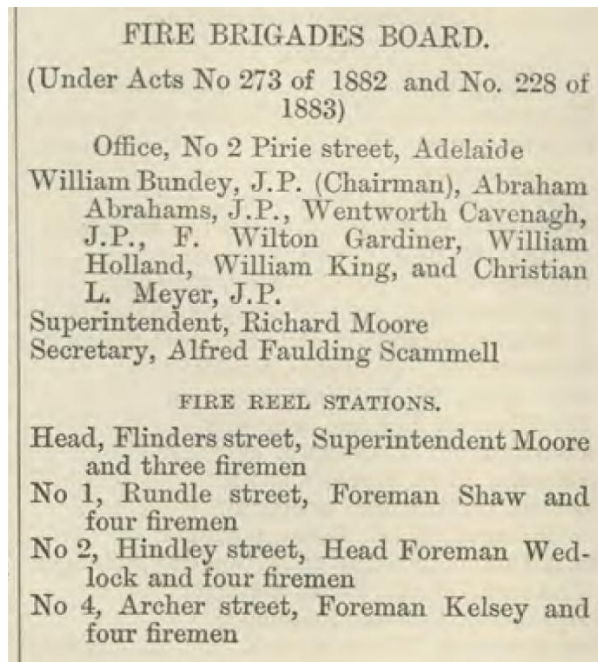


Adelaide Fire Brigade 1884

Locations of Fire Reels

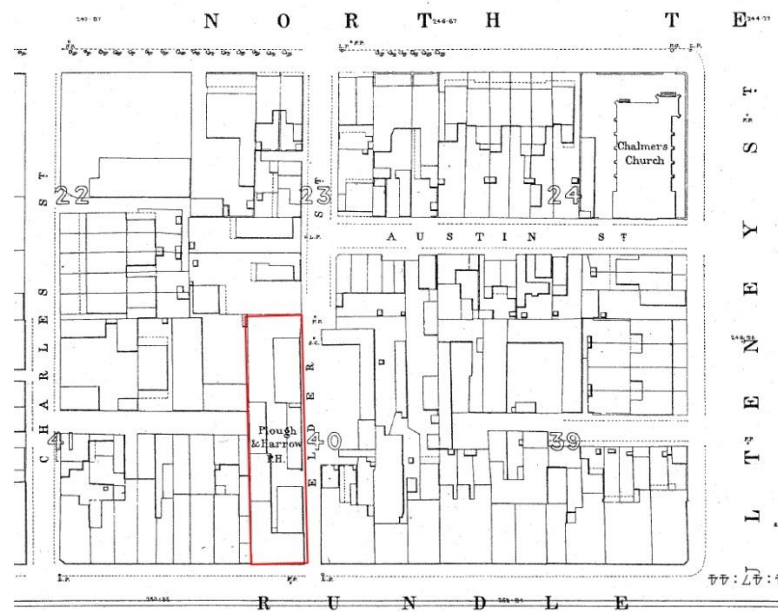


Sands and McDougall 1884

Richard Moore, Superintendent of Fire brigades, Flinders Street as well as a Wakefield Street listing.

Joseph Morris with Number 3 Reel in King William Street.

The Plough and Harrow Hotel, in Rundle Street West also had a fire reel stored at the rear.

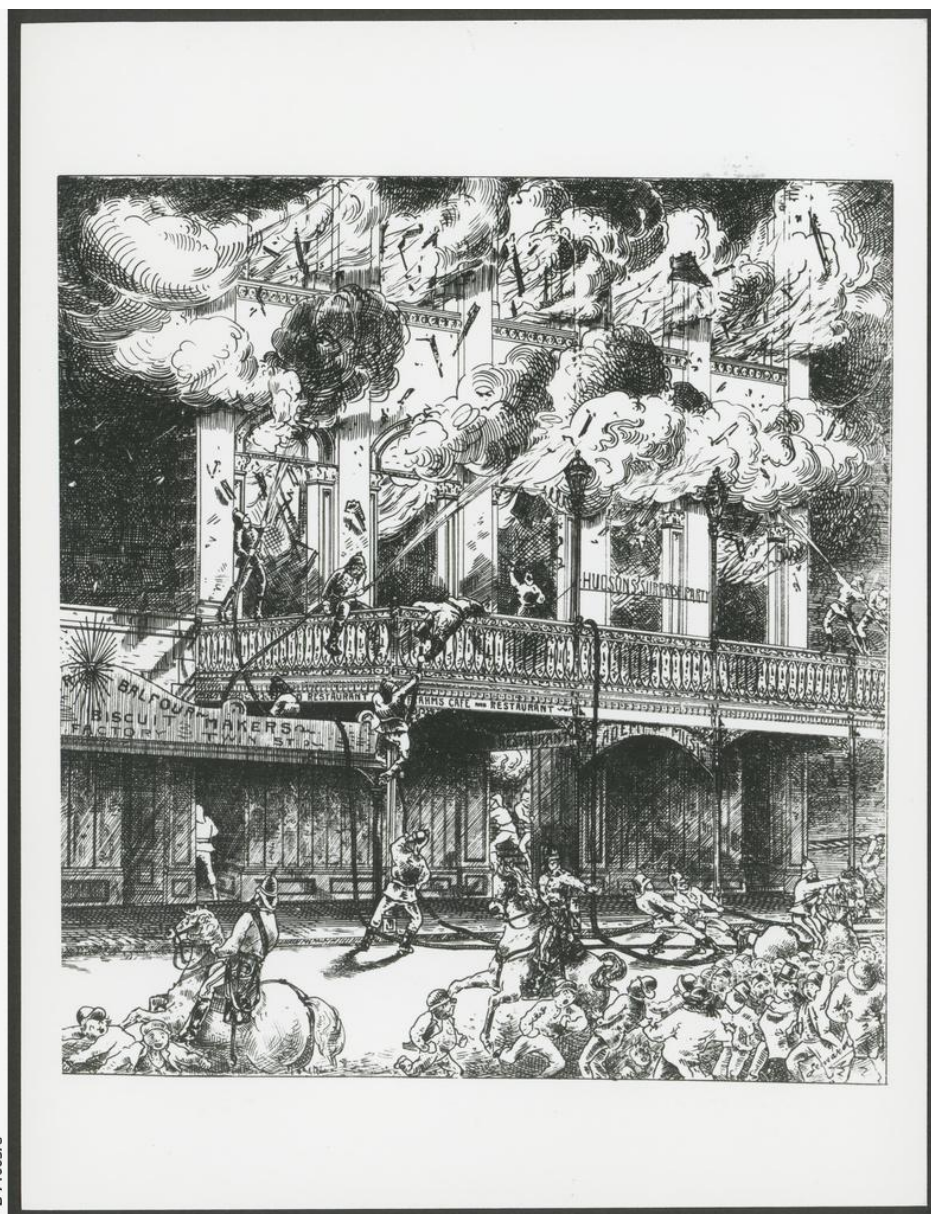


Plough and Harrow location, Smiths Survey 1880.

Frearson's Monthly Illustrated Adelaide News (SA : 1880 - 1884), Tuesday 1 January 1884, page 3

DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

" Fire at the back of the Academy !" was vociferously shouted by some one in Rundle-street shortly after 1.30 on the morning of Sunday, January 6. The alarm was promptly conveyed to the Fire Reel Stations, the reels quickly arrived, with them the Brigade, and the work of attempting to stay the conflagration commenced. But the fire had already got a good hold of the building, which we may briefly say was thoroughly gutted. It was a grand spectacle, full of striking effects too, yet we are glad it did not extend further than the building itself, and the premises immediately underneath and adjoining. John Williams, who works on the night shift at the Union Brewery, which is situated immediately behind the ill-fated Academy, was the first to notice the fire, and hear the sound of burning deal. He awakened the caretaker, George Moore, who was sleeping in one of the rooms over the stage on the eastern side. It was lucky he did so, for George Moore would otherwise have been burned to death or suffocated before aid could have been rendered him. As it was, he had difficulty in escaping, which he did, however, by the fire-escape at the west side, after burning the sole of his foot and sustaining a severe fall from the stage into the orchestra. Unfortunately, too, he lost all his clothes and belongings, including £58 in money, the savings of the last two years and more of his life. At a quarter past 2 the roof commenced to fall in, thereby increasing the liability of the front premises to share in the general destruction. The flames then entered Frahm's kitchen and refreshment saloon, and there stopped, the shop proper remaining comparatively unharmed. About 3 a.m. the flames were pretty well subdued, Superintendent Moore and his merry men toiling away with unflagging energy and skill throughout, despite an injury to the Superintendent's arm, sustained through the falling of burning material from aloft. Damage has to some extent accrued to the stock of Castle McLean, & Co., but it is towards the members of Hudson's Surprise Party, and to the musicians comprising Gardner's Band, and to poor Moore, the caretaker, that the public sympathy is chiefly extended. Mr. Hudson's whole wardrobe has been consumed, not to mention other valuable properties, the accumulation of years. The ladies of the company, too, have lost all their pretty stage dresses, their jewellery, and stock of Indian curiosities. The origin of the fire is not known with any degree of certainty. Hudson and his company appeared next night (Monday, the 7th) at Garner's Rooms, before a crowded house, and appeared in such good spirits that one ignorant of the disastrous event which had taken place so recently would hardly imagine any amongst them had had cause of sorrow. On Wednesday (the 9th) His Excellency was present, in accordance with his intention previously signified.



State Library of South Australia - Early views of Adelaide [B 71003/8]. Destruction by fire of the Academy of Music [illustration as it appeared in 'Frearson's Weekly' 12 January 1884]. 1849-1892.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 7 March 1884, page 7

THE FIRE EPIDEMIC.

EXTENSION TO THE CITY. A HATTER'S SHOP BURNT.

The epidemic of fires which has caused so much sensation during the week has apparently extended itself to the city. The number of conflagrations of a serious nature which have taken place in the eastern suburbs lately has produced a feeling of great un-easiness in the winds not only of the people in the immediate locality, but even in the city and in other districts. Notwithstanding the strict watch that has been kept it was feared that another fire might break out at any moment, and on Thursday evening, March 6, these expectations were unfortunately realised. Shortly after 7 o'clock flames were noticed issuing from the back premises of Mr. John Leaver, hatter, of Rundle-street. As might naturally be supposed

an immense crowd was soon on the spot, and as the flames rose higher and higher and the news of the occurrence spread, numbers of people congregated in the centre of Rundle-street, the crowd being added to by some hundreds from the Exhibition Building. Within five minutes after the discovery of the fire No. 1 reel, in charge of Mr. Edward Shaw, was on two spot, and began to play upon the flames. The brigade was quickly followed by the other reels, viz., the central and that from North Adelaide. The former was in charge of Superintendent Moore, who at once placed himself at the head of affairs. After considerable difficulty had been experienced the flames were got under before they had time to spread to the adjoining properties, and by a quarter to nine o'clock the fire was practically extinguished.

THE PREMISES.

Mr. Leaver's shop is situated in the centre of one of the busiest parts of Rundle-street, on the southern side. The shop is an attached building on the eastern side, and on the west there is a right-of-way which separates it from the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel. On the east then is a small provision shop kept by Mr. Harris, and next door to this is Mr. Menz's jeweller's shop, whilst just beyond this again is another right-of-way. These three buildings fronting the street are two storeys in height, and at the back of Mr. Leaver's shop, in a one-story galvanised iron structure extending the whole length of the yard. There is an opening from this on to the right-of-way, and it is here that the greater part of the manufacturing work is carried on. The premises are somewhat old, but by no means dilapidated, and the shop in which the fire occurred has for many years been occupied by Mr. Leaver as a place of business. The greater portion of the raw material as far as could be judged was in the back premises, while the ordinary business operations were of course carried on in the front shop. It was to the back premises that the fire was chiefly confined, and as the contents of this part were of an extremely inflammable character, it may easily be supposed that they were completely destroyed.

PUTTING OUT THE FIRE.

It is extremely difficult to say by whom the fire was first seen. From what we can gather the premises were perfectly secure till half-past 6 o'clock, and indeed then had been workmen then until within about an hour of that time. Mrs. Harris, the wife of the proprietor of the ham shop, had occasion to pass into her back premises for a bucket of water a few minutes past 7 when she noticed flames bursting from the roof of the galvanised iron portion of Mr. Leaver's building. Mrs. Harris at once gave the alarm, and her husband rushed out and threw some water on the fire, but his efforts proved of no avail, as the fire had already attained a strong hold. The news spread in an instant. A messenger ran down to the rear of the Plough and Harrow Hotel and reported the matter to Fireman Shaw. He was on the spot at once, and fixing the hydrant, which was a single one, to the fire-plug in front of Messrs. Wills & Co's warehouse, he in conjunction with the other members of the brigade broke open the door of the single storey building, to which the flames were entirely confined, and commenced to play on the burning mass. By this time, however, the fire had obtained a firm hold on the building, and the flimsy character of the material within caused the flames to rise to such a height as to be clearly visible as far away as Norwood and Kensington. The other two reels had by this time arrived, but the flow of water, good though it was, was not sufficient to prevent the fire from spreading to the front portion of the premises. The front shop for the moment was filled with a dense smoke, but the well-directed efforts of the

firemen had the effect of ultimately checking the flames. The goods in the shop, however, as far as could be ascertained were considerably damaged by the smoke and water. It was exceedingly fortunate that the flames were so well kept under, and that they were prevented spreading to the adjoining premises, otherwise the damage would undoubtedly have been most serious. As it was Mr. Leaver's premises were so far as the back was concerned, utterly destroyed. The same may to all appearances be said of a great part of the stock in the front shop, although the goods in the upper story were damaged perhaps in a lesser degree.

THE DAMAGE DONE.

At the present time it is impossible to ascertain the amount of damage done. Mr. Leaver quite recently added £100 worth of winter goods to his stock, but he was unable to state off hand the amount at which he valued the goods previously on the premises. The stock was insured in the Commercial Union Insurance Company and the London, Lancashire, and Globe Company, each for £900, and in the Liverpool, London, and Globe for we believe £800. No one lived on the premises, and under present circumstances it is of course impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to the origin of the fire. It may be mentioned that Mr. Leaver, Jun., stated to our reporter that he, together with his farther and three brothers, had been working on the premises till half-past 4 o'clock, and that he himself had remained till fully half-past 5. The gas had not been used in the shop since Saturday night last, and, in-deed, had been turned off at the meter ever since.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 7 March 1884, page 3

ANOTHER DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

The first week in March will long be remembered as a "black" week in Adelaide and its suburbs in consequence of the prevalence of disastrous fires which marked it in such an extraordinary degree. Between Sunday night and Wednesday morning, as already mentioned, no fewer than six, some causing a very large amount of loss, had broken out at Norwood, while the city itself was singularly free from the fiery visitation. Its turn came on Thursday evening. Then the flames burst forth from the centre of one of the most closely built parts of Rundle-street, and the consequences would have been most serious but for the circumstance that the fire was discovered before it had spread very far, and that when found it was suppressed by Superintendent Moore and his Brigades with a promptitude which is altogether praiseworthy.

LEAVER'S HAT SHOP

was the scene of the conflagration. This place has a two-storied front with single-storied premises at the rear. Next to it on on the west is the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel, and attached to it under the same roof on the east are the shops of Mr. O. Harris, a restaurateur, and Mr. R. Menz, a watchmaker. These latter places, and especially their back attachments, are very old, composed chiefly of wood and hence highly inflammable. The premises on which the fire broke out as well as these eastern places are the property of Mr. Henry Martin, and are all leased by Mr. J. A. Leaver, sen., who sublets the other two mentioned to Mr. Menz. Mr. Leaver is the principal of the firm of Messrs. J. A. Leaver and Co., who has occupied the greater part of the block nearly sixteen years, conducting the business of a hatmaker. In the establishment of his firm the chief mischief was done, for when the fire had been subdued the premises were found to have been seriously damaged, and nearly all the stock—

estimated to be worth over £2,000—had been rendered almost absolutely valueless by the flames and by the water.

THE FIRE AND ITS SUPPRESSION.

The cause of the fire can now only be guessed at. The block of buildings has a right-of-way on either side, and Mr. Bosisto, draper, passing through the western, saw flames in the middle of one of the single-storied places—used as workshops—in the rear. The alarm was immediately given by him—though five others claim the honour— and in less than ten minutes No. 1 reel was ready for work at the hydrant opposite the building. The Head Station reel arrived almost simultaneously, and the indefatigable Superintendent (Mr. Moore) was the first to play on the fire. About this time Master-Gunner Hanson was drilling Artillery recruits in the Drill shed when news of the fire came, and he allowed the squad to fall out at once and proceed to the assistance of the Brigades. This the men did with hearty goodwill, directing their attention chiefly to the eastern part of the premises, where Mr. Smith, foreman for Messrs. H. L. Vosz & Co., was already hard at work. He, with Hughes, one of the recruits, mounted the roof, and, under the direction of Mr. Moore, dashed water (as it was rapidly passed up to them in buckets) upon the flames, which were blazing in the shingle roof below the outer covering of galvanized iron, which it was found absolutely necessary to remove. As soon as the work had fairly begun thousands of people lined the street, and would have seriously retarded the salvage operations but for the fact that the Commissioner of Police had sent six mounted and at least twenty foot constables, who kept admirable order. The management of the Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company promptly adopted precautions in the working of their traffic so as to prevent any accident through the running of the tramcars. Usually the cars run through Rundle-street towards the eastern suburbs, but as soon as the fire broke out Mr. Simpson, one of the Directors of the Company, caused all the traffic to be worked through Grenfell-street, over the emergency line in Pulteney-street, and into Rundle-street some distance above the burning place. Mr. Jones, the Manager of the Company, posted into town and personally and thoroughly well regulated the traffic so as to prevent delay. The water was at the onset directed at the place in the rear, where the fire was first seen, the object being to drive it forward away from the more inflammable buildings. This plan succeeded, for in about a quarter of an hour all immediate danger had been averted in that direction, and the principal work was confined to the front. Great difficulty was experienced in entering the front shop, owing to the door having been securely fastened. In the meanwhile, however, a jet of water was played from the back towards the front window. When the door was at last burst in one of the reels carried a hose into the shop, which was full of blinding suffocating smoke, caused probably by the burning of the felt used in the hats reached by the flames, which were present in both top and lower stories. The men nevertheless pluckily pressed forward, and in a few minutes completely subdued the most dangerous part of the fire, and saved the adjoining premises, which so far as the fire itself was concerned were almost uninjured. To guard against the possible consequences, however, Mr. Harris had early removed most of his goods to the King of Hanover Hotel, opposite, and fortunately escaped without any appreciable loss. At about twenty minutes to 9 o'clock—the firemen having in the interval been engaged in throwing water by means of hand-pumps wherever any sign of burning appeared—the flames revived in the roof of the second story, but were again subdued without much trouble, and by 9 o'clock the Brigades left, the Superintendent having placed chosen men in

charge. It should be noticed that Mr. A. Abrahams, one of the members of the Fire Brigades' Board, was in attendance throughout.

MESSRS. LEAVER'S STATEMENTS.

As already said, the cause of the fire is unknown. Mr. Leaver, sen., states that he left the shop at half-past 5 o'clock, and proceeded to his residence at Kensington. He was on the way to town about half-past 7 o'clock with the purpose of proceeding to the Show on the Exhibition Grounds, where he had taken a prize for manufactures during the day, when he was informed of the fire. When he reached the premises all danger was over. Though his actual loss of stock is covered by the insurance, the temporary cessation of business will, of course, be a great drawback. This trouble comes particularly hard upon Mr. Leaver, because it is an illustration of the old aphorism relative to sorrows coming not in single file, but in battalions. Six months ago one of his brothers died ; and within the last few days he has had to mourn the loss of a sister. The business is carried on by Mr. Leaver, sen., three members of his family, and one employé. Mr. Edward Leaver states that work ceased at half-past 5 o'clock ; that the shop was closed at 6 o'clock. He remained until about 7 o'clock, and was at the Show when he heard of the fire. No gas was turned on to the premises, and no candles nor matches were lit. In connection with the business there is used a kiln for heating smoothing irons. This is placed in the room where the flames are reported to have been first seen. The fuel employed in this kiln is charcoal. It was used on Thursday afternoon, but the fire was allowed to die out before evening. At half-past 5 o'clock—which was the latest time at which he saw the kiln—the charcoal was still feebly smouldering, and he says he feels certain that no fire whatever remained after 6 o'clock. When he left he closed all means of entrance to the place. There was, however, an aperture opening to the western right-of-way through which an evil-disposed person might have thrown something to kindle the fire, but at present there is no suggestion that that was done. In the kiln-room inflammable material—such as hoods and cloths—was kept. It at present appears that the fire probably originated there.

INSURANCES.

As already mentioned the Messrs. Leaver valued their stock at over £2,000, fully covered by insurance. They have policies as follows:—Commercial Union Assurance Co., £900 ; London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., £900 ; Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Co., about £500. Altogether between £30,000 and £40,000 of the colony's wealth has vanished in smoke this week.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 11 March 1884, page 1

TO BUILDERS. — TENDERS are hereby invited until noon of Thursday, March 13, for JOINERS' WORK, PLASTERING, PAINTING, and GLAZING required in restoring Premises after the late Fire at 83, Bundle-street. Particulars may be obtained at my Office. F. W. DANCKER, Architect, Cavendish Chambers, Grenfell-street.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tuesday 25 March 1884, page 4

Fire in Pulteney-street.— On Monday evening about half-past 11 a fire broke out at the rear of premises occupied by Mr. Williams, hatter, situated in Pulteney-street, opposite the York Hotel. The head station reel was almost immediately in attendance, and got the fire under before much damage was done.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 26 March 1884, page 4

The Advertiser WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26. 1884.

Information was received at the metropolitan police-station about midnight on Monday that a small fire had occurred on premises owned by Mr. G. Soward, of Glenelg, and occupied by Mr. T. Williams, hat manufacturer, of Rundle-street. A partition which divides Mr. Williams's premises at the rear from those of Mr. Church, ironmonger, was burnt, and Mr. Williams thinks that the fire was the work of an incendiary, as no one was in the yard that evening after dark, and also because a large quantity of oils was stacked close to the partition on the other side. The fire reels under the superintendence of Captain Moore were called out, but the flames were extinguished by the application of a few buckets of water. No serious damage was done. The building is insured in the Queen Fire Insurance Company for £700, and the contents for £770 in the Lion Fire Insurance Company, and £300 in the Union of New Zealand Fire Insurance Company.

[Wednesday 21st May. Fire at Pulsford's.](#)

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 23 May 1884, page 7

THE FIRE AT PULSFORD'S.

The topic of the day throughout Thursday was the fire at Pulsford & Co.'s timber-yard, and from early till late at night hundreds plodded through the rain and mud to visit the burning debris. The flames carried out their destructive work in a most complete manner, making a clean sweep of the whole yard from north to south, and leaving only the dwelling-houses at the east and west corners of the property. The closest enquiries were pursued throughout Thursday with the view of discovering the origin of the conflagration, but so far all efforts in this direction have been without any result. The steady rain which fell during the whole of Thursday aided the firemen greatly in extinguishing the fire, but even at a late hour the burning masses were not wholly extinguished, although they were so thoroughly under control that there was no fear of any danger from them. The houses occupied by Messrs. Koepke and Hewer at the west side of the main entrance were only saved from destruction by the most strenuous exertions, and even as it was the greater portion of the back premises were consumed. The residents in the locality were occupied during the greater part of the morning in recovering their furniture and household effects which had been carried out into Grenfell and Pulteney streets, but unfortunately a great part of them was so damaged by the rain and rough treatment that they will practically be of no further use. The property is insured to the extent of £10,150, but as yet no definite estimate has been arrived at as to the exact amount of damage done or of the value of the stock, but there is no doubt that the insurance is considerably under the value of the property.

THE SCENE AT DAYBREAK.

Thursday morning broke grey and grisly, and to add to the general discomfort a steady rain began to fall shortly before 5 o'clock. The whole of the yard was completely gutted by that hour, and the manner in which the flames had gained thorough mastery over the entire

space was startling in its rapidity. The fact, however, was that from the whole of the timber being under shelter it was so dry that it ignited like tinder, and the draught which was created under the roofs of course aided the flames in their work of destruction. As soon as it was seen that there was no danger the residents around the yard at once began to remove their furniture and effects back to their homes, but a great portion of them has been damaged by water from the hoses and by the rain. Some little stir was created at the Star of the East Hotel owing to the roof of the kitchen being set alight by some sparks, but the flames were extin-guished before any damage was done. The heat from the burning timber was intense, and the smoke was so blinding that several of the firemen suffered most acutely from it— indeed one of Mr. Wedlock's men had to be sent home he was in such a bad condition. The timber in the central and front portions of the yard is utterly destroyed, and all that the firmen were able to save was a stack of deal planks at the north-eastern corner. Mr. John Hill, who lives at the corner of Bent-street and Grenfell-street, had a narrow escape, and for some time his house had to be carefully watched in order to see that it did not catch alight. The wind, which threatened to develop into a strong breeze as morning crept on, for-tunately died away, and it is due to this fact that the houses adjoining the timber-yard were preserved from destruction. The ori-gin of the fire is shrouded in the deepest mystery, and neither Mr. Hewer, his watchman, nor the policemen, is able to hazard an opinion on the subject. The watchman is thoroughly convinced, from the personal inspection which he made of the premises before he left to attend the fire at the Tavistock Buildings, that everything was safe then, nor had he seen any one loitering about just prior to the outbreak. Access was to be obtained to the yard by side entrances from Bent-street and Hindmarsh-square and from Grenfell-street, but the two former gates were locked, and dogs were kept on the premises to give warning of any trespassers.

LATER PARTICULARS.

At 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, although all danger of the fire spreading beyond the limits it had attained during the night was averted, the flames were by no means extinguished. All over the yard, where timber had been stacked, there were separate fires, and every now and again, as the men engaged at the fire turned over the material, pieces of timber would blaze up. It was feared about this time that a shed at the rear of the house facing Bent street, which had previously escaped, would be destroyed, and a quantity of timber and a running crane would also be consumed, as a large stack of timber standing just in front of the shed and several stacks on the western end were in a blaze, but a strong jet of water was turned on to the burning masses of timber. Some minutes delay was caused by the hose bursting, but the leak was finally bound up with a rag, and a diminished stream was played on to the timber. This with the rain, which fell continuously from about half past 4 o'clock, and buckets of water passed along a line by a number of auxiliaries, got the flames in these directions under and saved the shed. One reel was kept going all the morning, and the men were busily engaged in turning over the stacks of wood to get at the burning masses inside. The spectacle at the time even was a peculiar, one, as most of these stacks had a few logs on the top which were only slightly charred, but on turning these over it was seen that the inside was red hot. The most narrow escape from destruction was that which was experienced by Mr. John Hill's house, upon which a constant stream of water had to be played for a lengthened period. The heat from the fire, which was fully 20 feet away, was so intense that it broke the windows overlooking the yard, and scorched the woodwork. The great portion of the furniture was removed after the family had been sent to the house of

Mr. R. H. Fuller, but fortunately it was found unnecessary to take away the heavier articles. The whole of the residents in Grenfell-street and the houses fronting the Square had their furniture bundled out into the roadway, and mixed up indiscriminately. The result of this was that a large number of articles were irretrievably damaged or lost. The people who lived in Bent-street had a similar experience. Mr Kopke, the lodging-house-keeper, whose premises abut in the yard, was uninsured, and estimates his loss at about £150. Mr. Oatey had his furniture insured for £350, and Mr. C. Kiesling, who carried on business as a cabinetmaker, had a policy over his furniture for £200, and over his stock-in-trade for £50. We understand that the workmen employed by the firm had nearly all their tools burnt, only about a couple of bags being rescued, owing to the presence of mind of two or three spectators.

MR. HEWER'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Albert Hewer, who has carried on the business on behalf of himself and Mrs. Pulsford, says— I live two doors to the west of the yard entrance in Grenfell-street. Am a single man, and employ an elderly lady as housekeeper. On Wednesday evening I went to the Glenelg Railway Station in Victoria-square at about 9 o'clock. Saw a lady off in the train, and returned in a trap to my house immediately afterwards. I went to bed within a quarter of an hour, and was not disturbed until somewhere about 1 o'clock, when I was awakened by the screaming of my house keeper and a loud knocking at the street door. I hurriedly put on the first clothes to hand and rushed downstairs to discover that the alarm of fire had been given in respect of my yard. The flames then appeared to have a perfect hold on the whole of the central office. My first thought was to save the part of the yard and were fast encroaching on the books, papers, and about £90 in cash that were in the office. I went back to the house to get the safe keys, and with assistance opened the safe and got out the books and papers and cash. I really do not know if all the books are saved, or whether any of the papers were lost; but I should think from the hurry and confusion consequent on the fire pressing us closely that it is probable some are missing. The firm has been in existence for the last forty-five years, having been first started by the late Mr. John Pulsford. At his death Mr. Pulsford was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. William Pulsford, and myself, and we carried on the business as Pulsford and Co. Since the death of Mr. William Pulsford, over twelve months ago, I have been con-conducting the business on behalf of Mrs. Pulsford and myself, but, as before mentioned, dull times have told upon the firm, and the estate has had to be put into liquidation owing to the pressure of the principal creditor. Some people may be inclined to sup-pose that the fire will be a very good thing for me, and probably some suggestions of a most unpleasant character may be made; but I may mention that as the property is assigned I have not the slightest interest in its destruction, in fact this fire is a great misfortune, and means commercial ruin to me. The assignees were going to employ me at a substantial salary to manage the business, and of course it would have been to my advantage to keep the yard intact. I have kept a watchman and dogs because of the late fires at Norwood, and I cannot in any way account for the outbreak. I know of no one who has a grudge against me, and was likely to attempt to revenge himself by setting my premises alight At present I am unable to give a correct idea of the value of the stock burnt and of that which is saved on the acre opposite to the timber-yard. We employ forty men, most of whom leave the yard at 5 o'clock, and when I left the place, at about half past 5 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, everything appeared to be all right.

SUPERINTENDENT MOORE'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Moore, the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, in a conversation with one of our representatives, said that on Wednesday night, he had three calls — the first to the Circus, which proved a false alarm ; the second to Tavistock Buildings ; and about twenty minutes after that a call to Pulsford's while at the Tavistock Buildings. He lost no time in going to Pulsford's fire. Fortunately he had no hose out, having trusted to hand-pumps at Mr. Martins buildings. He said— It was very lucky that I had not to wait to gather in any hose, as when we got to Pulsford's the whole place was in a blaze like Cowell's timber-yard when we got to it. I was at Pulsford's about three minutes after receiving the alarm, and all the reels in Adelaide were on the spot within a quarter of an hour. I got all the men to work with four hoses, completely surrounding the building, having a hose attached to a plug at the four corners of the block. About three quarters of an hour after this the Norwood Fire Brigade turned up. I could make no use of them, because there was a good pressure of water on and we had the flames at our mercy, but if a fifth hose had been set to work it would have reduced the pressure from all the other reels one-fifth, and any good it might have done would have been counteracted. If we had been five minutes later in getting the water on there would have been such a fire as Adelaide had never seen previously. Nothing could have saved the block. We got the fire pretty well under by 4 o'clock.

WHAT THE WATCHMAN SAYS.

Cornelius Marlborough states— I was on the premises exactly at 1 o'clock with Constable O'Donoghue, and at that time everything was safe. I then heard of the fire at the Tavistock Buildings, and I went down there with the constable. I was not gone many minutes, and on my return I found the carpenter's shop at the north-west corner in flames. The gates then were all loosed, and I could not see any one about. I then ran across the yard to give the alarm to the reels, and by the time I got back the fire had spread right across the yard. I have no idea as to the origin of the fire, and since the burning of the timber yards at Norwood I have kept a keen lookout for trespassers, but I have never observed any one. It often happens, however, that people who frequent the Star of the East Hotel loiter around the right-of-way leading from Hindmarsh-square, and on the night of the fire I saw people in front of the hotel about midnight.

THE INSURANCES.

Mr. A. Abrahams has kindly furnished us with full details of the insurance in the estate, from which we learn that the buildings and machinery were insured for £6,100 in the Equitable Office, and the workmen's tools for £50 more, while the Imperial Office had a policy of £4,000 on the stock-in-trade. The Equitable Company had reinsured £3,360 in the Northern Assurance Company, and the Imperial Company had reinsured £500 in the National of Australia, £750 in the South Australian, £1,000 in the Phoenix, and £1,000 in the Commercial Union Company.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 27 May 1884, page 2

CORONER'S INQUEST.

THIS DAY.

THE FIRE AT PULSFORD'S TIMBER YARD.

On Tuesday morning the city coroner (Mr. T. Ward) commenced an inquest at the Tavistock Hotel, Rundle-street, into the cause of the fire which occurred at Messrs. Pulsford's timber

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14 April 2026

and slate yards on May 22, Mr. A. Taylor was foreman of the jury. Mr. A. Abrahams represented the Equitable Fire Insurance Company, Mr. Yuill and Mr. Southwell the Imperial Fire Insurance Company; Mr. Bakewell and Mr. Pope appeared for the trustees of the estate of Pulsford and Co., and Inspector Bee watched the case for the police. The coroner, in opening the enquiry, said he had been informed that the fire was the act of an incendiary, but that would be a matter for the jury to decide. It was a very difficult thing to get at the origin of a fire, and therefore they would have to throw their whole intelligence into the subject. The jury then inspected the scene of the conflagration, after which the following evidence was taken:—

Police-constable Wardell said on the morning of May 22 he was on duty in Rundle-street east about half-past 12 o'clock, when he noticed a smell of smoke near the Tavistock Hotel. Immediately afterwards he noticed smoke issuing from a building adjoining the Tavistock Hotel. He went round to the back of the building and saw a fire burning underneath the back door in the cellar, and under the staircase. Gave the alarm and sent for the reel, which came and extinguished the fire in about ten minutes. The fire had such a hold that if it had not been discovered early it would have destroyed a large amount of property. Witness went to the police-station to make a re-report of the matter, and while there a tele-phone message informed them a fire was raging at Pulsford's timber-yard in Grenfell-street. The constable went to the spot at once and saw a fire burning in the yard, chiefly in the north-western corner. The building was all ablaze. The fire-reels were at work when he got to the fire. On the way to the police-station to make a report of the first fire he passed Bent-street, but did not notice any sign at Pulsford's, By Mr. Abrahams—At the building at the rear of the Tavistock the staircase and bottom of the cellar door were burning. By Mr. Pope— Could not say what time he arrived at Pulsford's fire, but thought it was 1 o'clock. By Inspector Bee— Was standing at the Tavistock corner four or five minutes before he discovered the first fire. Mr. Fayers, the saddler, was the only person he saw about, and he was standing by his shop. Had passed the building just before, and there was no smell of fire then. By the jury—Only saw the head fire brigade reel at Pulsford's fire when he arrived. The Norwood reel arrived, but witness did not see them playing on the fire. Mr. Fayer's saddler's shop was open at 12 o'clock on Thursday evening. Thought it strange for the shop to be open. Did not know what time the Norwood reel arrived.

Police-constable Brindle said on the morning of May 22 he was on duty in Pirie-street when he heard the report of a fire at about a quarter past 12. Ran as far as Hindmarsh-square, but saw no fire. Stood at the corner of Hanson and Pirie streets, and asked a man who was coming through the square where the fire was, and he said it was only some larrikins calling out fire. This was about half-past 12 o'clock. Shortly afterwards met Constable McNee, and in his company went up Grenfell-street and passed Pulsford's front gate about a quarter to 1 o'clock, They turned down Union-street into Rundle-street, where they met Sergeant Tait, who said the fire was over and sent them to their beats again. They went up Bent-street, and as they passed Pulsford's west gate in Grenfell-street saw a small fire there. This was about five minutes to 1 o'clock, The fire was on the north side of the Grenfell-street entrance to the timber yard, about 80 feet down the passage. The size of the fire was about three square feet. Did not notice a fire in any other portion of the yard. When witness first saw the fire he called out for the watchman, but received no reply. Saw no one about. Some dogs came up the gate. Left McNee at the fire, gave the alarm, and fetched the brigade from the Tavistock fire. Went back to Pulsford's yard and there were about half a dozen people

about. Noticed the fire sweep all round the yard. Saw the watchman, and just afterwards Mr. Hewer, who was speaking to Sergeant Tait. When they first saw the fire the dogs would not let them get over the fence or they could easily have put the fire out. When the constable got into the yard he saw a young man come out of a cottage near the right-of-way leading into Sturt-street. By Mr. Bakewell—Could not have got to the fire any way without the dogs attacking witness and McKee.

At this stage the enquiry was adjourned till Friday at 10 o'clock, when it is proposed to finish the enquiry.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Saturday 31 May 1884, page 3

THE FIRE AT PULSFORD'S FACTORY.

The enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at Pulsford & Co.'s slate and timber yard on the morning of May 22 was continued by the city coroner (Mr. T. Ward) at the Tavistock Hotel, Rundle-street, on Friday, May 10. Mr. A. Taylor was foreman of the jury. Mr. Bakewell and Mr. Pope appeared for the trustees of Pulsford & Co., and Mr. Bakewell for the Crown. Mr. Yuill appeared for the Imperial Insurance Company, and Inspector Bee was present. The Crown Solicitor was afterwards present. Police-constable Brindle, recalled, said the reel was at Pulsford's about three minutes after he noticed the fire. It was at the Tavistock fire from which place he fetched it. Police-constable McNee said on the morning of the fire he was on duty at the Government Buildings when he heard of the Tavistock fire. He immediately went to the spot, but the fire had been put out. In company with P.C. Brindle started to his beat again, when he noticed the fire at Pulsford's. It was about three feet in extent, and situate about seventy feet down the entrance-way. Called out for the watchman, but received no response. Tried to get over the gate, but several dogs came out barking. This was about five minutes to 1 o'clock. Aroused several people. A few minutes after discovering the fire the whole yard was in a blaze. The fire reel soon came up, and two others followed. If witness could have got to the fire when he first saw it, thought that it could have been easily extinguished. By the jury — There was a strong wind blowing, which helped spread the flames. Heard no row between Captain Moore and the captain of the Norwood Brigade. By Mr. Bakewell — Noticed no one about just before the fire. The fire when he first saw it consisted of burning shavings and light wood. Thought it was impossible to get to the fire without passing through the yards where the dogs were. Only saw the one fire, which seemed to spread over the whole of the yard. Saw the watchman on the premises about an hour after the fire commenced. There was no person dressed amongst those whom he called out of the surrounding houses. When they called out for the watchman the dogs started barking. By the jury — It might have been possible for one constable to keep off the dogs while the other got over to the fire. Neither witness nor Police-constable Brindle tried to beat the dogs off. The dogs sprang up to the gate when witness attempted to get over. Police-constable Johns said he passed Pulsford's yard about 12.50 on the morning of May 22, when he noticed no fire, but a quarter of an hour subsequently he saw the fire at Pulsford's at the north-west corner. Was standing on the west side of Hind-marsh-square near Genders's store. Previous to seeing Pulsford's fire had been to the Tavistock fire, where he saw Pulsford's watchman. By Mr. Bakewell — First saw the watchman standing in front of the western gate of Pulsford's yard in Grenfell-street at about twenty minutes past 12 o'clock. Found a man asleep in the street near Genders's store. Heard cries of fire previous to seeing the fire at Pulsford's. By Mr. Pope — Pulsford's watchman accompanied witness to

the Tavistock fire, but they parted company immediately they arrived there. The watchman did not appear excited. By Mr. Yuill — The fire at the Tavistock was waste wood burning. By the Jury — Could not say whether the watchman was smoking, but he was sober. Police-constable O'Donahue said on the morning of May 22 he was on duty in Hind-marsh-square, when he saw a man come running through the square. Witness asked him what was the matter, and he said there was a fire at the Tavistock. Went in company with Constable Johns to the fire, where he was placed in charge. About five minutes to 1 o'clock heard a cry of fire in the direction of Pulsford's. Ran up Bent-street and saw the fire. Informed Captain Moore of it. By jurors — Noticed no fire at Pulsford's as he went to the Tavistock. Saw Pulsford's watchman, who accompanied witness down Bent-street in the direction of the Tavistock, but he lost sight of him at Pulsford's entrance. The last witness saw of the watchman was when he was standing in front of the Tavistock building. By the Crown Solicitor — Met the watchman coming from the direction of the Star of the East Hotel when they were on the way to the Tavistock fire. By jurors — The man they met running through the square went back to the fire with them. Francis Fayers, saddler, said his shop was opened on the night of Pulsford's fire. He only put the shutters up on Saturday nights, and turned the gas off when he went to bed. Was busy working in his shop on the night of the fire. It was not an unusual thing for his shop to be open late at night. Went to Pulsford's fire and helped to get the horses out. As they passed Bent-street entrance saw the fire burning near the engine-house. Did not see a blaze in any other parts of the yard. The Bent-street entrance gate was closed. Witness and others helped Mr. Hower to get the books out of the safe. Kept them at his shop till the next morning, when they were called for. There were three ledgers and two day books. By Mr. Bakewell — The office was on fire, and Mr. Hower's brother helped to get the books out. Witness did not go inside the office, and therefore could not say if the safes were open. By the jury — The fire in the office was not disconnected with the fire in the other parts of the yard. The coroner intimated that it was impossible to go on with the enquiry, and it was therefore adjourned till Thursday at 10 o'clock.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Saturday 7 June 1884, page 2

THE FIRE AT PULSFORD'S.

The inquest upon the fire which destroyed so much property at Pulsford's timberyard on the 22nd of last month, was brought to a conclusion yesterday afternoon, the finding of the jury being to the effect that somebody caused the fire purposely and maliciously, but that it was impossible to say who did it or why he committed the offence. It was impossible to find in the evidence any motive for the crime. The firm of Pulsford & Co., collectively and individually, had much to lose and nothing to gain by the destruction of their stock-in-trade, which was not insured for much more than half its value. It does not appear that they had any enemies. There were no discharged men who might reasonably be suspected of a willingness to injure them; no threats had been heard against the firm or against any one of the partners. It may naturally be asked why, when no motive can be suggested for incendiarism in the case, it should be positively alleged. The answer is that improbable as an apparently motive-less act of incendiarism is, it is less improbable than the spontaneous outbreak of a fire where no visible cause for such an occurrence could be discovered or supposed. The premises on which this conflagration took place were closed before 6 o'clock in the evening of the 21st May : they were all right at midnight, and half or three-quarters of an hour later they were in flames. Two policemen might have extinguished the fire when it first broke out before it had done any damage worth mentioning, but they were afraid of

some dogs in the yard. It is of course suggested that if the dogs frightened the police they would have scared away any incendiary not connected with the premises, but this should not be taken for granted. There are secret ways known to some criminals of pacifying the fiercest dogs, it is supposed by the use of drugs or other materials possessing an odour peculiarly grateful to the canine race. At any rate it is well known that fierce watchdogs, without being killed, are nevertheless in some cases quiet while their master's houses are being plundered by burglars. The fire at an empty house in the row known as Tavistock buildings, just before the conflagration at Pulsford's, affords strong presumptive evidence that on that night an incendiary was at work, though what his object could be is a mystery. Arson is a difficult crime to detect, there-fore it is not surprising that coroners' in-quests very rarely lead to the conviction of any one of this heinous crime. In this enquiry the State has been represented by the Crown Solicitor, and by an inspector and subordinate officers of police, while several legal gentlemen watched the proceedings on behalf of the insurance offices interested; but all must agree that the jury could have given no other verdict than they did. It is a serious problem for the united intelligence of the law officers of the Crown and the police authorities to solve, how any means may be de-vised by which incendiarism may be more easily detected than it is at present.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 7 June 1884, page 4

THE FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

The report of the Fire Brigades Board is now issued for the first time relating to the work of the year 1883. It is not voluminous, but states succinctly all the leading steps which have been taken to put the Fire Brigade service in efficient order. The events detailed in the first portion of the report are fresh in the memory of our readers. The appointment of Superintendent Moore, the fixing of the head-quarters in Flinders-street, and of the three fire-reel stations off Rundle street and in Hindley-street, and Archer street, North Adelaide, and the remodel-ling of the plant formerly in the hands of the Insurance Companies were all necessary to give the new organization a proper start. At the head station reside, not only the Superintendent, but also three men, one of whom is constantly on watch in the telephone-room. The fire-reel stations, as well as the Police Station and Waterworks valvehouse, are in communication by telephone. Each of the other stations has a horse fire-reel, with a foreman and four firemen in attendance. Besides these reels another has been placed in the Police Station at King William- street The fire-escape has been improved, and all the men drilled in using it. Unfortunately, the new Fire Brigade has had a great deal to do during the twelve months. There were no less than eighty-five calls to fires, or thirty-seven in excess of any previous year. Particulars are given in a tabulated form, and from these it can be gathered that in thirteen cases the call of fire was a false alarm, while in an equal number only chimney fires were concerned. The casualties reported show how hazardous an occupation is that of a fireman. In one fire Foreman Harrison broke his leg, in another Superintendent Moore received an injury to his hand, in another Fireman Lawrence injured his hand, in another Fireman Powditch sustained severe injury to his shoulder, and in another Fireman Blinman fell, along with a wall, and was severely injured in the head, while an onlooker who was handling the hose had one of his eyes knocked out. The present year, of course, has so far proved to be one of the most unfortunate, if not the most unfortunate, ever experienced in the matter of losses by fire, and the Insurance Companies must be heavy losers. The total premiums received by the thirty-nine Insurance Companies registered in 1882 were £52,462, according to their returns furnished in accordance with the

Fire Brigades Act, and of the thirty-six registered at the end of last year £59,162. It is evident that already a very large pro-portion, if not the whole, of the profits for the current year have been lost by fires. The occurrence of fires outside the Municipality of Adelaide has not yet been properly provided for, although the Board took steps to secure the assistance of the Companies and of the Corporations in contributing towards the necessary expenses incurred in extinguishing them, and although an amending Act has entrusted the duty to local Boards where such exist. The reason of the present defect is, of course, that most places have no local brigades, and the Adelaide Brigade is not indemnified against the consequences of acting promptly in cases of suburban fires. Similarly local brigades have no status at fires at Adelaide. Even within the city the arrangements for extinguishing fires are by no means perfect. The Board suggest the advisability of erecting pillar hydrants at the corners of the leading thoroughfares and in the vicinity of public buildings. The advantage would be that in case of fire a much, larger number of jets could be used, as the quantity of water supplied by a pillar is much greater than that which can be obtained from an ordinary two-sided hydrant. The table showing the causes of fires is instructive. The ignition of clothing and curtains by gas or fire and of rubbish heaps inside houses is one of the most frequent, but the majority of fires are quite unexplained. After deducting cases of chimneys on fire and false alarms, we find that in over two-fifths of the fires the causes are set down as either 'unknown' or 'enquired into, but not ascertained.' The latter heading includes actually sixteen out of fifty-seven fires. It is fortunate that to cope with the increased number of fires there is a good central Fire Brigade. But what is now required is an investigation department ; and it is to be hoped that the Government will adopt measures to secure thorough enquiry into every suspicious case of fire.

Tuesday 22nd July 1884 – Fire at Lutheran Church, Flinders Street.

No. 1 reel in charge of Captain Moore.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 22 July 1884, page 2

FIRE IN FLINDERS-STREET.

About twenty minutes past 1 o'clock on Tuesday morning Lance-Corporal Bennet reported at the Metropolitan Police Station that a fire broke out at the school-house at the rear of the Lutheran Church in Flinders-street. No. 1 reel was quickly on the spot in charge of Captain Moore, and the fire was soon extinguished. The fire took place under the staircase, but the damage done was not very great. The coroner has been communicated with, and is making inquiries.

Tuesday 22nd July 1884 – Fire at McClory & Co and Hooper Brothers, Pulteney Street.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Saturday 26 July 1884, page 1

THE FIRE IN PULTENEY-STREET.

On Friday morning, July 25, the city coroner (Mr. T. Ward) commenced an inquest at the Tavistock Hotel on the fire which occurred in the premises of Messrs. McClory & Co. and Messrs. Hooper Brothers, in Pulteney-street, on Tuesday morning, July 22. Inspector Bee attended on behalf of the police, Mr. Solo-mon on behalf of Messrs. Hooper, Mr. Cox for McClory & Co., and Mr. Yuill for the insurance companies George Battye, fruiterer, of Hindmarsh, stated that on the morning of July 22, whilst going along Rundle-street to the East-End Market, he noticed smoke issuing from the roof of Messrs. McClory's and Hooper's

premises. Gave the alarm, and went for the Plough and Harrow fire reel. He saw only one man with a horse and cart in the road in front of him—Mr. Newell, a fruiterer, of Port Adelaide—who called his attention to the smoke. The flame burst out between the two shops, the principal blaze being in Hooper's. Remained about a quarter of an hour, when he left No. 1 reel was playing on the fire. When he first saw Newell he was in his cart, standing opposite the burnt premises having just turned the corner, Albert Nixon, a carpenter, of Adelaide, said that when coming down North-terrace on the morning of the 22nd, about 2 o'clock, he saw a blaze apparently coming from the roof of Messrs. Hooper's premises. He called a young man named Pelzer, who worked for Mr. McClory. Saw no one about when he first noticed the fire, though he afterwards saw a market gardener's cart coming down the lane by the Scots Church. His attention had been drawn to the fire by some one calling out from near Fitch's Corner. The two premises had separate roofs. Hooper's window fell in first, and McClory's afterwards. Pelzer got the key and gave it to the constable, who opened the door of McClory's establishment. By Mr. Yuill—Did not call at Keeves, because he did not know anyone lived there, and the fire had not reached there at the time. Police constable Andrew Cunningham was on duty in Grenfell street on the morning of the fire. He noticed smoke rising from McClory's premises at about 2 o'clock. He went to the site at once and found one or two persons standing about. The fire was burning in the centre of Hooper's shop, being confined inside. A boy asked him to try and save some books from McClory's. Being un-able to open the door with the keys he burst it open. When he did so the fire seemed to come through into McClory's back premises. Then went round to the back and found all the doors fastened. The first reel arrived about ten minutes or a quarter past 2, other reels following. Remained at the fire until it was out. P.C. George William Johnston was on duty in Rundle-street on the morning of the fire. His attention was called to the fire at about five minutes to 2 by some market gardeners calling out "Fire." Saw both fire and smoke, and thought the flames were in the centre of the two buildings. Went for the reel at the Plough and Harrow, but found that the men were out. He then went down to the police barracks. Remained at the fire until it was out. Martin McNamara, living in Pulteney-street near the site of the fire, said he was roused by cries of fire. There was only smoke when he first saw it. He could not say which roof the smoke was coming from, but thought it came from the partition. Went for Mr. McClory, and afterwards remained at the fire until it was out. Arthur Linford, printer, in the employment of Messrs. McClory, stated that he and another named Sellars were the last to leave on Monday night at a quarter past 10. They left everything apparently safe, turning off the gas, and locking the doors. There was no sign of fire then. Neither of them were in the habit of smoking, and no matches were struck. The keys were left with Mr. Pelzer, on North-terrace. Did not hear of the fire until the following morning. By Inspector Bee — All the doors were locked, and he believed all the windows were fastened. By Mr. Yuill—Could not see a light in Hooper's shop through the partition. Heard people in Hooper's some time after 5 o'clock. Did not notice any one about when he left. By Mr. Solomon —The gas bracket was attached to the partition, and was lighted that night. Had never noticed sparks coming from Keeves's place. They had another jet burning in the centre of the building about three or four feet below the skylight. The ceiling was of match-board. The jets were put out before the gas was turned off at the meter. The partition was covered with canvas. By the Jury—Mr. McClory was on good terms with his men as far as he knew. John Sellars, corroborated the evidence of the previous witness. Philip Pelzer, an apprentice in the employ of Messrs. McClory, stated that he left the premises about half-past 5 on Monday night. Was aroused during the night, and took the

keys round. When he arrived there the fire was burning in Hooper's place, only smoke being apparent in McClory's. By the jury— Gave the keys to the constable, and asked him to get the books out. He burst the door open, but could not get in owing to the smoke. By Inspector Bee—Any one within the house could get the keys. Found them in the usual place. William Gill Keeves, tinsmith, of Pulteney-street, said his place was situated next to Hooper's premises. Left on Monday evening about ten minutes past 9. He was the last to leave, and no one lived on the premises. He was roused about 2 o'clock by being told that his place was on fire. He went there and found the fire coming through the windows. The two shops were in one blaze at the time. His property was insured. Nothing had been burnt beyond the window-frames and some bench boards, Fire pots were used under the windows, and one was used up till about 6 o'clock on Monday evening. The windows were closed that day. Never knew sparks to fly from the fire-pots. Had a forge from which a flue proceeded. By Inspector Bee— His place was securely fastened, and there was no communication between it and Hooker's. By Mr. Solomon—There was a galvanizing furnace about 30 or 35 feet from Hooper's premises, where fire was kept up night and day to preserve the metal in a molten state. Only coke was burnt. James Sylvester McClory stated that he left the night previous to the fire about 6 o'clock, leaving four men in charge. Was called by McNamara about half-past 2 in the morning. When he arrived the whole place was in a blaze. They saved nothing except the machinery at the back, which the fire had not touched. He did not return to the shop after leaving it in the evening until called for the fire. Was satisfied with the business he was doing. The block of buildings, including Hooper's, belonged to him, and was insured for £250 in the London, Liverpool, and Globe Insurance, and the stock in the same company for £1,200. Did not consider this a fair value for the building and stock, being about 60 per cent. under. It would not cover his loss. Was on good terms with his men. Thought the partition might have caught alight if the jet were placed close to it, but it would have done so immediately. Had never previously had a fire on his premises. By Mr. Yuill— Hooper's owed him three months' rent, the rental being £2 per week. They had promised a few days previously to let him have the money. They seemed to be doing a good business. By Mr. Cox—He would lose about £700 after the payment of the insurance. The building could not be put up again for £250. By Mr. Solomon—Hooper's had been tenants of his ever since he came into possession, about two and three-quarter years. The machine on his premises was worked by gas power, and was not used after 5 o'clock on the evening preceding the fire. It was then taken down and cleaned. Edward Francis Hooper stated that he left the premises with his brother about 7 o'clock and went to North Adelaide with some blinds. Left his brother at the North Adelaide tram terminus and then proceeded to Edendale without calling at the shop. Came into town again at 8 o'clock next morning, having had no information about the fire. Left no one on the premises, and they had no gas in the shop. Did not know if his brother came in to town again. He (witness) had the keys. They had not used fire at all on the previous day, and had no one on the premises. Estimated the loss at £200. They were satisfied with the present business. They left some shavings in the shop in the evening, They had not boiled any glue that day. His brother took the books home with him as usual. Superintendent Moore stated that having examined the debris he found nothing in the least suspicious or likely to start a fire. George Pelzer, foreman to Messrs. McClory and Co., left the building about 6 o'clock on the previous evening, leaving Mr. McClory and four other men on the premises. Some of the men were in the habit of smoking at times in the shop and outside, though no one was smoking when he left. On the previous afternoon (Thursday), when taking stock, he had seen sparks arising from a hole in the roof of Keeves's

premises and dropping on the south-east corner of Hooper's shop, where they were in the habit of keeping their paint. Had never noticed them before, but he had often noticed very thick smoke coming from the same place. Mr. Hooper's roof was not in first-class condition. William Gill Keeves recalled, stated that there was a trap-door over the smithy, which was always closed at about half-past 5, and no sparks could afterwards arise from it. James Hooper, an employee of Messrs. Hooper Bros., corroborated his brother's evidence. Walter Hooper, a member of the firm, corroborated his brother's evidence, and stated that they were insured in the Northern Insurance Company for £350. Their business was good, and there was about £100 outstanding owing to them. Their liabilities were £150, which they were fully able to meet. When they took stock in June last the stock was valued at £500. He estimated the loss at from £150 to £160. The stock of oil, turpentine, &c, was low at the time of fire. There were a few shavings in the second compartment, and the oil, paints, &c., in the third compartment. P.C. William Henry Northridge, who was present when Superintendent Moore examined the debris, confirmed his evidence that there was nothing suspicious about them. At this stage the proceedings were adjourned until Tuesday next at 2.30 p.m.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 30 July 1884, page 6

THE FIRE IN PULTENEY-STREET.

The city coroner (Mr. T. Ward) concluded the enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred on the premises of McClory & Co. and Hooper Bros., on the morning of July 22, at the Tavistock Hotel, Rundle-street, on Tuesday afternoon, July 29. Mr. E. J. Cox appeared for McClory, Mr. Solomon for Hooper Brothers, and Mr. Yuill for the London, Liverpool, and Globe Insurance Company. Detective Hampton represented the police. Edward F. Hooper, recalled, said the bailiffs were not in his house, but judgment was issued against him for 18s. on July 19, and the amount was at once paid. Did not think any artificial light was used in his business except a candle. The glue was heated in the yard as there was no stove inside. There was no occasion to work overtime during the winter. W. H. Hooper, recalled, said he was at home at Prospect on the evening previous to the fire. Lance-Corporal Bennett said he was on duty in Pulteney-street on the night of the fire, and passed the premises which were destroyed about ten minutes to 2 o'clock. There was no appearance or smell of fire at that time. When witness got as far as Rundle-street he met a reel coming out of the back of the Plough and Harrow Hotel. Thought the shutters were up at Hooper's premises, but not at McClory's. Saw no suspicions looking persons about the premises. Just before the fire saw a man pass from Fitch's corner across Pulteney-street, and go down on the same side of the street as the premises where the fire occurred, and make for North-terrace. Would not know the man again. James Hooper recalled, said on the night of the fire he was at the institute reading-room, and walked home. Did not go into the shop on the night before the fire. There was only one key to the premises. P.C. Williams said he was on duty on North-terrace on the night of the fire. Was taking two prisoners to the police-station, when he saw a man pass along by McClory's and Hooper's premises. Saw nothing of the man after he passed the corner of Pulteney and Rundle streets. The man did not try to get out of witness's way. The coroner in summing up said in the evidence they were told that the fire commenced at Hooper's. Messrs. Hooper were not in a flourishing way of business, but there was not sufficient evidence to say that any suspicion rested upon them as to the starting of the fire. The police had been working hard to gather evidence, but they had not been able to get any direct testimony. He did not think the jury could do anything but return

an open verdict. The jury returned the following verdict :— "We find that the fire which destroyed the premises of Hooper Bros, and McClory and Co, on the morning of July 22 originated on the premises of Hooper Bros., and was wilfully started by some person or persons unknown, and we agree with the coroner's remarks regarding the matchboard partition between McClory's and Hooper Bros'. shops, as being of too flimsy a character."

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 14 August 1884, page 1

AN old London Fire-Brigade Man is desirous of obtaining SITUATION as NIGHT WATCHMAN or any position of trust; understands fire-engines and hose-reels For reference apply R. MOORE, Superintendent Fire Brigade, 225-7 Adelaide.

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Thursday 2nd October 1884 – Firefighter dies after Pulsford's fire.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 3 October 1884, page 4

DEATHS.

DAVIS.—On the second of October, at his father's residence, Michael, the dearly beloved and only son of Michael and Mary Davis. Aged 22 years.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 4 October 1884, page 2

FUNERAL NOTICES

U.A.O.D.— SIR WILLIAM ROBIN-SON LODGE, No. 21. —Brothers of above Lodge are requested to Meet at the Lodgeroom This Day (Saturday), October 4 at 3.30 p.m., to Follow the REMAINS of our late Brother, MICHAEL DAVIS, to the West-terrace Cemetery. H. W. CHAMBERLAIN, Secretary.

THE Friends of the late MICHAEL DAVIS are respectfully informed that his REMAINS will by Conveyed from Father's Residence, Rose-street, To-day (Saturday), at 3.30 p.m., for Interment in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, West- terrace. By permission of the Chairman of the Fire Brigade Board, Members of the Brigade are invited to follow, with their Reels, at the Funeral.

Christian Colonist (SA : 1878 - 1894), Friday 10 October 1884, page 3

Epitome of General News

A fireman named Martin Davis, caught cold at Pulsford's fire and died from the consequences, was buried on Saturday, the firemen to the number of about forty- five following his remains to the grave.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 11 October 1884, page 10

The Week

The funeral of a fireman named Michael Davis, who belonged to No. 2 reel, took place on Saturday, October 4. The deceased caught a severe cold at Pulsford's fire, which settled on his lungs, and eventually resulted in his death. The firemen, about forty-five in number, and

comprising the members of the Adelaide, Norwood, Glenelg, and Harold Bros.' brigades, assembled at the No. 2 station about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, all being in uniform, and wearing white gloves. The pro-cession was then formed. It was headed by the Model Band, playing the dead-march, after which came a large number of members of the Druids and Cosmopolitan lodge, and then the hearse and mourning coaches. The firemen followed in double file, and the various reels brought up the procession, which passed through Hindley and King William streets en route for the West-terrace cemetery, where the body was interred.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 11 October 1884, page 34

Fireman's Funeral.—The funeral of the late Michael Davis, a member of No. 2 Fire Reel, took place on Saturday afternoon. Nearly all the men belonging to the Adelaide, Norwood, Glenelg, and Harrold Brothers Fire Brigades took part in the procession, which left the deceased's late residence in Hindley-street, and then proceeded eastward to King William-street, then south to Grote-street, and westward to the Catholic Cemetery, where the usual funeral ceremony was performed. The procession was headed by the Model Band, playing the Dead March in "Saul," then came members of the Druid Order and the Cosmopolitan Benefit Society. The hearse was followed by the mourning coaches and the firemen in double files, and the rear was brought up by the reels, the horses of which were led by firemen, and private vehicles. A man was left in charge at each of the stations, so that no time should be lost in communicating with the brigades in the event of anything occurring requiring their attention.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 14 November 1884, page 6

ANOTHER FIRE IN ADELAIDE.

On Thursday evening some consternation was caused in the city by the outbreak of another fire. The scene of the conflagration was the establishment of Mr. W. J. Lott, known as the "Paris Photographic Company," 164, Rundle-street. The premises form part of the block of buildings which extend from Pulteney-street to the Jewish Synagogue, and it will be seen that thus situated they might have become the centre of a very destructive fire. The owners of the premises are the South Australian Company, but they are let to Mr. Lott on a lease of twenty-one years, of which about six years have still to run. The building is two stories in height, and with the outbuildings extend back to a right-of-way from Pulteney-street. It is entered by a vestibule, at one side, of which is a shop which is let by Mr. Lott to Mr. Benjamin Harris, tailor. Behind this shop is a room in which Mr. Lott receives his customers and transacts business, and at the rear of this are other rooms which are used for domestic purposes. A passage runs through to the yard, and at the extremity of the yard is a work shop, which opens on to the before-mentioned right-of-way. From the vestibule a staircase leads to another suite of rooms. At the front is a bedroom, behind this the "dark" room, then a waiting-room, and at the back the studio, in which is all the paraphernalia of a photographer, including several cameras. The shops adjoining are occupied by Messrs. Witcombe & Sons, undertakers, and Mr. Solomon Isaacs, tobacconist. The origin of the fire is not known. Mr. Lott resides on the premises; and from the information we have obtained it appears that he and his wife and child left the place at about 8 o'clock for the purpose of calling on Mr. Dashwood, who is their solicitor in a case which is down for hearing in the Local Court for to-day. A person who was staying with Mr. Lott died, and Mr. Lott is suing the Curator of Intestate Estates for expenses alleged to have been incurred in connection with

the interment of the deceased. At about 8.15 o'clock several persons who were passing observed smoke issuing from the roof of the building, and an alarm of fire was promptly given. In the meantime a large crowd assembled around the door, and a report was spread that the daughter of Mr. Lott was alone on the premises. It was thought that her cries could be heard, but as the door was fastened no one attempted to enter until Superintendent Moore with No. 1 Reel arrived. The door was burst open, and a search made, but the child was not found. As stated above, she had gone out with her parents, and when Mr. Lott returned the anxiety of the onlookers and of the police was at once set at rest. Superintendent Moore arrived with his men a few moments after the alarm was given, and No. 2 and No. 3 reels followed within a short space of time, The fire appeared to have had its origin in the "dark" room, where it was burning fiercely. The roof was soon destroyed, and the flames shot up high above the building, casting a lurid glare around. The hose was taken upstairs and on to the roof of the adjacent buildings, and the firemen worked with great courage and earnestness in their endeavours to overcome what threatened to be a very serious catastrophe, An abundant supply of water was poured on to the fire, and in a very short time it was got under, and the danger was past. By about 9.15 no flames could be seen, and Superintendent Moore withdrew his men from the building. The centre of the fire being in the dark room, the stream of water was directed at this point, and not only were the adjacent buildings uninjured, but the studio with the machinery it contained escaped with very slight damage. The rooms below were practically untouched, and the damage was confined to the bedroom, the "dark" room, and the waiting-room. Even in these rooms every thing was not destroyed, and the loss by the fire is not great. Superintendent Moore, who manipulated his men with marked ability, is to be complimented on this result. The partition-wall between the premises of Mr. Lott and Messrs. Witcombe & Son is a thin one, and if it had been broken through the fire must have spread, as the latter firm have their rooms stored with coffins and dry timber. Mr. Lott states that he is insured in the Imperial Insurance Company for £500, and that this insurance would have lapsed at the end of the present week. He says he cannot make any suggestion as to the origin of the fire. He left the premises secure, and although his wife was moving about the room on the second floor with a lamp just before they left, he had no reason to suppose that she was the cause of the out-break. His brother states that he went to the place soon after 8 o'clock and he observed that there was a light in the shop. The back door he states was open, and any one could thus have effected an entrance. After the fire Mr. Lott was not allowed to remain on the premises, which were placed under the charge of the police. Amongst those present during the fire were Inspectors Huat and Sullivan, who had under their control the contingent of mounted and foot police, by whom order was maintained. They received material assistance in their somewhat arduous duties from Captain Hawker and some of the men of the Hindmarsh Company of Volunteers. The traffic had of course to be stopped, but it was resumed soon after 9 o'clock.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 17 November 1884, page 5

GREAT FIRE IN ADELAIDE.

A fire, the magnitude of which has scarcely ever been equalled in the history of this city, took place late on Saturday evening, and coming as it did after the recent conflagrations at Port Adelaide as well as in the metropolis it roused the most intense excitement, not to say alarm. It will be remembered that about two years ago one of the largest fires that we have ever experienced occurred, when the establishment of Messrs. Marshall and Co. was burnt

down, and going still further back the fire which took place at the Adelaide City Market will be recollected as another of the greatest conflagrations that have taken place in South Australia. This latest addition to our chronicle of big fires will vie with the events mentioned both as regards its extent and the value of property destroyed. It was about half-past 10 o'clock on Saturday evening that the rumor spread through the streets that a large fire had broken out in the city, and following so quickly as it did after what may be called preliminary events of a like character, people began to enquire whether or not this fire was not part of the work of some conspiracy whose ramifications were designed to be of an extensive nature— indeed, it was gravely asserted on Saturday by a well-known gentleman that the Fenians were " at the bottom of the whole business," though for what object can hardly be imagined. Even were this very wild theory tenable for one moment, it would be thought that the Fenians would direct their attack to the public buildings of the city rather than to private establishments. However. It cannot be gainsaid that there is a widespread feeling of alarm and mistrust in the public mind which has been created by recent occurrences, and which will be intensified by this last conflagration, and continue until the author of the mischief is brought to justice, or until some satisfactory explanation has been given. Another suggestion—not so sensational as the other, but equally disquieting—has been circulated to the effect that these fires are owing to the depressed state of the times, the work of a secret organisation, whose object is to give employment to men who are in need of it by destroying such establishments as are likely to put a good amount of insurance money into circulation. How manifestly absurd such a scheme would be is shown by the fact that by every fire that occurs in the city a certain number of men are thrown out of employment. Owing to the fire which took place on Saturday it may be safely stated that at least thirty or forty men will have nothing to do for the next three or four weeks, or perhaps longer, as the whole of the tools with which they earned their livelihood have been burnt. It seems therefore improbable that any organisation would in blind selfishness deliberately set fire to any establishment for the purpose of making work for a certain class of labor when at the same time such an act would result in depriving a large number of persons of the means of living. Whatever the cause may be, there is no doubt that all the fires which have recently taken place could not have occurred from pure accident, and it is also clear that the incendiaries are carrying out their villainous plots with great cleverness. It would be a matter of extreme satisfaction to the public to know that the police have some clue to the perpetrators of these outrages, or that they are likely to bring them to justice. The fire which occurred on Saturday evening had as its area of operation a block of buildings covering over two acres, and extending from Rundle-street in the north to Grenfell-street in the south. The flames broke out shortly before 11 o'clock in the centre of the premises belonging to Mr. P. Gay, furniture manufacturer, and that gentleman is the principal sufferer; but the shops of Messrs. Smith & Parker, drapers, were also burned down, and the establishments of Messrs, Mallabone, portmanteau manufacturer, and Parks, confectioner, were considerably damaged. The total amount of damage sustained was immense, being estimated at about £60,000. As to the origin of this tremendous conflagration Mr. Gay is himself perfectly convinced that the fire was the work of an incendiary, and this opinion seems to be shared by the general public. When Mr. Gay was interrogated on Sunday it transpired that although previously the business under his care was exceedingly prosperous, yet the loss he will sustain by the fire will be very heavy indeed, and of such a nature as is hardly capable of being coped with. The net loss to Mr. Gay amounts, we are informed, to the large sum of £19,000. At first it appeared probable that the flames would not extend to the adjoining

premises, but when once they had obtained a fair hold it was found impossible to confine them within the limits desired by the firemen, and only a short time elapsed before the whole of the neighbouring area was in a blaze. The scene was grand in the extreme, the flames raging terribly, and the reflection attracted great numbers of people from the various suburbs. At midnight there must have been fully 20,000 people present, and long before that hour all the adjacent thoroughfares were completely blocked. Every possible position of vantage in Rundle and Grenfell streets was availed of, and the police had an arduous task to perform in keeping back the immense multitudes of onlookers. It was soon apparent that any effort on the part of the brigade to save the property which the fire had seized hold of would be unavailing and attention was then directed to the premises in the immediate vicinity, which were thoroughly drenched with water in order to prevent the flames spreading. As Sunday morning was breaking the conflagration may be said to have attained its greatest intensity, and it was not until an hour or so later that any hope was entertained of stopping the ravages of the fire. Indeed, at 1 o'clock on Sunday afternoon the hoses had to be directed on to the burning debris in Mr. Gay's establishment, though it was satisfactory to know that at that time no further danger was to be apprehended. While the members of the fire brigade are to be congratulated upon their exertions, the fact cannot be disguised that the pressure of water was all too inadequate. Had this been otherwise the Norwood and Kensington reel and Mr. Farr's reel, which were present, would have rendered efficient service, and much valuable property would probably have been saved.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 17 November 1884, page 6

THE FIRE-REELS IN ATTENDANCE.

The following fire-reels were in attendance: —Head station (Superintendent Moore). No. 1 (Shaw), No. 2 (Wedlock), No. 4, North Adelaide (Kelsey), No. 7 (hand reel from the the head station). The Norwood reel attended with the men, but there was not sufficient pressure of water to allow of the reel being worked, Messrs. Farr's and other private reels also turned out, but for the same reason they could not be utilised.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 27 November 1884, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

On Wednesday afternoon a report was received at the permanent fire brigade station that a fire had broken out on the South Park Lands, near the Unley-road. No. 2, the head station reel, and several troopers were quickly in attendance, and succeeded in extinguishing the flames before much damage was done to the young trees. It is supposed that the fire was started by some boys. The corporation are greatly to blame for allowing the grass to grow waist high and making no attempt to mow it. The cows have been kept out in order to protect the young trees from injury, yet these and the shrubs are liable to be entirely destroyed by fire at any moment.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 28 November 1884, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

According to the returns of the Adelaide Fire Brigade Board, since the beginning of the present year 123 calls have been made upon the brigades, which have been for the most part promptly attended. In some cases, of course, the summons arose from a false alarm, and in others simply through a chimney being on fire. The corporation is about to erect 250

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

14 April 2026

pillar hydrants in the city, at which the brigade thread will be adopted for attaching the hose. As difficulty has hitherto been experienced at times in finding the plugs, owing to alteration in the street levels, full information is to be furnished to the brigade, so as to remove this obstacle to their ready and efficient working. Besides those cases of fire where incendiarism is reasonably suspected, many are attributed in the reports to the careless use of matches and fireworks by children, and others to articles of dress and furniture being placed too near to lighted candles.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 28 November 1884, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

The Commissioner of Police wishes it to be generally known that in future the police will lay informations against all licensed victuallers who open their houses after prohibited hours on the occasion of a fire.

According to the returns of the Adelaide Fire Brigade Board, since the beginning of the present year 123 calls have been made upon the brigades, which have been for the most part promptly attended. In some cases, of course, the summons arose from a false alarm, and in others simply through a chimney being on fire. The corporation is about to erect 250 pillar hydrants in the city, at which the brigade thread will be adopted for attaching the hose. As difficulty has hitherto been experienced at times in finding the plugs, owing to alteration in the street levels, full information is to be furnished to the brigade, so as to remove this obstacle to their ready and efficient working. Besides those cases of fire where incendiarism is reasonably suspected, many are attributed in the reports to the careless use of matches and fireworks by children, and others to articles of dress and furniture being placed too near to lighted candles.

Evening Journal Sat 29 Nov 1884 page 8

On MONDAY, December 1, at 11.30 o'clock.

ON THE PREMISES, T. HACK'S TIMBER-
YARD, PORT ADELAIDE.

TO BUILDERS,
CONTRACTORS,
MACHINISTS,
IRONMONGERS,
DEALERS,
AND OTHERS.

SALVAGE.
SALVAGE.
SALVAGE.

DEALS
GALVANIZED IRON,
IRONMONGERY
MACHINERY,
TWO ENGINES,
TWO CORNISH BOILERS.

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM J. F. YULL,
ESQ., THE ADJUSTER OF CLAIMS.

HENNING, BRUCE, & ALDRIDGE
have received instructions from the Adjuster
of Claims to sell, as above, at Mr. Hack's Timber-
yard, Port Adelaide—

The Whole of the SALVAGE from the late Fire,
comprising

GALVANIZED IRON,
TIMBER,
IRONMONGERY, &c.

ALSO,

The MACHINERY, comprising

1 ENGINE, 20 horse-power, horizontal
1 Do., 13 do. do.
1 Large CORNISH BOILERS
SAWBENCHES and SAWS
MOULDING MACHINERY.

TOGETHER WITH

All the Materials of the Engine-room, Offices,
large Stack (containing about 15,000 Bricks),
&c., &c., &c.

No Reserve.

<p>FIRE. FIRE. FIRE.</p> <hr/> <p>SALVAGE. SALVAGE.</p> <hr/> <p>GREAT SALE OF SALVAGE</p> <p>From the</p> <p>LATE DISASTROUS FIRE</p> <p>Which occurred on our Rundle-street Premises on Saturday, November 15.</p> <p>ALL GOODS REMOVED</p> <p>TO OUR</p> <p>HINDLEY AND BANK STREET ESTABLISHMENTS.</p> <p>DOORS OPEN AT 10 A.M.</p> <p><i>Sale Continued Each Day until further notice.</i></p> <hr/> <p>SMITH & PARKER.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>333c</small></p>
<p>THE GREAT FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.</p> <p>SALVAGE SALE. SALVAGE SALE.</p> <p>NEARLY £1,000 OF DAMAGED GOODS.</p> <p>ALL MUST BE CLEARED PREVIOUS TO PREMISES COMING DOWN.</p> <p>PORTMANTEAUS, LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S BAGS OF ALL KINDS</p> <p>TRUNKS, GLADSTONE BAGS,</p> <p>FANCY GOODS, BASKETS,</p> <p>AND A QUANTITY OF OTHER GOODS.</p> <p>Commencing on Friday next, November 21,</p> <p>ON THE PREMISES,</p> <p>117, RUNDLE-STREET.</p> <p>J. H. MALLABONE, Manufacturer.</p> <p><small>N.B.—I beg to tender my sincere THANKS to the LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY for the PROMPT SETTLEMENT of my CLAIM.</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>325c</small></p>
<p>FIRE. FIRE. FIRE.</p> <hr/> <p>CHAS. EVERETT & CO.</p> <p>Desire to tender their sincere THANKS to those FRIENDS who so kindly and willingly ASSISTED on their Premises the night of the late DISASTROUS FIRE on adjoining properties; also to the</p> <p>COLONIAL MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.</p> <p>For their Prompt Settlement.</p> <p>The BUSINESS will be CARRIED ON AS USUAL in our old Shop, No. 121, RUNDLE-STREET, opposite the Plough and Harrow, where we will be glad to see all our Customers and the Public generally.</p> <hr/> <p>CHAS. EVERETT & CO.,</p> <p>GRASSHOPPER TEA WAREHOUSE,</p> <p>121, RUNDLE-STREET.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>327-34v1</small></p>

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 29 November 1884, page 29

GENERAL NEWS.

The Recent Fire at Mr. Gay's Premises.—

The inquest into the cause of the disastrous fire at Mr. P. Gay's and adjoining premises in Rundle-street on November 15 was resumed on Monday at the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel by the City Coroner (Mr. Thomas Ward) and a Jury of fourteen. Mr. C. J. Dashwood and Inspector Bee appeared for the police; Mr. J. W. Downer, Q.C., represented Mr. Gay; Mr.

Whittell attended on behalf of the Guardian Insurance Company ; and Mr. Freeman, of Melbourne, and Mr. J. F. Yuill on behalf of other Insurance Companies interested. Several witnesses were called, but nothing new was elicited beyond the fact that the receipts from Mr. Gay's business had lately fallen off from £2,000 to about £1,500 per month, and that some of the workmen had been compelled to leave owing to the dulness of trade. It was the general opinion of witnesses having a knowledge of the premises that the fire was the work of an incendiary.

Charge of Arson against W. J. Lott.—

The enquiry into the cause of the fire at Lott's photographic establishment, Rundle street, on November 13, was concluded before the City Coroner (Mr. T. Ward) and a Jury at the Tavistock Hotel on Wednesday. Several witnesses gave evidence as to the extent of the fire, and it was proved that a second fire, having apparently a distinct origin, broke out in the operating-room behind some matchboarding about an hour and a half after the other fire was extinguished. Mr. Lott admitted that he had overdrawn his banking account to the extent of about £150, but stated that his financial position otherwise was good, although he had estimated his loss at £715 5s., while the insurance covered only £488, and the salvage stock was very small. In addressing the Jury the Coroner said he thought the suspicious circumstances justified a case against Mr. Lott in a higher Court. After a brief consultation the Jury found that the evidence led them to the assumption that the fire was wilfully caused by Mr. Lott. The Coroner then committed him for trial on a charge of arson, allowing bail, himself in £100 and two sureties in £100 each. The Superintendent and members of the Fire Brigade were complimented by the Jury on their energy in extinguishing the fire.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 29 November 1884, page 11

The Week

An alarm of fire was raised in the city on Monday evening at 8 o'clock, when a large blaze was seen in the direction of Unley, leading many people in the city and suburbs to think that another big conflagration was raging. Superintendent Moore received a report that the Old Mill in Hurtle-square was on fire, and afterwards that the flames were at the Green Dragon Brewery on South-terrace, but it was ultimately found that only the grass on the South Park Lands, not far from the brewery, was blazing, and as plenty of people were working to extinguish it the services of the brigade were not needed. In spite of a strong wind the fire was put out after burning a rather large patch of grass, and almost everybody had gone when another fire was noticed in the opposite corner of the paddock on the King William-road, but by the energetic movements of several lads with green boughs this was put out after destroying a space of standing and a heap of cut grass. A fire was then seen to the east of the Mitcham tramline, and after this was subdued, attention was again attracted to the direction of the second fire, about 500 yards from which the grass was blazing fiercely. This was kept within bounds with the aid of a trench across its course, and while the workers were talking matters over they were again needed in the vicinity, but not the same spot as the third blaze. Matters became somewhat monotonous, and most people left. A large quantity of grass which was knee-high was burnt altogether, but little if any damage was done to the young trees. Mr. Mortimer Kelly, a corporation laborer, of Sturt-street, rendered valuable service in directing the workers and putting out the fires. Nothing is known as to

the origin of the mysterious fires, but incendiarism was suspected, and two lads state positively they saw two men running away in the direction of Unley from the second fire.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 29 November 1884, page 4

The Inquest on Gay's Fire. — Another inquest has been brought to an unsatisfactory conclusion. After sitting on three separate days and examining a great number of witnesses the, Jury have come to the conclusion that "there is no evidence to show how the recent great fire in Rundle-street occurred," and this is true. It is shown pretty clearly where the fire began ; it is shown also that the portion of the premises abutting on the Sturt Stables was left in a very insecure state. Two or three witnesses, Mr. Gay being among the number, expressed their belief that the fire was the act of an incendiary ; but there was nothing to fix the actual origin of the disaster. Two witnesses testified to having perceived a smell of fire early in the evening in the right-of-way leading to Mayfield's premises, but they appear to have attached no importance to the fact. It seems probable, therefore, that, however caused, the fire was smouldering some time before public attention was directed to the flames. It is certainly very discouraging that no clue can be found to the real origin of the disaster. The back of the premises abutting on the Sturt stables, being in such an insecure state of course afforded every facility for any evil-disposed person or for any thoughtless or half-crazy person to start the fire. The chief moral to be drawn from the affair is that business men cannot be too careful to see that their premises are left in a secure state. No doubt the Insurance Companies will be more careful to examine premises before accepting risks, and to make a more careful distinction than has always been observed in the past between the different classes of risks accepted. If the conditions of insurance are made more stringent, and more care is shown in accepting risks, persons will very soon get into the habit of taking greater pre-cautions to ensure the safety of their premises. For the sufferers by the fire, and especially for Mr. Gay, there will be general sympathy. For the workmen who have lost their tools the sympathy has already taken a practical form. But all this will avail little unless the chief lessons taught by the disaster are laid to heart.

Frearson's Monthly Illustrated Adelaide News (SA : 1880 - 1884), Monday 1 December 1884, page 7

GREAT FIRE AT GAY'S FURNITURE MANU-FACTORY AND SHOW ROOMS.

One of our contemporaries thus describes the most extensive and disastrous fire that has ever occurred in South Australia which took place in Adelaide on Saturday night and in the early hours of Sunday morning, November 15 and 16, resulting in the total destruction of about £50,000 worth of property. At half-past 10 o'clock, when all the principal shops had been shut, and when the streets were gradually being cleared of the pedestrians who crowded them during the early hours of the evening, an alarm of "Fire" was raised in the centre of Rundle-street — the busiest part of the city. A fierce wind, stirring up clouds of dust, was blowing at the time, and the night was dark and chilly and unpleasant. When the alarm was heard no cause for it could be noticed in the streets, and some of the promenaders passed on, treating it as a hoax. Presently, however, a thin column of light smoke was seen curling upwards from the centre of Mr. Patrick Gay's furnishing establishment. It increased with a rapidity which was startling. In five minutes red flame commingled with the smoke, and a long pillar of it shot skywards. In ten minutes this had swollen to an immense body of flame, which illuminated the whole city within a wide radius, and cast a lurid reflection upon the clouds which hung heavily above and on the windows of the principal buildings in the suburbs. The blaze could be seen for many miles. So intense

was it less than a quarter of an hour after it first burst forth that people standing in the street at Unley and in some of the other suburbs could plainly see by its aid alone to read the smallest print. So great a conflagration had its attractive as well as its alarming features, especially as the strong wind which raged chopped round at times, and blew the dust and rubbish of the streets in eddying circles, and there was no telling what havoc that wind, toying with a bonfire so tremendous, might work with a part of the city so thickly built upon. Thousands of people hurried in from every direction to witness the sensation. Special tramcars brought eager crowds, some rushing only half-dressed, and others hatless, and not a few with slippers on their feet, from their homes in the more distant streets and in the suburbs. It is no exaggeration to say that before the fire had been burning half an hour hundreds of men and women — ay, and even little children — were racing through the Park Lands on all sides of the city. They filled up Grenfell-street, they flowed into King William-street, they blocked up Rundle-street and Hind-marsh-square and all the intervening space, until eastern tramcar traffic beyond that point had to be suspended. They poured into all the adjacent lanes and by-streets, and choked them; the rougher sort clambered on to the roofs of adjacent buildings and cheered a fireman's exploit, or boo-hoed sarcastically at some trifling mishap brought about by clumsiness. The whole scene was one exceedingly picturesque and rare. The observer standing on the roof of any of the buildings saw on the one side a mass of fire covering several hundred feet of space. All round him except on that one side were eager, bustling, motley crowds of people, their faces as plainly visible as though they had been in some vast amphitheatre lit up by electricity. He heard more clearly the indescribable moaning, rushing sound which always attends so great a conflagration. And far above that every now and then his ears were smitten with the noise of a sharp report, as some vessel of inflammable liquid burst and scattered a mass of flaming material over the adjoining buildings. Every few minutes some portion of a roof fell with a crash like thunder, sending up a shower of sparks. At intervals a wall was forced down by the heat. On one occasion the mass of brick and stone which formed the boundary of the block in Twin-street fell outwards, and some people in the near vicinity had a very narrow escape from injury, if not from death. Goods were taken from many of the buildings by cautious folk who thought it well to minimize their loss if they must lose at all. The area of the fire increased perceptibly as time wore on, and the volumes of smoke, interlaced and irradiated with darting streaks of flame, coloured with every hue, grow into enormous billows, rolling on in the direction whither the wind blew. They spread right across Twin-street, and touched the roofs of buildings on the other side; and some sparks and pieces of burning material caught the front of the Plough and Harrow Hotel on the northern side of Rundle-street, but this smaller fire was soon extinguished. At 2 o'clock the extent of the damage could be gauged with some certainty, and it was then apparent that the fire had reached its widest area. The sensation which had lured the crowd had almost ceased, and the people went off homewards. They, however, returned later in the day in strong force, bringing their friends with them. From daylight to evening — from dusk to midnight, the locale of the fire was visited by great numbers from all the country roundabout. At one time during the after-noon there were at least 4,000 people in front of the ruined block in Rundle-street. At early morning barriers were erected to divert traffic from the smaller streets. Against all of these the crowd pressed eagerly. The spectacle presented was now not grand, as it had been at night, but very curious. In different portions of the ruins the flames were rising through heaps of bricks to the height of two or three feet, in other corners stacks of timber were still alight, and thick volumes of smoke perpetually ascended. Rolls of valuable carpet were just

visible, broken statues, pieces of furniture, and portions of bedsteads, twisted into fantastic shapes, were lying amongst the debris at Gay's. It should be remembered that Mr. Gay's establishment was in parts a rare and rich art gallery. Whilst he was on the Continent he visited a large number of sculptors' studios, and purchased numerous works of art by some of the best masters. A few of these had been sold, but many were destroyed by the fire. Amongst these were about thirty statues, all cut in marble, placed in the bottom and second floors. Of course the beauty of these could not be distinguished amidst the ruins, but next door rolls of blackened cloth, tweeds and other drapers' material, completely destroyed by fire or water, still remained on the charred and blackened shelves, and the remains of counters were piled in confusion in the middle of the building. The cause of the fire is unknown, but Mr. Gay says he has not any doubt that it was the work of an incendiary. This is the general opinion, and circumstances certainly point to this conclusion. The best relations appear to have existed between Mr. Gay and his employes, the majority of whom are old servants. The officers of the Brigades report that the call was received at the head station at twelve minutes to 11 simultaneously by telephone from No. 1 Reel and a messenger. The whole Brigade and several hand-reels were turned out and got to the fire in a few minutes. Fortunately the turncock concentrated a very strong pressure of water to the main feeding the plugs in the vicinity, but though six hoses were pouring a continuous stream into the burning mass there was no visible effect. For several hours all the available reels, including the Norwood Volunteer, Payneham, and Farr's Timber yard Brigade, were all hard at work, but it was 2 o'clock on Sunday morning before the fire was got under control. The flames, however, were very fierce until 7 o'clock, when a heavy shower of rain helped to subdue them. Captain Thompson, late of Victoria, with four men and a hose belonging to Mr. Farr, builder, rendered valuable service, Mr. Gay is insured in the aggregate for £33,300 — the new building for £5,000, and the old building for £1,900; the stock, fittings, and plant made up the balance. The Companies affected are the Cornwall, £4,000; City of London, £2,000 ; Commercial Union, £2,500; Colonial Mutual, £1,000; Guardian, £2,000; Hamburg - Magdeburg, £1,500; Imperial, £2,000 ; Liverpool, London, and Globe, £4,000 (building); London and Lancashire, £1,000 ; Lion, £1,300; Mutual of South Australia, £4,000; Northern, £2,000; National of Australasia, £500; South British, £2,000; United Australian Mutual, £1,000; Union of New Zealand, £1,000 ; and Victorian, £1,500. Of the £2,000 in the Imperial Insurance Company £1,000 has been reinsured in the Phoenix. The Colonial Mutual having bought the business of the Mutual of South Australia, were liable for £5,000, but £750 of this amount has been reinsured in the Adelaide, £1,000 in the Colonial of New Zealand, and £1,000 in the Prussian National. Smith & Parker are insured for £8,600 on the stock and fixtures, and in addition the building is insured in the Equitable for £1,500. This amount is divided between the Cornwall, £1,000; Commercial Union, £1,000; Colonial Mutual, £1,000; Northern, £1,300; Standard of New Zealand, £1,000; United Australian Mutual, £1,000; Union of New Zealand, £1,300; and Victoria, £1,000. Mr. Everett is insured in the Colonial Mutual to the extent of £4,000, £3,000 being on the contents and £1,000 on the building. But £1,500 of this amount has been reinsured with the Commercial Union, £1,000 in the Union of New Zealand, and £500 in the Standard of New Zealand. Mr. Macklin, whose store in Twin-street was slightly damaged by the flames, has a policy for £300 in the National of Australasia, and £200 in the Commercial Union on the stock, and the building is insured in the Royal for £500. This does not affect the front shop, which was only damaged by water, the insurances on it being £1,000 in the Royal on the building, £1,000 in the South Australian, £500 in the Imperial, and £500 in other offices on the stock. Mr. Parke's stock

and fixtures is insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe for £270. Mr. Mallabone is also insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe for £300 on his stock. The building occupied by Messrs. Parks and Mallabone was insured in one policy in the Equitable for £800.

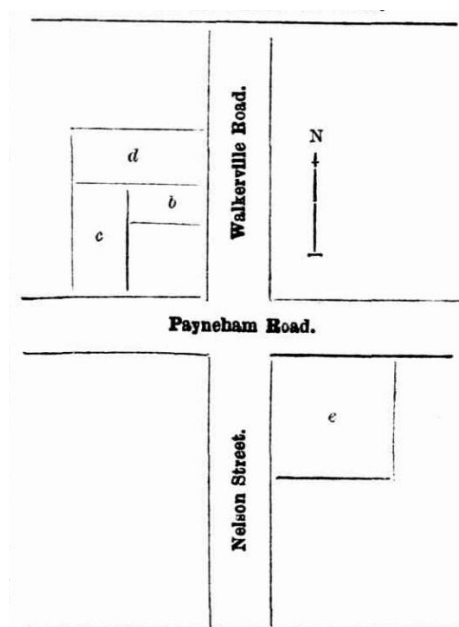
Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 1 December 1884, page 3

Alarming Fire at East Adelaide.

Another destructive fire broke out early on Sunday morning at East Adelaide. Whatever doubts may be felt as to the origin of some of the other fires which have recently occurred, all the evidence would seem to point to the distinctly incendiary character of this one. The scene of the fire was the store of Mr. Parks, at the corner of the Payneham and Walkerville roads, and opposite to the Buck's Head Hotel. It will be remembered that Parks was recently the victim of a most dastardly outrage, having been stabbed on his own premises in the course of an affray which occurred on the evening of his daughter's wedding. From the injuries he then received he is still suffering, and he now lies in a very precarious condition, Mr. Parks's daughters, who were nursing their father, state that it was half past 1 when they went to bed. One of the girls went into the kitchen and put out a light that was there and also the only other light in the house, which was in the sitting-room. They were awakened about 4 a.m. by a loud crackling noise as though the place was on fire, and the volumes of smoke which poured into the dwelling-house proved this to be the case. They found the whole of the shop was in a blaze, and the flames appeared to have already got into the roof. One of the boys ran to fetch Inspector Ray, who lives close by. The rest of the family moved Mr. Parks from his bed, and got him out in a chair into the backyard, where he was wrapped in blankets. The fire spread with such extraordinary rapidity that even before Mr. Parks could be got out of the building the flames had burst through from the shop into the dwelling, and for a minute or two it seemed doubtful whether he could be got safely into the yard in time to prevent his being suffocated by the smoke. As soon as Mr. Parks was in a position of comparative safety, an attempt was made to remove the more easily shifted articles of furniture. It was difficult to save much, but the piano and a good many of the smaller things in the bed room in the dwellinghouse were got out. When first seen the fire appeared to have got its chief hold round and about the door of the store at the corner of the Walkerville and Payneham roads. From this point it spread right and left, ran through the roof, and destroying the partition separating the shop from the adjoining offices rented by the East Adelaide Corporation, made its way into the latter in about twenty minutes. Superintendent Moore, with the town brigade, Lieutenant Kippist, with the Norwood reel, and the Payneham reel were quickly in attendance, but could do little, as the fire had pretty well burnt itself out in three-quarters of an hour to an hour. Very few people were present except just at the last. The first man actually at the fire was Inspector Ray, whose statement we append. Mrs. Bauer, the wife of the landlord of the Buck's Head Hotel, says she first noticed the fire at 18 minutes past 4, when she was awakened by her husband and looked at her watch to see the time. Day was just breaking. She saw no one about, except Inspector Ray. Her husband went over then and she followed, and helped to get some of the corporation boxes and other property safely to the hotel. The buildings destroyed are the property of Mr. Kiekebusche, and were insured for £1200, and the contents of the store were insured for £650. The Parks family appear to have been singularly unlucky lately. In addition to this calamity, the shock of which has affected Mr. Parks in his present state of health very prejudicially, one of his sons was a sufferer by the recent fire in Rundle-street, as his shop was one adjoining Everitt's and Mallabone's, and only a few yards from Gay's.

As to the cause of the fire, it will be noticed that Inspector Ray saw a wooden pair of steps which, though placed some few feet from the building, were in a blaze, and he observed flames coming out from the store over the top of the door. The beams of the flooring at the doorway are completely charred through, and it is a singular fact that the verandah posts are all or nearly all charred from top to bottom. An eyewitness states that the flames ran downwards along the posts with great rapidity. This would appear to point to the probability of their having had kerosine or other inflammable stuff poured over them, and that someone has made use of the steps for the purpose of pouring something into the shop through the fanlight. If some of the kerosine were spilt on the steps, that might account for these having caught light in the manner described by Ray. The corporation offices destroyed were to have been the scene to-day of an election for the office of councillor for the East Adelaide ward. We understand a temporary booth will be erected as near as possible to the site of the offices for the benefit of electors.

PLAN OF LOCALITY OF FIRE.



Explanation.

- a. Parks's store, completely burnt out. Fire supposed to have broken out at door at junction of Walkerville and Payneham roads.
- b. Corporation offices rented off Parks; burnt out.
- c. Parks's dwelling house, roof destroyed, and some rooms gutted.
- d. Detached bakery and yard. Bakery uninjured.
- e. Buck's Head Hotel.

IMPORTANT STATEMENTS OF INSPECTOR RAY

Mr. Inspector Ray, one of the officials of the East Adelaide Corporation, and a special constable for the district, gives the following account of the fire. He says:—"I was called at 4.10 a.m. by one of Mr. Parks's sons, who knocked at my place, and called out that his father's store was on fire. I hurried on my clothes, and as I live close by, I was round at the

store by 4.15. It was then daybreak, the air was very clear and bright, and in a few minutes it was broad daylight. I was the first person at the scene of the fire, no one else being present, so far as I could see, but the members of Mr. Parks family. They were up and dressed, and were trying to remove their father from the dwelling house (marked c on the plan). Flames were rushing out at the fanlight opening at the top of the shop door at the corner of the Walkerville-road. Cannot say whether the fanlight was broken or removed. It may have been twisted round on the swivel. Flames were also pouring out above the level of the shutters of the window, facing Walkerville-road, but only for a distance of a few feet from the door. The windows must have been broken near the door, but towards the corporation office, (marked d on the plan) no smoke or flame was issuing, so I imagine the windows were whole in that direction. A verandah runs right round Parks's block. About three feet away from the door before referred to, and under the verandah, I noticed a pair of steps. I noticed that the whole of that half of the steps which was nearest to Paynham-road was ablaze from top to bottom. I am sure the flames from the fanlight could not have reached the steps. As Park's family seemed to be doing all they could in the dwelling house, and the fire had got such a hold of the store that it was impossible to get into it, I ran to the corporation office, broke open the windows, and in this way got out several of the ballot boxes and other things within reach of the window. The elections are to come off on Monday, and so there were a good many books and papers about. One of Mr. Parks's daughters ran and told me there was a watch and chain and other valuables in one of the bedrooms, so I wrapped a cloth round my head, and went into the dwelling-house and got out a good many things for them. I found I could not possibly make my way into the shop. Mr. Gosse, the clerk to the corporation, was early on the scene, and Mr. Langridge, a painter, from the neighborhood. Mr. Gosse unlocked the door, but something would not give way, and we had to smash it in. By this time the fire had got fair hold of the office. Langridge and I got almost everything out of the office. We unlocked the safe and got away the official books and papers. There was only a wooden partition between the shop and the corporation office. This was soon ablaze, and the heat from that and from the burning roof was fearful. I was a good deal scorched, and my whiskers and hair were singed, and Langridge, who behaved very pluckily, got rather badly burnt. My uniform cap was knocked off somehow, and got burnt, and just as I was making a final effort to get out the last of the things the rafters fell in and I was knocked down. The falling debris hurt my back and right arm, and my right hand is much burned. Mr. Bauer, the landlord of the Buck's Head Hotel and Trooper Singleton rushed into the office and succeeded in dragging me out. I wonder I got off with so little harm done. Unfortunately for me, it seems the only things left in the office at the time were some Masonic books which were my own property, and were locked away in a drawer. They were worth some £3 or so. Mr. Bauer, who ran a considerable risk, fortunately escaped unhurt. My wife followed soon after me to the fire, and called my attention to a curious thing. The fire had then got hold of the woodwork of the verandah, This was about 4 40 a.m. I should think. The flames, of course, caught the verandah posts at the top, but the singular thing was that the fire appeared to run down the posts from top to bottom almost instantaneously. Did not notice whether the posts seemed to be covered or coated with anything. They are ordinary white-painted posts. Of course the heat and smoke were too great to admit of close inspection. My wife called out tolerably loud to me, "Why it looks as if some one had thrown kerosine over the posts." I said "Hush; perhaps it's the varnish;" but I could not help noticing the flames rushing downwards as they did. I have had some experience in the matter of fires, as I was in

my younger days days a fireman at Bury St. Edmunds, in England, and received permanent injuries at a fire in that town in 1853.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 6 December 1884, page 1

FIRES AND THE CITY OF ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.

The large number of fires which have occurred in Adelaide and suburbs during the last twelve months have, as may be readily imagined given the Superintendent of Fire Brigades and his men plenty of hard work to do. Mr. Moore is not compelled to leave the city, but he is rarely absent from any large fire in the suburbs, as evidenced by his attendance at the late disastrous conflagrations in Kensington and Norwood. Since January 1 of the present year the number of fire calls made on the Brigade has already reached 124, but it must not be assumed that these were all for large fires. In eleven cases the alarm turned out to be a false one, and in twenty-five others it was discovered on arrival that nothing beyond the foul flue of chimneys had ignited. Then in other instances the origin has been traced to window curtains or bedroom hangings catching fire. In such cases flames have often been checked before the services of the reels were required, while the records show that on some occasions when rubbish has been burnt or the grass on the Park Lands has caught alight the Brigade has had to turn out. Thinning the list down, it is found that there were, however, fifty-nine fires which required the earnest attention of the Brigade, and of this number there were twenty-five in which the consequences were very disastrous, both to the public and to the Insurance Companies. The year was begun with the destruction of the Academy of Music in Rundle-street, on January 6, when the total loss was estimated at £10,000, covered by insurance to the extent of £9,900. On the 14th of the same month Mr. Mildren's carpentering shop and premises at Norwood were burnt, Mr. Mildren setting the damage down at £1,000, over which he had an insurance policy of £500. In February there were some six fires, but no very great loss was caused through them, and none assumed very large proportions. March, however, will long be remembered from the prevalence of the disastrous fires which occurred during it. Between Sunday night and Wednesday morning of the first week there were no less than six outbreaks in the eastern suburb of Kensington and Norwood, and on the following Thursday Mr. Leaver's hat shop in Rundle-street was gutted. The excitement caused by some of these terrible acts of incendiarism and the arrest of Drew in connection there-with had not subsided before Messrs. Brook-man's jam factory at Unley was swept away, and before the month terminated the partial destruction of Mr. Templar's premises in Rundle-street was chronicled. The amount of damage done in this month was estimated at £35,200, and the insurance at £29,050. Of these sums £19,000 has been credited as the damage of Messrs. Cowell's fire, and £13,000 as their insurance. Mr. Leaver calculated his injury at £2,500, but he was not a loser, being insured to the extent of £2,000. The Unley fire made a difference of £9,800 to the Insurance Companies, and this might be said to have covered the loss, which was estimated at about £10,000. Passing over April, in which month three fires were reported, it is seen seven happened in May, and amongst them was the one which completely cleared Messrs. Pulsford & Co.'s timber-yard, the damage being stated at £8,000, while there was an insurance on it of £10,300. An attempt, as will be remembered, was made to destroy Messrs. Harvey & King's timber-yards on June 1, which was unsuccessful, and this, with a small fire at Vaughan's Buildings, Hackney, comprised the list for June. This state of things, however, was not destined to continue, as on the 22nd of the following month Mr. McClory and Messrs. Hooper Brothers were the victims, their premises in Pulteney-street coming to grief. Mr. McClory estimated his damage

at £2,350, and was insured for £1,050. In October another timber-yard, the property of Messrs. Ehmcke & Gaetjens, went, the proprietors being covered only by £3,000 on £6,000 worth of stock. Then in the present month there were the two extensive fires which are still fresh in the recollection of the public. The fire at the Port timber-yard, containing £15,500 worth of property, the insurance on which was £11,500, after which came the late Rundle-street calamity, the investigation of which is still pending. By it property valued at about £75,000 was completely swept away, the insurance on it being estimated at about £52,000. Inquests have been held on all the above outbreaks, but the verdicts have so far resulted in simply nothing. Altogether on those fires mentioned above the approximate amount of the value of the property destroyed is about £153,050, and the insurance policies £118,000.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 13 December 1884, page 36

ANOTHER FIRE IN ADELAIDE.

On Saturday afternoon another fire occurred in the city, but fortunately it was not of a serious character, and the circumstances attending it give no ground for the suspicion of incendiarism. The scene of the fire was the workshop of Mr. R. Harris, brush manufacturer, Pulteney-street. The building is situated behind the shop, and is constructed of brick and iron. It contained a stock of inflammable material used in the manufacture of brushes, and it is supposed that the fire was caused by the explosion of the kerosine lamp used to melt the pitch and other trade materials. Mr. Harris left the premises for his private house about half past 12 o'clock, having given instructions that this lamp, which was being kept burning to enable him to do some special work on his return, should be watched by the shopwoman. The alarm was given at five minutes past 2 o'clock, and the Fire Brigade, under Superintendent Moore, were promptly on the spot. A new regulation has been introduced that the locality of a fire shall be enclosed by ropes, and the public excluded. This was put into practice for the first time on Saturday. The mounted troopers and the firemen now carry ropes with them, and with these they formed a cordon which had the effect of keeping the way clear. The firemen had greater freedom of action, and the advantage of the arrangement was made evident by the facility with which they did their work. In the space of half an hour the fire was extinguished. The damage to building and stock is slight. The stock is insured in the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company for £500. The building is the property of Mr. David Tweedie, and his loss is also covered.