

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1873

### Locations of Fire Reels

Commissioner of Waterworks, The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works.	<b>ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.</b>
<b>ENGINEERING DIVISION.</b>	Superintendent of Fire Brigades, Arthur Jno. Baker, East terrace
Engineer of Waterworks, The Engineer-in- Chief	<b>FIRE REEL STATIONS.</b>
Clerk, G. E. Harris	No. 1, Grenfell street east, <i>Crown and Anchor</i> <i>Hotel yard</i>
Reservoir-keeper, C. Sanders	„ 2, Hindley street west, J. A. Whitfield's foundry
Storekeeper, C. Seymour	„ 3, King William street south, Mr. Mor- ris's, wheelwright
Meter-keeper, D. Peryman, Lombard street, North Adelaide	„ 7, Rundle street (private reel), Wills and Co.'s, Fisher place
Turncocks—Charles Seymour, valve-house, East Park Lands; George Harris, Archer street, North Adelaide; S. Boddington, Chancery Lane, Wakefield street; T. Wright, corner of Brown and Gouger streets; T. Sanders, Waterworks Yard, Port Adelaide.	<b>NORTH ADELAIDE.</b>
<b>RATES DIVISION.</b>	No. 4, Archer street, G. Harris, Government turncock.
Accountant, W. H. Squires	<b>PORT ADELAIDE.</b>
Clerk and Collector (Adelaide) H. A. S. Holthouse	No. 1, Timpson street, Captain Simpson's stables
Clerk and Collector (Port Adelaide), R. H. Edmunds	“ 2, Government Waterworks Yard “ 3, Railway station

Boothby 1873

*Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 17 October 1873, page 3*

#### THE ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.

The first annual dinner in connection with the Adelaide Fire Brigade took place at the Hamburg Hotel on Thursday evening, October 16. There were present about 45 persons. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. J. Baker, who was supported on his right by Sir Henry Ayers, M.L.C., the Rev. J. C. Woods, B. A., the Hon. W. Morgan, M.L.C., Messrs. W. J. Peterswald (Inspector of the Metropolitan Police), E. A. Wright, Dr. Davies, Mr. T. W. Bee (Inspector of Police and Public-houses) Mr. A. S. Clark, and Mr. T. Worsnop (Town Clerk); and on the left by the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. G. Hamilton (Commissioner of Police), Messrs. A. Abrahams, F. Wright, C. H. Meyer, J. T. Turnbull, and H. Scott, Mr. W. Benbow (Secretary) occupied the vice-chair. After the edibles had been discussed the Chairman gave the usual loyal toasts, which were duly honored. Sir H. AYERS, in proposing "Success to the Fire Insurance Companies of South Australia, said, from what they had seen hitherto, that success had been of a very high character. He was old enough to remember the first Insurance Company started here, which, unfortunately, was not a success. This did not arise from a want of insurers or loss of property, but from other circumstances. Since that they had been represented by agents from different Companies from other places; and they had also their own Companies. The oldest Company represented at that gathering was the Imperial, by Mr. Wright—the next being the Cornwall, re-presented by Mr. Scott. He also remembered the arrival of Mr. Tapley, who established the Australian Insurance Company; and, in drinking this toast, he was sure they could all do it with the greatest cordiality, because the success of the Insurance Companies was the success of them all. (Cheers.) These Companies were started for the protection of property, and the protection of property benefited them all. He

had been an insurer for a good many years, and goodness only knew how much he had spent in this way. (Laughter.) Perhaps Mr. Wright could tell ; but he was glad to say that he had not had any losses, or that it had not been necessary to receive any money from these Companies. And though money was paid out for insurance, and sometimes no return was received for it (though, of course, the property was protected), it was a comfort to know that one was contributing a small mite to re-coup those who were unfortunate enough to lose. (Hear, Hear.) He wondered that Fire Insurance Companies were of such recent origin. Marine Insurance Companies could date back 2,000 years, but it was questionable if fire Companies could date 200 years. The Hand-in-Hand Company was the first started in England, and the name chosen to recognise this Company was a good one. He trusted the feeling indicated in this name would be felt here—(hear, hear)—and that people would not be afraid to insure their property. The premiums now paid were trifling, and the greater the number who insured the more the benefit which would naturally accrue. Mr. E. W. WRIGHT, in responding, said, he was under the impression that the Alliance was the first Company started here—the first representation of a foreign office. The fact that the Alliance and Imperial offices, were started here showed the confidence felt in the settlement, because when they were started Adelaide was little larger than one of the small villages in England. Agencies of other Companies had been started, and had gone on increasing from year to year; and such was the confidence of the people that several Companies had been put forward in the colony itself, which were all doing well. He hoped they would continue to do well, and that they would all act on the principle indicated in the name of the Company started in England referred to by Sir Henry Ayers. The establishment of Fire Insurance Companies was a good thing—to the honest man as a protection to his property; to the man who did not act honestly by bringing his real and true character to light. He was happy to say that there were very few dishonest cases in South Australia. In the other colonies they had had some rather shady cases, but we had had, he was glad and proud to say, very few. (Cheers.). Mr. HY. SCOTT proposed "The Police of South Australia," saying he could bear testimony to the state of efficiency which the police of this colony had acquired. He referred to the humorous ideas held regarding policemen, delineated by the comic periodicals of England, and then said among any body of men in the world they would not find a better body than policemen, and he might almost say more for the police of South Australia. Though they had such an efficient Fire Brigade here, he thought it would be admitted that but for the exertions of the police the efforts of the Brigade would be useless. He was glad to notice the steady character of the police and the harmonious way in which they co-operated with the Brigade. Mr. COMMISSIONER HAMILTON, in responding, said the proposer of the toast, had, as frequently was done, taken the humorous side of the question, but it should be remembered that there was a serious side also. To be a policeman required certain qualifications, which if a man had not he would be unfit for duty. It was sometimes the habit to eulogise the military and laugh at the police-constable, but he was bound to point out many differences in favor of the constable. For the soldier it was necessary that he should have courage, but this was to be exercised frequently when the blood was heated, and against an enemy, and then only at times. The policeman might be called into the field at any moment, and was bound to have calm discretion, a clear judgment, and a perfect temper— (cheers)—and under the circumstances he rose with pride to return thanks for the toast. He did not wish to eulogise the police more than they deserved, but he did not believe he could be in command of a better body of men than were the South Australian police at the present time, and this was a tribute due to them, and one he was happy to pay.

(Cheers.) In the Quarterly Review, two years ago, the whole state of the London police, was commented upon, the article dealing with the history of the London Force from its commencement. It was pointed out that the police established by Sir Robert Peel were most unpopular, that the criminal class was very numerous, and that people wrote letters to the papers complaining of the police; and it was suggested in Parliament that the force should be done away with. This, how-ever was not acted upon, and the matter was left to the officers to deal with. Now, it was admitted that the London Police Force was the best Police Force in the world. The police of South Australia had not escaped the scrutiny of the public; they had not escaped the letters and so on—(laughter)—and he believed they had been improved by the notice. (Cheers.) He would be thankful to the public if they would come forward in an honest spirit to the police and complain when the men deserved it, and when any delinquency was noticed point it out. (Cheers.) If a man saw a delinquency on the part of a constable and did not point it out, he was doing injury to society and to him (the Commissioner) as the head of the Force. (Cheers) At the present time he was drilling recruits, and he was glad to say that they soon fell into the work. Those taken were principally native born, and they showed great aptitude for the work. (Cheers and laughter.) He thanked the Brigade for the invitation to be present that evening. Mr. A. S. CLARK, gave "The Superintendent and Firemen of the Adelaide Fire Brigade." This toast, which he was proud to propose, came home to the feelings of them all, especially those, of them who represented Fire Brigades. (Laughter.) He was sure his brother agents would bear him out in saying that the Superintendent had been a very worthy, painstaking, and efficient officer. Never since the Brigade had been established had a fire got into a second building, and that was a great deal for a town like Adelaide, which was built without a Building Act, and in which till lately there was nothing but wooden roofs. (Hear, hear.) They had not had much experience of the members of the present Brigade. The old members had re-tired, and the young ones had not had much to do. The longer they could take them on trust the better—(laughter)—and the greater the agents would be pleased ; but he was sure if called upon it would be found that they could do their duty well. (Hear, hear.) Whether it was owing to the supply of water, the merits of the Superintendent, or the efficiency of the men, it was difficult to say, but it was a certain fact that a fire in Adelaide was no sooner on than it was off, and he believed people now depended not so much on the Insurance Companies as the Brigade, (Laughter, and cheers,) He thanked the Brigade for having invited him to be present with his brother agents, and said he was glad to show that he had the welfare of the institution at heart. Mr. A. J. Baker (Superintendent) responded. A head without a body was of little service, but he was glad to say that he had always had a body of men at his back who were ever ready for fires and able to put them out, He was also glad to acknowledge the able assistance he had always received from the police, so that they had been able to get fires under before they really became fires. He acknowledged the ability of the firemen he had had associated with him, and said they were generally down upon a fire while it was yet a blaze. (Laughter.) He wished he could give his men a little more practice, and as there was a lot of uninsured property in the city, he lived in hopes of a jolly good fire before long—(laughter)—so that those who did not do as they ought to do, i.e. insure their property, would be led to see the error of their ways. (Laughter.) At present there were 50 men ready to turn out by night or by day to extinguish fires. The Government some time ago promised to give them wires from the main thoroughfares to the Police-Station, and valve and reel houses, but the promises had not been carried out. He wished they had been ; and he thought, also, that the firemen should be exempted from serving on Juries, from city rates,

and so on. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. BENBOW (Secretary) responded on behalf of the men, making some very sensible and excellent remarks. He stated that the firemen had worked amicably together in the past, and they should continue to do so in future. They had always striven to put out fires as expeditiously as possible, and they had no other wish than to serve those who employed them truthfully and faithfully. He was glad to see so many agents present, and he concurred in the remarks as to the exemption of firemen from service on Juries. Other toasts customary at such gatherings were duly honored, and the proceedings, which had been enlivened by musical selections, &c., terminated at an early hour.