, which had been brought shortly after the other, was, under the direction of Mr. West, also brought to bear, and the two soon poured a large body of water upon the burning mass. So rapidly, however, did the fire spread that in less than in half an hour from its discovery the whole of the building appeared to be burning, and the roof quickly fell in. The continual supply of water at last checked the flames, and about half-past 6 they were brought somewhat under control, but not till the greater part of the upper storeys had given way. Towards half-past 7 all danger of the fire regaining the mastery was at an end. At the western extremity of the building, however, the floors had not given way, and some time after a stack of bags of bran burst into a flame, which was quickly got under. Shortly after 7 o'clock a message having been sent to Adelaide, Mr. A. J. Baker arrived, and directed the action of the men in charge of the reel. Too much credit cannot be given to the persons who

managed the hose, and, in fact, to all who were present during the early part of the fire, as every one exerted him-self to the utmost. It must be admitted, however, that a properly organized fire-brigade is much needed on such occasions, with an efficient superintendent to direct the actions of the firemen. The police under Sergeant Brown deserve notice for their active exertions. In the course of the day between 20 and 30 men from Messrs. Dunn and Co's mills at Bridgewater and Mount Barker arrived upon the spot, and rendered good service in clearing out the wheat. They worked with a will, and are entitled to much praise. The books and papers in the counting-house on the basement were fortunately saved and removed to Mr. Dunn's house. As soon as it was prudent to do so a number of men were employed to remove the debris from the basement, which was full of wheat in bags), and they were kept at work until 12 o'clock at night, during which time a considerable quantity of cereals was taken out. which on Sunday the men were occupied in drying and bagging. Of course the whole of it is more or less damaged, either by fire or water; but much more has been recovered than appearances would have led one to suppose. The engines are uninjured, and the main shaft and stones having become quickly buried with wheat it is hoped will not be altogether destroyed. Mr. J. Dunn, M.P., and Mr. Hill (a member of the firm) were on the ground early in the day. We are informed that the mill is insured in the South Australian Insurance Office to the amount of £1000, and in the Adelaide Insurance Company's Office a like sum total, £6,000; but the stock was entirely uninsured. Beyond the large loss which the fire entails upon Messrs. Dunn & Co., there will of course be considerable inconvenience from the stoppage of the mill, as the firm had made every preparation for going actively to work at harvest time. Several alterations and additions had been effected, and very large operations were contemplated. We understand, however, that no time will be lost in repairing damages, so that grinding will very shortly recommence, and we believe that the ordinary business of the firm as wheat buyers will be continued as usual, for though six pairs of stones have been placed hors de combat, there are still 14 pairs going at Mount Barker, Bridgewater, Mount Torrens, and Nairne. As regards the origin of the fire, several suggestions have been made, but nothing is known with certainty; and an inquest, which will be held to-day, at 10 o'clock, will fully investigate the circumstances. The disaster has called attention to the necessity of an alarm-bell being erected in the Port. Had such means of giving notice existed on Saturday much time would have been saved. It is hoped little time will be allowed to elapse before a fire bell is set up and a brigade organized.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 26 November 1867, page 4

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

On Thursday evening, between 6 and 7 o'clock, a fire was observed in Messrs. Bean Brothers' leather establishment in King William-street. The shops had been closed a short time, and Mr. Bean was proceeding down Hindley-street home, when he was told his premises were on fire, and he at once returned. Immediately that the alarm was given the shutters were torn down from the house adjoining the Photographic Company's premises, when the shop appeared to be one mass of flames. Assistance of course was readily had, and Mr. A. J. Baker and the Brigades were soon on the spot, and directed a large stream of water into the shop and upper storey, so that in the space of a short time the fire was subdued. It is a fortunate thing that the fire was stayed, for had it spread to the adjoining buildings a very disastrous conflagration must have taken place. We understand Mr. Townsend was the first to observe the fire, but, fearing that, if he raised the alarm, the house would be opened by the crowd, he kept his knowledge to himself, and quietly sent

four cabs in different directions—to the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, the various reels, and the Police Station. Before the reels arrived the fire showed itself plainly, and, as Mr. Townsend feared, the first impulse of the police and those assisting was to let in ventilation, and so promote the spread of the devouring element as much as possible. However, the engines soon arrived, in the following order:—No. 2 (Cole's) first, No. 3 (Boddington's) second, and No. 1 (Barlow's) shortly afterwards. The fire appears to have broken out in the cellar, and must have been alight some little time before Mr. Bean left, for a few minutes after he had gone the whole of the premises were in flames. The shop-fittings and nearly all the stock are completely destroyed. The premises were insured, but nothing is yet known as to the origin of the fire.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 30 November 1867, page 3

FIRE AT MESSRS. BEAN BROTHERS.

On Tuesday evening at half-past 6 the retail leather store of Messrs. Bean Brothers in King William-street was discovered to be on fire. The fire was first seen, we believe, by Mr. Townsend, M.P., who at once sent off cabs in every direction to give notice to the fire Brigade. Mr. Wetherall of his own accord started off to the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, whom he fetched back in his trap. Meanwhile Mr. Townsend had got a passer-by, Mr. D. R. MacCabe, to stand in front of the building, and prevent any attempt to break in the door or the shutters before the arrival of the fire men—a precaution which cannot be too strongly recommended to the police and all who may have anything to do with such accidents. He himself superintended the removal of the books and papers of his own firm from the adjoining premises to a place of safety, the fire was evidently spreading fast, as flames began to burst through the upper part of the shutters. The first reel arrived at 6.50, namely, No. 2, from Blyth-street. The shutters were broken down, and the play of the water on the fire almost instantaneously arrested its progress. In a few minutes it was got under, and before the arrival of the second reel (No. 3. Chancery-lane) at 6.55 it was to all appearance extinguished. Both reels continued playing on it for a few minutes longer, but by 6 58 they had completely mastered it. At 7 o'clock the third reel (No. 1, Barlow's) arrived. In explanation of this reel not occupying its usual place in the van, it was said that the boy who had been sent off with the notice to Mr. Barlow was stopped by a policeman in Rundle street, and charged with furious riding. Notwithstanding his protestations of the urgent business he had on hand, Bumble would not abate one iota of the regulations, and the charge had to be formally taken down before the boy was allowed to proceed. But for this piece of Bumbledom, which we trust will be enquired into, the fire might have been extinguished several minutes earlier. As stated above, Mr. Baker very promptly arrived on the spot, and remained until 9 o'clock directing the operations of the Brigade. We understand that both the building and the stock were insured. The upper rooms of the Photographic Company's establishment were at first entered by the hatchway which communicates with Messrs. Bean's place catching fire, but Mr. Baker had it immediately broken down and taken away. By 9 o'clock everything appearing to be safe, the Fire Brigade was dismissed, and policemen stationed to keep watch during the night. Mr. Baker previously ordered a barricade to be thrown up in front of the burnt premises, separating them from the street. With the single exception of the Rundle-street policemen, every one connected with the accident deserves credit for promptitude and presence of mind. Mr. Townsend especially acted with great prudence, and set a good example to all who may be called upon to act suddenly in such an emergency. The conduct of Mr. Baker and his men

was worthy of the reputation they have so well earned by many years of similar service. This report will furnish an appropriate commentary on another which appears in to-day's issue—that of a presentation to the Fire Brigade by the Agents of the Insurance Offices in town.

Tuesday 26th November 1867 - Presentation to the Fire Brigade

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 27 November 1867, page 2

A meeting of the various Insurance Companies in Adelaide was held on Tuesday, November 26, at the office of the Adelaide Marine Insurance Company, the Hon. J. Morphett in the chair, for the purpose of presenting medals to the men of the Fire Brigade and a testimonial to the Superintendent for the efficient manner in which they had discharged their important and responsible duties during the last seven years. There was a good attendance of Directors of the various offices and others interested in the Companies. The Chairman, addressing Mr. Baker, said— "I am very happy indeed, as Chairman of this meeting, to be the medium of handing to you, on the part of the Insurance offices doing business in this colony, a gold chronometer watch which was voted to you at a meeting of the agents of the different Companies held in this office on the 22nd January, 1867. Immediately the vote was passed, Mr. Acraman and I, who were appointed a Committee to carry the resolution into effect sought the assistance of Mr. A. J. Wright, formerly agent to the Imperial in this city, and who was in England at the time. He very kindly undertook the duty, and has sent out a watch made by one of the best London makers, and it now only remains for me to pre-sent it to you, and to express a hope that you may carry it for a great many years and continue to enjoy that robust health that enables you at all times most efficiently to command that gallant body of men whom you have organised and trained to their difficult and arduous duties." Mr. A. J. Baker replied as follows:—"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—It gives me unspeakable pleasure to receive so handsome a testimonial. It has ever been my pride to have the Adelaide Fire Brigades efficient, and I may say that the honor I have this day received is due more to the promptness and obedience with which the firemen have done their duty than to any great merits of my own. It is most gratifying to find that my services during the past seven years as your Superintendent of Fire Brigades have been so kindly acknowledged, and I trust the Superintendent and firemen will long continue to retain your good opinion, and that our endeavors may be as successful for the future as in the past." The Chairman then addressed the men as follows :— "Men of the Fire Brigade—I am delighted to give expression to the general opinion of the agents of the Insurance Offices doing business in this city that you have most efficiently dis-charged your duty during the many years that you have formed part of the Brigade. I believe I am correct in stating that three of you, Geo. Barlow, Jos. Barlow, and Henry Tankenow were engaged when the Brigade was first formed in 1860, and that the remaining seven were engaged when the Brigade Act was passed in 1862. It affords me much satisfaction to state that the Superintendent informs me he has never had occasion to dismiss a man, or even to reprove one, and that not only have you all turned out willingly and promptly on alarm of fire, but that you have shown a steadiness and promptness to obey orders, and an intelligence that has enabled him to give most effective assistance in fires of danger, by which the offices have been saved heavy losses, and the city spared the evils and horrors of a general conflagration. I may mention one case which is particularly a case in point. I refer to the fire which broke out on Mr. G. P. Harris's premises, where there were insurances to the amount of £36,000, but by the promptitude with which you assembled on that occasion, and the coolness and obedience to orders you displayed, the fire was suppressed with a loss to the

offices of only £20. I am happy to say that I can now present you all with the medals ordered from England, which will be a lasting proof to you of the way which the agents of the offices appreciate your past services." One of the men made the following reply:— "Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen —On behalf of myself and fellow firemen, I beg to thank you for this mark of appreciation of our past services, and trust this handsome gift may always stimulate us to fulfil the two mottos engraved on our medals, 'Always ready.' 'We strive to save.'" The meeting then broke up.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 6 December 1867, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

Since the recent fire at Messrs. Dunn and Co.'s mill at Port Adelaide, the Corporation determined to have an alarm bell in the Town Hall, and Mr. Wald was directed to put a clapper in the large bell, in order that it could be rung. This fact was not generally known, so that at half-past 1 o'clock a strange bell was heard to ring out an alarm for about one minute, and four minutes time was sufficient to bring several hundred people to the spot, and the fire reel to be sent for. This fact speaks well for the utility of a fire bell, but it may be as well to state here that no more false alarms will take place, this morning's call being simply a first trial. This should be well understood in case the story of crying "wolf" should be remembered. For the future the police will have the means of access at all times to the Town Hall in order to be able to ring the alarm when necessary.