

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1869

ADELAIDE (CITY AND PORT) WATERWORKS.  
(Office—Town Hall Buildings, King William Street.)  
*Accountant*—H. P. G. Sparks.  
*Collectors of Water Rates*—W. T. Cooper, J. Jowett, W. Delano, and John Davis.  
*Turncocks*—Chas. Seymour, Valve-house, East Park Lands  
Geo. Harris, Margaret-street, North Adelaide  
S. Boddington, Chancery Lane, Wakefield Street.  
T. Sanders, Waterworks Yard, Port Adelaide.

FIRE BRIGADES.  
*Superintendent of Fire Brigades*—Arthur Jno. Baker, East Terrace.

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

ADELAIDE.

No. 1 Station, Rundle-street east, Geo. Barlow.  
" 2 " Hindley-street west, Ellis & Chitt'eborough.  
" 3 " Chancery Lane, Government Turncock.  
" 4 " Margaret-street, N.A., Government Turncock.

PORT ADELAIDE.

No. 5 Station, Timpson-street, Edward West.  
" 6 " Government Waterworks Yard, Government Turncock

*Boothby Almanac, Town and Country Directory and guide to South Australia for 1869  
(Printed December 1868)*

**FIRE BRIGADE NOTICE—**  
Until further notice the REELS of the FIRE BRIGADE will be STATIONED at the undermentioned places:—

SOUTH ADELAIDE	At Messrs. Barlow & Son's, Coach-builders, Rundle-street.
	At Mr. J. A. Whitfield's Foundry, Hindley-street west.
	At Mr. W. Crane's Stables, Grenfell-street.
	At Mr. S. Boddington's, Turncock, Chancery-lane.
NORTH ADELAIDE	At Mr. Francis Gogan's, Turncock, Brown-street.
	At Mr. G. Harris's, Turncock Margaret-street.
PORT ADELAIDE	At Captain Simpson's Stables, Timpson-street.
	At Waterworks' Yard.
	At Railway Station.

Any interference with these Reels either at the Stations or at Fires is strictly prohibited.  
For Scale of Charges for the use of the Fire Insurance Companies' Reels, Wages for Labour at Fires, &c., see Schedule to Act No. 9 of 1867; and for particulars as to Rewards for Notice of Fires to Superintendent, Firemen, and others, see Placards at the Stations, and in the various Cabs of the City.

214mwf72                      **ARTHUR JNO. BAKER.**

*Evening Journal Mon 30 Aug 1869 page1*

Number 1 Station: Located on the South side of Rundle Street East, between Bent and Union Streets in the business of Barlow and Sons. Barlow and 3 firemen on duty.

Number 2 Station: In Hindley Street West on the South side, between Clarendon and Morphett Streets in the premises of the Ellis and Chittleborough Foundry with 3 firemen on duty.

Station Number 3: is the property of the Government Turncock Mr Samuel Boddington in Chancery Lane. Possibly a private dwelling.

North Adelaide

Station number 4: is in North Adelaide at the property of George Harris, a Government Turncock in Margaret Street.

Port Adelaide

Number 5 Station is at Captain Simpson's Stables in Timpson Street, Edward West in charge.

Number 6 Station is in the Government Waterworks yard, possibly with Thomas Saunders the Government Turncock in charge.

A further Reel is at the Port Adelaide Railway Station.

June:

Number 2 Station was taken over by J. A. Whitfield.

A Reel is further located on the North Eastern corner of King William Street and Grenfell Street at the property of Mr W. Cranes Stables and shoeing yard, on the North Eastern corner of Grenfell Street.

A Reel is also located on Brown Street with Francis Gogan, Government Turncock, near Grote Street.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 16 January 1869, page 2***

#### GENERAL NEWS.

On Friday night, a little before 11 o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Leaver, hatter, Rundle-street. It commenced in an inner room and spread to the shop in front, completely destroying a considerable amount of property that was in both apartments. Some persons observing the smoke rushed to the back, and by closing the doors of the inner room and the kitchen, and stopping up all apertures, prevented the flames from spreading so rapidly as they would otherwise have done. On the first alarm of the fire, Mr. B. J. McCarthy, who was in the neighborhood with two young men, named Julius Berham and Wm, Hawes, ran to Mr. Coulls's, expecting to find a reel there. Mr. Coulls, however, had none on the premises, and directed them to Messrs. Ellis & Chittleborough, Hindley-street, where after a little trouble they found one, and dragged it up the street till opposite the Theatre Royal, where a cabby rendered them assistance by taking the machine in tow. This was No. 2 reel, and the firemen soon followed, and afterwards No. 3 arrived on the spot, followed by No. 1. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade was of course aroused, and came upon the scene very speedily. There was a sick child in the house, that was with difficulty rescued by the mother, who met the flames as she escaped. A ladder was taken across from the Norfolk' Arms, and Mr. James mounted it to render any assistance that might be

necessary; but the inmates had all got away by other directions. After the hose was turned fairly on the fire was speedily subdued. There was a large gathering of people in Rundle-street, and the crowd remained for some time after the danger had passed away. How the fire originated is not positively known, but we understand it did not commence either in a fireplace or from any gaslight. Immense volumes of smoke issued from the burning house, and extended to North-terrace and Grenfell-street, and gave the idea of a much more extensive conflagration. We are informed that the property was very inadequately insured.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 19 January 1869, page 3***

THE FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.

An inquest was held by Dr. Clark at the Norfolk Arms on Monday afternoon, January 18, on the fire which occurred on the preceding Friday night at the shop of Mr. Joseph Leaver, Rundle-street. After the preliminaries had been attended to, and Mr. Samuel Bakewell chosen foreman of the Jury, they proceeded to the scene of the fire, and on their return the following evidence was taken:— Charles Jones, of Adelaide, warehouseman, said about five-and-twenty minutes past 10 o'clock on Friday night he was leaving Messrs. Donaldson, Andrews, & Sharland's store, when he noticed smoke issuing from the tops of the shutters of Mr. Joseph Leaver's shop, remarked upon the circumstances to two young men who were with him. They went to the shop and, looking through a crevice, saw the place was on fire. The other young men raised an alarm whilst he burst the shop door open. The interior was a mass of flames, closed the door again and waited till the firemen came— about five and twenty minutes. A period of 31 minutes elapsed between the time of the alarm being given and water being poured upon the fire. By the Foreman—The shop was all on fire. On opening the door the heat was like that of a furnace. By the Jury—The fire made very little noise, and not such as to be observed without the attention was otherwise attracted. Had no great difficulty in breaking the door open. A few blows brought it down. It was a small shutter door. Charles Tompkins, landlord of the Red Lion Hotel, said on Friday night about half past 10 o'clock he heard the alarm of fire. Immediately proceeded to Mr. Leaver's shop and found the shutter-door open—at least unfastened. The inside glass door was wide open. On looking in he saw the place was on fire, and he therefore pulled the shutter-door quite close, and so kept it till Mr. A. J. Baker arrived. By the Jury—The fire appeared to be racing most in the centre room. About five minutes after his arrival Mr. E. Bonnett informed him that all the inmates had escaped by the back. Between 20 minutes and half an hour had elapsed after the alarm was given before water was brought to bear upon the fire. Noticed no light upstairs, and saw nothing of the family. About ten minutes elapsed after the arrival of the first reel before water began to play. Could not at all account for the delay. Louisa Hampton, servant in the employ of Mr. J. Leaver, said she was on the premises when the fire broke out in the kitchen. Noticed first the reflection of the fire on the band-boxes in the passage which went from the kitchen to the shop and passed the middle room. At once ran upstairs and gave the alarm to the master and mistress. Observed the fire between 10 and 11 o'clock. Could not say nearer than that. Mr. Leaver commenced immediately to take his children out of the house. There were four children. He brought them to witness and another girl, and they took them to Mrs. Leaver's in Hindley-street. On returning to the shop after 11 o'clock the fire was out. Mr. Leaver had not gone to bed when the fire broke out. Never in the least smelled the fire, although she was in the kitchen 10 or 15 minutes before she knew the place was on fire. Was cleaning the shop a few minutes previously. Whilst she was so engaged Mr. Robt Leaver was there a portion of the time. Mr Jos. Leaver was

upstairs. By the Foreman Had no light whilst cleaning the shop but the gas. The shop, she believed, was closed about 20 minutes to 11 o'clock. Mr. R. Leaver turned the gas out. Had no candle in the shop. Had been scrubbing the floor and cleaning the shop out for Saturday. Mr. Robert Leaver went out after turning out the gas, by the shutter door, which she and Mr. Bonnett closed, and then went out of the shop, she closing the door leading into the middle room after them. Had a candle in the passage, which was lit in the kitchen. No matches were struck either in the shop or passage. Had no means of fixing the exact time. Never, as far as she could remember looked at a clock that evening. Heard the town clock strike 10. She only knew for certain that the shop was closed between 10 and 11 o'clock. Mr. Leaver heated his irons for the purposes of his trade in the middle room. The fire there went out of its own accord about 6 o'clock. No one smoked in the shop whilst she was cleaning it. Put the candle down on the counter in the middle room, whilst she was locking the door leading into the shop. Took the candle afterwards into the kitchen. There was no draught through the passage ; neither were there matches nor paper about. It was not an uncommon thing to take the candle into the room, as was done on the night in question. From the time she noticed the reflection of the fire till she was off the premises with the children about five minutes elapsed. The youngest child and Mrs. Leaver were both very ill. Mrs. Leaver was confined to her bed. Mr. Bonnett carried her out of the house. On coming downstairs with the children was met by thick smoke. Robert Leaver, of North-terrace, hatter, said he was on the premises of his brother on Friday last, from half-past 8 o'clock in the morning till after 10 at night. Was asked to stop and help clean up the shop about 6 o'clock. Assisted in doing so, and about 9 o'clock put up the shutters. Subsequently left the shop for about half-an-hour, and on his return turned off the gas at the metre and also at the small tap. Did this about half-past 10 o'clock. Went out by the shutter door, which was closed after him by Mr. Bonnett. The fire in the middle room died out about 6 o'clock. By the foreman—Could assign no cause for the fire—the property seemed safe when he left a few minutes before the fire broke out. Was at the Norfolk Arms when the alarm of fire was given. At once went round to the back of the premises and met Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Leaver, and their four children, Mr. and Mrs. Bonnett, and the two servants coming out. Had not left the shop a quarter of an hour when the alarm of fire was given. Used nothing in the trade that would ignite without a light being applied to it, but used an inflammable spirit which was kept in a tin placed under the counter in the middle room. [Subsequently the tin was produced with the spirit (methylated) still in it] Had no interest whatever in the property destroyed. B. J. McCarthy, of Currie-street, stated that he was at the Norfolk Arms with Mr. Robert Leaver, on Friday night. On being told that Mr. Joseph Leaver's shop was on fire, and having satisfied himself that such was the case, he rushed off with two young men to Mr. Coull's, Blyth-street, thinking a fire reel was kept there. On discovering his mistake he proceeded to Messrs. Ellis & Chittleborough's, where he found a reel, but completely blocked in by heavy pieces of cast-iron, and the consequence was that they had some difficulty in getting it out. By dint of perseverance, however, they conveyed the reel to the scene of the fire before 11 o'clock. Five minutes or more elapsed after its arrival before water was poured upon the fire, there being none of the fire brigade or any present who understood fixing the reel to the plug. At the end of that time, Mr. A. J. Baker came up and took charge, and the fire was extinguished in from five to seven minutes. The young men who went with him for the reel — which was the first brought to the fire—were Wm. Hors and Julius Bertram. Some of the stock, doubtless, would have been saved had one of the brigade been present when they arrived with Messrs. Ellis & Chittleborough's reel. Joseph

Leaver, of Rundle-street, hatter, said —On Friday night he was upstairs when the servant rushed up shouting that the house was on fire. At the time three were in the front room in addition to himself, his wife and child, Mr. and Mrs. Bonnett, and his mother. On the girl giving the alarm, which he thought was about half-past 10 o'clock, he ran half way down the stairs and saw the fire. As he went back he met Mr. Bonnett carrying his wife along the passage. Then went into the children's bedroom and took the children out of their beds, and saw them taken out of the house. Had not been in the shop since seven o'clock in the evening. Had been upstairs with his wife and child nearly all day. By the Superintendent of Fire Brigades—Did not attempt to extinguish the fire, because as they went downstairs they were met by the flames. By the Foreman—Was the sole proprietor of the stock destroyed. Other persons were interested as creditors. The property was insured in the Northern Assurance Company for £850. The insurance was over the stock, tools, and furniture. Had no idea at all as to the origin of the fire. Believed the servant to be a careful girl. Most of his business books had been burnt Never kept them in a safe. The insurance was effected about seven months since. Was not previously insured. Estimated the value of the stock, tools, and furniture on the premises at the time of the fire at over £1,000. The two sewing-machines in the house then were not included in the insurance. They had been bought since the insurance was effected. There was also an armchair in the house which had been borrowed from his sister. Had not been pressed at all by any of his creditors. Mr. L. Roach (one of the Jury) submitted that the last was not a question that had any thing to do with the investigation. Dr. Clark said he put the question at the request of a Juryman, thinking it no harm, and the answer had proved it to be none. Edward Bonnett, of Grenfell-street, saddler, said he was on the premises on the night of the fires. Went there about 9 o'clock with his wife, who wished to see her sister-in-law and baby, both of whom were very ill. The latter died early that morning. On hearing the girl shout out "Mr. Leaver, the shop's on fire," he went down the stairs, and through the window saw the fire. Went back, and carried Mrs. Leaver out, and as he walked down the stairs they were met by flames from the middle room. Could only account for the fire by supposing that whilst the candle was in the middle room, by some means or other it was overturned ; of course that was but a supposition. The Foreman remarked that if unpleasant questions had been put they must be attributed to the fact that although ten or a dozen persons were in the house at the time of the fire yet no cause whatever had been assigned as its origin. Dr. Clark in summing up commented upon the lack of evidence as to the fire's origin, and gave it as his opinion that it was accidentally occasioned. The Jury, having deliberated for a short time, found the following verdict:—" That the property was destroyed by fire, and that there is no evidence to show how it originated." To which was added the following rider:—"The Jury wish to record their opinion that the attention of the proper authorities should be called to the necessity of providing better means for extinguishing fires."

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 20 January 1869, page 4***

THE LATE FIRE.

TO THE EDITOR

Sir— In reading over the evidence given at the Coroner's inquest held to ascertain the origin of the fire on Mr. J. Leaver's premises, Mr. McCarthy states "That we told him to get out the reel, which he did with much difficulty, as it was stowed away under a lot of cast iron." This we flatly deny, and had Mr. McCarthy waited a few minutes while we dressed ourselves, we

should have had no difficulty in running out the reel; and had he (Mr. McCarthy) waited for us, much time would have been saved, as we could have put down the standard and attached the hose and had the water playing on the fire in less than two minutes, had it not been for the interference of McCarthy and others in running off the whole of the hose and getting it twisted and tangled about amongst the crowd. We have no doubt he thought he was doing his best, and did it with the, very best intentions; but it is generally the case when people interfere to try to do things they know nothing about, that they make a mess of it, and derer others that are capable of doing the thing properly. Without such interference we will guarantee to run out the reel to a fireplug, put down the standard, attach, and run off any given length or lengths of hose-pipe, screw on the branch pipe, and have the water playing in two minutes after arrival at the fire-plug.

We are. Sir, &c, ELLIS & CHITTLEBOROUGH. Hindley-street, January 19, 1869.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 21 January 1869, page 2***

THE LATE FIRE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir— In answer to Messrs. Ellis & Chittleborough I beg to state most positively that when I awoke Mr. Chittleborough he told me to go in the yard and get the reel, and that when we found the reel it was blocked up with a lot of pieces of cast iron. We thought we were doing right in getting the reel (which was a heavy horse-reel, with ladder, &c., attached) on the spot as soon as possible, expecting that Messrs. Ellis & Chittleborough would dress and be at the scene of the fire as soon as we were, who had to pull the heavy reel, there being only three of us to do it. When we arrived at the fire I called out about a dozen times for members of the Fire Brigade, but none came ; and when we had got a few feet of the hose off the reel Mr. Dillon (who does not but did belong to the Fire Brigade) and some others came up. and I immediately gave up all charge of the reel to them, and did not assist any more until I was requested to help in untwisting the hose that had got twisted in fixing to the standpipe. Now, sir, I would ask why Messrs. Ellis and Chittleborough were not on the ground as soon as the reel, and perform the great feats they talk so big about. But, Sir. the fact of the matter is this--that Mr. A. J. Baker reprimanded them for allowing citizens who were not members of the Brigade to take the reel away, as he no doubt fancies that some of the credit of putting out the fire (if there is any due) is due to non-members of the great Brigade. In conclusion, I beg to inform you that Messrs. Ellis & Chittleborough have claimed and received the reward of three guineas for the first reel on the ground, although if it had not been for us it would have been the last, in spite of Ellis and Chittleborough's statement that they could have dressed, harnessed a horse, and arrived on the spot quicker than we did, who ran with the reel all the way, until assisted by a cab that kept up the pace. On Monday night I saw Mr. Ellis, when he told me he had received the reward, and I said that he ought to divide it with Messrs. Hawes and Bertram, who assisted me in bringing up the reel, and that I would willingly forego any claim I might have to a share. He declined to do so. I urged him as a member of a large firm to do so on principle, when he said he preferred the money to the principle. And no doubt, Sir, their not getting all the praise of putting out the fire as well as the money (neither of which they deserved) is the real cause of their large-worded letter appearing. I am, Sir, &c, B. J. McCarthy. [ Here the correspondence must end.-ED.]

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 23 January 1869, page 6***

THE WEEKS NEWS.

Fire Reels.—A correspondent suggests that a reel should be stationed nearer the centre of the town than Messrs. Barlow's at the end of Rundle-street and Messrs. Ellis and Chittleborough's at the end of Hindley-street.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 25 February 1869, page 2***

Alarm of Fire at the New "Advertiser" Office.— We take the following from the Advertiser of Wednesday :— "Last night about 11 o'clock an alarm of fire was raised in this establishment, and it was shortly found that the building was in some danger. Through a defect in one of the gaspipes the woodwork of one of the minor partitions on the second storey became ignited, and several rooms were filled with smoke. A few of our hands ran across to the Register Office for buckets, and a troop of employés from that paper promptly came over to render assistance. By cutting into the wall and floor the locality of the fire was discovered, and a quantity of water was poured on the spot, with the desired effect. In the meantime Mr. A. J. Baker, the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, was sent for, and was on the scene of danger with the utmost promptitude. After his arrival one piece of burning wood was pulled out ; but he remained examining the part affected by the fire till all was safe. The injury done was very trifling, and no general alarm was raised."

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 9 March 1869, page 2***

Latest News

THE FIRE IN MORPHETT-STREET.—An inquest was held by Mr. Buik, J.P., at the Albion Hotel, on Monday, March 8, to enquire into the circumstances of the fire which occurred on Mr. Knabe's premises, Morphett-street, on Saturday afternoon. A Jury of twelve having been empannelled, they proceeded to view the premises, and, on their return, elected Mr. John Miller Foreman. The first witness was Frank Creme, a lad, who stated that about half-past 4 on Saturday afternoon he was in the shed which had just been inspected, cleaning a tub with Mr. Knabe's son, after which they both left, and closed the door. About an hour and a half afterwards a boy told him in the shop that the shed was on fire. Told Mr. Knabe's son. Went into the yard, got a bucket of water, and took it to the fire. By the Foreman—Did not smoke, and there was no one with him that did. Witness on being further questioned, gave half past 2 o'clock as the time when he went into the shed, and said was there about half an hour. August C. Knabe deposed that he was in the street on Saturday, when his boy told him the place was on fire. Went home as quickly as he could, and assisted in putting the fire out. The boy Cremen was the last in the shed. Left him there to finish clearing up at a quarter past 3. Never smoked at his work, nor had any of his men smoked for three weeks past. Had seen people smoke as they were passing through the yard, which was not fenced. Mary O'Connell and John Kempster were examined, the latter of whom went for the reel, but their statements threw no additional light upon the subject. Kempster said he had smoked in the shed at his work, but not during the last three weeks. The Coroner stated that that was the whole of the evidence which the constable had to lay before them, and there appeared to be nothing to show how the fire originated. The Jury without retiring found that there was no evidence to show how the fire took place. The Coroner informed those present that by Act of Parliament all persons on whose premises fire occurred, when they were uninsured, were liable for the whole expense of the reels, &c., which in this case amounted to about

£16, whereas a small premium would have rendered them safe. It is important that owners of property in the city should be aware of that circumstance, as the penalty applies even in the case of a chimney catching fire, if the members of the Fire Brigade are on the spot before the fire is extinguished.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 13 March 1869, page 4***

Fire and Accidents.—On Saturday afternoon a fire broke out in a shed filled with straw attached to the premises of Mr. Knabe, mattress-maker, Morphett-street. Several members of the fire brigade were soon in attendance, and it was extinguished; the damage, which only amounted to a few pounds' worth, being confined to the outhouse. It is not yet known how the fire originated. A horse belonging to Mr. Prior, of Hindley-street west, frightened at the sudden rush of water from the hose, bolted out of his yard, and knocked down two children, named Henry Engel and Caroline Anger, who reside in the neighbourhood. The boy had his leg broken, and the girl was cut on the head. About the same time another horse in the crowd that had assembled at the fire trod on the foot of a child, injuring it rather severely.

***South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 26 June 1869, page 4***

The whole of the members of the fire brigade, under the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, turned out on Monday morning, at 6.30, for their last half-yearly practice, under the existing arrangements, it being understood that shortly a portion of the brigade will be under the control of the Government. The reels were manned, and in one minute No. 3 had the hose fixed, and the water playing; the other reels were not so hasty in their movements, and took longer to fix the hose, &c. Those members whose intention it is to join under the new arrangement were shown the way in which the reels were managed.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 30 June 1869, page 2***

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

An announcement appeared in our columns a short time ago to the effect that the Fire Brigade would shortly be under the control of the Government.

Since then, we have been favored by the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, with copies of the correspondence which has passed between himself and the Government, the chief points of which are the following:—Toward the close of January last the Chief Secretary caused a letter to be addressed to Mr. Baker, directing his attention to the rider to the verdict given by the Coroner's Jury at the inquest upon the fire at Leaver's. That rider was, that the attention of the authorities should be called to the necessity of providing better means for extinguishing fires, and to re-quest that the Superintendent would furnish a report on the subject. This was promptly supplied. The report showed that the Fire Insurance Companies had made ample provision for protecting all property insured with them, but that as regards the very large amount of uninsured property, including Government property, it was thought only fair that the authorities should do a little themselves in the way of protection, and that instead of the Government buildings being supplied with hose, &c., they should be under the protection of a regularly organised brigade, which could be easily effected by giving the Government turncocks reels and hose, and placing the whole service under the direction of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades. The report points out various advantages

which would accrue from this reform, and states that the Companies would willingly contribute toward any extra cost that might be occasioned. It also suggests that the present Fire Brigade Act should be amended so as to make it a misdemeanor for any person to interfere with the firemen on duty or with the plant under their control, and further states that the delay at Leaver's was solely caused by a party (who is named) running away with No. 2 Reel. After some minor suggestions in the way of improvement, the report states, in proof of the efficiency of the firemen, that from January, 1860, to January, 1869, the firemen attended 122 fires, and that in no case did a fire ever extend to an adjoining building. Subsequently to the dispatch of this report, and in compliance with a suggestion it contained, an interview took place on the subject between the Brigade Superintendent and the Engineer-in-Chief, when certain alterations in the present system were mutually agreed upon, and these having been approved by all the Fire Insurance Agents doing business in Adelaide, have been forwarded to the Government for their consideration, the Superintendent having been instructed to carry out his part of the arrangement on or before July 1 of the present year. These alterations are—To Station No. 1, horse reel, at Barlow's, in charge of three firemen; No. 2, at Ellis and Chittleborough's, also in charge of three firemen; No. 3, hand reel, to be removed from Chancery-lane to Crane's yard; No. 4, hand reel, to remain at North Adelaide, where it now is. The Engineer-in-Chief awaits the authorization of the Government to put down the remainder of the fire-plug posts throughout the city, and to have them painted red, to distinguish them from the Corporation posts; also to place two hand reels, with hose, &c., in charge of the Government turncocks, at Chancery-lane, and near Whitmore square. If these arrangements are carried out, the Insurance Companies would allow the turncocks in charge of Government reels to compete with the firemen for the prizes offered for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reels, that arrive at any fire, and the Companies would pay the turncocks the same as they do their own men for attending at fires. The attention of the Government is also directed to the importance of effecting telegraphic communication with the Fire Brigade stations, and of replacing the present leather hose by two-inch indiarubber hose pipes. No doubt these alterations would be very useful, although it cannot be denied that our Fire Brigade has rendered very efficient service on the occasion of fires, and deserve the thanks of the community for their zealous efforts in the protection of life and property.— Express and Telegraph.

***South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 3 July 1869, page 12***

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE.

An announcement appeared in our columns a short time ago to the effect that the Fire Brigade would shortly be under the control of the Government. Since then, we have been favored by the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, with copies of the correspondence which has passed between himself and the Government, the chief points of which are the following :— Toward the close of January last the Chief Secretary caused a letter to be addressed to Mr. Baker, directing his attention to the rider to the verdict given by the Coroner's Jury at the inquest upon the fire at Leaver's. That rider was, that the attention of the authorities, should be called to the necessity of providing better means for extinguishing fires, and to re-quest that the Superintendent would furnish a report on the subject. This was promptly supplied. The report showed that the Fire Insurance Companies had made ample provision for protecting all property insured with them; but that as regards the very large amount of uninsured property, including Government property, it was thought only

fair that the authorities should do a little themselves in the way of protection, and that instead of the Government buildings being supplied with hose, &c., they should be under the protection of a regularly organised brigade, which could be easily effected by giving the Government turncocks reels and hose, and placing the whole service under the direction of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades. The report points out various advantages which would accrue from this reform, and states that the Companies would willingly contribute toward any extra cost that might be occasioned. It also suggests that the present Fire Brigade Act should be amended so as to make it a misdemeanor, for any person to interfere with the firemen on duty or with the plant under their control, and further states that the delay at Leaver's was solely caused by a party (who is named) running away with No. 2 Reel. After some minor suggestions in the way of improvement, the report states, in proof of the efficiency of the firemen, that from January, 1860, to January, 1869, the firemen attended 122 fires, and that in no case did a fire ever extend to an adjoining building. Subsequently to the dispatch of this report, and in compliance with a suggestion it contained, an interview took place on the subject between the Brigade Superintendent and the Engineer-in-Chief, when certain alterations in the present system were mutually agreed upon, and these having been approved by all the Fire Insurance Agents doing business in Adelaide, have been forwarded to the Government for their consideration, the Superintendent having been instructed to carry but his part of the arrangement on or before July 1 of the present year. These alterations are — To Station No. 1, horse reel, at Barlow's, in charge of three firemen ; No. 2, at Ellis and Chittleborough's, also in charge of three firemen; No. 3, hand reel, to be removed from Chancery-lane to Crane's yard; No. 4, hand reel, to remain at North Adelaide, where it now is. The Engineer-in-Chief awaits the authorization of the Government to put down the remainder of the fire plug posts throughout the city; and to have them painted red, to distinguish them from the Corporation posts; also to place two hand reels, with hose, &c., in charge of the Government turncocks, at Chancery-lane, and near Whitmore-square. If these arrangements are carried out, the Insurance Companies would allow the turncocks in charge of Government reels to compete with the firemen for the prizes offered for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd reels, that arrive at any fire, and the Companies would pay the turncocks the same as they do their own men for attending at fires. The attention of the Government is also directed to the importance of effecting telegraphic communication with the Fire Brigade stations, and of replacing the present leather hose by two inch indiarubber hosepipes. No doubt these alterations would be very useful, although it cannot be denied that our Fire Brigade has rendered very efficient service on the occasion of fires, and deserve the thanks of the community for their zealous efforts in the protection of life and property.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 18 August 1869, page 2***

FIRE BRIGADE NOTICE — Until further notice the REELS of the FIRE BRIGADE will be STATIONED at the undermentioned places :— At Messrs. Barlow & Son's, Coach-builders, Rundle-street. At Mr. J. A. Whitfield's Foundry, Hindley-street west. At Mr. W. Crane's Stables, Grenfell-street. At Mr. S. Boddington's, Turncock, Chancery-lane. At Mr. Francis Gogan's, Turncock, Brown-street. NORTH At Mr. G. Harris's, Turncock, ADELAIDE Margaret-street. At Captain Simpson's Stables, Timpson-street. At Waterworks' Yard. At Railway Station. Any interference with these Reels either at the Stations or at Fires is strictly prohibited. For Scale of Charges for the use of the Fire Insurance Companies Reels, Wages for Labour at Fires, &c., see Schedule to Act No. 9 of 1867: and for particulars as to Rewards

for Notice of Fires to Superintendent, Firemen, and others, see Placards at the Stations, and in the various Cabs of the City. S214mwf72 ARTHUR JNO. BAKER

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 27 August 1869, page 2***

ALARM OF FIRE.— On Thursday evening, shortly before half-past 9 o'clock, an alarm of fire was raised in Rundle-street by a chimney on the premises of Mr. A. G. Wigzell, fruiterer, igniting. No. 3 reel was on the ground in a few minutes, and shortly afterwards the Superintendent and two other reels arrived. The services of the brigade were not, however, required, the fire having been extinguished by wet sacks. The promptitude with which the Superintendent and his men were on the ground, although on this occasion their services were not needed, was very praiseworthy.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 27 August 1869, page 2***

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

On Thursday evening the flue of the chimney of Mr. A. G. Wigzell's house having been suffered to become foul, the soot ignited and the appearance of the flames caused some little excitement in the streets. Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, and two or three reels were promptly in attendance, so that they might be enabled to give assistance should it be required; but the fire was easily subdued by more simple methods.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 28 August 1869, page 3***

FIRE.—About 9 o'clock on Friday evening, August 20, a fire broke out in a home in Currie-street, occupied by Mrs. Saunders. Mr. A. J. Baker, (Superintendent of Fire Brigades), and No. 3 reel were quickly in attendance and put out the fire before very much damage was done, the only things burnt being a bedstead and some window curtains.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 30 August 1869, page 1***

<b>FIRE BRIGADE NOTICE.—</b>	
Until further notice the REELS of the FIRE BRIGADE will be STATIONED at the undermentioned places:—	
	At Mrs. Barlow & Son's, Coach-builders, Rundle-street.
	At Mr. J. A. Whitfield's Foundry, Hindley-street west.
SOUTH ADELAIDE	At Mr. W. Ceane's Stables, Grenfell-street.
	At Mr. S. Boddington's, Turncock, Chancery-lane.
	At Mr. Francis Gogan's, Turncock, Brown-street.
NORTH ADELAIDE	At Mr. G. Harris's, Turncock, Margaret-street.
FORT ADELAIDE	At Captain Simpson's Stables, Timpson-street.
	At Waterworks' Yard.
	At Railway Station.
Any interference with these Reels either at the Stations or at Fires is strictly prohibited.	
For Scale of Charges for the use of the Fire Insurance Companies' Reels, Wages for Labour at Fires, &c., see Schedule to Act No. 9 of 1867; and for particulars as to Rewards for Notice of Fires to Superintendent, Firemen, and others, see Placards at the Stations, and in the various Cabs of the City.	
S214mwf72	ARTHUR JNO. BAKER.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 11 September 1869, page 6***

FIRE BRIGADE PRACTICE.—On Wednesday evening, September 8, the Fire Brigade, with all their plants assembled at the Town Hall for practice. It had previously been notified to them by the Superintendent, Mr. A. J. Baker, that they would receive a summons, but the hour was not communicated to them. The reels were deposited in different localities within an

easy distance of the intended rendezvous, and those in charge waited in eager expectancy until, the preconcerted Signal—a blue light and the ringing of a bell—was given. At a quarter past 8 o'clock the light blazed out from the top of the Town Hall, and at the same moment the bell began to toll. At the end of three minutes the light burned itself out, and was superseded by a second of a like character. Several seconds before it had exhausted itself, or between five and six minutes from the first signal, the Brigade had reached the ground (the hand-reels slightly in advance, but the others in close attendance upon them), and No. 2, having made good its connection with the fireplug in King William-street, had begun to play. No. 1, which was also stationed in King William street, would have been equally expeditious in commencing operations had not a stone accidentally got into the plug, Nos. 3 and 4 got their supply of water from Pirie-street, and together ran out 350 feet of hose. Nos. 4 and 5 played from Flinders street, their combined length of hose being 420 feet. Thus the Town Hall and Corporation offices, which were made the corporavilia for this experiment, were drenched with water from three directions and from four separate jets. The great object in fixing upon this site was to obtain a two-acre block, giving facilities for bringing the whole force of the six reels into play at one time, and the result was highly satisfactory. After about a quarter of an hour had been spent in practice, the order to wind-up was given, but before it could be completely obeyed an unexpected turn was given to the proceedings by the bursting of the No. 2 standpipe. The water gushed apace, and infinite difficulty was experienced in stanching the outflow. Six valves had to be closed before the water could be stopped, and even then nothing definite was known as to the cause of the mishap. A turncock was, however, left in charge during the night to let on supplies in the very improbable event of a fire breaking out, and of course the evil will be rectified first thing this morning. Even with the six valves closed the jets from Flinders and Pirie streets could still have been kept playing had there been a necessity for their doing so. A body of troops and of metropolitan police were in attendance on the ground to prevent any difficulty from the intrusion of the crowd that assembled to witness this interesting piece of fire brigade practice.

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 23 October 1869, page 4***

THE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.—For these last eight or nine years the various Fire Insurance Companies in Adelaide have united in maintaining a Fire Brigade, with fire reels and every suitable appliance. The arrangement has been found to work so well that they have resolved upon continuing it in a more systematic form, and adding in some degree to its objects, so as to include increased facilities for valuation in case of fires. In pursuance of this resolution, an Association has been incorporated, with the declared object of "keeping up efficient Fire Brigades in South Australia, providing for the same, and maintaining such plant as may from time to time be required, the defraying of all expenses connected therewith, and transacting such other business relative to Fire Brigades and Fire Insurance as may be deemed advisable, the fixing of rates alone excepted." The newly-organized Company has, for the purposes of registration, been declared to consist of not more than 100 members. Every Fire Insurance Company, Branch Company, or Company's Agent whose name appears on the register is considered a member. These have been admitted free, but to future members an entrance fee will be charged. The existing plant is vested in the Association, the registered office of which is at the Adelaide Marine and Fire Assurance Company's Office, Grenfell-street. The first meeting of the Association was held there on Friday, October 15, when the following officers were appointed:—Chairman, Mr. E. W.

Wright ; Auditors, Messrs. E. W. Wright, A. Sidney Clark, and Percy Wells ; Valuator, Mr. J. T. Turnbull ; Solicitors, Messrs. Cullen and Wigley ; Secretary, Mr. E. M. Ashwin. The position of Mr. A. J. Baker, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, will remain unaltered. It is believed that the new arrangements will afford many facilities for the settlement of claims and the transaction of general business, among which not the least will arise from the appointment of a permanent Valuator.

***South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 1 November 1869, page 2***

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

On Sunday, just as church-goers were returning from morning service, volumes of smoke were seen to come from a detached kitchen at the west end of Boston Cottages, in King William-street, not far from South-terrace. A crowd was soon gathered, and it was found that the fire was confined to a creeper that was growing very densely on the wall of the building. Water was freely applied, and, with a little trouble, the burning mass was pulled down and the flames extinguished. Some of the dry leaves and stalks had apparently been ignited by sparks or flame coming through a crack in the chimney. As soon as the fire was seen messengers started off in various directions for the proper authorities, and the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, one or two reels, several firemen, and the police were quickly on the spot, but all danger was over by the time they arrived.