

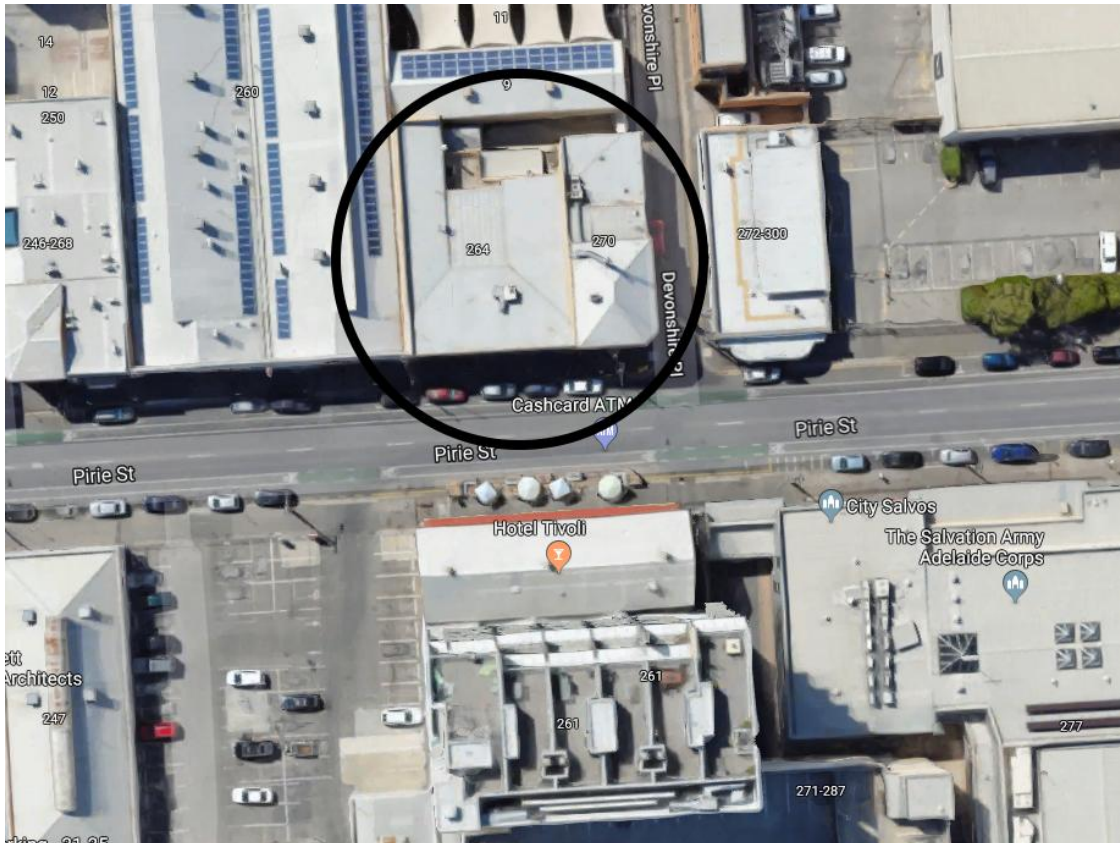
Adelaide Fire Brigade 1881

FIRE BRIGADES, S.A.

Superintendent, Arthur John Baker, Hutt street, Adelaide.

ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.

No. 1. Horse Cart Reel. J. R. Pounditch, foreman, and two firemen, opposite the National Hotel (2019 - Hotel Tivoli), Pirie street east. (Corner of Devonshire place)



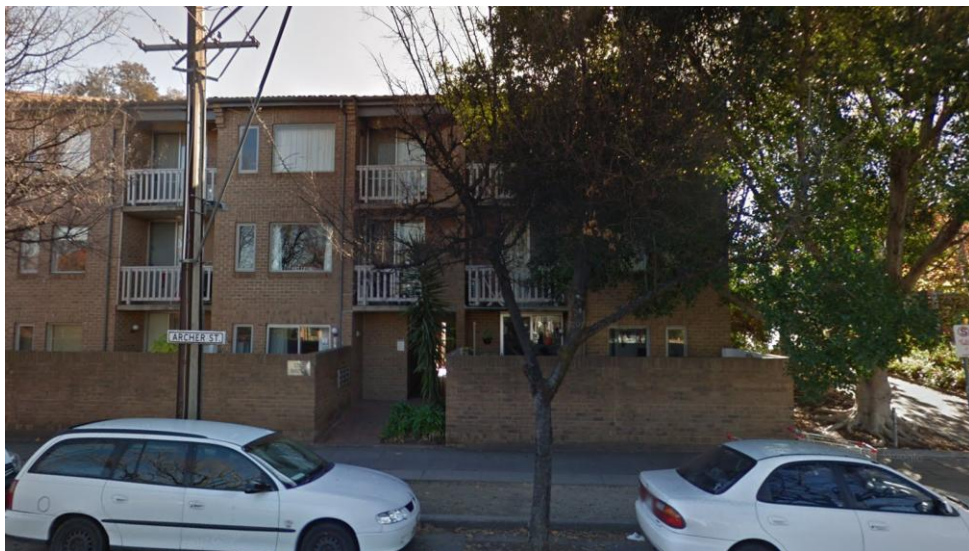
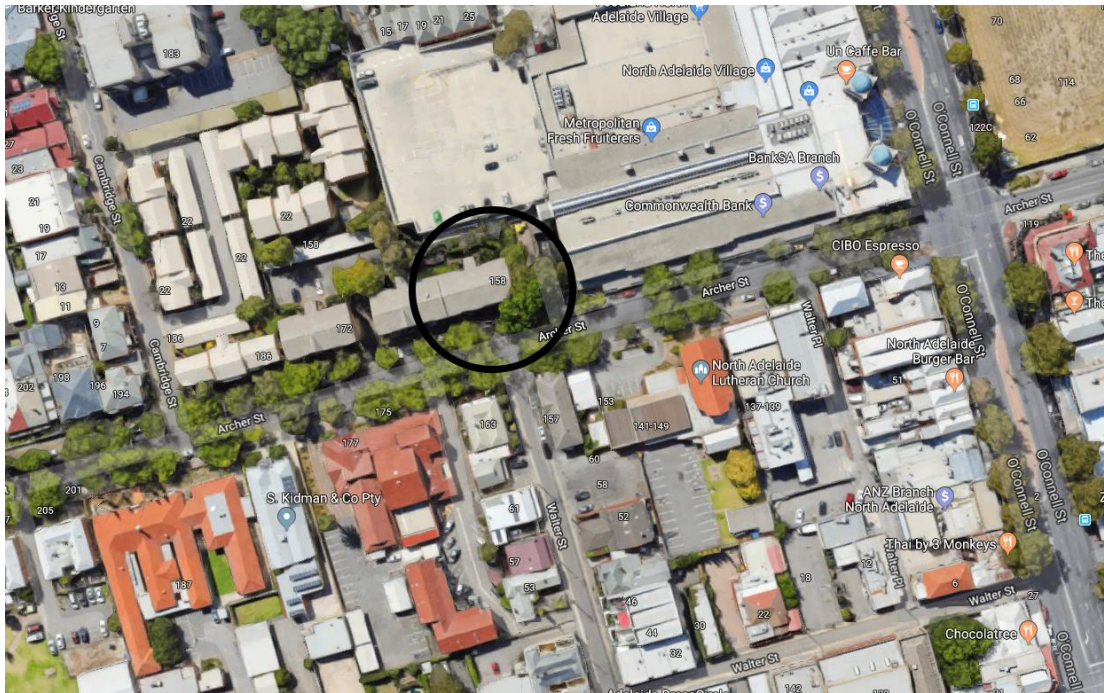
No. 2. Horse Cart Reel, with hose and all necessary implements, Hindley street west. James Wedlock, foreman, and two firemen.



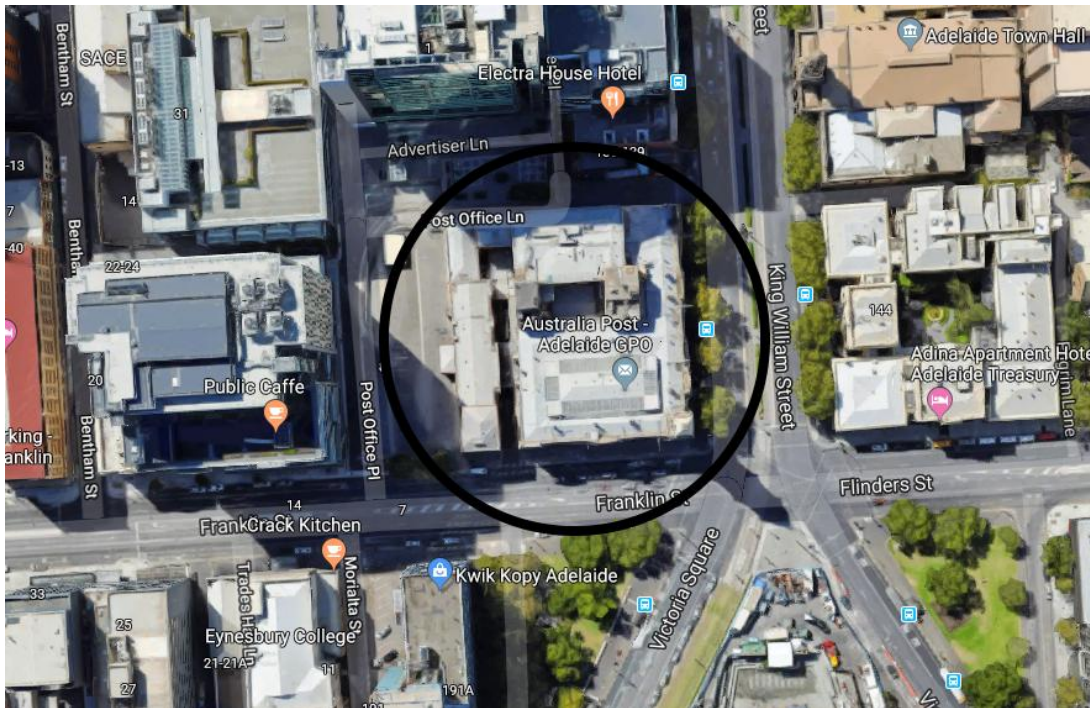
No. 3. Hand Reel, hose, &c., complete, at Hanton's store, Sturt street. John Davis, foreman, and two firemen. (Joseph Morris, Wm Holland)



No. 4. Horse Cart Reel, hose, &c., complete, Archer street, North Adelaide. 'William Smith, foreman, and two firemen.



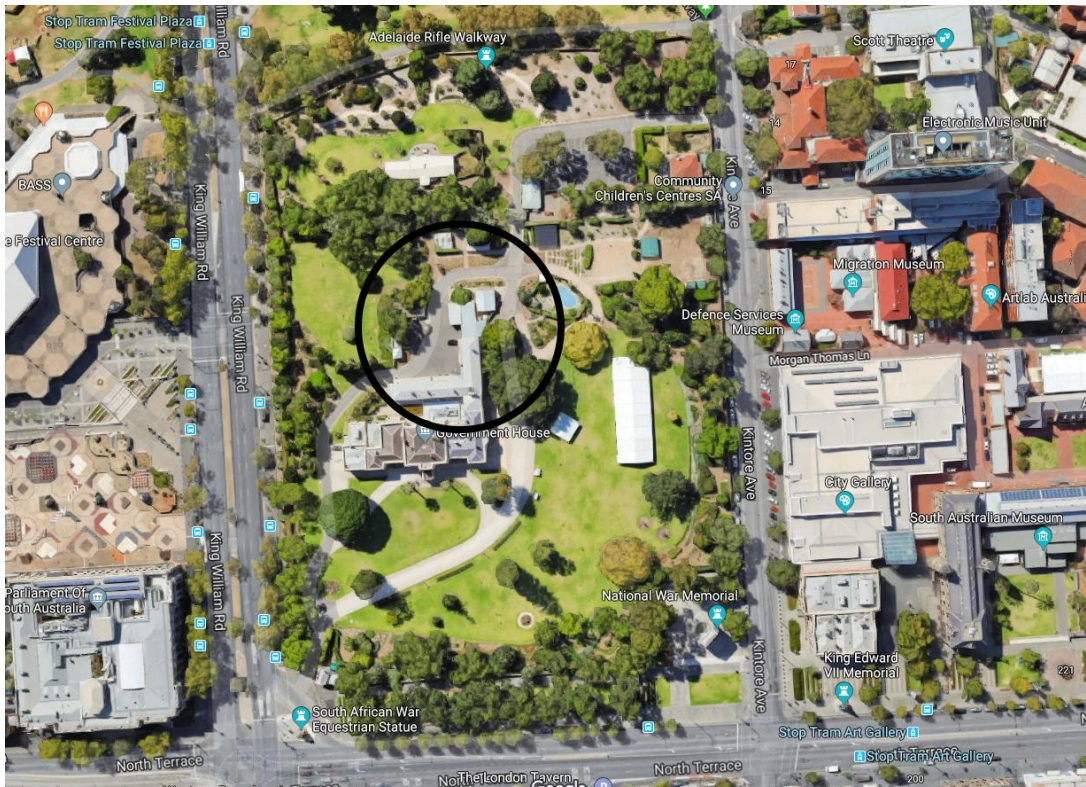
No. 5. Government Hand Reel, hose, &c., complete, at the rear of Post-Office, King William street.



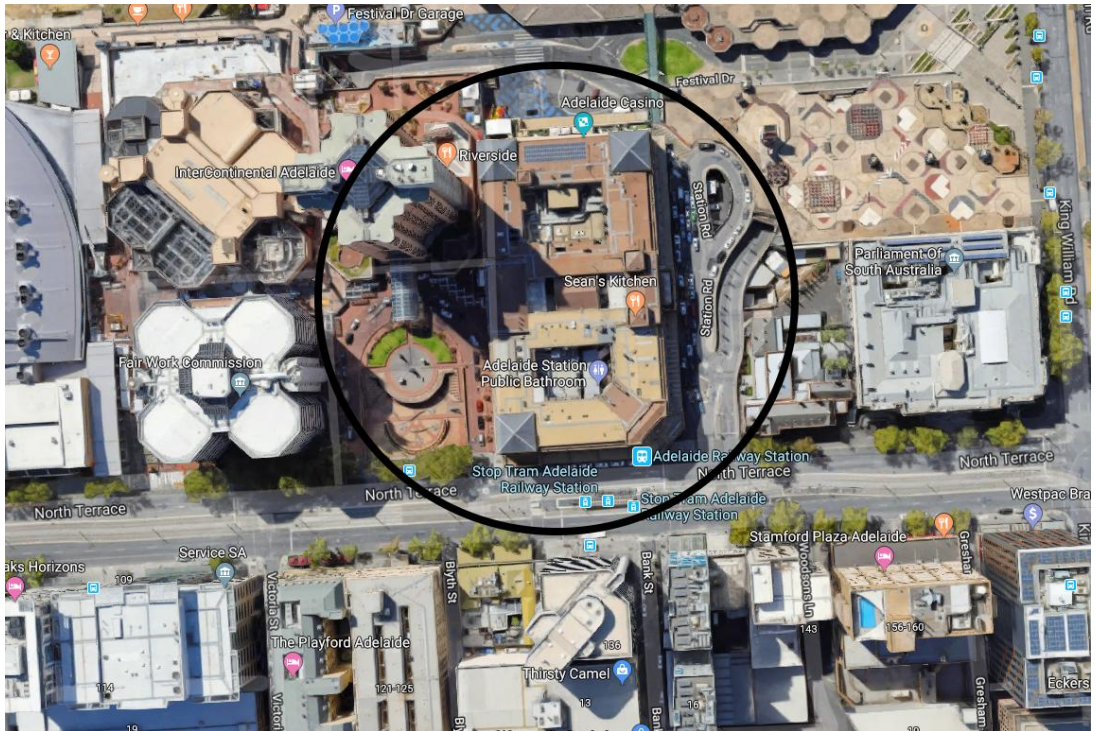
No. 7. Hand Reel. D. G. Harrison, foreman, and two firemen, Elder street, off Rundle street, rear of Plough and Harrow Hotel (2019 Hotel Richmond).



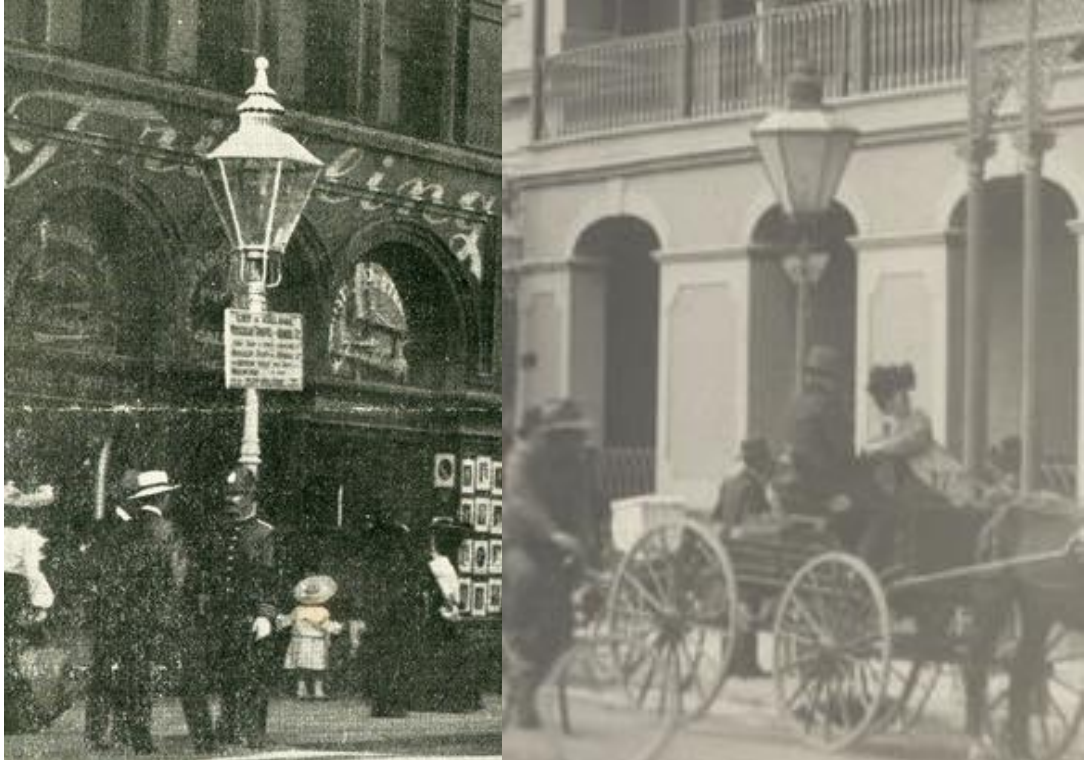
Government Hand Reel, hose, &c., complete, at Government House, North terrace, for private use in case of fire.



A Government Hand Reel, hose, &c., complete, at the Railway Station, North terrace.



NB—The Street Lamps nearest the Fire Reel Stations have red glass and are lettered, and the lamp-posts are painted vermilion colour (Vermilion (also spelled "vermillion"), which is sometimes referred to as cinnabar, or China or Chinese red, is a tone of rich red with a bit of orange in it, much like scarlet. From lifewire.com), to indicate where the Fire Reels and Firemen are stationed in Adelaide.



GLENELG FIRE BRIGADE.

No. S. Hand Reel, 250 feet delivery hose, standpipe, keys, &e., complete, Miller's Corner.
James Liddic, foreman, and two firemen.



GAWLER TOWN FIRE BRIGADE.

Deputy Superintendent, Mr. May.

No. 9. Horse Reel, with suction and delivery hose-pipes, ladders, and all necessary implements for working a small fire engine, also two water carts with a hand pump in each.
J. Chigwidden, foreman. Corporation Acre, Lyndoch road.



PORTLAND ESTATE FIRE BRIGADE.

Deputy Superintendent, Thos. Sanders.

Waterworks Yard. Nile street; also, Glanville and Port.

No. 10. Hand Reel, delivery hose, standpipe, keys, &c., complete. J. C. Walker, foreman,
and one fireman.

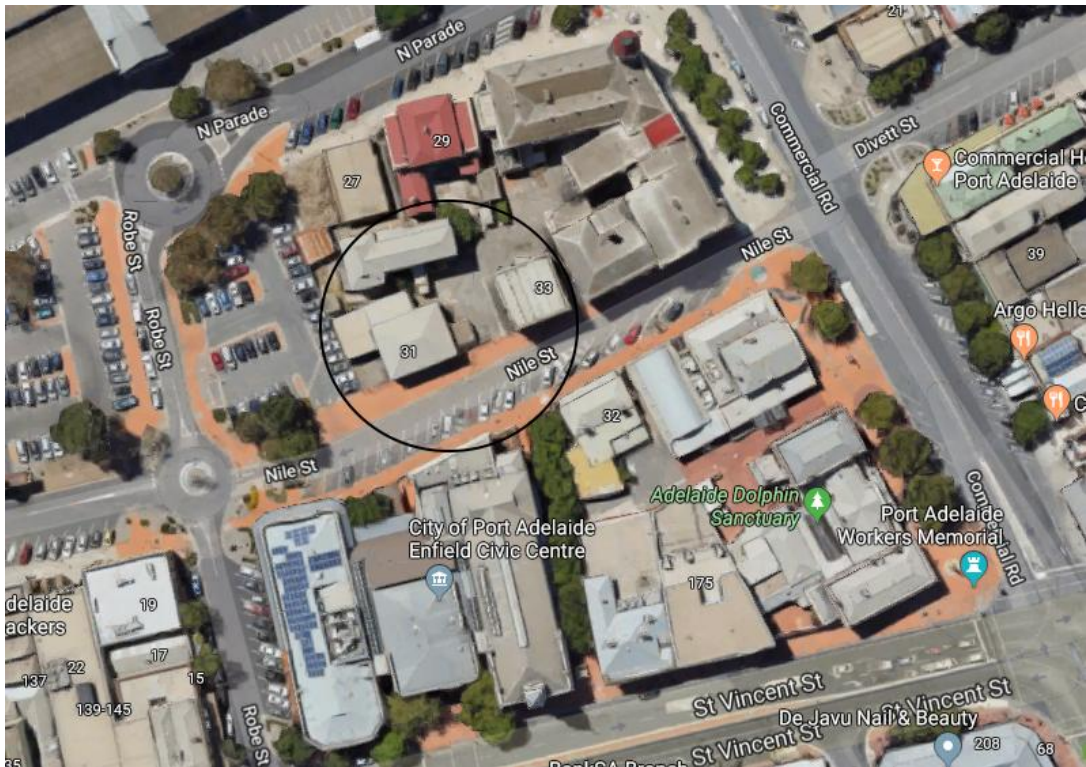


GLANVILLE.

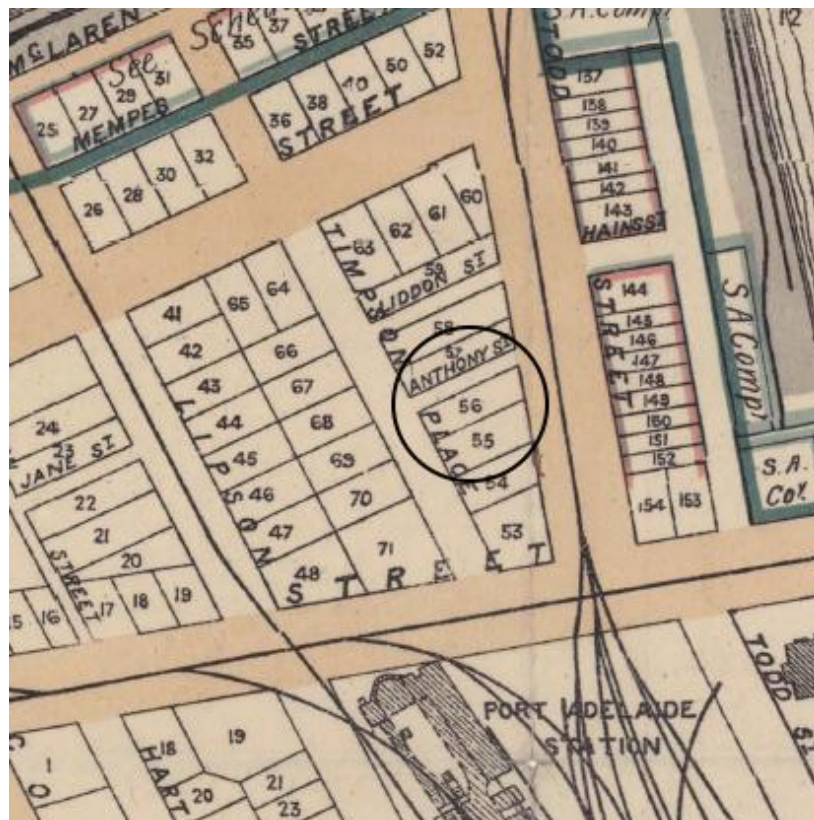
No. 11. Hand Reel, delivery hose, stand. pipe, keys, &c., complete, Carlisle street. H. Knowles, foreman, and one fireman.

PORT ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGAIDE.

No. 12. Hand Reel, complete, at the Waterworks Yard. W. Laphorn, foreman, and one fireman.



No. 13. Hand Reel, complete, St. Anthony street. F. Appleby, foreman, and one fireman.



No. 14. Hand Reel, complete, Port Railway Station. Railway Porters.



Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 1 January 1881, page 37

ANOTHER FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

That fires like misfortunes seldom come alone received exemplification on Friday night, when, following closely on the conflagration that did such damage at Mr. Owen's factory on Wednesday night, a fire broke out at Messrs. Hall and McLean's drapery establishment in Hindley-street. Doubtless during the evening many looking at the vast crowds of people parading King William, Rundle, and Hindley streets thought "if a fire broke out now, what a rush there would be," and certainly when at about a quarter to 11 o'clock an alarm of fire came from Hindley-street there was a tremendous rush in that direction, and there were soon many thousands in the vicinity. As to the fire itself, it seems that a handkerchief or some light fabric fell on to a gas-jet in the west window. An assistant tried to put it out with his hands but failed, and the flames communicated to the other articles and set the whole window in a blaze almost instantaneously. The flames spread with great rapidity, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of Mr. McLean, his assistants, and the customers in the shop, who, after a few minutes, had to beat a hasty retreat. The shop is nearly opposite Messrs. G. and W. Shierlaw's. On the west it is separated from the Blenheim Hotel by a lane, so that there was little danger of the fire spreading in that direction, but towards King William street are the shops of Messrs. Hanton and Dalton, fruiterers, Dungey & Ralph, tobacconists, and Mr. Beach, confectioner ; and it was feared that the flames would make some headway in that direction. The fire did run along the verandah as far as Beach's, but fortunately it could not obtain an entrance to any of the upstairs rooms, and therefore very serious results were avoided. Several persons got on the roof to separate the verandah from the building, but this idea was not carried out and wet bags were placed on the roof instead. Some of the crowd tore down the Christmas decorations, which were assisting to feed the flames, but not much could be done to stay the destroying element till the reels arrived. The first reel was on the spot ten minutes after the fire broke out, but it did not get to work as soon as the one which arrived directly afterwards. The Superintendent of Fire Brigades, Mr. A. J. Baker, was in attendance at this as well as at the previous fire in Hindley-street. Both reels—Nos. 2 and 7—and No 3 had a splendid flow of water, and the effect on the flames was perceptible directly they began to play, but the fire was not completely under till after 1 o'clock. The crowd, which was very excited, was kept in good order by Inspector Woodcock and a large staff of police, both foot and mounted. The whole of Messrs. Hall & McLean's stock, which was insured in the Commercial Union for £1,450, and for £1,000 each in the Queen and North British Insurance Offices, was completely destroyed. The building, plateglass windows, and verandah, which were insured in the Commercial Union for £1,050, were also considerably damaged. The premises of Messrs. Hanton and Dalton, and Dungey & Ralph were very much smoked, and the windows of both were smashed ; but the stock was not damaged to any great extent. At the inquest held at the Exchange Hotel on Monday morning, the Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the fire was purely accidental, and that no blame was attached to any one.

South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1868 - 1881), Saturday 29 January 1881, page 8

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

The city coroner held an enquiry at the Royal Hotel, Hindley-street, on Friday morning, January 21, into the circumstances attending the fire which occurred on the premises of Mrs. Vincent and Messrs. Dungey, Ralph, & Co., in Hindley-street, on Thursday morning, January 20. Mr. Yuill was present on behalf of the Fire Insurance Association, Mr. A. Abrahams for the Equitable Insurance Company, Mr. R. E. Tapley for the South Australian Insurance Company, and Mr. J. C. Bray watched the case in Mrs. Vincent's behalf. Mr. T. W. Boothby was chosen foreman of the jury. Harriet Vincent, widow, in business as a confectioner and owner of the premises, said she lived in Carrington-street, and had not been on the premises in Hindley-street since Monday last. Her son-in-law (J. A. Howe) managed the business for her. She heard of the fire, but had no idea of its origin. Her stock, furniture, and fixtures were insured in the Equitable Insurance Company for £800, and the building was insured in the Adelaide Insurance Company and the South Australian Insurance Company for £1,800. Was doing a very good business. All the employes were careful. By the foreman—Confectionery is made on the premises, but none had been made during the last week. The shop was usually closed at 9 p.m., and the fire was put out early in the afternoon. By Mr. Abrahams—Supposed the oven was used on Wednesday afternoon, as it was used for baking daily. Wood was always put in the oven to dry overnight, and it had frequently ignited during the night. The door of the oven, however, was always kept closed, and the flames could not come out. There was nothing inflammable near the oven. John Absalom Howe said he shared in and managed Mrs. Vincent's business. He was sleeping on the premises on Wednesday night, and at about 1 o'clock his wife called him and said there was a fire. He took the baby, and told his wife to look after the other children. When he got below stairs he saw the bakehouse, behind the tobacconist's shop, in a blaze. The fire was at that time confined to the bakehouse, but spread rapidly. Went to bed at 11.15 p.m., and then noticed no smell of fire, Four of the girls employed were out at that time. Mr. Forwood had charge of the bakery. By the foreman—There was no fire in the "wash-up" room when he went to bed. There was nothing inflammable in the bakehouse. Gas was used in the bake house, but the tap was turned off. The meter tap was not turned off. By Mr. Yuill—One of the men smoked in the bakehouse. By Mr. Abrahams—Had given one of the apprentices (Rosenthal) in charge for drunkenness and assault about two months ago. Rosenthal kept the key of the bakehouse, and locked it up. Did not know whether he was home at the time of the fire. Rosenthal was fined £5 10s. for drunkenness and assault on the occasion of witness giving him in charge. Did not know of any ill-feeling existing between any of the men and himself. Tandestickor matches were used on the premises. Wm. Forwood, pastrycook, in the employ of Mrs. Vincent as foreman of the bakery, said he left the premises at about 8 p.m. on Wednesday, when everything was all right. Five or six large pieces of wood were placed in the oven to dry. He had on one occasion found wood in the oven burning in the morning, and wood had at various times caught fire in the oven during the night. He did not sleep on the premises, and knew nothing of the fire until he went intending to work at about half-past 5 o'clock on Thursday morning. Knew of no ill-feeling existing between any of the men and Mr. Howe. Rosenthal had said he thought it was not right to have "pulled" him to the court, but he had made no threats. Had no idea as to the origin of the fire. By the foreman — The "damper" was not left

open when wood was placed in the oven, and if the wood caught fire the flames would probably come out of the door if it was open. There was no light wood placed in the oven. The oven was not very hot. By a juror — The door of the oven was closed when he left. There was a small shelf immediately over the oven door on which was placed a "peel" — a wooden shovel. If flames issued from the oven door the shelf would probably catch fire. By Mr. Yuill — Rosenthal smoked on the premises. Lewis Rosenthal, an apprentice in the service of Mrs. Vincent, said he slept in one of the rooms in the upper story of the premises. He left the premises at about 6.30 on Wednesday evening, and came back at about 12 o'clock. He went through the old bakehouse, locked it, and went up to bed. Did not notice whether the oven door was closed or open, as it was dark. Did not see any sign of fire in the bakehouse. Did not smoke after returning to the premises, but went straight up to bed. He was aroused by one of the men named Young, who was shouting out. Lowered his box to the ground from the front window and then jumped down himself. By a juror— There were three doors in the bakehouse, and he had to go inside to bolt one of them. By Mr. Abrahams — Had to go into the bakehouse to bolt one of the doors, as it had no lock, and could not be shut from the outside. A boy named Nicholas Mercer came in after him. By jurors — Saw the flames from the back window. They were as high as the roof. Nicholas Mercer, a lad in the employ of Mrs. Vincent, said he left the house between 5 and 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening. Returned about 12 o'clock, and went straight upstairs. Noticed no sign of fire. Two of the men were asleep, and Rosenthal was undressing. When he was awakened by the noise in the street, he got out the back way. Flames were coming from the middle of the bakehouse roof. There was no fire anywhere else. Got out of the bedroom before Rosenthal. Wm. Harvey, another lad, also gave evidence, which, however, threw no light on the origin of the fire. Police-constable James Drumm said he saw the fire at about 1.26 a.m. on Thursday, apparently in one of the back rooms. The flames were then, about five feet above the roof. He passed the place about ten minutes previously, and there was then no sign of fire. Shouted out "fire," and knocked at the door. One of the boys opened the window, and witness told him to clear out at once. Sent for two reels as soon as he saw the flames. The coroner in summing up, adverted to the frequency of fires in the city of late, and pointed out that within a month four fires of considerable magnitude had occurred, viz.: — On December 22, at Mr. Owen's ; on December 24, at Messrs. Hall & McLean's ; on January 6, at Mr. Stevens's ; and on January 20, that which they had been enquiring into. He thought Mr. Howe managed the business rather loosely, and he especially referred to the fact that young lads and girls were permitted to leave and enter the house at all hours of the night. The evidence, in his opinion, pointed to the bakehouse having been the starting place of the fire ; in fact, of that there could hardly be a doubt. He also referred to the highly reprehensible way in which the adjoining boot-maker's shop was conducted. He had shown them a room where there was an accumulation of rubbish consisting of paper and leather, which would ignite from a very slight spark from a pipe, and he knew that the men there were in the habit of smoking. He hoped the frequency of fires recently would induce house-keepers to take extra precautions against fire. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the fire started in the bakehouse, but there was no evidence to show how it originated.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Saturday 30 April 1881, page 6

THE ADELAIDE FIRE INSURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The fifth annual meeting of members of the Adelaide Fire Insurers Association was held on March 28 last. The committee reported that they had held eighteen meetings during the year. The following six companies had been admitted to membership, viz.:—City Mutual Fire, Phoenix Fire, Union Fire and Marine of New Zealand, North German Fire, Guardian Fire and Life Assurance, Alliance British and Foreign Life and Fire Insurance; making a total of thirty-four members. Notwithstanding the increased number of fires, the establishment of Port Augusta brigade, and occupancy of new offices, the committee reported that the expenditure was nearly £200 below that of last year. The plant was in good working order. A hand reel, with all appliances, had been supplied to Port Augusta, and one would be forwarded to Port Pirie shortly. The Mount Gambler Corporation had entered into an agreement for the establishment of a local brigade with a manual fire engine. The Kapunda Corporation had also applied for a hand-reel. The city brigade had been placed on a better footing, and to ensue greater proficiency a larger number of practice meetings had been arranged for, in the event of no fires occurring requiring attendance. The committee had had under consideration an application from the superintendent for an assistant. The premiums recorded by the associated members, as received during 1880, amounted to £58,414, being an increase of 3½ per cent, only on the pre-ceding year, notwithstanding the large increase of insured value in the city alone. The committee considered that the absolute necessity of a Building Act for the city was becoming daily more apparent; the additional buildings erected had nearly filled every vacant space in the leading business thoroughfares. So action in the matter of the deposit of funds with the colonial Government by the fire insurance companies had been taken, as in reply to circulars forwarded to all the members, only one assented to the necessity of such being brought under the notice of the Government. The question of brokerage had had the serious attention of the committee, who reported that three members had not yet signed the agreement made at a special general meeting held on February 21 against their employment, while one only, the Commercial Union Assurance Company, had refused to sign, The committee noticed with regret that owing to competition rates of premiums were still being reduced, and members were urged to agree to a uniform tariff. The Chairman (Mr. A. Abrahams), in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the work of the committee was increasing considerably, and that in his opinion the finances of the society were in a satisfactory condition as regarded expenditure, the members not having been subjected to more than the customary 2 per cent, contribution, while the association surplus assets had increased £870 during the past year. The following was the statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended January 31 last:—Receipts—Calls (2 per cent.), £1,160 6s.; admission fees, £40; Government subsidy, £457 17s. 10d.; total, £1,658 3s. 10d. Expenditure —Management, £212 10s. 6d.; brigade salaries, £671 5s. 3d.; city plant, £5 5s.; provincial brigade, £151 5s. 3d.; Port Adelaide, £120 16s. 1d.; city fires, £339 3s. 9d. Total £1,500 5s 10d. The chairman was of opinion that a superintendent should be appointed in place of Mr. Baker, who, in his own belief and in the opinion of his medical adviser (Dr. A. Campbell, is liable to apoplexy; he is

sixty-five years of age. and has already had two attacks. If time were to rule in these cases, and not amount of salary received during term of office, his twenty-one years service should entitle him to a retiring allowance. If, in place of retiring allowance, a pension was thought to be preferable, then the difficulty arose as to how this was to be secured to him, seeing that the association had no permanency, and its members were frequently changing. Failing this practicability of either of the above, thought the next best method would be to appoint a deputy, at a salary of say £200 per year, to attend fires, drills, and practices. The superintendent to receive £250 a year for surveying properties, making block plans of buildings in Adelaide, and attendance at the association's office two hours daily—say from 10 to 12 or 11 to 1—for the purpose of affording members information as to character of risks offered for insurance, the rates of premium that would be just between the assured and the insurers, obtaining information as to origin of fires, attendance at coroner's inquests. keeping stores, register of fire calls, inspection of plant, obtaining members' fire returns, and collecting and settling brigade accounts. The small increase of aggregate premiums received by the member companies during the past year, as compared with many preceding, evidenced, he thought, the injurious influence of employing brokers, and the insecure rates at which risks were accepted. The vastly accumulated value of insurable property in Adelaide and its suburbs alone should have produced fully 20 per cent, additional premium receipts instead of 3½ per cent. Sales of premium were brought so low as to be unsafe to the assured and insurers if heavy losses occurred to companies that had no substantial reserve fund and uncalled capital due from a reliable proprietary. Newly-established agencies were most conspicuous in the conduct of their business on this reckless system. Another source of danger was that the character of individuals was disregarded in business through brokers, as they (the undesirable parties) from whom risks should not be taken were further attracted by the fallacious announcements of some companies advertising or causing advertisements to appear announcing the prompt and liberal manner in which they had settled specific claims. An intending incendiary naturally was attracted by this sophism, and determined to apply to such office as apparently paid quickly, fully, and asked no awkward questions. These statements were borne out by the increased number of fires, the origin of which it had not been possible to prove. Every fireman, in his opinion, should be made a special constable, for although the police were prompt and zealous occasions had occurred where individuals interfered to the hindrance of the firemen. In respect of some statements that the fire brigade was not as efficient as it should be, he called the members' attention to the fact that, with two exceptions, no fire had for many years past extended beyond the building in which it originated. He regarded the time as not far distant when it would be essential to establish a central station with a permanent fire brigade constantly in attendance day and night. The cost of this would be far beyond the means of the association. A fire reel should be kept at the police-station, and some of the force be drilled to practice with and take charge of it. The following is the superintendent's report:—"I have the honor to present my twenty-first annual report, with the usual detailed statements, vis.—Calls for the year ended 31st December, 1880, were twelve chimney fires, four false alarms, and thirty-two fires, making a total of forty-eight. The damage was slight at twenty two, considerable at three, and contents completely destroyed at seven fires. The water supply to the city during the

past year has been ample for brigade purposes, and the pressure further improved since the suburban reservoirs have been constructed. Adelaide has now three sources of water supply with separate mains. A water-gauge has been placed at the head station, Hutt-street, to record the daily pressure, also one for testing the hose-pipes. The average pressure has been about 60 lbs. the square inch. The street lamps and posts near the reel stations have been colored red by con-sent of the corporation, but they have since required the lamps to be replaced with white glass. A Building Act is much needed for Adelaide, and the Fire Brigade Act should be amended during the next session of Parliament. Telephones should be placed in all the principal streets in connection with the head station, the police-station, and the waterworks, for the transmission of early notice of fires. There are six country towns with established fire brigades; three other towns have agreed to their establishment, and two towns are under negotiation for reels. These will require the superintendent's supervision occasionally, and cause him to be absent from the city several times in the year. The police continue to render good service by keeping order at fires, and deserve your special thanks for the willing and prompt manner they assemble on first alarm. The town and country fire brigade plant is all in good working order."

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 7 May 1881, page 11

THE ADELAIDE FIRE INSURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The fifth annual meeting of members of the Adelaide Fire Insurers' Association was held on March 28 last. The committee reported that they had held eighteen meetings during the year. The following six companies had been admitted to membership, vis.:— City Mutual Fire, Phoenix Fire, Union Fire and Marine of New Zealand, North German Fire, Guardian Fire and Life Assurance, Alliance British and Foreign Life and Fire Insurance; making a total of thirty-four members. Notwithstanding the in-creased number of fires, the establishment of Port Augusta brigade, and occupancy of new offices, the committee reported that the expenditure was nearly £200 below that of last year. The plant was in good working order. A hand reel, with all appliances, had been supplied to Port Augusta, and one would be forwarded to Port Pirie shortly. The Mount Gambier Corporation had entered into an agreement for the establishment of a local brigade with a manual fire engine. The Kapunda Corporation had also applied for a hand-reel. The city brigade had been placed on a better footing, and to ensure greater proficiency a larger number of practice meetings had been arranged for in the event of no fires occurring requiring attendance. The committee had had under consideration an application from the superintendent for an assistant. The premiums recorded by the associated members, as received during 1880, amounted to £58,414, being an increase of 3½ per cent. only on the pre-ceding year, notwithstanding the large increase of insured value in the city alone. The committee considered that the absolute necessity of a Building Act for the city was be-coming daily more apparent; the additional buildings erected had nearly filled every vacant space in the leading business thoroughfares. No action in the matter of the deposit of funds with the colonial Government by the fire insurance companies had been taken, as in reply to circulars forwarded to all the members, only one assented to the necessity of such being brought under the notice of the Government. The question of

brokerage had had the serious attention of the committee, who reported that three members had not yet signed the agreement made at a special general meeting held on February 21 against their employment, while one only, the Commercial Union Assurance Company, had refused to sign. The committee noticed with regret that owing to competition rates of premium were still being reduced, and members were urged to agree to a uniform tariff. The Chairman (Mr. A. Abrahams), in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the work of the committee had increasing considerably, and that in his opinion the finances of the society were in a satisfactory condition as regarded expenditure, the members not having been subjected to more than the customary 2 per cent, contribution, while the association surplus assets had increased £870 during the past year. The following was the statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended January 31 last:--Receipts--Calls(2 per cent.), £1,160 6s.; admission fees. £40; Government subsidy, £457 17s. 10d.; total, £1,658 3s. 10d. Expenditure — Management, £212 10s. 6d.; brigade salaries, £671 5s. 3d.; city plant, £5 5s.; provincial brigade, £151 5s. 3d.; Port Adelaide. £120 16s. 1d.; city fires, £339 3s. 9d. Total £1,500 5s. 10d. The chairman was of opinion that a superintendent should be appointed in place of Mr. Baker, who, in his own belief and in the opinion of his medical adviser (Dr. A. Campbell), is liable to apoplexy ; he is sixty-five years of age, and has already had two attacks. If time were to rule in these cases, and not amount of salary received during term of office; his twenty-one years' service should entitle him to a retiring allowance. If, in place of retiring allowance, a pension was thought to be preferable, then the difficulty arose as to how this was to be secured to him, seeing that the association had no permanency, and its members were frequently changing. Failing the practicability of either of the above, he thought the next best method would be to appoint a deputy, at a salary of say £200 per year, to attend fires, drills, and practices. The superintendent to receive £250 a year for surveying properties, making block plans of buildings in Adelaide, and attendance at the association's office two hours daily —say from 10 to 12 or 11 to 1— for the purpose of affording members information, as to character of risks offered for insurance, the rates of premium that would be just between the assured and the insurers, obtaining information as to origin of fires, attendance of coroner's inquests, keeping stores, register of fire calls, inspection of plant, obtaining members' fire returns, and collecting and settling brigade accounts. The small increase of aggregate premiums received by the member companies during the past year. as compared with many preceding, evidenced, he thought, the injurious influence of employing brokers, and the insecure rates at which risks were accepted. The vastly accumulated value of insurable property in Adelaide and its suburbs alone should have produced fully 20 per cent, additional premium receipts instead of 3½ per cent. Rates of premium were brought so low as to be unsafe to the assured and insurers if heavy losses occurred to companies that had no substantial reserve fund and uncalled capital due from a reliable proprietary. Newly-established agencies were most conspicuous in the conduct of their business on this reckless system. Another source of danger was that the character of individuals was disregarded in doing business through brokers, as they (the undesirable parties) from whom risks should not be taken were further attracted by the fallacious announcements of some companies advertising or causing advertisements to appear announcing the prompt and liberal manner in which they had settled specific claims. An intending incendiary

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Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 15 June 1881, page 3

FIRE AT CROWDER'S FACTORY.

The city coroner (Mr. T. Ward, J.P.) held an enquiry as to the fire which occurred at Messrs. Crowder & Co.'s sodawater factory in Franklin-street, on Sunday, June 12. Mr. Bury appeared on behalf of the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company, and Mr. J. F. Yuill on behalf of the Associated Companies. Mr. R Coombs was chosen foreman of the jury.

Constable George Thom said—I was on duty in King William-street on Sunday morning at about 5.45. My attention was first called to Crowder's factory by a passer-by named Wm. Warwick, who said that he had seen smoke issuing from the

windows. I immediately ran up and saw the fire, which was situated north of the windows. Gave information at the police station. The superintendent of fire brigades (Mr. Baker), with reel No. 7, reached the fire about 6 o'clock. The fire was all put out by ten minutes past 7 o'clock. Have no knowledge as to how the fire occurred. William K. Gibbs, foreman and cellarman to Messrs. Crowder & Co., said—I was engaged in the cellar on the day previous to the fire packing cordials. There were about twenty dozen straw envelopes packed in the corner where the fire was supposed to have originated. There was also a large quantity of straw. Both the envelopes and the straw had been there for some time. The pile would reach about half way to the ceiling. On Saturday morning about sixty dozen straw envelopes were put with the other lot and packed on top of the straw. At times there is a little damp in that corner of the cellar, but I am positive it would not reach the straw, as all the straw was packed on pieces of old boxes. I smoke occasionally, but did not smoke in the cellar on Saturday. I often smoke in the large cellar in meal times, but never in the cellar where the fire occurred. Had no idea of the origin of the fire. No chemicals are kept in this cellar. By the foreman—Did not use a candle or light. By a juryman—Smoking is prohibited on the premises. By Mr. Yuill— It is quite possible for a bottle of cordials to be broken and cause a dampness. By Mr. Bury—I took the keys of the cellar and locked up the premises on Saturday. By the coroner—I was the last in the cellar, and locked the doors of the cellar. By Mr. Downer—Should say there was about 2 cwt. of straw in the cellar. There was about £700 worth of stock in the cellar.

James Phillips, driver, said—I was working in the cellar early on Saturday morning. Lit a candle with a tandstickor match. Lit the candle in the south-west corner, and threw the match on the floor. This was about 21 feet from the straw. I put the candle out after using it for about an hour. By Mr. Bury—I returned to the premises on Sunday at about 7 o'clock. I was called by the police, who said the factory was on fire. By Mr. Downer—I have never seen a parcel of straw smoulder, and supposing a spark got on if it was too dry to smoulder. The witness corroborated the main points of the previous witness's evidence.

George Maunder, ostler at Messrs. Crowder's, said—I left the premises on Saturday night about 9 30. As far as I know I was the last person on the premises. Arthur Jno. Baker, superintendent of fire brigades, said—The police sent a message to me by the telephone at 5.45 on Sunday morning. A cab was in waiting and I went to the scene of the fire. I saw, upon arrival, smoke coming from the cellar window in Franklin-street. We kept all close till No. 7 reel arrived, when we immediately played through the window. Smoke was coming out of all parts of the building. We quickly forced open a door, and entering found no fire upstairs. We then burst open the hatchway and allowed the wind to enter and at once the flames burst out. We directed water down the hatch way, and quickly subdued the flames, but large volumes of smoke continued to ascend and prevented an entrance. The smoke appeared to come from the corner where a lot of old boards and the straw envelopes were laid. I have examined the debris, and can find no evidence as to the origin of the fire. A large amount of damage has been done, nearly the whole of the cordials in the cellar having been damaged.

John Henderson, managing partner of the firm of W. N. Crowder & Co., residing at Nor-wood, said—I was on the premises on Saturday last. I was in the cellar where the fire occurred about 10 o'clock. I left the place at about 2.45 p.m.; everything appeared to be safe. The firm is insured in the Colonial Mutual Office for £4,000; that includes stock-in-trade, everything except the vans. The building is insured by a separate policy. When we took stock in December last the valuation including the vans was £6,000. The building is insured for £1,000 in the same office. There are two sets of keys; I keep one and Mr. Gibbs the other. I cannot say what the loss will be.

Wm. Gibbs, recalled, said—I did not see a light used by Phillips in the cellar. Charles Downer, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Crowder & Co., said—I left the place at about 11 o'clock on Saturday morning. I saw some men working over the hatchway, but the hatches were closed. I cannot say how the fire started. Arthur P, Crowder, cordial-maker, Lower Mitcham, gave evidence, but nothing fresh was elicited.

The coroner, in summing up, said that they had heard various theories as to the cause of the fire, one of which was that it was possible that some matches were in the straw envelopes when they were placed in the cellar. Another was that the damp which existed on the floor of the cellar might have caused a smouldering. But this was refuted by two of the witnesses who said that the whole of the straw was perfectly dry. And then there was the theory of spontaneous combustion, but Mr. Baker said there was not sufficient pressure to cause combustion. He then briefly recapitulated the evidence, and asked the jury to consider their verdict. In the course of his remarks Mr. Ward said that great praise was due to the fire brigade for the efficiency displayed by them, and further, that had the reels been ten minutes later it was probable the whole of the building would have been gutted. Credit was also due to the police for the discipline and promptness they had displayed.

After a short retirement, the following verdict was returned:—"That there is no evidence to show how the fire originated."

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 29 August 1881, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

The Superintendent of Fire Brigades (Mr. A. J. Baker) called the members of the Adelaide Fire Brigade out for drill on Monday morning, August 29, at 6 o'clock. Three horse reels and twelve firemen answered the call. The plant was all carefully examined, and found to be in good working order. The reels were then sent to the fireplugs, and the firemen were put through their drill with stand-pipes and hose, and then through the ladder practice, all of which was efficiently done. After drill the firemen were called together, when the superintendent explained to them that no notice had been given to him to disband the fire brigades. The firemen were accordingly told to continue to hold the plant under their charge subject to his order, and his only, to continue their watchfulness, and to turn out on the first notice of fire. The superintendent said he hoped that in a few days the telephone would be ready to be worked between the head station (Hutt-street), the police station, and all the reel stations. The posts and wires were already placed and only awaited the fixing on of

the telephones, when the whole circuit will be so complete that a fire could be reported at the police station and all the fire brigade stations simultaneously.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 17 September 1881, page 9

THE WEEK

A deputation, consisting of liquidators of the Adelaide Fire Insurers' Association, waited on the Chief Secretary on Monday last, to submit a number of proposals with respect to the Government taking charge of the fire brigade for the city and suburbs, and making several reforms in connection with the present law bearing on the protection of property from fire. The object of these latter was to secure from those directly interested in the maintenance of a fire brigade some fair proportion of the cost of its maintenance, in which the insurance companies would also share. The Chief Secretary stated in his reply that the Government were not prepared to charge the country with the cost of a fire brigade maintained only for the convenience of the principal towns, but would be willing to assist any scheme for enabling insurance companies or corporations to carry on the brigade. The various suggestions made by the deputation would receive attention, and the Government would be quite willing to take charge of a Fire Brigade Bill.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 12 September 1881, page 2

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

A deputation representing the liquidators of Adelaide Fire Insurers' Brigade waited upon the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. C. Bray), on Monday, September 12, for the purpose of asking the assistance of the Government in placing the maintenance of the Fire Brigade on a more equitable footing than it was at present. The deputation consisted of Messrs. A. Abrahams, J. A. Jessop, G. M. Ashman, O. L. Meyer, and J. S. Steiner, Mr. G. Boothby, the other liquidator, being absent from the colony. Mr. ABRAHAMS read a lengthy paper, in which a number of suggestions were made as to the best means of maintaining the fire brigade satisfactorily, the ideas in which were endorsed by the other members of the deputation. Mr. BRAY, in replying, said that although the Government considered that it was a very desirable thing that the Fire Brigade should be continued, still as they represented the whole colony it was obviously unjust for them to maintain a Brigade for the City of Adelaide and some of the principal country towns out of the general revenue. If, however, by legislation they could do anything to help in the matter it was their duty to do so. If these Companies or Corporations do not see their way clear to do this, and if the Government could devise any scheme by which those persons interested could be compelled to pay the cost of the Brigade, he did not see why the Government should not carry it out, but still as a Government they felt they would not be justified in maintaining a brigade at the cost of the whole colony when only a portion of the colonists would benefit by it. That is to say if the cost of the brigade were taken from the General Revenue there would be large numbers of people in the country who would not be benefitted by it although they had to contribute towards its cost. At the present time Government paid a third of the cost, and they did that because, as their buildings were not

insured, it was only fair that they should do this in order that protection might be given to the structure. There were very many valuable suggestions contained in the paper read by Mr. Abrahams, and if he would let him have a copy of it he would promise that the proposals contained in it should have the most careful consideration. The Government would do all they could in the matter, but it must be understood that if they did anything steps would be taken to have the cost repaid by the bodies who ought to bear the cost.