

Adelaide Fire Brigade Equipment locations 1875

Locations of Fire Reels

THE FIRE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	
Chairman, A. Abrahams, Esq. Committee, Messrs. A. Abrahams, A. Watts, L. A. Jessop, John Acraman, and J. C. Dunn. Valuator, J. T. Turnbull, Esq. Superintendent, A. J. Baker, Esq. Secretary, E. M. Ashwin, Esq. Offices : Corner of King William and Pirie streets.	
Land Office Clerks, A. P. Wyly and D. L. Beetson Secretary to Gov. Resident, &c., J. G. Knight Storekeeper, E. N. Dewhirst Surveyor, A. M. L. McKay Stipendiary Magistrate, E. W. Price Clerk of Court, &c., G. Donaldson, jun. Bailiff, M. O'Halloran Assist. Landing Waiter, Customs, T. Wright Harbor Master, W. Cook Sub-Inspector of Police, Paul Foelsche Sergeant of Police, G. P. Badman	No. 2. Horse Cart Reel, with 240 feet of hose and all necessary implements, Hindley street west; W. Benbow, foreman " 3. Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, King William street south; Job Morris, foreman " 4. Hand Reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, Archer street, North Adelaide; George Harris, foreman " 5. Government Hand Reel, hose, stand- pipe, keys, &c., complete, at the rear of Post-Office, King William street " 6. Government Hand Reel, hose, stand- pipe, keys, &c, complete, at the rear of South Australian Institute, North terrace " 7. Hand reel, hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete, Fisher place, off Rundle street, Wills & Co.'s.; W. Hendry, foreman.
ADELAIDE & PORT ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.	
Superintendent, Arthur John Baker, East terrace Deputy Superintendent, Thomas Sanders, Waterworks Yard, Port Adelaide	
ADELAIDE REEL STATIONS.	
No. 1. Horse Cart Reel, with 240 feet of hose and all necessary implements, Grenfell street east; Richard Spencer, foreman	PORT ADELAIDE REEL STATIONS. No. 1. Hand Reel, complete, at the Water- works Yard; W. Laphorn, foreman " 2. Hand Reel, complete, St. Anthony street; F. Appleby, foreman " 3. Hand Reel, complete, Port Railway Station; Railway porters " 4. Hand Reel, complete, Mr. A. Hall's store, Levi's Wharf

Boothby 1875

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 30 January 1875, page 10

FIRE AT THE CEMETERY.

On Sunday the 24th instant, about midday, a fire broke out in the West-terrace cemetery. Some boys at once communicated, with Mr. Brooks the Superintendent, who was soon on the spot, and, aided by his men with boughs, wet bags and buckets of water, after about half-an-hour's battle conquered the flames. The only damage done was the burning of some prickly hedge a quantity of grass, and the destruction of a number of young wattles. The fire appears to have originated just outside the western boundary fence, and it rapidly consumed the hedge and grass, which at this season are very dry. The wind being moderately strong in the west soon raised a powerful blaze, which swept at a great rate

towards the front of the grounds. When the flames had reached about half the depth of the enclosure the wind suddenly veered round, which enabled the workers to master the conflagration. About half of the southern portion of the cemetery, which is not used for interment, suffered. The arrangements are such that little damage can be done to the part now in use, as it is laid out in blocks of 18 feet width, separated by wide paths, kept clean and free from, any dry grass, so that no fire could spread from one block to another. Although no fire-reels were sent for three attended, Mr. Benbow's No. 2 horse-reel being first, followed by Mr. Hendry's No. 7 and Mr. Morris's No 3 hand-reel, but as no plugs are in the lower part of the grounds they would have been useless, if needed. The fire is supposed to have been caused by some boys, as they are found constantly in and about the place, and young men and women, like those who congregate at the bank of the Torrens native camp, are sometimes seen sitting in the shade of the hedges at the rear of the cemetery. Mr. W. Marcus, J. P., held an inquest at the Elephant and Castle Inn, West-terrace, on Monday, Jan. 25, regarding the fire which occurred the previous day at the West-terrace Cemetery.

Mr. James Duncan was the Foreman. It was seen that six or seven acres of grass and wattles had been destroyed. Henry Gray, aged 12, son of a carrier, living on West-terrace, said at half-past 11 o'clock on Sunday forenoon he saw from the west side a fire two or three yards square burning in the Cemetery ; near the bushes by the fence. The fire was large, and was working towards the Superintendent's house. At once ran and told Mr. Brookes's son, Pengelley, the gardener, and O'Brien, a grave-digger. Returned and helped to put the flames out. Thomas Brew, a lad was with him. Saw a lady and gentleman reading a headstone some, little distance off, and told them of the fire. Brew took off his coat and tried to put out the blaze. There was a hole near where the fire began where some persons had been sitting. The grass was torn up and crushed. Passed with Brew through the Cemetery at about 10.30 a.m. Got over the wall, as they were after a horse, which they caught and washed in a pool at hand, these things occupying an hour. H. E. Brookes, Superintendent, said that at about 11.45 a.m. his son told him there was a fire at the back. Found an extensive one at the western extremity of the grounds. It appeared to be 300 yards in length, and was spreading very fast towards the house. The wind was west. Four or five persons were on the spot, and with others who soon collected witness mastered the flames by 10 o'clock. The grass must have been fired wilfully, or some matches had been trodden upon. Could not otherwise account for the fire; Fewer people than usual passed through on Sunday morning. A fire in the Cemetery a month ago began out-side. Thought the fire this time was also, ignited outside the fence, or very-close to it. No harm was done beyond the destruction of the grass and wattles. Robert Hewlett, pavior, said he saw from Gilbert-street the smoke from the fire at about 11.30, and went for No. 3 Reel. The fire, was nearly extinguished when he got back. The witness Gray, recalled, said the boy Brew was smoking a cigar at the back of the cemetery about 11 o'clock on Sunday near the waterhole. Started with him and the horse towards the slip-panel near the Bay-road. Then let the horse go to find his way home. Returned to the cemetery bird-nesting. Then saw the fire. Brew was smoking when he and witness started from the water hole. Brew put out his cigar at the slip-panel. He lit it with a match at the waterhole. The Jury a second time inspected the spot where the fire was first seen, and had shown to them where the waterhole was situated and where the cigar was put out. Upon the return of the Jurors the Coroner pointed out that from the positions of the places the presence of the two boys had nothing to do with the fire. If the Jury thought it necessary there should be an adjournment to secure the attendance of the lad Brew.

The Jury thought an adjournment unnecessary, and returned an open verdict to the effect that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 6 March 1875, page 11

FIRE AT GOODWOOD.

At about half-past 11 o'clock on Sunday night, the 28th February, residents in and around Adelaide were alarmed at seeing the reflection of what appeared to be an extensive fire in the southern part of or close to the city. It proved to be three burning haystacks on the farm of Messrs. P. H. & F. B. Burden, situated in Goodwood Ward, Unley, and about a stones throw south of the Butts on the South Park Lands. Mr. Pilkington, a dairyman residing on the adjoining section, appears to have been amongst the first to have seen the flames. He at once ran to the house of the Messrs. Burden's Manager (Mr. R. Crane), who resides on the farm, and was about retiring to rest. Within five minutes of the alarm he and Pilkington were at the stacks. The flames had then a strong hold upon the northern one, and had communicated with the two southern ones, apparently by means of loose straw, for the men say that straw was burning between the stacks from corner to corner, and a strong southerly wind had been blowing throughout the evening, and it was blowing during the worst of the conflagration. The presumption there fore is that the southern stacks would not have ignited so early with the wind blowing so strongly from the southern quarter, and especially as they stood about 18 feet apart. The hay had been recently stacked, and on the previous day the place was thoroughly cleared in the presence of Mr. F. B. Burden of all loose straw, and apparently everything was safe. Suspicion is cast upon no particular individual, but the presumption is that the fire was wilfully caused or was the result of carelessness by some person who had frequented the stacks. It is estimated that there were about 200 tons of hay in the three stacks, which were valued at £600, and insured in the South Australian Office for about £400. As the fire enveloped the hay the whole of the immediate land was brilliantly lighted up, while the reflection was cast for some miles round, and the glare and volumes of smoke must have been seen at a considerable distance. Several hundreds of people were attracted to the scene, and four of the fire-reels attended from town, Messrs. Benbow, Hendry, Morris, and Spencer's reels arriving in the order named very shortly after the alarm was raised. It was thought that the fire might have been caused by the Glenelg train, but that idea was soon dispelled upon a visit to the spot, which lies considerably north-west of the railway line. It seems, however, that the Park Lands westward of the Butts and between the haystacks and South-terrace were burning in two places prior to the hay being observed alight, and that one of them was beaten out, while the other burned itself out. An enquiry into the whole affair will probably be held.

The Inquest.

On Tuesday, March 2, Mr. T. Ward, J. P., held an enquiry at the Brecknock Arms Hotel, King William-street south, concerning the fire which occurred at Messrs. P. H. and F. B. Burden's farm at Goodwood on February 28. Mr. W. J. Price was chosen foreman. Mr. R. E. Tapley, on behalf of the South Australian Insurance Company, watched the proceedings.

Wm. Pilkington, cowkeeper, stated that between 11 and 12 p.m. his wife told him that Mr. Burden's haystacks were on fire. Went immediately, giving notice to Mr. Crane, the foreman. He got up and went at once with deponent to the haystacks. At first the hay stack nearest the road was burning, but by the time witness reached Crane's the second one caught fire,

and the third was alight before they got there. About 600 tons of hay were burnt in the three stacks. Saw no one about the place when they reached it. Nothing could be done to stop the fire. By the Foreman—Don't know whether any hay out of the stacks had been sold. One stack had been slightly cut, but deponent heard the hay was used for topping the stacks. By Inspector Peterewald—Live about 300 yards from the haystacks, and if any boys had been about there during the day witness could have seen them. The wind was blowing from the south-west. Noticed no fire on the Park Lands.

Robert Crane, the foreman, corroborated, and added that he had sold about seven tons since the stacks were put up. They contained 180 to 200 tons each. Saw no suspicious people in the locality, but was too excited to look about much. By Mr. Tapley—The horses that were at work while the seven tons were being removed fed on the stacks. By the Jury—Disturbed some persons about six weeks ago while they were sleeping at the haystacks. Was not smoking at the hay stacks.

Several small boys were here brought into the room, and the Inspector explained that they had been heard accusing each other of setting the grass on the Park Lands alight, and perhaps some clue could be gained from them. The youngsters were subjected to an examination without being sworn, but they all stoutly denied having been near the place, having had matches, or having lit the grass. They all asseverated with much earnestness that they had been at home and in bed when the fire occurred, and had not been on the Park Lands for some time.

John Pearce, bootmaker, deposed that the fire broke out in the northern stack. Called Mr. Tilley, and they went at once to the place. Could give no idea as to how the fire originated. Saw no strangers about. Knew nothing of patches of grass being burnt on the Park Lands. The wind was blowing rather from the east than south.

Lance-Corporal R. Pascoe said he was in Russell-street, Adelaide, when, at 25 minutes past 11 o'clock, he saw a blaze in the direction of Unley, and went towards it. When he got on the South Park Lands he found the grass on fire on the north-eastern side of the Rifle Butts. Partly succeeded in putting it out. Also saw a patch of grass that had been burnt. Noticed a large light at Goodwood, and directly afterwards it burst out into a bright flame, and witness said that some haystacks were on fire. Returned to town and called Morris, the nearest fireman. He said he did not think he had any right to go there. Then reported the fire at the Police Station and to Mr. A. J. Baker, the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade. He replied, " It is no use us going. There is no water laid on, and we can do no good." The wind must have come either from the south or south-east.

F. B. Burden, part owner of the destroyed property, stated that while at Stepney his attention was attracted by a blaze apparently near Unley. Witness went into town not knowing that his property was on fire. Thought of going to see where the fire was, and it then occurred to witness that it might be the stacks burning. Went at once to the farm, and found the three stacks burning. Nothing could be done to check the flames. Estimated the value of the hay consumed at between £500 and £600.

The stacks were insured for £330 in the South Australian insurance Company's office. Had no reason to suspect any one of having set fire to the hay. Did not live on the property. By the Jury—Considered that the stacks were in a safe position—not too near the road. Every precaution had, witness thought, been taken to prevent fire.

The Coroner remarked that there was nothing to lead the Jury to any decision as to how the fire originated. After a brief retirement the Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the fire arose from some cause or causes unknown.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 25 March 1875, page 2

Latest News

FIRE.—About 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, March 25, a fire broke out in Mr. Kindermann's residence on the east aide of Hutt-street. Alarm was given to Mr. A. J. Baker by some labourers who were working on the adjacent road, and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, with their assistance, took No. 8 Reel to the spot; but before they arrived the owner, aided by the neighbours, had got the flames under. It appears that Mr. Kindermann smelt gas escaping in his front parlour, obtained a ladder and light to discover the leak, when in an instant the whole room was in a blaze. Mr. Kindermann fell from the ladder to the floor, but had sufficient presence of mind to crawl on his hands and knees to the door and call for water. His head was rather scorched; but he received no further injury. The window curtains were destroyed, and the window frame and furniture damaged.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 22 April 1875, page 5

DESTRUCTION OF MR. DURYEA'S PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO.

A fire resulting in the almost total demolition of Mr. T. Duryea's photographic establishment, situated at the corner of King William and Grenfell streets, broke out during the small hours of Sunday, April 18. Two constables on the beat in the vicinity had their attention first attracted to the scene about 3.30 a.m. by the sudden bursting forth of flame through the roof. They at once raised an alarm, and communicated with Mr. A. J. Baker, the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, who with Fire-reels No. 2 (Benbow's), 1 (Spence), and 3 (Morris's), was in attendance within half an hour of the intimation being given. Inspectors Searcy and Peterswald were also quickly on the spot with detachments of mounted and foot police, who rendered efficient service in suppressing the flames. It being so early, and Sunday morning, the streets were deserted, but the alarm soon roused people in the immediate vicinity, who promptly assembled. The fire must have been burning some time before it found vent through the roof, but then it quickly enveloped the whole upper storey in a fierce blaze. Those present before the Brigade arrived found it impossible to check the ravages of the flames; but many valuable pictures and other things it is alleged might have been rescued had the spectators been allowed by the police to force an entrance to the premises. The constables have apparently, however, no power to permit by-standers to rush to the rescue in such cases as this. It has been suggested that while every care should be taken to prevent reckless conduct and thefts, and preserve order at such fires, authority should be given to the police to call upon respectable citizens for aid without waiting for the arrival of the Brigade, in which cases much valuable property might frequently be saved. The anxiety to keep doors and windows closed so as to prevent a rush of air which would fan the conflagration is doubtless the chief reason for preventing the access of volunteer rescuers to burning buildings, pending the arrival of the Brigade, but in some cases this rule ought seemingly to be relaxed. The firemen quickly adjusted three lines of hose, and an immense volume of water was thrown upon the flames from King William-street, Grenfell-street, and the rear of the premises, a full pressure of water being available owing to Mr. Baker having been able before he left home to communicate with the keeper of the valve-house, on the

Hackney-road, by means of the telegraph line recently erected at his suggestion between that place and his residence. Some people having forced an entrance from King William-street, managed to recover the greater portion of the stock of pictures on the ground floor and in the show windows, but everything upstairs was destroyed, the fire having got complete mastery there before the Brigade arrived. The gasmeter on the upper floor had not been turned off, and till the leaden pipe melted wholly away the gas added fuel to the flames. The meter was wholly consumed, but the lead melting into the iron joint plugged it up, and thus prevented any further escape of gas. The Brigade prevented the flames spreading in the lower part of the building. The cause of the affair is purely conjectural. The general opinion of those who were first on the spot is that it started in the chemical room, as the flames were raging with great fierceness in that portion of the building, and frequent flashes of flame arose as the chemicals escaped from bursting bottles. The whole of the upper apartments, including show-room, ladies' room, operating room, and work, stock, and printing rooms, were slightly built, the partitions being chiefly lath and plaster, and in a very short time that portion of the property was completely gutted, the roof fell in bodily, and nothing but the bare walls remained. The conflagration raged with such fury that fears were entertained for the safety of the adjoining structures occupied by Messrs. Hay, Hann, & Co., Messrs. Francis Clark & Sons, and Messrs. Clark & Crompton. The walls of the former building being one storey higher than the burning premises, the flames were prevented spreading beyond, but they rose sufficiently to thoroughly char the wooden braces upon which the joists of Messrs. Hay, Hann, & Co.'s roof is supported. The ridge-pole and upper rafters of the roof of Messrs. Clark & Co.'s building caught fire, but the flames were extinguished before they secured any hold there. A window in Mr. E. C. Baker's office overlooking Mr. Duryea's premises also caught fire, but the flames were prevented from getting inside. Some papers, however, were damaged by water. Messrs. Hay and Son's show-room was similarly damaged; also Mr. Duryea's two lower business rooms and the premises under the same roof, including Mrs. Foale's fancy warehouse, Messrs. J. C. Dunn and B. Allen's offices, and Mr. Jackson's hair-dressing shop. The stock in each of the shops was almost entirely destroyed, being saturated, and Mr. Dunn's office-fittings were rendered almost worthless. Messrs. Clark & Son's premises were also damaged by water, and there was about two feet of water in their cellar. Mr. Duryea's loss is a very serious one, as the whole of his registered carte-de visite negatives, numbering about 60,000, the possession of which has yielded a handsome income, besides an extensive stock of large plates and miscellaneous pictures, has been destroyed, together with the whole of his plant and improvements. Mr. Duryea's stock-in-trade represents a peculiar value, and no insurance can fully compensate for the loss sustained. We understand that the goods and improvements, in which only Mr. Duryea has an interest, are insured in the Northern and Transatlantic Offices for £1,500 and £1,700 respectively. The building, which is the property of Mr. George Prince, is insured for £1,200 in the Australian Alliance Office. Messrs. Hay and Hann's property is covered by insurance, and Mrs. Foale's stock is insured in the Australian Alliance and South Australian Offices for £500 each. Mr. J. M. Solomon, J.P., on Monday, April 19, held an investigation into the cause of the fire. As the Coroner remarked in summing up, the matter is involved in mystery, and it is just possible that the fire might have resulted from the spontaneous combustion of chemicals used by Mr. Duryea in the prosecution of his business. During the course of the proceedings the Coroner several times checked spectators eager to put questions to witnesses, and stated his view of their position. The Jury returned the following verdict :—

"That the premises of Townsend Duryea were destroyed by fire, but that there is not sufficient evidence to show what was its origin."



B 10873

State Library of South Australia - Duryea Photographic Gallery [B 10873]. The photographic studio of Townsend Duryea located on the south corner of Grenfell Street and King William Street, Adelaide. There is an advertisement for "Life Size Sennotypes" that Duryea began advertising in 1865. The building along with most of Duryea's photographic collection was destroyed by fire on 18 April 1875. Approximately 1865, Part of Acre 141 Collection.



B 5663 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

State Library of South Australia - Duryea Gallery, Grenfell Street [B 5663], Photographic Gallery of Townsend Duryea, south east corner of Grenfell Street and King William Street. This building was destroyed by fire on 18 April 1875. Townsend Duryea was an American daguerreotypist who opened this studio in Adelaide in 1855. The ground floor of this building at number 66 houses the drapery business of J Whiting. Approximately 1865. Part of Acre 141 Collection.

***South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 24 April 1875,
page 13***

CORONER'S INQUEST.

THE FIRE AT MR. DURYEYEA'S ESTABLISHMENT.

On Monday afternoon, April 19, an enquiry as to the cause of the recent fire at Mr. Duryea's photographic establishment was held at the Napoleon Buonaparte Hotel. Mr. J. M. Solomon, J.P., acted as Coroner. Mr. A. S. Clark was present on behalf of the Australian Alliance Insurance Company, Mr. G. Mumme for the Transatlantic, and Mr. Myers for the Northern. The Jury having been sworn, and Mr. John Clark appointed Foreman, they proceeded to examine the premises, after which the following evidence was taken:—Patrick Carroll, police-constable, said he was on duty in Victoria-square at half-past 3 on Sunday morning. On looking round, he noticed a light in Mr. Duryea's window. The morning was pretty dark. The light was in the western window of the second story, facing King William-street. He went to the Police Station and reported the matter to the sergeant. Then went to Mr. A. J. Baker, the Superintendent of Fire Brigades. Mr. Baker knew of the fire within five minutes of its being seen. Saw a blaze bursting through the roof and the western windows. By the Jury— Was in the square when he saw the blaze, which was not then very large. Mr. Mumme was putting a question to this witness, but he was stopped by the Coroner, who ruled that he had no locus standi. Thomas Burchell, lance-corporal of foot police, said he was on duty on Sunday morning from midnight till 6 a.m. Passed Mr. Duryea's place at five minutes past 3. Did not notice any smell of fire or see any light. Passed there again at 3.35, and fancied he smelt wood burning, and looking up saw a light shining on to the north wall of Hay, Hann, & Co.'s establishment. Heard a rum-bling noise inside Duryea's. Asked the con-stantle on the beat if he was aware of any one living there, and he said "No." The light then seemed to go out, the reflection having disappeared from Hay, Hann' & Co.'s wall. A light then appeared at one of the northern windows. Was standing then in the middle of the road, and before he could get across to the building the fire burst through the roof. At once reported the matter. Was present when the reels arrived. The roof fell in before they arrived. From 15 to 20 minutes elapsed from the time he first saw the fire until the water began to play. The lower door was broken in and the staircase was seen to be in flames. Could not see any fire at the back. Went in and got the books and desk. By the Jury— Saw the light at the middle window in Grenfell-street. It was that part of the roof near Hay, Hann, & Co.'s that first fell in. Mr. A. S. Clark wished to put a question to the witness, but the Coroner refused to allow him to do so. Examination continued by the Coroner — Went to the back of the premises about 10 minutes after the fire broke out, up the lane from Grenfell-street. The flames seemed to be more fierce there and at the south-east corner than in the front. Did not see Mr. Clark's place on fire. Fraser S. Crawford said he was sleeping at the City Club on Saturday night, and was awakened between 3 and 4 o'clock on Sunday morning by some one telling him Mr. Duryea's premises were on fire. Went across and found the whole of the top storey in a blaze. Saw two gentlemen who had been sleeping at the Club, and some policemen busily employed in carrying pictures out of the frontdoor. The strongest blaze seemed to be over the front corner window. Did not see any fire below. By the Jury— Did not hear any explosions. The light was that of an ordinary fire.

Mr. A. S. Clark again wished to put a question. The Coroner— Mr. Clark, you have no right to ask any questions, nor will I permit it. Charles Jewell, liverystablekeeper, said he was present

at the fire on Sunday morning. Was aroused by a policeman giving the alarm. Hurried into King William-street, and saw that Mr. Duryea's place was in flames. Saw the fire first in the south-eastern corner, near Hay, Hann, & Co.'s wall. The flames were bursting through the roof, and blazing from 15 feet to 20 feet high. The blaze continued after the roof fell in, but not so high. Went into the back lane about five minutes after he first saw the fire, and saw that the chemical room was on fire. There was no peculiarity about the color of the flame. By the Jury — The firemen arrived about half' an hour after he saw the fire, and it took them about five or ten minutes to get to work. Townsend Duryea, photographic artist, said the premises destroyed by the fire were his. Left them at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday last for his home, on the Marion-road. Did not leave any one behind. A lad in his employ locked the door in King William street, and took the key with him. He was in the habit of taking the key, as he opened the shop in the morning. It was a duplicate key. He (witness) kept the other. The gas had been alight several times on Saturday in the centre room. There was a skylight to the room. The boy was ordered to turn the gas off at the meter every night before closing the place. Could not say whether it was turned off on Saturday night. There were no chemicals kept on the premises which would from their own nature be liable to ignite. There was not any gun cotton. Did not use it. If collodion evaporates it leaves a sediment of gun cotton. Was not aware that there was any such sediment on the premises. Had not the slightest idea of the cause of the fire. If a light was brought into contact with collodion it would explode with a flash, and continue to burn until the spirits in solution were exhausted. Could not say how long it would burn. Had about a dozen pint bottles of it in stock. They were standing on a shelf in the south-east room. The shelf was against Hay, Hann, & Co.'s wall. There was not a gas jet in that room. Always used candles there after dark ; but there were none used on that day. Left the premises before dark. Mr. Bull, a person in his employ, and himself were both smokers. Used lucifers on Saturday to light their pipes. Had a smoke in the centre work-room at lunch time, but not afterwards. The witness here drew a plan of the different rooms on the upper storey for the information of the Jury. There was not much paper about. The floor was scrubbed once a week. Did not usually throw the lucifers upon the floor after he had used them, but into an empty jar or a jar of water. By the Jury — Had never heard of spirits used by photographers exploding, un-less brought into contact with fire. The boy had no occasion to return to the shop on Satur-day evening. About three months ago, a key of the premises was lost. Witness's son was the last person in the chemical room on Saturday. He left about 1 o'clock. Mr. A. S. Clark said he had no wish to be intrusive, but he would like to ask Mr. Duryea a question. The Coroner said he could not allow it. The law of England and Coroner's law very properly provided against a question being put by any-one, except the Jury, otherwise an inquest might extend over 12 months. Mr. Clark said one of the Jurymen would perhaps ask what kind of matches Mr. Duryea used. A Jurymen remonstrated against the Jury being prompted by strangers. The Coroner said Mr. Clark must not put any question through the Jury. Mr. Duryea might answer if he chose. Mr. Duryea said he always used safety lucifers. Charles F. Marston, a lad in the employ of Mr. Duryea, said his duties were to open the shop and carry messages. Left the shop at 5.30 on Saturday afternoon, at the same time as Mr. Duryea. Locked the door, and took the key. Went upstairs just previous to this to get Mr. Duryea's bag out of the workroom. The room was sufficiently light to enable him to see the bag. Did not take any lucifers upstairs. Was last in the store and chemical rooms in the morning. Gas was used in the workroom during the day. Forgot to turn the gas off at the meter on Saturday night. Had neglected to turn it off for some time back. Did not go back to the shop after he left with Mr. Duryea. First heard

of the fire at about a quarter-past 11 on Sunday morning. Had smoked a cigar two or three months ago, but not since. There were about six boxes of matches in the workroom. By the Jury — Had returned to the shop when he had forgotten letters, but did not do so on Saturday evening. William Russell, in the employ of the Gas Company, said he was at the scene of the fire about 9.30 on Sunday morning. The gas meter was turned on. The lead piping was melted down to the stopcock, which was filled up with dirt and rubbish. There was no escape of gas. The Coroner briefly reviewed the evidence, after which the Jury returned the following verdict : — " That the premises were destroyed by fire, but there is no evidence to show the origin of the fire."

South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 11 December 1875, page 15

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

In a recent issue we took occasion to direct attention to a question of grave public interest—the means of protecting the lives and properties of the Citizens of Adelaide against danger by fire. It was pointed out that the Insurance Companies, on whom had devolved the entire cost of maintaining the Fire Brigade, had, or were likely to, come to a resolution no longer to keep up an expensive organization for the benefit of many persons who refused, personally or by their representatives, to contribute any portion of the necessary expenses. It has come to our knowledge that the action then in progress by the Companies has now become an accomplished fact, and that as soon as some matters of detail have worked themselves out, the City of Adelaide will be almost as unprotected in case of a fire as a collection of Indian wigwams. Even in view of the other "burning questions" at present occupying the attention of the community, we look upon this as a matter not unworthy of serious regard. A short resume of the facts of the case will simplify such observations as we may have to offer. From statistics which we have been at the trouble of gathering, it appears that nearly one-half of the buildings in Adelaide (in number, not in value) are uninsured. The owners of these, therefore, in no way contribute to the support of the Insurance Offices, whose existence among us is due to the support of their more provident neighbors. More or less directly, then, the insuring half of the town have had to pay for such protection as has been accorded to the whole metropolis. If any justification could be found for such a one-sided arrangement, it would be in the fact that our previous Governments—the trustees, on the public behalf, of buildings certainly not over-estimated at £400,000 sterling—not only have paid no insurance premiums, but have refused, on every occasion when the question has been raised, to assist in defraying the cost of the Brigade. Taking the lowest rate at which the best public building would be insured, many hundreds a year would be required to cover a risk which every thoughtful business man gladly protects himself from by fire premiums. In mentioning that previous Governments have refused to recognise any responsibility on this score, we do not wish to imply that our present rulers have taken a different stand. Action was initiated in the Assembly last week by a private member which would have given an opportunity to the present Ministry both to repair a signal injustice and possibly to avert the necessity of disbanding the Brigade. We hope that yet, though Parliamentary pressure has been with drawn, it will be seen whether a reason-able subsidy by the Government might not induce a reconsideration of the circumstances which have influenced the associated Companies in their action. The amount expended in maintaining the Brigade is, in round numbers, £1,000 a year. We understand that contributions of £250 a year each from the Government and the Corporation—both largely interested, as owners of property as well as

in their representative position, in the repression of fires—would have induced the Companies to continue the existing arrangement, defraying the balance of the cost themselves. We believe that the public interest would be consulted by such contributions being provided. Much of the immunity from disastrous fires which Adelaide has experienced has undoubtedly arisen from the fact that, with a good water supply, skilled hands have been on the spot within a short time of each outbreak of flame to check it in its infancy. It is preposterous to imagine that such means of preventing dire calamity can be done without. Unless some such cheap and effective means as we have indicated of carrying on the existing arrangements, if practicable, is devised, it will be found necessary for the City Council to organise a department for the purpose. It is possible, though we should say unlikely, that the work would be better done under municipal management ; but it is quite clear that the rate-collector, in addition to the imposts already levied from the citizens of Adelaide, would have to bring his little annual bill of say 1½d. in the pound for Fire Brigade purposes. Such has been the result of similar action in most of the cities of the world. It needs but a glance at the question under this aspect to show that a timely concession, if such will be available, will save much subsequent trouble, expense, and risk.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 13 December 1875, page 2

DEPUTATIONS.

MAINTENANCE OF THE FIRE BRIGADE. DEPUTATION TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

A deputation of Managers and Secretaries of all the Insurance Companies carrying on business in Adelaide waited, on Monday, December 13, on the Chief Secretary (Hon. W. Morgan) to urge upon him the desirability of a change in the system of maintaining the Fire Brigade in Adelaide, and of providing protection from fire to the towns in the country. Mr. E. W. WRIGHT, who acted as the spokesman of the deputation, pointed out that up to the year 1852 the brigade was supported by Government. At that date the houses were few and far between, and though a house might catch fire there had been little danger of a conflagration. Now, however, the gaps were filled up by large warehouses and stores, many of which contained much inflammable material, and enhanced the risks of a conflagration very much. They all knew what had happened in Chicago and Boston, and at the present moment there was every possibility of such catastrophes being repeated in Adelaide. Many of the larger country towns, such as Gawler, Kapunda, and Moonta, there was no protection from fire whatever, and if a fire was to happen the only remedy would be to blow up some of the houses. In many instances the Corporations have asked the Companies to join in the expense necessary for fire prevention and extinction, but the expense had obtained such a head that it could not continue much longer. The Companies by keeping up an Fire Brigade had suffered in this manner; that the risks having become less, they had been obliged to reduce the premises; and things had now come to such a pitch that the question had seriously considered whether the Brigade should not be cast upon the Corporation. The Government protected the citizens from burglars, thieves, and pestilential diseases, and from all common danger; yet they made no provision against a conflagration, which was, in his opinion, the greatest calamity that could befall a community. Even at the time of the Russian war, though protection was made so that we might shoot our enemies, the possibility of a shell coming into Port Adelaide and setting it all ablaze was ignored, and no provision whatever was made for such a contingency in the slightest shape or form. In support of what he had already said, that the Companies had improved their pockets by

providing protection for the public against fire, he showed that in the year 1847 the premiums were 36s. 3d. per cent.; that in 1857 they had sunk to 12s. 7d. per cent., and that at present they had now touched the low rate of 8s. 3d. the Companies had to protect £6,000,000 of property. That was, of course, an estimate, but it was got at in this manner. They took the assessment roll to be at present about three-fourths of the value of property, and setting off against each other the value of land and of furniture, goods, and other moveables in the city, they arrived at the item he had just stated, and the increased protection they had given to public against fire told against the Companies in two ways. As regards the first the reduction in the premiums he had already spoken. But it had also this other defect. Premiums which were worth £1,000, and ought to be insured at that amount, were only insured for £200 or £300; £500 would be the highest that even a prudent man would go, and it must therefore be very obvious that the Companies by affording fire protection were injuring themselves. At the time the insurance rates were high there was no other Government building save Government house that was likely to catch fire. Now, however, the Government property was worth £500,000. Yet the Government never insured, and when fires happened, as they sometimes would, they had to be extinguished by the Companies' brigades. The CHIEF SECRETARY—Government paid the expenses. Mr. WRIGHT—Yes; but it is a very different thing from paying £3 to £4 for the engines playing on the fires for a short time than have to spend £1,000 a year in keeping up the brigade. Some few years ago they had nearly got assistance from the Government. They had asked for £500, and Government put £400 on the Estimates. The House was nearly assenting, when one unfortunate member—he believed it was Mr. Barrow—influenced a decision in the contrary direction. The public had to pay rates for other conveniences. They paid twopence in the pound for lighting, and other sums for other things, and the citizens could just as well afford to pay a few more pence for the sake of the protection from fire. What they wanted the Government to do was to go thirds—that was that for every pound the Corporation subscribed or paid, the Companies would give another pound, and the Government was then to add a subsidy of another pound. The Chief Secretary—How much would that cost? Mr. Wright—The Government would have to contribute about £500 for the city of Adelaide. In the country towns, say for instance Moonta or Kadina, the whole cost would be about £300, and that meant £100 for each party. For sometime in London the Companies had supported the brigade, but in the year 1865 they declined to continue the system. Government then took the matter in hand, placing the brigade under the control of the Metropolitan Board of Works. The Government contributed £10,000; the Companies £35 for every million of property insured (Adelaide Companies paid £500 for every million); and a half-penny rate was levied on the population. After a time this was not sufficient, and the rate was increased to three-farthings in the pound; £20,000 is contributed by the Fire Offices; and £25,000 by the Government. In Chicago the brigade is kept up entirely by the Corporation; such is the case also in Boston. In Quebec, too, the small amount of provision that there is against fire is under the control of the Corporation, and yet he had seen two miles of the city destroyed by fire. Even in New York, where the system was the most perfect he had seen, in Wall-street, a hole equal to half Rundle-street. If such things could happen in places where there was efficient protection against fire, what might be expected if a fire broke out in Adelaide. On the Continent, and especially in France, fire brigades were entirely under the control of the Government, and in Liverpool the Corporation had the entire management. One or two other members of the deputation made brief remarks in support of special points. The CHIEF SECRETARY, after requesting to be furnished in writing with all

the information that had been given him verbally, promised that the matter should have the speedy consideration of the Executive. He could not go further, as this was a matter he could not decide individually, and the decision would rest upon the combined opinion of his colleagues. He thought there were special circumstances in favour of Adelaide as against the American towns. The great fires there had arisen and had been assisted by peculiar causes. He had noticed that in the report of the Chicago conflagration it was stated that the houses there had a particular kind of roof which had greatly assisted the fire. It was pointed out that from the absence of partition walls, the partiality for skylights, and the various houses being connected by verandahs, Adelaide was in a most precarious condition. The deputation, after thanking the Chief Secretary for the reception he had accorded them, then withdrew.

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Latest News.

FIRE BRIGADE PRACTICE.—The Brigade met on East-terrace on Monday, December 10, at 6 am., for practice. Two horse and two hand reels, with ten firemen were in attendance, about an hour's drill was given, and the plant was shown to be in good working order, and the firemen were evidently well acquainted with their duties. All exerted themselves to their utmost to achieve the triumph of having the water first on and at work. Each reel took a position at four separate fireplugs, and at a signal, given by the Superintendent the four started to exchange places, having to run off from each and uncouple three lengths of hosepipe, open a fire plug, screw in a standpipe, attach the three lengths of hose, screw on a pipe to the hose, and turn on the water. This process was repeated several times, and was accomplished by the No. 1 Reel in one minute five seconds, the other three reels following in quick order.