



South Australian Directory Advertiser. 17

# FIRE BRIGADES.

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

Immediately on the discovery of a Fire in any House or Building, all the Windows and Doors should be Closed, to prevent a current of air being formed, and kept closed until the Firemen are ready to eject a stream of water in, on to the part of the Building on Fire.

## UNINSURED PROPERTY.

The following Notice relative to Charges for attendance at Fires is published for general information :—

The Foremen of the Reels are particularly requested to notify to the public that Fire Brigades, Reels, Hose-pipes, and all other requisite Plant, are provided, and kept in efficient working order, under the charge and management of the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, Mr. Arthur John Baker, at the joint expense of the Fire Insurance Companies, for the protection of property insured with them. Act No. 9 of 1867 empowers the Superintendent to recover from Owners and Occupiers of PROPERTY UNINSURED as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Superintendent for Attendance .. .. .	1	1	0
Alarm of the Fire to Superintendent .. .. .	0	10	6
Three Rewards, Alarm at Reel Stations .. .. .	0	10	6
Rewards to Reels, for Turning Out .. .. .	6	6	0
Two Horse-Reels, 50s. each .. .. .	5	0	0
One Hand-Reel .. .. .	2	10	0
Ten Firemen for Turning Out .. .. .	2	10	0
Two Horses taking the Reels to and from .. .. .	1	1	0
Cleaning the Hose and Reels .. .. .	2	10	0

Aso, extra labor if any engaged.

## REWARDS.

A Reward of Ten Shillings and Sixpence will be paid to the person giving the first notice of a Fire to the Superintendent at his residence, corner of Wakefield-street and East-terrace.

Also, Three Rewards—viz., Five Shillings, Three Shillings, and Two Shillings—for notice of a Fire at either of the above Fire-Reel Stations. These Rewards will be paid by the Firemen of the Reels that obtain the First, Second, and Third Prizes.

N.B.—Only one Reel will be paid for attending at a Chimney Fire, unless specially engaged.

**ARTHUR JNO. BAKER,**  
1st July, 1871. SUPT. OF FIRE BRIGADES.

*Boothby 1871*

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 3 January 1871, page 2***

A fire occurred on the premises of the Adelaide Photographic Company, King William-street, on the evening of 9th December, destroying considerable property. The building was insured, but the stock was not. An inquest was held; nothing, however, was elicited as to the origin of the fire.

A disastrous fire occurred on the property of Mr. John Burrowes, near Hackney, on the night of the 24th December. About 70 tons of hay and between 2,000 and 3,000 bushels of barley were destroyed. An inquest was held, but the evidence gave no clue as to the origin of the fire.

A fire took place on the premises of Mr. John McDonald, boatbuilder, Lefevre's Peninsula, on the 12th December, by which Mr. McDonald was a heavy loser. The verdict at the inquest was to the effect that there was not sufficient evidence to show the cause of the fire.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 10 July 1871, page 3***

PUBLIC NOTICES NOTICE.—ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE. From the 1st July, and until further notice, the Reels of this Fire Brigade will be stationed at the undermentioned places, under the care of duly appointed Firemen. The Public are requested not to interfere with the Fire-Reels, either at the Stations or at Fires.

REEL STATIONS. , No. 1, at Mr. J. A. Ellery's, Crown and Anchor, Grenfell-street east. No. 2, at Mr. J. A. Whitfield's Foundry Yard, Hindley-street west. No. 3, at Mr. Morris's, Wheelwright, King William-street south. No. 4, at Mr. G. Harris's, Government Turncock, Archer-street, North Adelaide. No. 7, Private Reel, at Messrs. Wills & Co.'s, Fisher-place, off Rundle-street. For Scale of Charges for use of Fire Brigade Reels, the Wages, for Labour, &c., &c., see Schedule to Act No. 9 of 1867. | REWARDS. A Reward of Ten Shillings and Sixpence will be paid to the person giving the first notice of a Fire to the Superintendent at his residence, corner of Wakefield-street and East-terrace. Also, Three Rewards—viz., Five Shillings, Three Shillings, and Two Shillings—for notice of a Fire at either of the above Fire-Reel Stations; these Rewards will be paid by the Firemen of the Reels that obtain the First, Second, and Third Prizes. N.B. —Only one Reel will be paid for attending at a Chimney Fire, unless specially engaged. ARTHUR JNO. BAKER, 179mwf91 Supt. of Fire Brigades.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 15 September 1871, page 4***

Fire.— On Thursday, about 10.15 p.m., an alarm was raised, it having been found that the Railway paint shop, between the Adelaide Station and Parliament House, was on fire. Here there is usually a large quantity of material that will easily ignite, and then burn fiercely, and some of the oils and paints with loose shavings lying about were burning, the flames reaching to the rafters.

Superintendent Baker was soon at the place, and No. 1 Reel arrived in good time, but its services were not called into use, as the fire was subdued by the hose on the spot. Sergeant-Major Saunders with a party of police rendered some good service. The extent of the damage done was not known last night, but more information will probably be forthcoming to-day.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 16 September 1871, page 3***

THE RAILWAY STATION FIRE.

Dr. Clindening, J.P., held an enquiry at the Terminus Hotel, North-terrace, on Friday afternoon, September 15, into the cause of the fire at the paint-shop of the City Railway Station, on Thursday night, September 14 ; Mr. John Clark was foreman. William George Percy Joyner, clerk, stated that about 10 p.m. he was walking on the City-road, towards North Adelaide, when he saw a glare in the Railway-yard. Went down the road between the Baths and the Government Printing Office towards the goods-shed, and saw a bright light in the paint-shop. Immediately ran to Government House Gate, and told the guard. A policeman and himself went back, and saw that the fire had increased. At the request of the constable he then gave information at the Mounted Police Barracks. On returning the fire was almost out, and the hose was playing on it. By the Jury—Saw no one about the premises when he first observed the fire. Constable Duncan said he was on duty at Government House on Thursday night, when about 10.10 p.m. Mr. Joyner told him that he thought there was a fire in a railway workshop. Accompanied him to the goods-shed road, and on seeing flames issuing from the lattice-work on the side of the paint-shop, Mr. Joyner, at his request, went to the Barracks. Witness gave the alarm at the railway terminus to the watchman, and

called the constable who was on duty on North-terrace. On their way to the fire they were joined by Mr. Hall. Connected two lengths of hose he saw hanging, and put them on the stand-pipe, and with the assistance of Mr. Hall played on the fire, which was then running up the rafters. Meantime the other constable went to the Police Station for assistance. The upper part of the fire was soon got under, but they had some difficulty with the lower portion, as it seemed to hold to a barrel of paint-skins. The watchman rendered valuable assistance. By the Jury—Saw no loose straw or paper about. A number of oilcans were collected close to the forge and where the bulk of the fire was. Broke open the hole in the iron to throw in water. The shelves upon which the oilcans were placed were partly consumed before he got into the place. Observed no one about the premises when he first went there. The troopers arrived after the fire was put out. George Hall, draper's assistant, corroborated the constable's evidence as to putting out the fire; also stating that he saw no one about the premises when he arrived but the two constables and the watchman. Edward Tilly, watchman at the Railway Station, also corroborated, adding that it was his duty to go round and visit all the premises several times a night. The paint-shop he did not visit on Thursday night until after the fire broke out, as his duties kept him in the Parcel Department. John Dexter, employed in the Carriage Department, stated that he left at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday with the other employes. He was in the paint-shop a short time before, and everything was then in its proper place. There was a quantity of oil, paint, and turpentine in drums on the ground close to the old forge, which had not been filled for some six months. The drums were separate from each other, and not piled on a heap together. There were also two tubs of paint-skins on a shelf a few inches above the floor, and a quantity of dry paints in tins heaped one on the other on the shelves. He could not say whether any of these things had been knocked down. From his own knowledge he did not know where the key of the paint-shop was kept, but he had been told that morning that it was generally placed under the door, and that this was only known to two or three of the men. Any person if so inclined could have set fire to the inside from the outside by putting the fire through the lattice-work.

Saw no one smoking or any appearance of the when he left. William Sumsion, coachtrimmer, employed in the Carriage Department, said he was the last to leave the paint-shop on Thursday, at 5.30 p.m. He locked the door and placed the key in its usual place on the rail under the door. This place was known only to the two painters and himself. By the Jury—When he left everything was right. Saw no one smoking, or any appearance of fire about the premises. There was a coke fire in some nailcans in the morning about 30 feet from where the fire broke out. He was positive this fire was out at 2 p.m. By Detective Doyle—There was a galvanized iron partition between these nailcans and the place where the conflagration was. Believed the cans were in the same position on Friday morning as when he saw them on Thursday at dinner-time. Bush and Ellis were the two painters. William Bush, coachpainter, employed in the Railway Carriage Department, said he left the premises at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday with the other employes. Before leaving he examined the place as usual, and found everything safe. There was no appearance of fire. Smoking was not allowed. Went to work at 6.5 a.m. on Friday. Opened the door, and then noticed that there had been a fire. By the Jury—The key he found in its usual place under the door. Several persons knew where the key was kept. The Coroner, in summing up, said they had quite sufficient evidence on which to come to a conclusion. He thought the case was very clear, and that there could be no two opinions about it. He did not think the fire was accidental, but his impression was that it was a case of pure incendiarism. There was nothing in the

evidence to lead them to think that it was an accidental fire, for when the workmen left there was not the slightest appearance of fire about the place. Detective Doyle asked that the enquiry might be adjourned for a week, for it was possible that if the place was set on fire the person who did so was seen, and by adjourning they would perhaps get additional evidence. The Jury unanimously decided to adjourn to Friday next, at 4 p.m.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 23 September 1871, page 3***

ADJOURNED INQUEST ON RAILWAY STATION FIRE.

The adjourned enquiry into the late fire at the Railway paint-shop at the City Station was held at the Terminus Hotel on Friday after-noon, September 22, by Dr. Clindening, J.P.

In answer to the Coroner, Detective Doyle stated that he was not in a position to place any further evidence before them. He would, however, like the witness Dexter recalled, as the question had arisen whether some vegetable black that was in the shop could have caused spontaneous combustion, and thereby originated the fire. John Dexter, labourer in the carriage department, recalled, said that there was a cask containing three packages of vegetable black, which stood close to the forge, and outside the other casks. Believed that cask was burnt from the outside. The vegetable black was destroyed. Was positive the fire could not have arisen from the cask containing the vegetable black. By Detective Doyle— There was no damp about the place near the fire. John Ellis, jun., employed in the carriage department, corroborated the evidence of Dexter, Sumsion, and Bush, as given in the previous enquiry, and further stated that the cask of vegetable black was four or five feet from where the body of the fire was. He was confident that the fire did not arise in the inside of that cask. Was sure that the vegetable black had not been removed from the cask, as he and Bush were the only two who used it.

John Dexter, recalled, said the cask containing the vegetable black was on the earth, in its usual place. It was there for about a month prior to the fire. About a fortnight before the fire he sprinkled the place with water, to sweep it. Did not move the cask from the time he placed it there to the time of the fire. When sprinkling he was sure that no water got into that particular cask. Was possible the packages were in the cask the day before the fire, but could not say they were in it when he left the premises on the night of the occurrence. James Frazer, coachpainter, said he considered vegetable black a combustible substance, liable to ignite from spontaneous combustion when brought into contact with damp. He had on several occasions seen fires take place from such a cause. George Dodgson, oil and colour merchant, said he knew vegetable black to be a combustible substance, and therefore kept it in a very dry place. He had it separated from other goods by placing casks of whiting between it and the rest of the stock, also kept it raised about six inches above the ground. At the request of several Jurors the witness went to the scene of the fire, and on returning he stated his opinion that no quantity of water could have accumulated in the cask from the roof. He did not consider that a fire could have reached the beam without consuming the cask had the fire originated in it. The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that, as at the previous enquiry, there was no evidence leading him to suppose that this was an accidental fire. It was for them, however, to consider how the fire originated. If they supposed that it was accidental they should return a verdict to that effect; but if the premises had been maliciously set on fire they should put all fine feelings aside, and return a verdict accordingly. The testimony was circumstantial; but what was more conclusive than circumstantial evidence sometimes? They had the opinion of Messrs. Dodgson and Frazer

that vegetable black was of a combustible nature; but then, again, Mr. Dodgson said after examining the premises that no water could have accumulated in the cask. After about half-an-hour's consideration the verdict returned was, "The Jury have carefully considered the evidence in regard to the fire in the Railway Workshop, and are of opinion that there is nothing to show how the said fire originated."