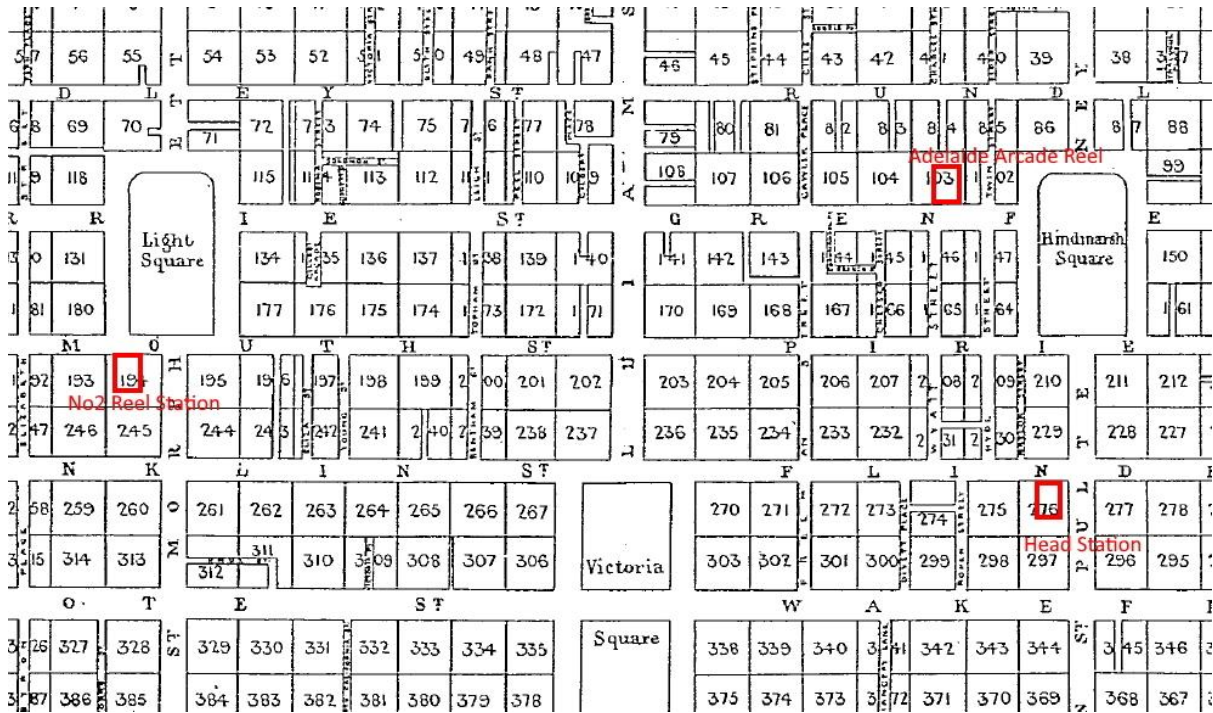


January 1886 locations. 1880 Map – Adelaide Town Acres



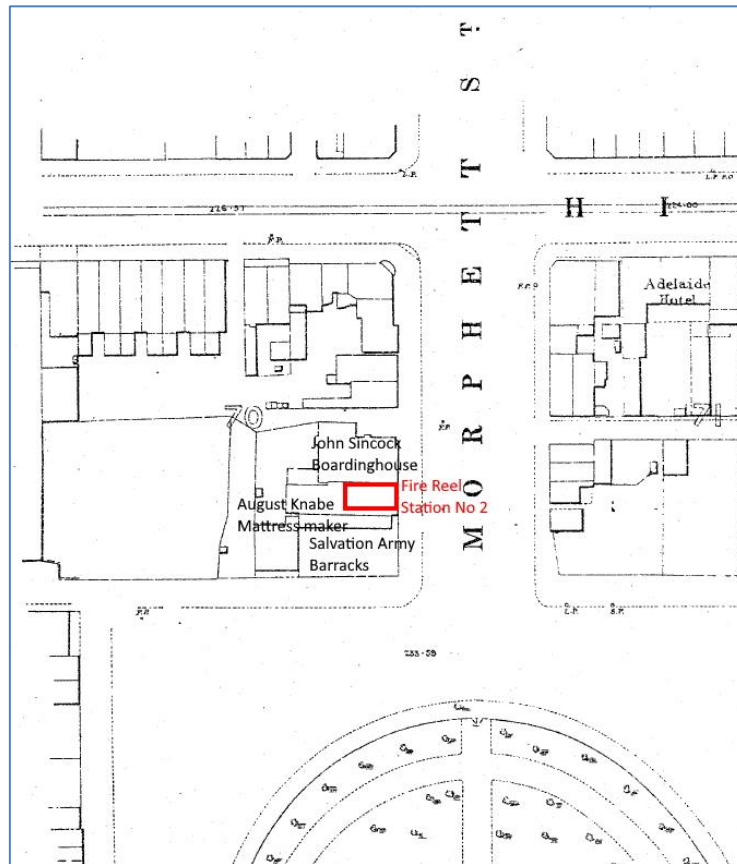
July 1886 locations. 1880 Map – Adelaide Town Acres

Head Fire Station, South side Flinders Street, West of Hanson Street (now Pultney Street).
Superintendent Henry Charles Salter and six permanent men.

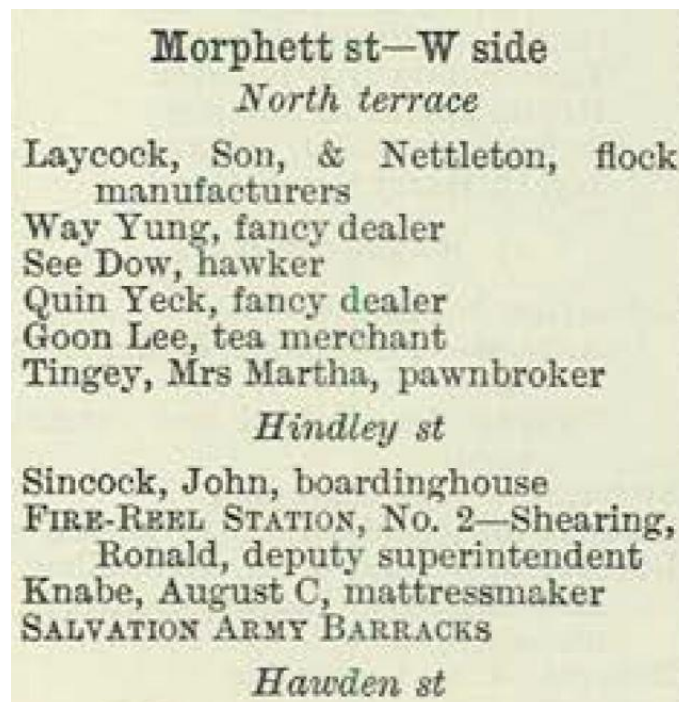


Smith's Survey 1880

Adelaide Fire Reel Station No. 2 in Morphett Street, West side, with Ronald Shearing, deputy superintendent and four men.



Smith's Survey 1880



Sands and McDougall 1886



State Library of South Australia - B-7082 - Where No2 Station is located - Morphet Street



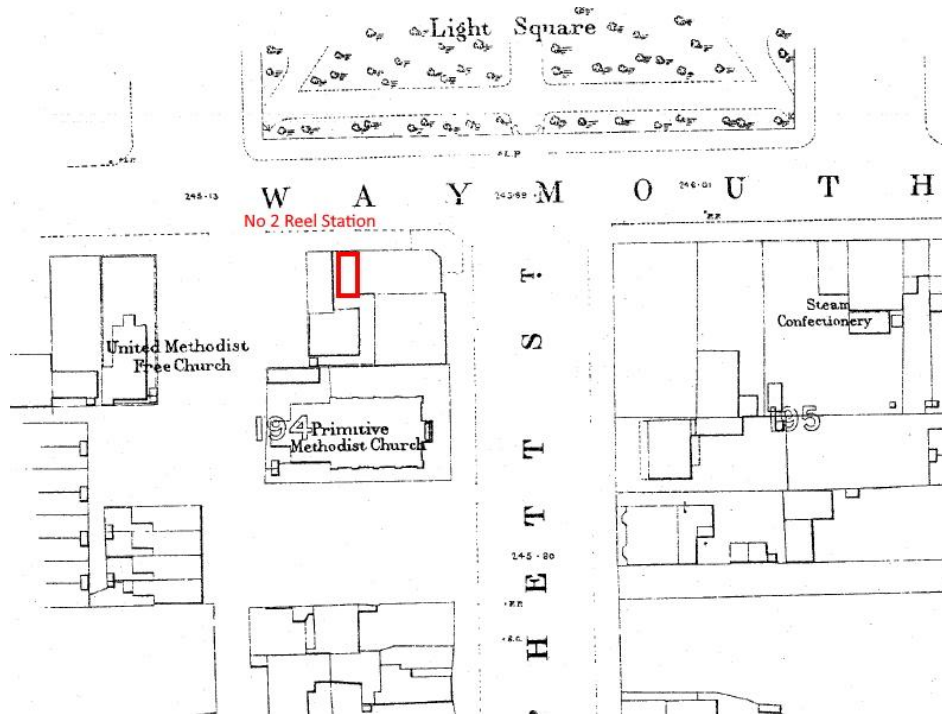
State Library of South Australia - B-7066 - Where No2 Station is located - Morphet Street

This Fire Reel Station was relocated during the year to a new location on Waymouth Street, on Light Square.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 4 June 1886, page 2

Public Notices.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Public that the FIRE BRIGADE STATION in MORPHETT-STREET has this day been REMOVED to WAYMOUTH-STREET (Light-square).



Smith's Survey 1880



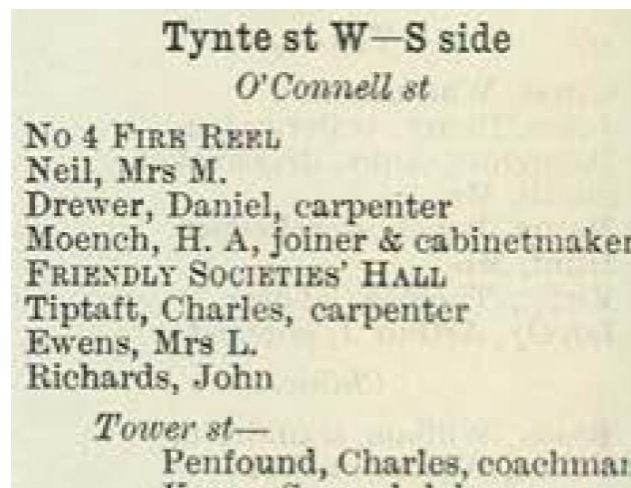
Sands and McDougall 1887

North Adelaide Reel Station.

There was mention of this Reel being Number 3 in another part of the Sands and McDougall directory.



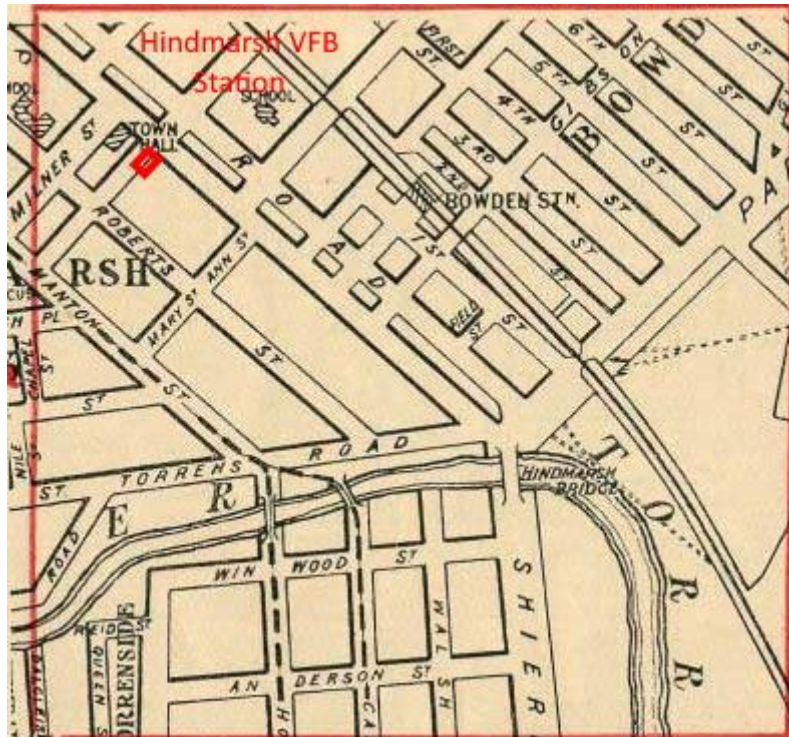
1880 Map – Adelaide Town Acres



Sands and McDougall 1886

PORTLAND WARD.

Clare Street, East side. Fire Reel No 10. Between Gracechurch and Wellington Streets. This site is where the new Grand Junction Road was built across Clare Street.



1929 The Register Street Guide Adelaide and Suburbs (Late Portland Estate.)

and registrar of births, deaths and marriages
Arthur, Henry, fruiterer and wine dealer
South, W. H, grocer and draper
Parker, George Alfred, chemist and druggist
Edwards, Henry, driver
HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE
—Reid, J. M, captain
NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA—
Smith, James A, manager
HINDMARSH INSTITUTE — Bleachmore,
W. T, secretary
CORPORATION OFFICES — Tait, John,
town clerk
Milner st

Sands and McDougall 1886

NORWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE STATION—A. J. Diamond, superintendent

Norwood & Kensington Town Hall: Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade office, R. E. Kippist secretary.

NORWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADE.

No. 1 Reel, Edward street, Norwood
Hon Superintendent—A. J. Diamond
Captain—T. S. Warman
1st Lieutenant—R. E. Kippist
2nd Lieutenant—W. Warman
Firemen—J. E. Gooden, F. R. Steed, J. E.
Steed, R. J. Buttery, P. Little, F. A.
Gray, F. Bleechmore, J. Quilty, W.
Brown

KENT TOWN AND ST PETER'S.

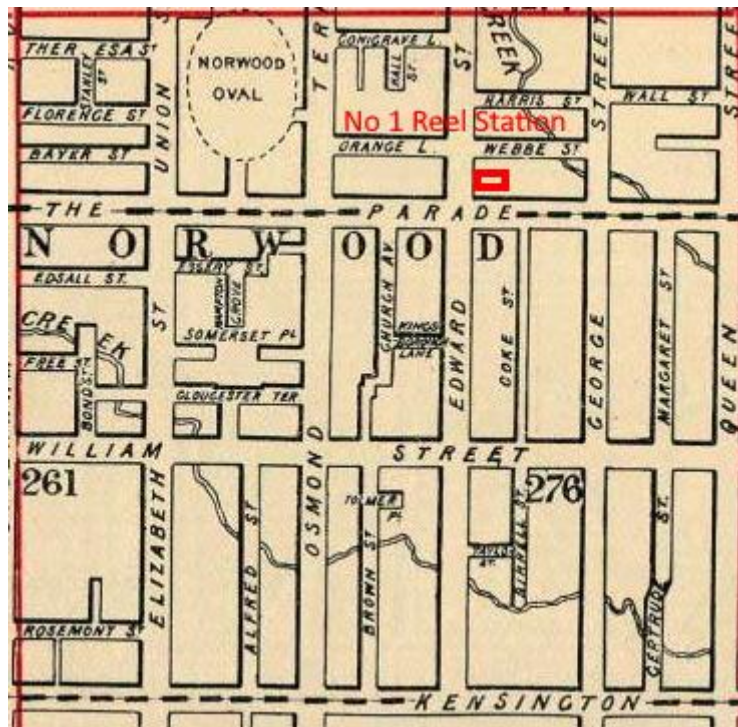
No. 2 Reel, Maid and Magpie, Stepney
1st Lieutenant—Geo Mayhew
2nd Lieutenant—J. Fisher
Firemen—J. T. Newett, A. Burford, C.
Clivers, A. Franklin
Hon sec, R. E. Kippest, Edward st, Norwood

Sands and McDougall 1886

Norwood No 1 Reel Station.

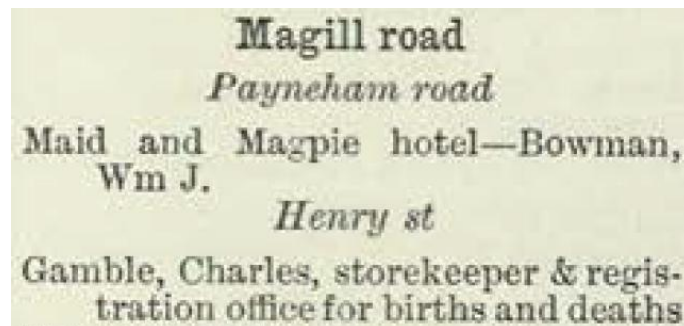
Webbe st—
Clarke, Mrs Mary Jane
Phillips, Phillip, clothier
Bicknell, Arthur, draughtsmn
Warneken, John A, manager
workingmen's club
Tillett, Walter, painter
Pepperell, Simon, carpenter
Hunt, Henry, laborer
Ross, Frederick, laborer
Bristow, J, sanitary inspector
Stirling, Richard D, bootmkr
Winton, Thos, storeman
Drew, Mrs Eliza
Day, George A, comrcial trvlr
Anderson, Joseph, ironmonger
Colton, Edward B, solicitor
NORWOOD VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE
STATION—A. J. Diamond, superin-
tendent
Hancock, Wm, grocer and baker
Parade

Sands and McDougall 1886



Norwood No 1 Reel Station. 1929 The Register Street Guide Adelaide and Suburbs

Kent Town and St Peters No 2 Reel Station

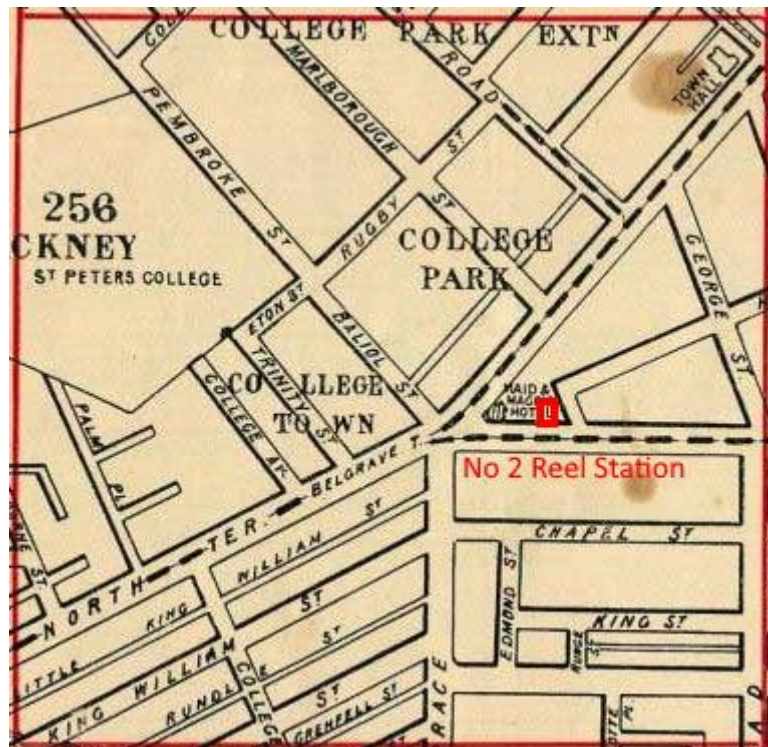


Sands and McDougall 1886



B 11591 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

State Library of South Australia - "Maid and Magpie Hotel" [B 11591], "Maid and Magpie Hotel", Stepney; the signpost points the way to Magill, Greenhill and Lobethal, behind it is the public house lamp which was the only one in the vicinity. Notes on the back of the photograph state "Maid and Magpie Hotel (and Tea Gardens) Stepney, c. 1870 as it appeared about 80 years ago. Note structure on right carrying notice "Quoits. Skittles". On the left is a hansom cab. At the triangular corner is situated the public house lamp (the only public lamp in the vicinity) and a signpost pointing the way to Magill, Green Hill, and Lobethal. Contemporary feminine costume is illustrated on the right foreground: the fulsome frock, white stockings, and black lace-up boots. The man standing forward from the central group, wearing a tall grey bell-topper, black bow tie, white boots and "cool" summer clothing, is probably a travelling photographer: A primitive camera stands on its tripod on his left. The Maid and Magpie was first licensed in June 1848, the locality being known at the time as Second Creek, near the new village of Norwood." The proprietor at the time of this photograph taken in approximately 1870 could have been C Muller. Various Mullers had held this position between 1848 and 1882. Approximately 1870. Part of Stepney Collection.



1929 The Register Street Guide Adelaide and Suburbs

GLANVILLE Fire Reel Station. Carlisle Street. Henry Knowles, a Government Turncock Fire Reel Station Number 11

Carlisle st—W side
Siffola, Andrew, mariner
Matson, George, bootmaker
Hayter, J. F, laborer
Morris, Thomas, enginedriver S.A.R
Sanson, Alfred, butcher
FIRE REEL STATION No. 11
Knowles, Hy, waterworks turncock
Burgess, Thomas, laborer
Hummen, Captain John F.
Church, John, storekeeper
Franke, Robert, storekeeper
Mann, William W, laborer
Dineen, Daniel, master mariner
Bernaud, Francis, laborer
Parker, Thomas, butcher
Shaddock, James, storekeeper
Turner, Benjamin, storekeeper
Johnson, William, laborer
Mitch, Andrew, carter
Matterson, —
Brunnell, Henry, housedecorator
Potter, Mrs M, storekeeper
Blown, George, laborer
Bauer, Oscar, bookkeeper
Ethelton hotel—McKelvie, John
Dundas st

Sands and McDougall 1886 - Glanville - Carlisle Street. Dundas Street is now Bower Road.



Glanville Fire Reel Station - 1878 Port Adelaide Waterworks Plan

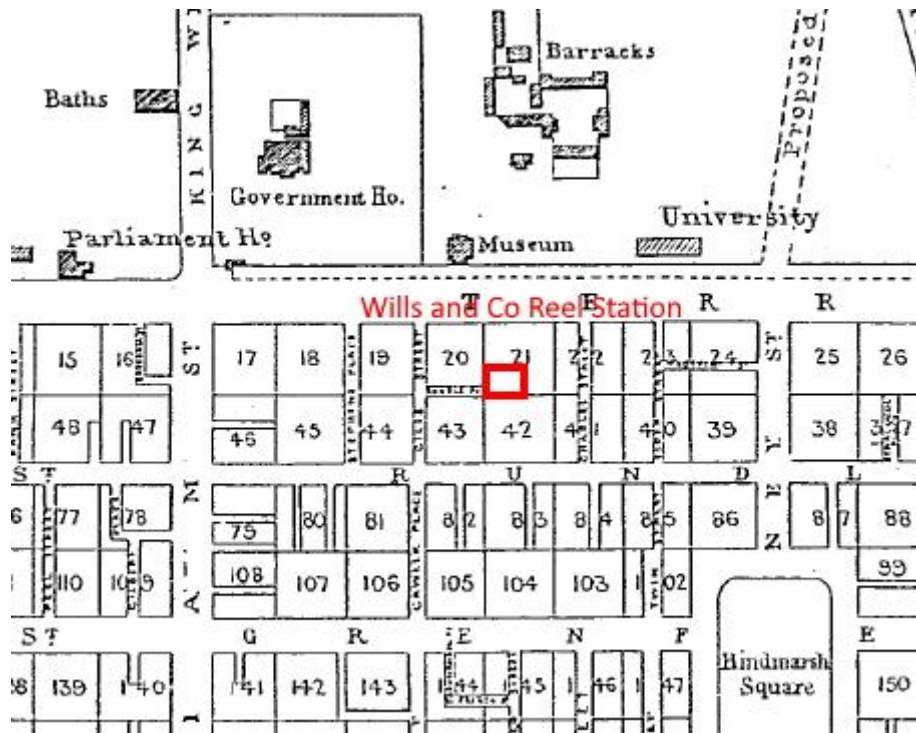
OTHER REELS

The Arcade Reel. Located in the Adelaide Arcade, Grenfell Street.



1880 Map – Adelaide Town Acres

Messrs. Wills & Co.'s reel



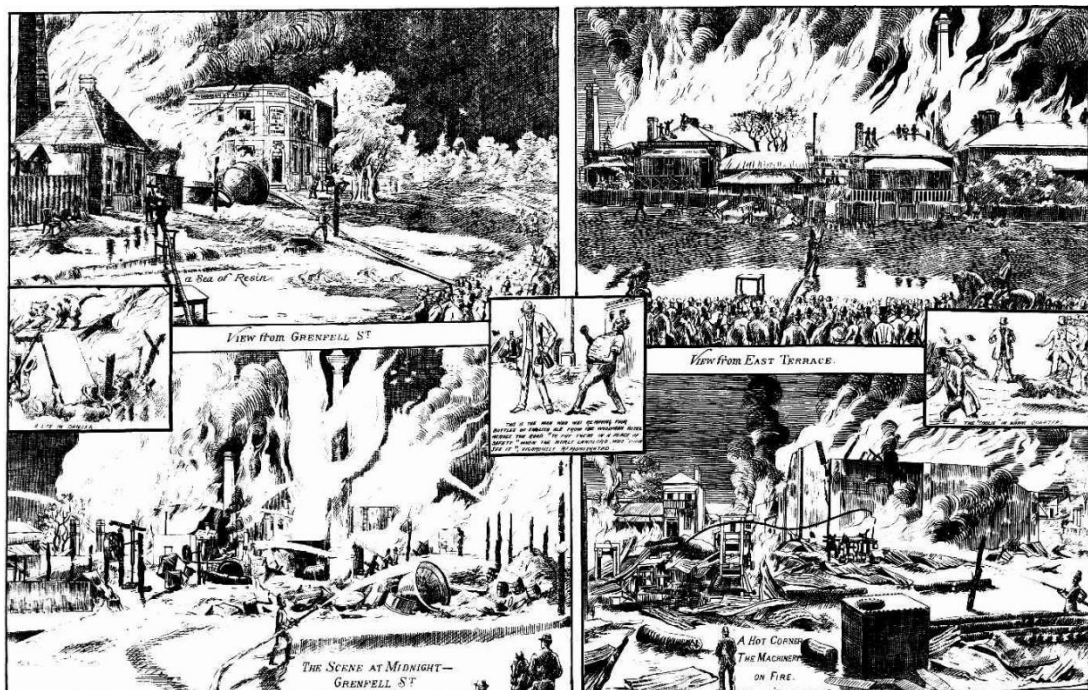
1880 Map – Adelaide Town Acres

Messrs. Primrose & Co.'s reel

Harrold Bros.' reel (noted at the King William Street fire, 30 June)

Newspaper Articles for 1886

Pictorial Australian (Adelaide, SA : 1885 - 1895), Friday 1 January 1886, page 4



DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT MESSRS. BURFORD & SONS' SOAP AND CANDLE
WORKS, GRENFELL STREET, DEC. 16. £24,000 Worth of Property Destroyed

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 13 February 1886, page 9

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

Wednesday, February 3.

Present— Messrs. W. Cavenagh (chairman), E. M. Ashwin, F. W. Gardiner, T. Hack, C. L. Meyer, S. Solomon, H. Y. Sparks, and W. B. Wilkinson (secretary). Accounts amounting to £98 16s. 3d. were passed for payment.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands asked if the board recommended the appointment of Messrs. D. Packham and G. E. C. Stevens as members of the Norwood and Kensington Local Fire Brigade Board in place of Messrs. J. Bennets and R. K. Threlfall, who have ceased to be members of the corporation. Attention to be called to the fact of the necessity of nominating the present mayor as a member of the board in accordance with clause 5 of Act 273 of 1882. A letter was received from Commander Walcot, of H.M.C.S. Protector, as follows :— "With reference to the Protector men assisting at fires, with a view to avoid any complication that may arise in consequence of their having no recognised status, I do not think it desirable that they should continue to do so unless they are put on the same footing as the volunteer fire brigades. As the Protector may be considered to be permanently stationed in the vicinity of Port Adelaide the services of these men properly instructed should be very valuable. If the board decides to avail themselves of their services under the above conditions I shall be happy to grant every facility." The secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the rules and regulations of volunteer fire brigades, and to state that if the Protector seamen are put on the same footing as the volunteer brigades it will be necessary for them to comply with the same regulations. At present, however, the board cannot deal further with the matter owing to the attitude of the Port Adelaide Corporation, and until the questions at issue are settled the board wish it to be understood that it will be necessary for the Protector men to comply with the request of the board contained in their letter of January 21. The agent of the London and Provincial Insurance Company gave notice that the company have withdrawn their agency from this colony. The secretary to reply that the company are liable for their contribution as long as they have risks current in the colony. A motion was carried to the effect that the board is of opinion that a steam fire-engine is necessary for the complete protection of the city, and it was resolved "That it is advisable that a special effort be made by the Government, corporation, and insurance companies to provide an engine to be worked under the control of the board, seeing that the board have already reached the amount of expenditure authorised by the Act."

Fire: Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co. wholesale ironmongers, Gawler place Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 19 February 1886, page 2

Fire in Adelaide,

A fire which caused great alarm, but fortunately was not attended by very serious consequences, occurred on Thursday evening on the premises of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co.. wholesale ironmongers, Gawler-place. The building is situated in a crowded locality. There are other large buildings in close proximity to it, and any fire there, however small, would reasonably produce some consternation in the city, because of the possibilities it not the probabilities which it involved. In this instance the danger was overcome, but had the weather been boisterous the result might have been very different. A stiff breeze fanning the flames, and carrying them in the direction of other buildings adjacent might have led to a large conflagration. The public realized the danger such as it was, and as soon as the alarm was given crowds congregated in Gawler-place, Grenfell-street, and Rundle-street. The Fire Brigade were promptly on the spot; they did their work well, and the little excitement there was soon passed away. The fire started in a packing-yard, and thence it was not allowed to spread. After about two hours' work it was completely subdued, but it was after 1 o'clock am. before the last spark of fire was extinguished. The locality is well known. The main building of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s premises is in Gawler-place. It is built of brick and stone, and is three stories in height. An old building which adjoined it was recently demolished, and on the site a new structure is being erected, which is to be made uniform with the building that remains standing. Next to Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s warehouse on the south side is a small shop occupied by Mr. Nelson, and it abuts the large establishment of Messrs. A. Simpson & Son, tinsmiths and manufacturers, which occupies a site at the corner of Gawler-place and Grenfell-street. To the north of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s warehouse is the new building and a number of shops. The firm have a retail warehouse in Rundle-street, but it was not touched by the fire. There is a right-of-way from Rundle-street to the back of their Gawler-place premises. The entrance here forms an archway under the building, and is protected by a massive door faced with corrugated iron. Turning round the corner into Grenfell-street, and passing the front of Messrs. Simpson & Son's establishment, there are Hunter's Chambers and premises occupied by Messrs. C. and L. Meyer, Hunter, Stevenson, & Co., Thomas Wallis, and John Crimp. Mr. Crimp is a coachbuilder. He and Messrs. Hunter, Stevenson, & Co. have each a large yard, entered from Grenfell-street, which abuts on to the boundary wall of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co.'s warehouse. Beyond Mr. Crimp's place is another entrance to Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co.'s premises. Here there is a yard, partly covered in, full of material of various kinds. There is a carpenter's shop and other necessary accommodation. A way to the eastwards leads into a yard leased from Messrs. A. & W. D. Thomas, bakers and grocers, which is also stored with goods. A way to the westward gives access to the packing-yard, in which the fire occurred. This is behind the main building, and is enclosed by a back wing of the premises on the one side and a high wall on the other. Against the wall was a packing and loading platform, raised about 4 feet from the ground, with a loft above and a leaning roof of corrugated iron. The fire was first observed by Mr. F. J. Koehncke, picture-frame maker in Gawler-place, who resides in Grenfell-street. He states that he went into Mr. Crimp's yard at about half-past 10 o'clock. He thought he saw a light in Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s packing-yard. It was very dim and scarcely perceptible. However, his suspicions were aroused. He returned to the house, and when he came out again there was a brighter light shining. That

convinced him there was a fire. He called two policemen, and entered the yard of Messrs. Hunter, Stevenson, & Co. They then saw flames burst up suddenly "with whist," and immediately they gave the alarm. The Arcade Reel, which had in the meantime received an alarm from Messrs. G. & R. Wills's & Co.'s watchman, was the first on the spot. The firemen entered through the right-of-way from Rundle-street. The gate was closed, but with their axes and a crowbar they cut a hole in it large enough to give them admittance. They then succeeded in opening the gate, and getting their hose laid down promptly they poured a well-directed volume of water on to the flames. The Head Fire Brigade arrived before anything had been done, and they were afterwards joined by No. 2 North Adelaide, St. Peters, and Norwood. Messrs. Wills & Co.'s reel was prepared to render assistance if it were required. In charge of St. Peters was Mr. J. Newitt, an employé of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Co., and as he was acquainted with the premises he was able to give Superintendent Salter valuable aid in directing operations. The fire was attacked from all sides. The men entered the yard from Grenfell-street, and approached as near as possible to the centre of danger from that point. They also entered the yard of Messrs. Hunter, Stevenson, & Co., and played on the fire from the roof of their shed and from the wall. The packing platform is against this wall. The wall of the building on the other side is of brick, all the doors are sheeted with corrugated iron, and the few windows there are small and are protected with iron bars. There was no wind to carry the flames across, and the building was never in serious danger. A wooden door giving access to the warehouse was burnt black, but proper precautions were taken, and the spread of the conflagration was prevented. It is said that there was some gunpowder in the premises to the eastward, but they escaped altogether. The platform and loft was a wooden structure, and adjoining it was a dispatch office. The articles packed each day for shipment are usually cleared in the evening, but on this occasion they were allowed to remain, and the platform was well filled with packages and hard goods of various descriptions. What was the actual quantity or the value we have not been able to ascertain. The fire burnt freely for some time, the packing-cases, tarpaulin, sheeting, and woodwork making excellent fuel. There was a good pressure of water, and the area of the fire being limited, it was soon got under. The dispatch office with its books, the packing platform and all the goods it contained were destroyed; but beyond this the damage was trifling. At one time the carpenter's shop was in danger. The flames reached it, and a part of the roof was seen to be burning. The hose was at once directed on it and it was put out. The fire was under by about 12.30a.m., and by 1.30 a.m. it was extinguished, there being nothing to be seen but the charred debris and the pools of water that had accumulated. The large crowd of persons that had assembled soon dispersed, and the police had no difficulty in maintaining order. The origin of the fire is not known. Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co. have always exercised great precautions against fire. Gas is used in the warehouse. There were no fires in the packing-yard, and when lights were required safety lamps were used. The total number of men employed is about 160. They left their work at the usual hour, the premises were inspected, and everything found to be safe and in its proper place. At 7 o'clock p.m. the watchman came on duty. He remains on the premises all night. He states that soon after 10 o'clock he walked down the yard from Rundle-street, and then saw no trace of fire. He examined the yard leased from Messrs. Thomas, and on his return after the lapse of about half an hour he found the

packing-yard in flames. He can make no suggestion as to the origin of the fire. He was not smoking, and when he visited that part of the premises before there was no sign of any danger. The premises could be entered, but only with difficulty, and there is no reason to suspect incendiarism. Mr. Scarfe, who was sent for at Burnside soon after the fire broke out, arrived at the warehouse about 1 o'clock. He said that the fire was confined to the packing-yard. Some water had got to the cellar underneath the main building, but the damage to the large casks of valuable oils and paints there was slight. There was a lot of executed and unexecuted orders in the dispatch office, and these were all destroyed. Mr. Scarfe said it was impossible to estimate the damage, but he believed that it was covered by insurance.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Tuesday 23 February 1886, page 4

The Advertiser TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1886.

The enquiry into the cause of the fire which broke out on Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s premises, Gawler-place, on Thursday, February 18, was resumed by the city coroner at the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel yesterday. Evidence was taken disclosing negligence on the part of the night watchman in performing his duties, and what appears to be a dangerous practice of Customs officials, namely, sealing packages in the midst of inflammable material. The jury returned the time-worn verdict— "That there is not sufficient evidence to show how the fire originated." They also asked the coroner to censure the watchman (J. E. Freeth) for the loose manner in which he had guarded his employers' property. The person referred to, however, had left while the jury were considering their verdict, and could not therefore be censured at the time. The jury commended the prompt action of P.C. O'Leary and Fireman Woolley in endeavoring to suppress the fire.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 6 March 1886, page 10

The Week.

A fire, by which a three-roomed cottage was totally destroyed, broke out just before midnight on Monday at Ascot Vale, Burnside. The Flinders-street and Norwood Volunteer reels were quickly in attendance, but the flames had played such havoc before their arrival that it was quite impossible to do much more than keep the fire from spreading. The cottage, which was an unoccupied one, was the property of Mr. Bennett, of Norwood.

The Thebarton police reported to the metropolitan police-station that two haystacks, containing 90 tons and valued at £300, had caught fire at South Richmond at 6.30 on Wednesday morning. Messrs. John Casey and David Shepherdson, in the employ of Mr. J. Chambers, saw the fire suddenly burst out. They immediately went to the spot, but saw no one in the neighborhood. The stacks, which were nearly consumed, belonged to Mrs. Ann Green, of Hilton, and were uninsured.

Friday 19th March 1886 – Fire at the Flagstaff Hotel, 233 Franklin Street, Adelaide. Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 19 March 1886, page 2

Fire at the Flagstaff Hotel.

Just after half-past 3 o'clock this morning a fire was observed in the front-part of the Flagstaff Hotel. When first seen the fire had a good hold of the fixtures in the bar. The Police and Fire Brigade Stations were communicated with, and two reels from the head station and two handreels from the Post-Office and the Arcade were soon on the spot. When they arrived the bar and bar parlour were well alight, but in about ten minutes the flames were under control, and before many more minutes had elapsed there was no more danger. The bar and parlour were very considerably damaged by fire, while the front room on the first floor was also much damaged by the flames. The rest of the house, which is a two story building, suffered from the heat and smoke, and the contents of the cellar, immediately underneath the bar, were damaged by water. The landlord (Mr. D. Covenay was at Mount Lofty when the fire occurred, but he has been sent for. The value of the property destroyed is not yet known.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 22 March 1886, page 7

FIRE AT THE FLAGSTAFF HOTEL.

At the West-terrace Hotel, Waymouth street, on Saturday morning, March 20, the Acting City Coroner (Mr. J. Williams, J.P.) commenced an enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at the Flagstaff Hotel, Franklin-street, early on the previous morning. Mr. Nacken watched the case on behalf of the Phœnix Company, and Mr. Hughes appeared for the Adelaide Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Police-constable James Bond said that he was in Franklin-street on the 19th inst. He passed by the Flagstaff Hotel at 3 am., when there was no sign of any fire on the premises. Twenty minutes later witness was standing opposite the Bristol Tavern in the same street and observed a fire at the Flagstaff Hotel. At that time it seemed to be confined to the cellar, the door of which was partly open. The flames were issuing through the cellar-door, which was on the western side of the hotel. The occupants of the house had aroused themselves when witness reached the hotel excepting a man in the back bedroom. Witness went up by means of a ladder to wake him, but had to come back on account of the smoke. The man, who witness said was the worse for liquor, was subsequently awakened. The cellar had been locked, and was off its hinges, but witness could not tell by whom this was done. The fire before the reels arrived had made its way into the bar. The Morphett-street reel was on the scene about five minutes after the alarm was given, and the flames were soon subdued. When witness arrived at the hotel there were only two persons about. The lock of the cellar-door was on the outside. Patrick Supple, labourer, stated that he slept upstairs in the front room on the opposite side of the passage by the bar on the day of the fire. Went to bed about 12 o'clock. Another man named Hanrahan slept in the same room, and there were two other men who went to bed at the same time. Previous to retiring to their bedrooms the four were drinking in the bar parlour, but were all sober. Early in the morning witness heard a noise, as of something crashing. Felt smothered, and with Hanrahan tried to get downstairs. Went to the stairs, but could not get down because of the quantity of smoke. Witness, however, succeeded in getting down by the balcony. Hanrahan was behind him. The door closed upon Hanrahan, and as he could not open it witness shoved it in to allow Hanrahan to pass. When witness got off the balcony Mrs. Coveney, the landlady, was in the yard

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

15 April 2026

with her children, loosely dressed. Mrs. Coveney was witness's aunt. Mr. Coveney was away at Summerton when the fire occurred, he having left Adelaide for that place on Thursday afternoon. Had never heard complaints from the landlord about any falling-off in his business. John Hanrahan labourer, corroborated, and Martin Hall, labourer, deposed that he was one of the members of the company in the bar parlour where they were drinking and card playing after 11 o'clock. The inquest at 2.15 p.m. was adjourned till the following Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock.



State Library of South Australia - Franklin Street [B 9780], Franklin Street, south side. The Flagstaff Hotel stood on the east corner of Franklin Street and Trennery Court. The far side of the two storey buildings on the left stood on the west corner of Franklin and Morney Streets. The Flagstaff Hotel was originally situated further west from the position shown in the photograph. CH Sayer was proprietor from 1859-1872. The steeple of the Maughan Bible Christian Church can be seen further along Franklin Street looking towards the hills. The Methodist New Connexion Church church was built in 1864. This photograph was taken between 1867-71. Approximately 1867. Photographer, Duryea, Part of Acre 256 Collection.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Thursday 25 March 1886, page 6

THE LATE FIRE AT THE FLAGSTAFF HOTEL.

The enquiry as to the origin of the fire which broke out at the Flagstaff Hotel on Friday last was again resumed by the acting city coronor at the West-terrace Hotel on Wednesday.

Joseph Watkins said that on Monday, March 22, he turned over the debris in the cellar. Found besides some burnt timber four bottoms and other remains of black bottles, a few unburnt cheroots, and two green glass bottles containing liquor also

unhurt by the fire; and as the floor of the bar had been completely destroyed, everything fell into the cellar. Examined the shelves between the parlor door and the passage, that are partly standing in the bar, and they appeared to contain the ordinary liquor of the bar. Noticed that the door leading from the bar to the parlor was burnt chiefly on the bar side, showing that the fire came from the bar. Daniel Covenay, recalled, said that he had disposed of no furniture since he first took the hotel, and that he met Supple at the Havelock Hotel on his way to Summertown. George Anthony said that as the inspector of fire risks for the insurance companies carrying on business in Adelaide, he had during last September examined the contents of the Flag-staff Hotel, and had come to the conclusion that Covenay's estimate of their value (£550) was a liberal one. On looking over the hotel on Monday last he noticed that the state of the furniture had altered greatly during the past six months. In September the house had a fairly comfortable appearance, but on Monday it seemed very bare. By Mr. Hall—Could not specify any article that was in the house in September which was not there on the 22nd instant. By Mr. Yuill—Did not know that an extra insurance of £400 on the contents of the hotel had been effected, and certainly did not think that such should have been made. Henry Charles Salter, superintendent of fire brigades, gave evidence as to having been summoned to attend the fire, and to having, with the aid of the reels, extinguished the flames. On going over the hotel after the fire had been put out he noticed that the two doors leading from the bar-parlor were open. The entrance to the cellar from the side street was closed, but it was afterwards forced open by one of the firemen. Kate O'Brien, servant at the General Have-lock Hotel, remembered Mr. Covenay calling in company with three other gentlemen at the hotel on last Thursday afternoon. They stayed there for more than an hour and a half. She saw no spring-dray near the house while they were there, nor did she see them go away. Did not say that morning that she saw the men walk away. Other evidence of an unimportant character having been called, the coroner summed up, and the jury returned a verdict—"That the hotel was wilfully set on fire by some person or persons, but there is not sufficient evidence to show by whom. The jury are also of opinion that the fire started in the bar."

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 25 March 1886, page 4

Inquests and Verdicts. — The Coroner's inquest into the fire which occurred on the morning of the 19th inst. at the Flagstaff Hotel has ended in the usual unsatisfactory manner. The fire was wilfully started, says the Jury, but there is not sufficient evidence to show by whom. There certainly does not appear to be sufficient evidence to prove that the fire originated in the bar, as the Jury supposes. The police-constable on whose beat the Flagstaff Hotel lies saw nothing wrong at 3 o'clock in the morning ; twenty minutes later he saw a fire rising from the cellar. When the firereel came the fire had already made its way into the bar. It appears that the stock and furniture were insured at considerably over their value. The Inspector of Fire Risks would not have reported in favour of one Insurance Company granting a policy of £600 if he had known that the stock and furniture were already covered by a policy of £400. The landlord himself admitted that there was not nearly as much stock on the premises as when he insured. Under the circumstances the Jury might

reasonably be expected to arrive at a more satisfactory conclusion. They spent three days in the examination of evidence, and to all intents and purposes might as well have spared themselves the trouble and the country the expense. In the course of the proceedings yesterday a curious light was thrown upon the manufacture of the verdicts of Coroners' Juries. One witness, after concluding his evidence, stated that the foreman of the Jury had on the previous day told him that he had the verdict already written out. It would plainly lighten the labours of Coroners' Juries very considerably if their verdicts were prepared beforehand. Open verdicts are just now the order of the day, and it might perhaps save time still further if the forms were printed ready for signature. If we are to make Coroners' inquests a farce we may as well make them a complete farce. No official notice, we observe, was taken of this complaint. We all remember the disgust of the American Coroner in the story, who is informed that the bones upon which he has been sitting belonged originally to a quadruped. In much the same spirit the Acting-Coroner would feel inclined to turn a deaf ear to the complaint that the verdict of the Jury had been prepared before the evidence was finished. This matter, however, demands further enquiry. It is notorious that Coroners' Juries have of late been as useless as they could possibly be. They are keen to avoid committing themselves, and to all intents and purposes they might as well not exist at all. Neither the Coroner nor his deputy has shown himself able to elicit the truth in important cases, and it was probably the result of experience that prompted the foreman of this particular Jury to frame his verdict beforehand. It may be an accident that the final verdict is strikingly similar to that spoken of by the witness in question, but it certainly is an accident which demands careful investigation. The Attorney-General might well direct his attention to the matter and find out whether the accusation made by Mr. Anthony is true or not. If it is, there is no longer cause to wonder at the unsatisfactory nature of the verdicts of Coroners' Juries here.

The Fire at the Flagstaff Hotel.— After a most protracted sitting, extending over three days and occupying about fifteen hours, the enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at the Flagstaff Hotel on the morning of Friday, March 19, terminated in an open verdict. A large number of witnesses were examined, Mr. Yuill, who represented the Insurance Companies, calling several to show that Mr. Coveney, the landlord, had not nearly so much stock on his premises at the time of the fire as when the insurances were effected. Mr. Yuill also endeavoured, by the aid of more than one witness, to discredit Mr. Coveney's statement that he went to Summertown on the afternoon preceding the fire. Witnesses were called who stated that Mr. Coveney had stayed at the General Havelock, in Hutt-street, for about an hour and a half on the afternoon mentioned. He was not, however, seen to leave the hotel, and no evidence was adduced to prove that he did not, as he stated, drive away in a spring-dray. Mrs. Coveney and her young daughter, on the other hand, stated that Mr. Coveney left the Flagstaff for the purpose of going to Summertown for a week for the benefit of his health. The verdict of the Jury was—"That the fire was wilfully caused by some one unknown."

South Australian Weekly Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1881 - 1889), Saturday 27 March 1886, page 10

THE LATE FIRE AT THE FLAGSTAFF HOTEL.

An enquiry into the cause of the fire which broke out at the Flagstaff Hotel on Friday, March 19, was commenced by the acting city coroner, at the West-terrace Hotel, Wymouth-street, on the following day. Mr. J. A. Howe was foreman Of the jury. P.C. Bond said that while on duty near the Bristol Tavern, Franklin-street, at about twenty minutes past 3 o'clock on Friday morning, he saw the reflection of a fire. Immediately ran towards the Flagstaff Hotel, and on the way met a man named Leman, who informed him that that building was on fire. Told him to go for the fire brigade while he awoke the people in the hotel. After the flames had been extinguished went over the house, and noticed that the cellar door was open. When he first arrived the fire was chiefly confined to the cellar. Patrick Supple, laborer, said that he slept with another man in the front room upstairs. Went to bed at 12 o'clock, and during the night heard a crash and felt-stifled. Aroused his companion, and on going out into the passage saw that it was full of smoke. On reaching the head of the stairs found that the smoke was too dense to permit of their going down. Then went through the door at the end of the passage on to the balcony, and from there reached the ground. John Flanahan said that before going to bed on Thursday night he was served by the land-lady with several drinks, which she obtained from the bar. She never entered the cellar during the evening to witness's knowledge. Flanahan also gave similiar evidence to that of the previous witness, as did also Martin Hall. The enquiry was then adjourned, but was resumed on Tuesday, when Mr. J. F. Yuill appeared for the insurance companies interested. Mr. Hall attended on behalf of Mr. Covenay, landlord of the hotel, and Inspector Bee watched the proceedings in the interests of the police. Thomas Leman, drover, said that when at the corner of Wymouth and North streets at about twenty minutes past 3 o'clock on the morning of the 19th inst. he met a man named Graham running towards the Flagstaff Hotel, and following him saw that that building was on fire. The flames were issuing from the window of the parlor at the rear of the bar. Knocked at the door of the hotel facing Franklin-street. Two of the publican's daughters, one fully dressed and the other clad in a nightdress, came out of the house and ran across the street with the intention of calling the fire reel. Witness called to them to go back, as he would call the reel. Ran down Elizabeth-street. cooeing all the way, and finally met two policemen, who got the reel. Reached the hotel again before the reel came. When he first arrived at the scene of the fire saw no other person save the two girls mentioned. There was an unclosed trapdoor at the cellar opening. Put his foot on it and shut it down. Daniel Covenay, landlord of the Flagstaff Hotel, said he left his home between 1 and 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon to go to Mount Lofty to visit a friend. Stopped on the way at the Havelock Hotel, and after some time reached Summertown, at which he stayed during Thursday night. There were several barrels of beer in the cellar underneath the bar of the hotel. There was no straw or anything else on the premises that would smoulder for any length of time. The bar contained the usual shelves with spirits in bottles, cases, and jars. The stock was insured in the Adelaide Marine and Fire Insurance Company for £300, and the Phœnix Company for £400. At the time of the fire the stock had been considerably reduced, there being many empty cases on the premises. There was no trap door to the cellar near the street. His business lately had, considering the times, been good, and he had no outstanding debts. Mary Covenay, landlady of the Flagstaff Hotel, said that after the premises had been

locked up by her daughter and witness had given her lodgers lights she went to bed. At dusk on the same day went into the cellar to tap a cask of beer and remained there for about five minutes. Was awakened by some one, she thought it was her boarder Supple, calling "fire." Immediately sprang from her bed and aroused her five children who were sleeping in the same room as herself and told them to get out of the house as quickly as possible. After dressing secured some of her children's clothes and hastened out of the house. Had sent no clothes or other articles out of the house lately. Objected to her husband's increasing the insurance on his stock. Johanna and Theresa Supple, daughters of the previous witness, gave similar evidence to that of their mother. The inquest was then adjourned. The enquiry was again resumed by the acting city coronor at the West-terrace Hotel on Wednesday. Joseph Watkins said that on Monday, March 22, he turned over the debris in the cellar. Found besides some burnt timber four bottoms and other remains of black bottles, a few unburnt cheroots, and two green glass bottles containing liquor also unhurt by the fire; and as the floor of the bar had been completely destroyed, everything fell into the cellar. Examined the shelves between the parlor door and the passage, that are partly standing in the bar, and they appeared to contain the ordinary liquor of the bar. Noticed that the door leading from the bar to the parlor was burnt chiefly on the bar side, showing that the fire came from the bar. Daniel Covenay, recalled, said that he had disposed of no furniture since he first took the hotel, and that he met Supple at the Havelock Hotel on his way to Summertown. George Anthony said that as the inspector of fire risks for the insurance companies carrying on business in Adelaide, he had during last September examined the contents of the Flag-staff Hotel, and had come to the conclusion that Covenay's estimate of their value (£550) was a liberal one. On looking over the hotel on Monday last he noticed that the state of the furniture had altered greatly during the past six months. In September the house had a fairly comfortable appearance, but on Monday it seemed very bare. By Mr. Hall — Could not specify any article that was in the house in September which was not there on the 22nd instant. By Mr. Yuill — Did not know that an extra insurance of £400 on the contents of the hotel had been effected, and certainly did not think that such should have been made. Henry Charles Salter, superintendent of fire brigades, gave evidence as to having been summoned to attend the fire, and to having, with the aid of the reels, extinguished the flames. On going over the hotel after the fire had been put out he noticed that the two doors leading from the bar-parlor were open. The entrance to the cellar from the side street was closed, but it was afterwards forced open by one of the firemen. Kate O'Brien, servant at the General Havelock Hotel, remembered Mr. Covenay calling in company with three other gentlemen at the hotel on last Thursday afternoon. They stayed there for more than an hour and a half. She saw no spring-dray near the house while they were there, nor did she see them go away. Did not say that morning that she saw the men walk away. Other evidence of an unimportant character having been called, the coroner summed up, and the jury returned a verdict — "That the hotel was wilfully set on fire by some person or persons, but there is not sufficient evidence to show by whom. The jury are also of opinion that the fire started in the bar."



State Library of South Australia - Franklin Street [B 9780], Franklin Street, south side. The Flagstaff Hotel stood on the east corner of Franklin Street and Trennery Court.

The far side of the two storey buildings on the left stood on the west corner of Franklin and Morney Streets. The Flagstaff Hotel was originally situated further west from the position shown in the photograph. CH Sayer was proprietor from 1859-1872.

The steeple of the Maughan Bible Christian Church can be seen further along Franklin Street looking towards the hills. The Methodist New Connexion Church church was built in 1864. This photograph was taken between 1867-71.

Photographer – Duryea

[Now known in 2022 as The Benjamin on Franklin]

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Wednesday 28 April 1886, page 4

THE NEW FIRE BRIGADE.

After the usual unaccountable delays the report of the Fire Brigades Board for last year has been published. It bears date February 23, and it would thus appear to have taken the Chief Secretary a good two months to read and get printed a document of some ten folio pages in length. The public has a special interest in this report, seeing that it is the first since the brigades were reorganized. Last April Mr. Salter, of the Sydney Brigade, was appointed Superintendent, and arrangements were at once made for the enrolment of a permanent staff in place of the auxiliary firemen. These last did their work honestly and conscientiously, but it was generally felt that Adelaide should have a body of firemen whose sole business was the extinction, or, as the Board for reasons best known to themselves prefer to term it, the "extinguishment" of fires. Under ordinary circumstances it is neither fair nor wise to judge of the merits of an organization by the results of its first year of work. Moreover it will be acknowledged that 1885 was a year well calculated to try the capacity of new brooms, and at least we can say that the revised organization has not only been successful, but gives promise of still better things. This is not to be wondered at, seeing that the Superintendent is a man of large experience, and most of the

fourteen men under his command have brought the result of previous knowledge to bear on their work. There were last year 103 calls to fires, or thirty-four less than in 1884 and twenty-eight more than in 1883. Fifteen of these proved to be false alarms, while 21 were only chimney fires. Of the remaining 67 only 25 resulted in serious damage. Extensive arrangements have been made for the supply of improved fire appliances, and the erection of pillar hydrants, in accordance with arrangements made in 1884, has been found to be of the utmost service upon occasion. Monetary considerations have prevented the Board's establishing a salvage corps, and from introducing steam fire-engines. When Mr. Todd returns he will, it is understood, bring with him a report on the cost and utility of the fire-alarm system. We have often advocated the erection of high towers or the use of any at present in existence for the convenience of relays of watchmen, who could from that elevation espy the beginning of fires and give timely notice. The Board re-ports that the telegraph wires would pre-vent the use of the fire escape in many of the streets. In an advanced stage of civilization we would not see this unsightly network spoiling the effect of our thoroughfares, but we cannot see why a fire-escape should be rendered helpless by them. If the object is the saving of human life, the wires should be cut down by the firemen, and the State could hardly hold them responsible for the temporary loss. A more serious complaint is that made by the Superintendent, namely, that during the summer months, between daylight and dark, the pressure of water in the mains is so low as to render it impossible for us to cope with a fire were it to break out in the upper floors of any of the very high buildings now erected in this city. It is proverbially easier to state a defect than to provide a remedy, and the Superintendent will probably not get over this difficulty effectually until the city supply of water is more copious. But it is worth noting in this connection that the most dangerous fires are generally those which break out at night. Whilst we have found the report extremely interesting and satisfactory we are bound to say also that it is compiled in a slovenly and disorderly style. This is especially noticeable in the table which records the causes of fires— one of the most important matters in connection with the subject. Here we have the "false alarms" put down as 13, though the Superintendent re-ports 15 ; and the actual fires as 69, against his 67. The fires the origin of which is unknown are made to be 29 in this table, though it is only 21 in the detailed statement of fire calls. Incendiarism is credited with seven fires, but here this is to be understood as a generic term, including arson and supposed incendiarism. And, again, the detailed statement consists of many words arranged in many columns after a most confusing manner. When a table is spread over two pages, though opposite, of a considerable length, it is very difficult to find out to which fire any separate item belongs. The Board might remedy this for the future by printing the number on both sides of the sheet, as was previously done. Further, the Superintendent reports that, of the 67 fires, 25 resulted in serious and 42 in slight damage. In the detailed statement are three separate columns devoted to the description of the damage done by individual fires. They show that 32 fires ended in slight, 17 fires in considerable, and 12 in total damage. What is the good of characterizing the effects of the fires thus differently? How can the Superintendent's 42 and the Board's 32 represent the same thing? And it is to be noticed that these 32 and 17 and 12 only total 61 as against the Superintendent's 67 in one place and 69 in the other. If the detailed statement does not bear out the report, what is the good

of either?— which are we to believe ? It is interesting to notice that there were twenty-three inquests on fires throughout the year. Thirteen of these had no result whatever, and only ten — including an inquest where the verdict was "supposed incendiarism"— came to a practical conclusion. Some may be tempted to ask, What is the good of inquests on fires as they are at present conducted ? This is a conundrum which we give up, unless it be accepted as an answer that they furnish employment to the Coroner and citizens who have not much work to do. There has presumably been no occasion to publish a table setting forth the casualties sustained by firemen in the discharge of their duties. We trust that our presumption is correct, and hope that there will not in the future be any necessity to insert the table in the report. The Insurance Companies still continue to be in a sufficiently flourishing condition, to supply their quota to the costs of the brigades. Though three have retired, the remaining thirty three had premium receipts amounting to £67,009, being an increase of £1,814 on 1883-4 and of £7,846 on 1882-3. At the time of the last report arrangements had been made for the conduct of local Fire Brigade Boards, and it was expected that Port Pirie and the Semaphore would soon have such establishments. We now learn that there are eight Boards in the colony. The Port has not enjoyed the advantage of possessing a local Board since February, 1884, when the previously existing Board re-signed. Recent events must have taught the Portonians that it will be their wisest course, as it will be the most becoming in the inhabitants of the chief port of the colony, to supply this omission. The volunteer brigades in Norwood and Hindmarsh have been duly recognised by the Central Board, and this courtesy was the least tribute of respect that could be paid to the zealous citizens composing these bodies. The new Fire Brigade may not be tried so hard this year as it was in 1885, but we may feel sure that, if it is, it will acquit itself well.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 6 May 1886, page 4

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28.

Present—Messrs. W. Cavenagh (Chairman), F. W. Gardiner, T. Hack, C. L. Mayer, H. Y. Sparks, S. Solomon, W. B. Wilkinson (Secretary). A letter was received from Mr. C. Todd, C.M.G., dated London, March 19, on the subject of fire alarms, in which he stated that he had seen Captain Shaw, the Superintendent of the London Fire Brigade, through whose courtesy he had an opportunity of inspecting the general arrangements in London, and obtained much valuable information. He had also carefully examined Mr. Saunders's apparatus, as made by the "Single Wire Multipli Telephone Signal Co.," which is now being generally adopted by Captain Shaw in preference to the systems hitherto in use, being very effective and simple, but he is inclined to think that a still simpler system would be sufficient for Adelaide. A letter was received from the Local Fire Brigades Board, Norwood, intimating the appointment of Mr. G. W. Gooden as Secretary to the Board.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 4 June 1886, page 4

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1886.

It is notified in our business columns that the Fire Brigade station in Morphett-street has been removed to Waymouth-street (Light square).

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Friday 4 June 1886, page 2

Public Notices.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Public that the FIRE BRIGADE STATION in MORPHETT-STREET has this day been REMOVED to WAYMOUTH-STREET (Light-square). 155-8

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Wednesday 30 June 1886, page 5

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S STATEMENT.

It was reported by the police shortly after 7 o'clock that a fire had broken out in Cleland's store, and reels were at once taken out. The flames seemed to be confined to the cellar and the upper story. On the upper story 50 cases of lucifer matches were stored. Harrold Bros.' reel rendered some valuable service towards extinguishing the fire, and the pressure of water was very good indeed. At midnight the flames kept breaking out again, and loud report of casks of spirits bursting in the cellar were heard from time to time. The firemen were kept on the premises during the night.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 26 July 1886, page 2

GENERAL NEWS.

At about a quarter to 2 o'clock on Sunday morning as P.C. Morrow was passing No. 108, Rundle street, a clothier's shop kept by Mr. M. Moss, he noticed a strong smell of fire. He immediately gave the alarm to the fireman stationed at the Arcade, who broke open the door of the shop, which he found to be full of smoke. A piece of brown paper, near to which was a broken bottle, was noticed to be burning underneath the counter. The fire was soon extinguished, the only apparent damage done being that a hole has been burnt in the floor. The coroner has been informed of the occurrence, and is making enquiries.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 31 July 1886, page 4

FIRE NEAR KING WILLIAM BRIDGE. — Between 4 and 5 o'clock on Friday morning a fire broke out in Bleeze's Refreshment-room, on the river-bank near King William Bridge, and the building, which was composed of weatherboard, was burnt to the ground and all the contents consumed before the fire reels could arrive. The property was insured in the Phoenix Company for £150.

Fire: Academy of Music, Messrs. Castle & Co.'s

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 27 December 1886, page 6

DISASTROUS FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.

TWO MEN KILLED. DAMAGE, SIXTY THOUSAND POUNDS.

The Christmas Eve of 1886 will long be remembered in Adelaide for the destructive fire which broke out in one of the busiest quarters of Rundle-street, and involved in destruction not only three large shops but the unlucky Academy of Music, which has now been burnt down three times within as many years, and each time in the Christmas season. The fire itself occurring just when the city was crowded with eager throngs of people engaged in making purchases for the Christ-mas festivities or promenading the thorough-fares on pleasure bent, caused intense excitement. The usual force of city people had been swollen by their visiting country cousins. The disaster was so sudden and the effects were so quickly produced that in less than three hours two flourishing business establishments and one large and beautifully fitted place of amusement just rebuilt were destroyed, and nothing was left of the buildings but the bare walls and heaps of smoking ruins. Had it not been for the assistance furnished by energetic people close at hand, especially by Primrose's workmen with their hose, combined with the strenuous exertions of the Fire Brigade and the activity of men from the gunboat Protector, a still greater amount of property would have been destroyed, as the wind rose during the course of the fire and carried the flames to an immense height.

This fire on Friday night, which utterly wrecked one of the drapery shops of Messrs. R. C. Castle & Co., caused great damage in another, and burnt out the extensive fancy goods shop of Mr. Cunningham, furnishes another argument for putting some restriction upon the method of stowing in-flammable goods in drapers' windows. In numbers of shops material of the most in-flammable character may often be seen hanging in perilous proximity to gas-jets, and in some instances upon them. Every summer small fires have been caused in this way. As far as can be ascertained at present the fire originated in Castle's drapery shop, on the west side of the brewery lane, and was caused by a festoon of lace being caught either by the gasjet or by a spark from a taper with which the jet was lit in the window. Catching the light stock in the shop, the fire progressed at a furious rate, so that, although it might have been crushed out by the hand when it began, when it had once taken a hold its destructive course could not be arrested. It was only by the exertions of the Fire Brigade and willing assistants that it was confined within a certain area. Had it spread much further the mischief done would have been almost incalculable, as in the immediate vicinity are large business premises and warehouses containing many hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of goods.

The Academy of Music, which has had so many fiery visitations of its own beginning, suffered this time from the misfortune of a neighbouring building. It seems little short of marvellous that it was affected at all, but the stars in their courses appear to fight against its enter-prising owners. The fire seized the building, although it had to go dead against the wind to do so. Conflicting draughts probably have to answer for the result. People in the suburbs were alarmed by the glare of the flames, and the general impression was that the Arcade had caught fire. Thousands of people came streaming across the Park Lands rushing to the scene, and it was stated positively at one time that Gay's Arcade was burning, but when the truth was known that the Academy was the centre of the blaze the people could hardly credit the news, so strange a coincidence did it seem. When the fire reached its height business in the immediate locality came almost to a stand-still. People hurried from the shops, from

the markets, from the hotels, and even from the places of amusement to the scene of the disaster, so that in Rundle-street and the neighbourhood the crush was tremendous. The crowd was of a miscellaneous character, and in its composition the element was not omitted of the marketing mothers pushing perambulators and dragging along tiny tired toddlers at their heels. The crowd in the first rush were inconsiderate, as all crowds are, and hence arose natural inconvenience. A man named Rist, employed in putting up the shutters at Marshall's, was knocked down and injured. He had to be taken home. There were hundreds of women and children in the thickest part of the crowd, who would have been better out of it, and the police exerted themselves to remove such as those. It is providential that so few accidents occurred by crushing. To the origin of the fire reference is made below. The efforts of the firemen to suppress it were watched with eager interest. Just before a quarter to 8 o'clock Deputy-Superintendent Shearing arrived with No. 2 Fire reel from Weymouth- street, and a minute afterwards Superintendent Salter came upon the spot with the men from the head station, The crowd, who did not know the cause of his delay, which is explained elsewhere, received them with groans and hisses. By this time the front of Castle's building and the lane to the eastward presented the appearance of a vast irregular wall of flame. The men got to work at once, but they were much hampered by the crowd, who did not seem to realize the necessity for the hydrants being got at by the firemen as quickly as possible. At length the water was played on to the front of Castle's, but it had no apparent effect, as the fire had such a strong hold of the place. Before 8 o'clock smoke coming from the roof of the Academy intimated to the spectators that that building had once more caught. Just before the stroke of 8 flames were seen issuing from Cunningham's eastern shop, and the firemen immediately turned their attention to that place. Deputy-Superintendent Shearing was the first who went into Cunningham's, followed by the unfortunate men Gardner and Clark. As the town clock struck 8 the roof fell — the roof and a portion of the eastern wall inwards, but a part of the western wall outwards into Cunningham's. This was the immediate cause of the fatal accidents which attended the fire, for Shearing, Gardner, and Clark had just got into the ground floor as the weight above dropped down. The crash when the roof came in was terrific. The stock on the first floor of Cunningham's consisted of hardware, jewellery, and fancy goods, and when the bricks from the wall met this there was a tremendous roar and clatter as of thunder. The meeting of the bricks and glassware caused a peculiar effect, the breaking of the glass being distinctly heard. Besides creating an immense volume of smoke the fall diffused myriads of sparks and indeed large pieces of burning cinder on to the road and on to the front of the shops on the north side of Rundle-street, to the imminent danger of the sightseers and of the buildings. There was, however, no real danger to Marshall's premises, as the men on the establishment were ready to ply the hose if that were necessary. When the roof had fallen the scene inside Castle's almost rose to grandeur. The single brick wall were very thin and seemed very unstable. They gave away long before the large beams supporting the roof were burnt, and the consequence was that the beams were disarranged in every conceivable direction in the building. They were all burning fiercely, and as no water was turned onto them they burnt for a long time. At length they fell, and nothing was left but a confused mass of smouldering ruins. Meanwhile the North Adelaide and Norwood and St Peters Reels had arrived and started

working. As soon as it was known that two men were buried in Cunningham's the firemen desisted from playing on to the flames and confined their attention to poor Clark, whom they could see struggling. The general public did not know of the sad accident, but when they saw the men carrying Clark away intense excitement prevailed, and this was heightened when soon after a vague rumour was spread about that another man was missing. While Clark was being removed the flames, being deserted by the firemen, spread rapidly, and the front of Cunningham's second shop was caught. As soon as Clark was released the firemen again got to work upon the buildings whose interior was filled by the flames. More particular attention was paid to the wall between Cunningham's and Cornish's, where the gas meter was situated. The fire again burst fiercely through the front of the second story of Cunningham's and two hoses were immediately set to work on it from the street. There happened to be in town half a dozen of H.M.C.S. Protector's men from the Torpedo Corps and three of the men-of-warsmen. These, under the direction of Lieutenant Thompson, rendered valuable assistance, especially in carrying the hose into positions best calculated to reach the seat of the fire. Some of these men were even rather reckless. A fireman and one of the Protector's seamen gallantly mounted the balcony in face of the flames, which swept within a few feet of them. In a very brief space they had driven the fire back, and the success of their daring efforts drew cheers from the crowd. The fire in Cunningham's was got under control about 9 o'clock. At a quarter to 11 the gas at Cunningham's caught light and burnt for a long time, although water was being thrown on it all the time. Between 11 and midnight the burning gas was the only thing which could do much damage, although in the other premises the debris only was smouldering. As to the eastern side of the block, before it was generally known by the firemen in Rundle-street that the Academy was burning the accident had happened in Cunningham's, so that the flames for a time went un-controlled. At about 8 o'clock, however, the Norwood men arrived, and were at once ordered to go to work on the Academy. Placing ladders in front of Frahm's verandah they got on to the balcony, and notwithstanding the intense heat went right inside the doors leading to the ticket boxes above the front stairs. The heat was intense, but the men worked gallantly, and by degrees got the flames under. The inside of the building, and especially the front portion, where were situated the dress circle and gallery, burnt fiercely, and as each succeeding portion fell in showers of embers and sparks were scattered over the roadway. A number of men were kept on the roofs of the adjoining ware-houses and premises busily engaged in preventing the sparks from starting other conflagrations. The wind carried these sparks a tremendous distance, some lodging on the Locomotive Workshops' roofs at the rear of the Railway Station. When Mr. Primrose's men found that Cunningham's store and their own premises were safe they went to work at the rear of the Academy. A long ladder was placed against a window at the south end of the building, and three of the men with difficulty dragged a hose up and began playing into the midst of the fire. For some time they continued here, but eventually they became conscious that they were in a dangerous position and they had to get down. The danger was immediately above them. Some 30 feet over head was a long heavy beam, at the end of which was a heavy iron pulley block. This beam was only a few feet from the top of the Academy wall, but the leverage of the pulley had caused a large piece of the wall to be carried away. The beam had a very dangerous appearance, and, as was

expected, it eventually fell into the lane below. The walls of the Academy stood well, and as there was no danger of the flames spreading eastward the firemen left there. The fire had burnt very severely while it lasted, but, though the heat was terrible, it was not sufficient to completely destroy the fire-proof floor to the Academy, and injure the goods in Castle's eastern shop, Frahm's, and Albers's, though the water did some damage. The floor was of specially tested galvanized iron and was simply a series of arches. In a few places the fire got through. But one of the prettiest spectacles was presented when parts of the galvanized iron roof of the building was melting. As soon as it began to run the intense heat extracted the various chemicals from the iron, and it poured down, in a molten stream of divers colours. The southern boundary of the fire was the back wall of Cunningham's place. For a long time the windows in the rear part of Cunningham's shop looking out upon the brewery lane resisted all the efforts of the firemen to break them with the force of water, although there was the fierce heat from the blazing stuff within and the powerful stream of cold water poured upon them from without ; but at length they gave way, and a steady stream was poured into the interior of the building. Between 8 and 9 o'clock the flames, which had a firm hold of the back premises of Cunningham's, threatened the storeroom jutting out at right angles from the main building, and at the rear of which the brewery premises extend, but the exertions of the Fire Brigade kept the flames within bounds. Great anxiety was felt at this time for the brewery, and it was with intense relief that the spectators saw the course of the fire in this direction arrested. When the danger in the southern portion had been averted the course of the fire was ended.

HOW THE FIRE BEGAN.

There is in connection with the origin of this fire the usual conflict of evidence, on minor points. At least a dozen people have assured our representatives that they were the first to see the flames begin. We give here some of the statements volunteered upon the matter :— H. Hudd, an assistant at Mr. Cunningham's, says as to the spread of the flames :— "Between half-past 7 and twenty minutes to 8 I was at the back of our premises, when Mr. Cunningham met me, and said —' Castle's, shop is on fire.'—Was at once rushed out, and put up the shutters. Mr. Cunningham's premises are two storys high, but are lower than the two storys of the building occupied by Mr. Castle. I afterwards went upstairs and saw flames burst from Mr. Castle's middle story into the upper part of our building and set the place on fire about ten minutes after I first heard the alarm. There is no question as to the fire starting in Mr. Castle's shop window. It must have been visible in the street, and the glass was falling out when I first saw the flames. On passing along with the shutters I accidentally knocked Mr. Castle's signboard down, so that I must have been in a good position to see the shop. Lance-corporal Quirke, said— "I was on duty in Rundle-street, and about 7.20 and saw the fire in Castle's window. It was the east window of the shop on the west side of the lane, and the stuff—a lot of light material— was then ablaze, and the people in the shop were working hard to put the fire out but it was too quick for them amongst all that light stuff. I gave all the help I could clearing away the light drapery and inflammable stuff but the flames were quicker than we were. We cleared the window as soon as we could, but the flames got ahead of us, and went through to the back at an astonishingly quick rate, the

material being so light and in-flammable." Constable W. O'Brien said:—"I was on duty in Rundle-street and heard a cry of 'Fire' about 7.40 p-m., and immediately I saw flames rising by one of the gas jets in Castle's front shop on the right-hand side facing north. I went over immediately and did what I could to put it out by pulling down the light material in the window, and which was feeding the flames. There appeared to be a lot of inflammable stuff in the window— ribbons, silk, and such like. I wanted to smash the window, but some one belonging to the place would not let me, and he said he could put the fire out with a bucket of water. I, with the others, began removing the inflammable stuff as quickly as possible, but the fire soon had a strong hold, and in a few moments the whole place was like a furnace, the flames rushing right through and licking up everything, for there was much light stuff, just the kind to flare up in a second. It seemed to me that from the first catching alight it was hardly more than two minutes before the whole shop was one sheet of flames from end to end. It appeared to me that the fire began in the shop on the west side of the lane in Mr. Castle's. I noticed some ribbons, it seemed to me, hanging over or alongside one of the gas jets, and they were probably blown by a gust of air against the light. Mr. Castle, one of the sufferers by the fire, says—' When I saw the flames in the window I rushed outside to get a bucket of water, but when I came back I found that a policeman had closed the doors, and he refused me admittance to my own shop. By this time some one had broken the windows. A trustworthy gentleman, who does not wish his name to be mentioned, states—"On Friday evening I was walking in front of Woodman's shop. I looked across the road and saw, in some wide lace festooned in Castle's window, a small spark of fire. It was so small that it could, with the greatest ease, have been extinguished by the palm of the hand. At the same time when I saw it an employé in the shop caught sight of it, and, instead of endeavouring to put it out, he rushed into the street as far as the line adjoining the Academy and cried 'Fire, fire.' In half a minute a policeman was there, but the flame had then spread up the lace and caught a parasol which hung from the roof. The policeman went into the shop and tried to get in, but apparently experienced some difficulty from a cedar partition which was on the inside. The fire then got to the bottom of the window, and in an incredibly short space of time the whole window was on fire. I am sure the fire could have been prevented if the employé had either pulled the lace or thrown something over the small flame. When the employé rushed out the flame was little larger than that from a candle. Miss Kate Cullen said she was standing in front of the shop when, the gas was lit. She noticed something fall, and as the boy turned away the lace in the window caught and blazed up. Mr. J. W. Elliott, of the Southern Argus, says :—"I was standing in front of the Globe Hotel looking into Messrs. Castle & Co.'s western shop, and noticed an assistant, a man, inside the shop stretch out his hand to take some lace from the eastern window. As he was removing the lace it caught one of the gasjets. The assistant either threw or dropped the lace to the lower part of the window, for in a moment or two it was observed that the lace, &c., in the window was ablaze. Some man in passing the shop smashed a hole in the window with his arm, and this causing the wind to enter set the whole window alight. I saw a man running towards the window, apparently in-tending to run into the shop. He called out 'Fire,' but as he was entering the shop somebody (I believe a policeman) stopped him. I heard that this man saw the blaze from outside, and was going in to put it out. Had some exertions been made I believe the fire could have been

checked, but in the meantime the blaze had got too far advanced. The first fire reel arrived on the spot exactly ten minutes after the fire broke out."

THE FATAL ACCIDENTS— THE SEARCH FOR GARDNER.

In reference to this melancholy matter Mr. Shearing, the Deputy Superintendent, says— "I went into Cunningham's shop about five minutes to 8, and saw the fire at the back. I called Clark and Gardner to follow me. They were in Castle's. My object was to save Cunningham's second shop, and had it not been for the accident I believe we should have done so. When I brought them into the shop I said to them, 'Play here, lads.' Poor Gardner replied, 'All right, sir, but I think the hose has caught in the door.' He was pulling the hose in. Clark was behind him. I told him that I would see to that when I gave the order to turn the water on, and then turned to go out of the shop and do so. I had gone a couple of paces and just passed Clark when the crash came. We had advanced only about 14 or 15 feet into the building, and everything looked safe when I turned back to get the water on. Without any warning down came every-thing in a crash. I caught poor Clark by the wrist and dragged him towards the door. A piece of timber came down and knocked our hands apart. It sent me out into the pavement, and Clark was at the same moment covered with the falling debris. Mr. Shaw picked me up. I was dazed for a moment, but came to, and put water on Clark while, the men took him out. I knew one man was gone beside Clark, but I did not know at the time who it was. I could only see Clark's left hand when I turned the water on him. Two or three strangers came and helped to clear the debris from the poor fellow. They got a big rope around his waist with which to pull him out. He cried out at the pain caused, and a piece of cloth some inches broad was used instead. He was lying face downwards, and cried out, 'Don't pull. For God's sake, give me water.' Water was kept on him all the time he was under. I think it most have been about ten minutes. When they got him out he was in great pain, and was taken over to the Globe Hotel." When the crash came there were very few people near, but the cries of Clark attracted several firemen to his assistance. They found him lying on his chest completely buried by bricks, roof iron, beams, and other debris. Five men set to work to remove the weight from his head and body, which were nearest the street. They soon cleared all the lumber from his head, and amid groans of anguish the sufferer cried, "For God's sake, don't hurt me," and begged them to pour water over him. Those who strove to succour him were in terrible danger themselves, for bricks, crockery, glassware, and other miscellaneous goods were continually falling ; and one man, a member of the Norwood Brigade, had his back seriously scorched. Notwithstanding this the men worked nobly, and in about ten minutes had all the debris moved from the upper portion of the poor fellow's body. A rope was then tied round his waist, and endeavours were made to pull him out. The injured man, how-ever, groaned so, and the operation evidently gave him such pain, that they desisted. The Superintendent took in the situation at once, and sent for some drapery, as that would not cut into the man's body as the rope did. A long piece of print stuff about 7 or 8 inches wide was soon brought, and as speedily put round his shoulders and lower down his body in such a position that he would be as little pained as possible. Ten men then hauled, and with considerable difficulty he was taken out and removed to the Globe Hotel. It was of course, soon seen that his injuries were terribly severe, though he was able to walk, and he was quickly

removed to the Hospital. During this time nothing was known of the circumstances of the accident to Gardner. It was, however, realized as only too certain that he was buried under the building. The work of searching for the body of Gardner continued, until about half-past 1 o'clock on Christmas morning. There were about a dozen persons at work, including six labourers engaged by Mr. Salter. They only had the assistance of one small lantern, and though the debris was still intensely hot they worked grandly. The search was, however, frequently interrupted by the gas burning. Every time the flames thus caused burst but the men had to knock off while water was poured on to the flames. The immediate cause of the men leaving off their work came from an unexpected quarter. Superintendent Salter had previously had his fears excited by the dangerous look of the remainder of the western wall of Castle's place. This was a large, mass of brickwork over 40 feet from the ground and it bulged out at one part towards the west and at end facing south towards the east. About 2 feet from the front wall there could be seen in the bricks a large crack nearly an inch wide, so that the wall had a very dangerous appearance. The Superintendent, as he explains elsewhere, would not take upon himself the responsibility of allowing the men to work, so that he ordered them to leave off at half-past 1. In the short time they had been there they had turned over a large quantity of debris. The crowd up to this time had been large, but they began to disperse as soon as it was known that the search would not be resumed till daylight.— The firemen were, however, by no means idle during the two and a half hours that intervened until the first ray of the sun appeared. The gas in Cunningham's western shop during the whole of this time was burning fiercely, though there were three hoses playing upon it. The flames affected by the water rose like golden spray, and altogether had a most beautiful appearance, which a poet could only adequately describe. During the morning the walls continued to fall all round. Five times immense quantities of brick crashed down owing to iron girders cooling and contracting. As soon as it was sufficiently light Superintendent Salter made a better examination of the wall, and his fears of the night were confirmed. He therefore, would not allow the men to proceed with their search. The next difficulty was the removal of the dangerous portions of the building. The Superintendent under the Fire Brigades Act has power to blast or pull down any buildings at a fire if he deems such a thing necessary ; but before exercising this power Mr. Salter sent for the City Building Surveyor, so that he might confer with him as to the safety or insecurity of the building, and the best means, if necessary, of bringing it down. This gentleman was soon brought from his residence in Halifax-street, and then a consultation ensued as to the best means of removing the dangerous wall. Various suggestions were made. The first was the use of dynamite, the proposal being to place a couple of cartridges at the base of the north-east corner of the wall. This was rejected as being dangerous to sur-rounding properties. Another was, by the aid of ropes, to pull the front wall out on to the road; but Mr. Salter would not sanction this, as he believed if it were done the cornices at the top of the wall which were about 50 feet from the ground would by reason of their weight be hurled into the buildings on the opposite side of the road. Besides, the western wall would almost certainly fall into Cunningham's, but, if possible, this was to be avoided, as if the masonry fell there it would be a very long time before the body could be got at. Then, again, it was suggested that a scaffolding might be erected in front and the front wall picked away, after which from the scaffolding the two side walls might with ease be

dragged over with grappling-irons. The other idea was that the front wall should be pulled in by ropes, and this was the alternative which was eventually decided on, but not until a consultation with Mr. Toy, the foreman, and Mr. J. Leahy, the contractor for the new building for the Bank of New South Wales. Mr. Leahy was sent for on account of the fact that all the necessary appliances were near at hand on the Bank premises at the corner of North-terrace. Mr. Leahy, sent for by Mr. Toy, - and he arrived just before 6 o'clock. Mr. Salter left the work of getting down the walls entirely in his hands. - Mr. Toy was in favour of the last plan proposed, that of pulling the centre wall down by means of ropes, and that plan was agreed to by the Superintendent. Mr. Toy at once went for a couple of experienced men whom he could rely on, and afterwards, got the necessary rope and ladders from the Bank building. At half-past 7 o'clock the active work began. Mr. Toy himself got on to the balcony in front of Castle's, and endeavoured to throw a coil of thin rope over the wall at the bottom of the windows on the first floor. By this time there were about 300 people present, but unfortunately these were principally of the larrikin class. Mr. Toy was not successful in getting the rope over the desired place, which was about 12 feet from where he stood, and each failure was greeted with derisive shouts from the roughs below. After three failures he gave up the attempt, and placing ladders against the wall went up and put the rope round the arch between the two top windows. Then came another difficult task — that of throwing a rope over the parapet at the top of the front wall. The top was about 9 feet from where he stood, but the work was rendered difficult by the projection of the parapet for some time. After two or three failures, he achieved his object, and very soon had a stout 1-inch thick rope tied ready for hauling. Time, however, had slipped by, and it was past 10 o'clock when a dozen men began to pull at the rope. They worked like Trojans, and they pulled so hard that the rope after a few minutes gave way, and the sudden loosening of the strain threw them to the ground. A fresh grip was, however, very soon made, and at ten minutes to 11 their efforts were crowned with partial success. A loud cheer greeted them when the top of the front wall and the western cornice of it were pulled in. The most dangerous wall on the western side was, however, not touched, and the next difficulty was its removal. Efforts were first made to force it away by means of a plank worked from the balcony in front of Cunningham's western shop. This was however, found to be impracticable, and had to be abandoned. Ladders were placed against the remaining portion of the front wall, and Fireman Hearle went to the top and tried to throw a rope over the south west corner which projected for some feet. He had no support whatever, though he was 40 feet from the ground, but his old sailor experiences served him in good stead. After one failure he threw the rope over the corner. Having tied it he came down, and the men again began hauling. They were soon successful, and presently the crowd cheered again as the wall fell just where it was desired between the remaining walls of Castle's. The search party at once resumed their work with a will. Quickly the debris was cleared away as the men strove to find the body of their comrade. The goods were all smouldering, and the heat was intense. A hose was kept playing on the goods to keep them cool enough for handling. The searchers struggled on uncomplainingly— tenderly and careful, lest in removing any of the sheets of iron or other things they might mutilate the body of their dead friend. The crowd round the barrier — a crowd now numbering some hundreds — looked on silently. After work had been going on for half an hour it was

noticed by the Superintendent of Fire Brigades that the front wall of Cunningham's under which the men were working was un-safe. Ropes were thrown round it and by twenty minutes to 1 it was down. Some time was taken in getting the sidewall over, but the men were then able to resume their work. At about half-past 2 the body was found burnt, blackened, disfigured. Then a touching scene was witnessed. Some of those who stood round the remains of their comrade and friend turned their heads and sobbed, and sympathetic tears fell from the eyes of those who stood by. The body lay about 10 feet from the pavement, but some 6 feet below the level of the street, the floor having been driven into the basement by the fall of the roof and first floor. It appeared as if the poor fellow had been struck down when rushing out on hearing the fall, unfortunately too late to save himself. The coffin was soon brought, and the remains were placed within it and immediately removed to the City Morgue. As the body was carried away many people in the motley crowd reverently raised their hats, and a few of the more impressionable wept.

THE VICTIMS OF THE FIRE.

Albert Clark was the fourth son of Mr. R. Clark, a blacksmith, who has carried on business for many years in O'Connell-street, North Adelaide. The deceased, who has always worked with his father, was 23 years old last July. He was well known by nearly every one in Central North Adelaide as a quiet, decent, unobtrusive young fellow, and he was very popular amongst those who knew him more closely. He was best known perhaps as an athlete. For years he had been a prominent footballer, but during the past season he shone most conspicuously on the football field. He was a member of the Adelaide Club, and his following contributed in no small degree to make them the premiers of South Australia. As in business and society, so on the field, he was a thorough gentleman, his play being of the most approved style. He was also a good cricketer, his bowling having been very successful at times for the Cambridge Club. He was once tried with the North Adelaides on the Oval, but was not a great success. He never had any experience of fire work until the brigades were reorganized, when he joined and had since rendered valuable service at many fires. John Gardner was a single man and 30 years of age. He had been a member of the Head Station Brigade for eighteen months, having joined in July, 1885, when the Fire Brigades were reorganized. He had been in the colony only about two years, having previously been a seafaring man. His mother is living in Ireland, and some relatives reside at Parkside. Gardner was well respected. All the members of the brigade look upon themselves as a family, and the loss of one of their number is considered a great bereavement. Superintendent Salter speaks in high terms of the deceased, who was one of his steadiest and most reliable men. He was always at his post, and conducted himself in an honest and straightforward manner.

INQUEST ON THE BODIES.

On Sunday morning, December 26, the City Coroner opened an inquest at the Adelaide Hospital on the bodies of Messrs. Gardner and Clark. Mr. B. G. Bosisto was foreman of the Jury. Before the Jury viewed the bodies the Coroner mentioned that, having to hold in-quests on four bodies that day, and probably the following day, it was absolutely necessary that he should call the Jurors together early that morning, and so quickly after the fire. The weather was exceedingly hot, and it was therefore

necessary that the bodies of the two unfortunate men who met their death at the fire should be buried as soon as possible. It was somewhat painful to consider the circumstances surrounding the death of Gardner and Clark, who had succumbed to the influence of the flames. He regretted — and he believed all the Jurors also regretted — to hold an inquest on the bodies of two fine young men who in the discharge of their duty and in their anxiety to subdue the fire fell victims to the flames or some other cause. Under the circumstances he intended to make one inquest suffice for the two bodies. After the Jury had viewed the bodies he would take the evidence of one witness and then adjourn. Clark's body was then viewed, and afterwards the Coroner and Jury drove to the City Morgue at the West-terrace Cemetery to see Gardner's remains. This done, they met in the Elephant and Castle Hotel, where the following evidence was taken :— Ronald Shearing, Deputy-Superintendent of Fire Brigades, said — On seeing smoke some where in the northern part of the city on the night of December 24 I turned out with my brigade (No. 2) and called the Head Station Reel. On arrival I found that Messrs. Castle and Co. 's western shop was all alight. One of Mr. Cunningham's shops and the Academy of Music were also burning. The whole of Messrs. Castle's shop from the ground floor to the roof was burning. The fire had got hold of the lower part and back of Mr. Cunningham's eastern shop. The Coroner here intimated that he did not intend to enquire any further about the fire, the origin of which would be considered later on in the week. The witness proceeding stated— I identified the body at the Hospital Morgue as that of Albert Clark, who was an auxiliary fireman. He was acting as a fireman at the fire. I last saw him alive when we were separated by the falling of the wall and timber in the east shop of Mr. Cunningham's. When the wall fell from Castle's I was going out of the shop to give orders to turn the water on. We were endeavouring to save Mr. Cunningham's other shop. I was in the shop with Clark and another fireman called Gardner, and when I heard the wall falling I caught hold of Clark's hand and pulled him towards the street. I dragged him to within 3 feet of the door when we were separated by a part of the walls and beams striking us. I was thrown on to the pavement with a verandah beam on the top of me. At the same time Gardner was near us. Clark, Gardner, and myself were within 3 feet of each other. Gardner had a branch of the hose in his hand. I asked him if he was ready for the water. He said 'Yes.' I told him that I would go outside and turn it on. I put my hand on Clark's shoulder as I went by, and told him to stand by Gardner. While I was speaking the crush came. My hand immediately slipped from Clark's shoulder to his hand, and I dragged him with me towards the outside. I could not reach Gardner, and saw nothing of him save his hand. When he was falling under the timber I heard Gardner scream once, but Clark continued screaming. I clearly identify the both bodies as those of Clark and Gardner. Gardner was one of the permanent men on the Fire Brigade. I identify Gardner's body by the uniform, which partly covers it, and also by the helmet he wore. The body of Gardner was found in the ruins about 8 feet from the shop front door, Gardner's, body was found in the cellar or basement of the east shop of Mr. Cunningham's. Gardiner was on the ground floor when we were parted. The same fall covered the two men. By Jurors— I was in charge of the front part with the brigade at the time, and it was by my orders that the men went inside. The Superintendent was at the back of the premises, which was in flames at the time. Before the men went in I entered the shop and ascertained where the fire was.

When the verandah beam fell on the pavement I was picked up somewhat insensible. I was afterwards told that a man named Shaw pulled a piece of burning timber off me. Various parts of my body were hurt. I afterwards tried to remove Clark from the ruins in company with several others, Two or three men played water on Clark, who was burning. At this stage the inquest was adjourned till the following Wednesday, at the Elephant and Castle Hotel, at 10.30 am.

THE FUNERAL OF GARDNER.

The body of John Gardner will be buried in the Mitcham Cemetery to-day. As more time was available in his case, every arrangement has been made for a public funeral. The mounted and foot police with their band, the whole of the Fire Brigades and the members of the Fire Brigades Board, and members of the naval and military forces will be present. The procession will start at half-past 10 this morning from the head station in Flinders-street, and will proceed thence along Pulteney-street, then down Rundle-street past the scene of the disastrous fire, then along King William-street and on to the Unley-road. The friends of the deceased man have specially asked that the funeral shall be as private as possible, so that after reaching Chance's Corner the public character of the ceremony will cease. All the police, firemen, and naval and military men will leave, and the funeral will thenceforth be of an entirely private nature. The following order of procession will be maintained :— Police Band. Mounted Police. Foot Police. Mourning Coaches. Fire Brigades. Fire Brigades Board. Naval and Military Forces. Volunteers. Gardner was a member of the Wesleyan Church, and it is expected that the Rev. H. T. Burgess will conduct the service at the grave.

AFTER THE FIRE.

During the whole of Sunday hundreds of people came to town to view the scene of the fire from Rundle-street, and the police were kept busy in preventing them from approaching too near the walls or going over the debris. The whole scene was one of desolation, although owing to the four walls of the Academy remaining intact the condition of the interior of that building was not visible from the street. Members of our staff went over the ruins. On entering Castle's outfitting shop directly under the Academy it was noticed that the goods bore marks of having suffered severely from water. The fire, however, had hardly penetrated into these premises, owing to a fireproof galvanized ceiling dividing it from the floor of the Academy and the right-of-way leading to Primrose's brewery from Castle's other shop. The ceiling had been burnt through on the eastern side at the back of the shop in two places, but with very little effect. The windows facing the right-of-way were all broken and the frames were very much scorched, having evidently caught alight from the fire in the other shop when the Academy was touched. The entrance doors to Albers's billiard saloon, also under the Academy and at the back of Castle's, were burnt through in one or two places. The northern window was completely burnt, and the sashes having fallen inside the saloon started a fire inside, but the only damage done was to the corner of one of the billiard tables and a little other furniture. The tables and all the furniture were, however, saturated and greatly damaged by water. On the eastern side of Castle's is Mr. Frahm's restaurant, which is also under the Academy. The fire had penetrated from the floor of the Academy through the roof of the front shop, but not to

any extent. There were indications of a very hasty exit of the customers at the time when the alarm of fire was raised. The floor and the fixtures were greatly damaged by water, especially near the back. The fireproof ceilings appear to have answered remarkably well, as there were very few signs of the fire penetrating through. The basement floors abutting on James-place are occupied as Indian Tea rooms, and in these the water was about 6 or 8 inches deep, on account of the soakage through from the buildings above. There were, however, no signs of the fire having reached this place. As already stated, Mr. J. J. Leahy, builder, received instructions from the Fire Board early on Saturday morning to pull down all walls that appeared to be at all unsafe, and to render what remained of the buildings secure. He immediately set men to work, and by Sunday afternoon the walls of Castle's shop were almost levelled to the ground. Adjacent to the brewery, as well as in the front, the wall had not fallen, so that he was obliged to pull down three stories. The division-wall between Cunningham's and Castle's premises is still a considerable height, and looks rather un-safe, but Mr. Leahy has done all in his power to make the approaches perfectly secure. The roof still covers Cunningham's second shop, and the walls are also complete. The Academy walls remain almost intact, a few bricks only having been taken from the top of the south-western corner. A portion of the western wall near the top and the front appears to be some 6 or 8 inches out of plumb, and may be a source of danger, but both the eastern and western walls are rendered much safer by the wings of the stage, which are of a considerable height and form very strong supports. On ascending the staircase which led to the Academy stage a scene of terrible havoc presented itself. Standing on the stage, in front lay in a homogeneous mass the ruins of a once pretty little theatre, which was opened with such éclat a short time ago. All that remained of the dress-circle were the iron girders and supports, bent and warped into all conceivable shapes by the action of the fire. The gallery had completely disappeared. The floor occupied by the stalls, ticket-boxes, and dressing-rooms was covered with debris of the roof and furniture of the hall. Crossing the stage, which was also an entire mass of ruins, one got the best view obtainable of the whole site of the fire from a window opening in the western wall, near the back. In Castle's shop, where the fire started, the wall, which had been pulled down, covered the whole of the debris caused by the fire itself. Cunningham's place, adjoining Castle's, was still smoking. Here and in the other premises the goods and furniture, which were almost entirely consumed by the fire, were piled in inexplicable confusion along with bricks, mortar, and smouldering embers. The right-of-way leading to the brewery is choked up with the remains of walls and the iron staircase which led to the stalls and gallery of the Academy, and some days must necessarily elapse before the place can be cleared. Primrose's brewery was untouched by the fire, with the exception of the gate in the right of-way, which was slightly burnt.

THE BRIGADES AND THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. H. C. Salter, the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, who, by-the-way, was married only the day before, made the following statement to one of our representatives:—"At 7.41 p.m. on December 24 I received a call from Waymouth-street Fire Station (No. 2 Brigade) to a fire in Rundle-street. Upon turning out a large fire could be distinctly seen— in fact the flames therefrom were rising mountains high. I ordered out the

North Adelaide Brigade and also the Hindmarsh and Nor-wood Volunteer Brigades. Upon arrival at the fire, which was some time between 7.40 p m. and 7.45 pan., I found the Academy of Music, Messrs. Castle & Co.'s premises, and one of Mr. Cunningham's shops all well alight from top to bottom, and the flames coming through the roofs of each. I wish here to complain of the neglect of the public, or rather of those whose premises were at the time in danger, in not informing the Head Fire Brigade Station or some of the other brigades of the conflagration. There were several telephones in the vicinity, in fact within a few yards of the fire, and not one was used. There were telephones at Messrs. Marshall and Co.'s, Birks's, Primrose's, and the Globe Hotel. It was stated that the Arcade tele-phone was out of order, at the time, but this must have been untrue, as messages were sent through it to the Head Station on the following day and subsequently. Nothing in the meantime had been done to it by the Post-Office authorities. That telephone is used every night by the fireman who goes on duty. Had we been called before of course we should have been at the fire before. We rely to some extent on the public to assist us in these matters. We are always in readiness, and the utmost is done to answer a call in the shortest possible time. We have permanent men about the station, and not more than one man is allowed away on leave at the same time, and without the assistance of the public we cannot be expected to attend on fires. The public must recollect that fire-men do not patrol the streets watching for fires. From the time we receive a call we can leave in thirty or fifty seconds. The brigade were hissed and hooted when we arrived at the scene because we were late ; but whose fault was it that we were ten minutes after the fire broke out? Not ours, decidedly. There was no cause for the way in which the public received us, and all the firemen and myself were very much hurt at our reception. Of course the crowd of people were unaware of the cause of our being late in arriving. I was at the Head Station when the Waymouth-street Brigade telephoned, and attended the fire as soon as possible with the Head Station Reel. On arrival No. 2 Reel was getting to work, and No. 1 was not long behind. No. 3 Brigade was also soon on the spot. Messrs. Primrose & Co.'s reel was at work from the beginning. This reel was playing at the back to prevent the fire approaching the brewery. The brigade hose waa laid through their premises to work on the back part of the fire. The cause of the rapid falling of the walls is, in my opinion, owing to the very shoddy buildings that are being erected at the pre-sent time under the existing Building Act, and when attacked by fire become nothing short of mantraps. These buildings seemed to be of that description. Where the two men were struck there was no fire at all. They were killed in Mr. Cunningham's shop, which was not alight in front. A hose had been run into the shop to cut off the fire which was making its way at the back from extending to Mr. Cunningham's other establishment. When we arrived in Rundle-street we had as full a pressure as we could expect, but during the summer months the pressure is not sufficient to play on a fire until the water is localized by the turncocks, which process occupies from half an hour to three-quarters of an hour. While referring to this, perhaps I may as well add that it is considered necessary that a steam-engine for casting water should be provided. I gave my opinion on this subject last year I think, and I consider that such an engine should be procured for the protection of the city. Very high buildings are now being erected, and with our present means of conveying water a great deal of time must elapse until sufficient pressure is given to us by the turncock to reach the upper

stories of these buildings. If we had a steam-engine we could throw water almost immediately after arrival on any of the buildings in Adelaide — in fact, within eight minutes after leaving our stations, i.e., the time taken up for raising 100 lb. of steam, the quantity required to work the engine. At the time of the falling of the walls on the two firemen I was engaged getting lines of hose to work from Grenfell-street and Gawler-place, and was not acquainted of the accident until Clark had been dragged out from the debris. The fire was under control at 11 o'clock, but it was not until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning that I was able to knock off the water and muster all the firemen in front of the Academy and find out if any were missing. Immediately it was ascertained that a man was missing. I engaged six labourers to search for Gardner, but owing to the dangerous condition of the overhanging walls I knocked the men off in three-quarters of an hour, feeling that I could not endanger six lives in searching for the remains of one who must have been dead many hours. There was a great outcry from the public to search for the missing man, and volunteers were freely offered to continue the search, but I could not take the responsibility of allowing them to do so. I speak in very high terms of the prompt attendance of the volunteer brigades (St. Peters, Nor-wood, and Hindmarsh) and of the manner in which they worked at the fire. The willing-ness and eagerness they displayed was really more than could be expected. This of course applies to all the firemen. I also received the greatest possible assistance from the strong body of police who kept the crowd back. I believe the Hydraulic Engineer was present, and other heads of that department. The turncocks worked hard to give a full pressure of water, and all whose duty it was to help in subduing the flames worked in a smart and creditable manner. I was not able to give the brigade rest between 7.45 p.m., when we arrived, and midnight, when all the firemen were sent home, and three members of the St. Peters Brigade were left in charge."

MR. CUNNINGHAM'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Cunningham said — We were very busy in the shop when all at once an alarm of fire was given. I rushed out of the place, and saw it was next door in. Mr. Castle's window. All the customers in the shop rushed out immediately. I saw the fire had got a good hold, and I at once got cabs and brought away all my books. Then the assistants and a number of volunteers set to work to save all the stock they could. We saved a lot of jewellery and fancy goods. We all worked till the roof of the second shop fell in. When that occurred we rushed out, and narrowly escaped an accident in the crush. We crowded to the side door, leading to a gate opening on James-place, and the door being small, and there being so many of us, we got jammed. However, we got out safely. A few of the girls became hysterical, but they were soon all right. The stock I value at £50,000. The stock and office fixings at the last stock taking four years ago were worth about this amount. During the last month or six weeks we have received shipments of goods by the Austral, Hankow, and Liguria. The insurances amount to £23,500. Unfortunately through false economy I allowed £5,000 to run out a month ago. The land and buildings belong to the estate of the late T. G. Waterhouse, and I have about fifteen years' lease to run at least. I have been on these premises about thirty years, and I have never had a fire before, although I have had several narrow escapes notably from the fires at the Academy. Immediately the alarm of fire was given the small quantity of fireworks which the Corporation allows

us to keep was removed. The explosion heard was caused by three or four packets of crackers which were left behind. The fireworks removed were kept in a safe. All my books were saved. I am a very large loser, many seasonable goods having been destroyed.

MR. CASTLE'S STATEMENT.

Mr. B. C. Castle, who was, naturally enough, labouring under strong excitement—misfortune having fast followed misfortune — was on Christmas morning spoken to by a member of our staff. He said he could not possibly estimate his loss without seeing his books. He was not covered by insurance. He added—"After the fire began, I called out for some of my men, to save the books, but later on I was informed that they had been taken to the safe. I do not know that they are saved. I have been told that the safe door was left unlocked. It is impossible to get at the stock ; it is under the debris. For all practical purposes my stock is absolutely destroyed."

OTHER STATEMENTS.

Mr. H. Hudd, an assistant at Mr. Cunningham's, says:—"When we knew of the fire we cleared some shelves, of gold lace. These we carried out and placed in a cab with a few pieces of plated ware. Whilst we were doing that in the new shop, which is on the further side from Castle's, part of the old roof fell in near us on the top of the cases of plated goods, and we had to leave the place. We saved some books and other goods, which were taken to Ferror's Hotel and afterwards carried away in cabs. We threw half a dozen buckets of water over our place as the fire reached it, but nothing was of any avail. A strong wind was blowing from the south, and the premises were soon completely gutted. Our stock consisted mostly of toys and fancy work, which, of course, was consumed very quickly. We expected to do a large business on Christ-mas Eve, and lots of customers were coming in up to the time when the fire began. I was in the hardware department with two other male assistants. In the fancy, department there were eight young ladies. Besides these, we had the accountant, storeman, and three boys on the premises." Lance-corporal Quirke, after describing the starting of the fire, says:—"The hose went to work as soon as possible, but the fire had got so much headway that there was no chance of saving the goods. Most of the assistants — all the men — were working hard to put out the fire, but some of the females were in a terrible state of fright, and were got out by the back way as speedily as possible. Mr. Castle was present and did all he could to assist, but the flames had such a hold on all that light easily burning stuff that it was through the place in no time. The heat was terrific .We broke a window and put in a hose, but the fire had a terrible hold then. The hose was put playing on the front shop, but the fire went right through the building and soon had a hold of the Academy. It seemed to catch in the front, and after that it went very rapidly right through." Constable W. O'Brien, speaking of the scene, following the outbreak, says :—"We managed to get the female assistants out by the back way. They were terrified almost out of their senses. It was wonderful how quickly the fire spread—the upper portion of the shop was ablaze in a moment. There was no saving anything, and in a few minutes flames were pouring out of the apertures in the side windows, endangering the adjoining buildings, and that was how the Academy caught. It

seemed to me that the Academy took no time to catch fire, for the flames ran through the shop as if it were a powder magazine, and very soon had the Academy. I assisted to rescue the female assistants in the shop, and then gave what aid I could to put out the fire. In less than ten minutes the whole of Castle's was burnt. Castle's shop on the west side of the lane was a three-story place, and it was soon gutted ; the flames went right up to the top like lightning." William Bowden, night cellarman in the employ of Messrs. Primrose & Co., said : — "I was attending to my usual duty shortly after half-past 7 on Friday night when I heard the caretaker of the Academy of Music sing out 'Fire.' I immediately got out the firm's 4-inch hose, and within two minutes I and a fellow-workman were playing on to the fire from the lane. Soon after three more of our men came, and a 2½-inch was also brought to bear on the flames. I and my companion got as near Rundle-street as we could, and began to play into the front windows of Castle's. The flames, however, got hold of the front premises almost before we had time to get a good stream on. In a short time the fire got hold of Castle's second floor, and came fiercely across the north end of the lane. Our two hoses continued playing, but despite our exertion the flames caught the woodwork round the escape-door of the Academy. We did our best to prevent them spreading from there, but they had meanwhile got into the back of Castle's, and coming across the south end of the lane drove us back into our yard. Of course, it was no use pouring the water on here, and I took my men by means of the lane between Cunningham's and Castle's back premises on to the main roof of our place. We continued to play on to the fire in the back of Castle's, and afterwards into the back of Cunningham's, at the same time looking after our own premises. My men worked splendidly, and saved our place. During the evening we were rendered valuable assistance by several men, including a seaman from the Protector." Mr. W. B. Sawers, of the firm of Primrose and Co., corroborated the statement made by their employé (Bowden) as to the initiatory steps taken to subdue the fire, and also with Bowden's theory as to the way in which, against the wind, the Academy of Music was caught. "It was," he said, "quite impossible to prevent the fire spreading in the Academy, as they could not get at it at all. The flames besides getting a hold by means of the escape door came through a window at the rear portion of the Academy, and the dressing room and the scenery-room were quickly alight. It was only a matter of a few minutes ere the whole of the Academy was ablaze. Our men were the first to play on the fire, and they did valuable service, assisted by the hose worked by Messrs. D. & W. Murray's men. As soon as they saw they could not possibly save the Academy they turned their attention to our own premises and to the rear of Castle's and Cunningham's back store. As soon as the fire started I removed all our books from my office, which is just at the rear of the Academy. When the fire started our machinery was being worked, a brew of beer being on the coolers. There being no immediate danger to our place the engines were not stopped during the progress of the fire. Our place was not touched by fire, but some damage was done by water in the cellar underneath Castle's shop. The damage, how-ever, is not very considerable, but I cannot give it exactly. We were fully insured." Mr. W. C. Dorsett, bookkeeper for Messrs. Castle & Co., stated that when the fire broke out all the books belonging to the firm were in the iron safe in the offices on the first floor, but he believed the door of the safe was open. In the excitement when the alarm was given, and in the hurry to make certain of his own life, he did not look closely at the door. He

was not, however, positively sure that the door was not locked. On Saturday morning he worked amongst the ruins for signs of the safe, but could not see any.

BURIAL OF CLARK.— ADDRESS AT THE GRAVE.

The Fire Brigades Board wished that Clark's body should be interred on Monday, but in deference to the wish of his relatives it was eventually resolved to bury it on Sunday afternoon. As this was not known until Sunday morning of course no elaborate arrangements could be made for the funeral. The cortege drew up in Tynte-street, North Adelaide, at the residence of the dead man's father, at 4 o'clock, where a large crowd had already congregated. Shortly afterwards the coffin, on which Clarke's accoutrements were placed, was carried to the hearse by Superintendent Salter and Firemen Boyce and Bowes, of the North Adelaide Reel, and Woolley and Couch from the Head Station. The procession was headed by 100 young intimate friends of deceased, besides nearly all the athletically inclined youths in North Adelaide. Then came several Sons of Temperance, a Lodge of which the deceased was a member, and the North Adelaide Band, to which also he belonged. The latter, who were assisted by a few members of the Militia Band, played the "Dead March" in "Saul" on the road to the North-road Cemetery, where the deceased was interred. Following the band in the order named were the hearse, four mourning carriages. No. 1 and No. 2 Fire Reels each driven by one man, eleven firemen on foot, a carriage containing members of the Fire Brigades Board, and thirty three vehicles containing most of the leading citizens of North Adelaide. The members of the Board present were— Messrs. W. B. Wilkinson (Secretary), C. L. Meyers, F. W. Gardiner, and E. M. Ashwin. The Chair-man, (Mr. Wentworth Cavenagh), being out of town, could not be communicated with, and consequently he was unable to be present. The same reason militated against a larger attendance of firemen. The firemen present were Superintendent Salter with three men from the Head Station, two men from No. 2 Station, the deceased's two comrades, and Captain Reid, and four men from Hindmarsh. Along the line of route there were a great number of spectators, and around the grave there was a large crowd gathered. The burial service was conducted most impressively by Arch-deacon Marryat, who said death was always solemn, but more so when it came in a sudden shape and to one so young. He was reminded by this death of Nelson's words, "England expects every man to do his duty," and the deceased had died while at his duty. There were few ways in South Australia of showing physical courage, but a fireman had opportunities. This was the first occasion on which a death had been caused by fire in the colony, and he hoped that it would be the last. He trusted that all present would ever be ready at the call to do their duty. He urged them then to put their trust in God. When the Archdeacon had concluded, B. G. W. B. W. Watkins, of the Sons of Temperance, read the burial service of that Order, and the crowd afterwards dispersed.

THE INSURANCES.

The west building of Castle's, where the fire started, was insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe for £1,000, the Colonial Mutual for £400. the London and Lancashire for £1,000, the Northern for £2,000, the New Zealand for £1,000, and the Standard for £1,000. These amounts over the stock and fixtures. On the Academy building the New Zealand Insurance Company had a policy for £4,150, but a large

portion of this was re-insured in the various offices. The stock in Castle's shop immediately under the Academy was insured in the Cornwall for £450, and in the New, Zealand for £1,000. The stock in Cunningham's front shop was insured, in the Cornwatt for £600; the Equitable, £1,000; the New Zealand, £1,600 ; the Standard, £1,000; the Sun, £1,080; the Northern, £350 ; the Hamburg, £1,000; the City of London, £1,000 ; the South British, £750; the London and Liverpool and Globe, £2,000; the Guardian, £1,500; the Imperial, £300; the Equitable of New Zealand, £500; the Victoria, £300; the Royal, £1,800; the North British, £1,000; London and Lancashire, £900; Lion, £500; National of New Zealand, £350; total on stock, £16,850. The fixtures in the front shop were insured in the Cornwall for £200; the Northern, £150; Hamburg, £50; South British, £250 ; Liverpool, London, and Globe, £500; Imperial, £200; Victoria, £200; Royal, £200; total on fixtures, £1,750. The back premises of Cunningham's shop were insured in the Northern for £500; the Hamburg for £500; the Liverpool, London, and Globe, £1,000 ; the Imperial, £120 : the Commercial Union, £180 ; the London and Lancashire, £100; and the National of New Zealand, £150 ; total, £2,300. The plateglass and verandah were insured for £80 in the Imperial and £120 in the Cornwall Union, making a total of £23,100. The S.A. Insurance Company were not interested in the fire itself, but they had a policy, of £1,000 on Cornish's stock, half of which was reinsured, and £2,600 on the building ; but according to Mr. Cornish his stock has only been slightly damaged by smoke. The Phoenix have a policy for £2,000 on Primrose's Brewery stock, and the S.A. Insurance Company have £12,600 on the building, which has not suffered any damage.

THE POLICE AND THE TRAMCAR ARRANGEMENTS.

All the available members of the Police Force were called out by Commissioner Peterswald, and some of them were stationed on both sides of Rundle-street and up the brewery and other lanes to keep order and prevent the people from incommoding the firemen. At one time the spectators on the western end of the reserved space were pressing forward unduly when suddenly a hose burst and scattered the crowd more effectually than a troop of mounted police could have done it. The alarm of the fire speedily spread to Port Adelaide and Glenelg, and a great number of people hastened thence to the city in consequence, as the most sensational rumours had gained currency, causing widespread alarm. When the police promptly after the outbreak of the fire barricaded the crowded street the Adelaide and Suburban Tramway Company were requested to arrange their traffic accordingly. Consequently the Manager made Hindmarsh-square the temporary terminus. Thence the cars going towards the suburbs from the city passed along the Pulteney-street loopline (which is maintained for use in cases of emergency), and proceeded from the York down the eastern end of Rundle-street as usual. There was, of course, some little delay in conveying the throngs of people who clambered upon the cars, but considering the circumstances the arrangements were conducted admirably. It is a small matter, of course, where such grave issues are involved, but from a spectacular point of view the long procession of tramcars, with lights of various colours, each awaiting its turn to take the loopline, was a very attractive item in the uncontrived illuminations of the night. The other traffic went on without interruption, and the North Adelaide and the southern suburban cars were crowded till late at

night with curious people anxious to get a closer view of the burning buildings. On Sunday the cars for the eastern suburbs were allowed to pass through Rundle-street as usual.

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING.

Places of amusement such as theatres seem especially liable to destruction by fire. Astley's old Amphitheatre in London was thrice burnt down, the Covent Garden, the Queens or Italian Opera-house each twice, and the Drury Lane, the Lyceum, the Olympic, and the Standard once at least. Our own theatre has escaped very well, but the Academy has been attended by nothing short of a fatality for misfortune. After it had been burnt down the first time three years ago it was rebuilt with special improvements in construction, in consequence of which it was claimed that it would be almost impossible to burn it. But shortly afterwards it was completely consumed. When its enterprising owners again covered its site with a handsome structure the assurance was published that the Academy was fireproof. We know now how sadly the experience has falsified that claim, The one vulnerable part of the building was forced. The history of the Academy is very short, but it has been a record of disaster. The lease was taken from Mr. T. G. Waterhouse for fifty years by Messrs. R. C. Castle and S. Solomon eight years ago, and it has, there-fore, forty-two years more to run. The hall was opened on June 2, 1879, when "Conrad and Lizette" was played by the Baker and Farron Company. Mr. Garnet Walch wrote a prologue, which was spoken by Mr. J. P. West. Since that night the place has been thrice burnt down, and it is a singular coincidence that its troubles have come upon it on each occasion during the period of the Christmas holidays. Superstitious people will soon begin to fear that there is something uncanny about the site, and as some one in the crowd remarked on Friday night, "It'll take a plucky man to build there again unless he makes a big fireproof safe of the place." It is understood to be unlikely that another place of amusement will be built there. The first fire at the Academy occurred in 1884. It was the early morning of January 6 when the alarm was given, and many people will have a vivid recollection of the dense crowds who then visited the city on the Sunday morning to witness the smoking ruins. The damage done was most extensive, and led to the complete renovation of the building. Not only was the upper portion of the structure gutted then, but Messrs. Albers and Frahm were particularly visited with very heavy losses. The Hudson-troupe, who were at the time appearing upon the boards, suffered greatly, none of their dresses being saved. The fire was then supposed to have started in the south-eastern portion of the structure, and it spread with such rapidity as to be quite beyond control before the reels began to play upon it. The extent of the damage was estimated at £10,000. The second fire broke out on Saturday morning, January 3, 1885, and though the loss insured was not so great by £3,000 or £4,000 as on the previous occasion, some great individual hardships were caused. A locally written panorama, "The Babes in the Wood," was being played by the Melbourne Dramatic Company, whose somewhat numerous members were thrown out of employment, and the fire consumed the dresses which they needed to follow their profession. Some of the costumes worn in the pantomime were exceedingly handsome and costly. Mr. Pollock, the lessee at that time, was a heavy loser. The Academy was rebuilt after an interval by its enterprising proprietors, Messrs. Solomon & Castle, upon the plans of Messrs. Henderson & Marryat, the

architects. At the time it was stated that all material of a combustible nature had been entirely dispensed with, and its place supplied by iron and concrete. The shops and billiard-room on the ground floor were ceiled with strong corrugated iron, supported on rolled iron girders and railway iron of the strongest description. On this a concrete floor 6 inches thick was firmly set. All stairs, passages, and other egress were of strong slate set in solid brickwork. The stage, which was very large and roomy, was separated from the auditorium by a solid brick-and-cement proscenium of classic ornamentation, while, the front part of the house was well provided with ventilation, and being nearly 8 feet higher than the old ceiling, contributed greatly to the comfort of the public. The front seats were the "patent tilting-back," from Mesars. Kanes, Chicago, U.S. The entrances to front and back seats were by a wide stairway 10 ft. 6 in. leading direct into the body of the hall, while the gallery patrons were accommodated by a separate entrance at the west side. The means of exit were especially worthy of notice, being 47 ft. 6 in. in width. The hall was reopened on June 6, 1885, by the Harry Richards Combination Company, and since then it has had a moderately good patronage.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There have been several small losers by the burning of the Academy. Amongst these are the Hindmarsh Choral Society, which was announced to appear on Monday night in the opera "Martha," and for the purpose of rehearsal on Wednesday last part of their scenery and properties, including a suite of furniture belonging to Mayfield & Sons, and a piano hired from Marshall & Son for the performance, were taken into the building, and were destroyed. Fortunately but few dresses were taken there or the loss would have been greater, and as it is the loss is a blow to the Society. The carpenter at the Academy has also lost his tools. In addition to the greater loss damage to the extent of about £200 has been done. A great deal of excitement was created when the fire was burning its fiercest by the rumour that one of the firemen, a man named Hugo, was missing and had probably fallen into the flames, but he was afterwards dis-covered at work on the roof of one of the buildings. When the fire was first discovered an attempt was made to get the Academy hose at work, but, owing to some unexplained cause, it could not be utilized until fully ten minutes had elapsed, then the west shop was blazing. As one consequence of the fire about one hundred people will be thrown out of employment just at a season when they cannot afford to be even a brief time out of work. It was a sad ending to Christmas Eve. A great multitude of people assembled in Rundle-street and the avenues to it watching the flames in their irresistible course. The fact of it being Christmas Eve, when almost every man, woman, and child in the city and suburbs resort to the principal streets, either to make purchases or see the decorations, made the concourse of people an enormous one, especially as it was in the busiest hours, viz., between 7.30 and 8 o'clock. Nevertheless, although there were so many thousands of people assembled, the crowd behaved in an orderly manner as a whole, although the excitement was great. A number of people appeared to regard the affair as a sort of carnival, and either shouted and laughed in the streets or thronged the public houses in the neighbourhood, but those were of a class not noted for discretion or sympathy. Though there were one or two fights, the police had little difficulty in keeping the crowd within bounds and away from the close vicinity of the burning buildings, so that

the firemen were not hampered to any appreciable extent. Ropes were extended across Rundle-street east and west of the blazing premises, and no one not authorized could overstep the barrier. Business was suspended within this area and for some distance beyond it, as many tradespeople put their shutters up in dread of danger from the volleys of sparks flying before the breeze, and others closed their premises because all their customers had been drawn away to the scene of the excitement. The loss of the tradespeople in the western end of the thoroughfare was of course the gain of those in the eastern. Mr. Harry St. Maur, the well-known actor, had engaged the Academy for two years beginning with January next. The idea of turning the Academy building into a coffee palace has already been suggested. James Henry Dunbar, an engine driver of Thebarton, was admitted to the Hospital on Friday night suffering from a wound on the forearm, caused by his putting his hand through Castle's window. The lacerations caused very severe hemorrhage.

CHURCH REFERENCES.

The melancholy event was made the subject of sympathetic comment in many of the Churches, and prayers were offered for the bereaved friends of the brave men who had perished. In the Anglican Cathedral at night the Bishop, sketching appropriately the life and incidents of the death of St. Stephen — it being St. Stephen's Day — referred to the fact that one of the men who had been killed whilst bravely performing his duty at the fire was once a chorister in the Cathedral.

A FIRE ENGINE FOR ADELAIDE.

Attention has frequently been called to the necessity of a steam fire-engine for Adelaide. The cost of the machine has so far stood in the way, but the experiences of Friday night will probably overweigh that consideration. We understand that there will be an opportunity of purchasing an engine in the course of a few weeks in Adelaide. It appears that Messrs. Merryweather and Co. are sending one of their Greenwich engines to Adelaide, consigned to Messrs. D. and J. Fowler, and one to Brisbane. They will be available for purchase in those cities ; but if either is not secured it will be sent to Melbourne for exhibition at the Fire Brigades' Demonstration in Melbourne next February. The cost laid down here will, we understand, be about £700.

South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Monday 27 December 1886, page 7

FUNERAL OF FIREMAN GARDNER.

The remains of the late fireman, J. Gardner, will be accorded a public funeral this morning. At 10.30 o'clock the procession will leave the head fire-reels station, Flinders street, proceeding to Rundle-street, along to King William-street, thence to Victoria-square, and then from Angas-street along Hanson-street, and thence on to the Unley-road. The re-mains of the deceased will be interred in the Mitcham Cemetery, and when the procession reaches the outside of the city bounds the funeral will assume a private form, at the wish of the relatives. The order of the procession will be as follows.—Police Band, Mounted Police, Foot Police, Hearse, Mourning Coaches, Fire Brigades, the Fire Brigades Board, Naval and Military Forces, Volunteers. Sergeant Irvin will control the procession.

STATEMENT BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE BRIGADES.

The Superintendent of Fire Brigades (Mr. H. C. Salter) on being interviewed by a representative from this office on the evening of Christmas Day made the following statement:

—"At 7.41 on Friday evening the head fire station received an intimation by telephone from the Waymouth-street station that a fire had broken out in Rundle-street. I was at the station at the time, and after ordering out the North Adelaide firemen and the Hindmarsh and Norwood Fire Brigades, at once proceeded with the reel to the conflagration, which could be plainly seen from Flinders-street at the time of our departure. As it might seem strange that news of the fire was first received from the Waymouth-street station instead of the Arcade, which was situated closer to the outbreak, and from which the earliest notice, it might have been expected, would have been received, I should like to say that a person not connected with the brigade states that he went to the telephone at the latter place to report the matter, but found it out of order, and was unable to give the warning. A peculiar circumstance connected with this is that the line was used and found all right on Thursday evening and on Saturday, although no repairs were effected to it during the interval. At the Waymouth-street station the men were sitting outside on Friday evening when they observed a light showing towards Rundle-Street. They immediately harnessed up and sent information to the head-station. As we were harnessing up in the Flinders-street yard a stranger ran up and pointed out a light, which he thought was in Hindley-street. No other call was received at either station until the reels had left. Upon arriving at the fire I found the Academy of Music and R, C. Castle and Co., and A. Cunningham's place all alight, and the fire coming through the whole of the roofs. With the exception that it spread some what more in Cunningham's the fire did not ex-tend after my arrival. Considered I had the fire in hand between 11 and 12 o'clock, and that all danger of its spreading was then at an end. Shortly after arriving on the scene, and while I was getting the lines of hose to work from Grenfell street, and a right-of way off Gawler-place, the dreadful accident which robbed poor Gardner and Clark of their lives occurred. The first intimation I had of the catastrophe was from the deputy-superintendent (Mr. Shearing), who had himself narrowly escaped the fate of the other two. It appears from Shearing's statement that he with Clark, of the North Adelaide Volunteer Fire Brigade, and Gardner, one of the permanent firemen at the head station, was getting a hose to work in Cunningham's east shop when the high wall of Castle's adjoining premises fell over and completely crushed the former building. Gardner and Clark, who had got inside the shop, were buried in the debris, while Shearing was struck with a burning beam. Immediately on hearing of the accident I proceeded to the spot, and then found that the men had uncovered Clark to the waist. The unfortunate young fellow was lying just inside the door and was screaming piteously. As soon as possible he was removed and taken to the hospital. Poor Gardner had proceeded further inside the building than his companions, and was beyond succor. I feel sure that had Castle's building been a substantial one the accident would not have happened. At first I was not certain that anyone but Clark had been buried in the debris, and the fire quickly ex-tending to that part of the building further search was rendered hopeless. At 1 o'clock in the morning, the flames there having been subdued, I employed six men to search for the missing

fireman, and in the meantime I knocked off all the hose and mustered the fire men in front of the Academy to find out who was the missing man. Prior to this I was not aware that it was Gardner who had been killed. After the men had worked hard for three quarters of an hour in the search for the unfortunate fireman I noticed that there was danger of the overhanging walls falling in, and thinking that it was undesirable to risk six men's lives in the endeavor to recover a man who must have been dead same time, ordered them to cease working until daylight. At 4 o'clock I dispatched a constable in a cab for Mr. Park, the city building surveyor. On his arrival we inspected Castle's building, and both came to the conclusion that the walls were unsafe and should be pulled down forthwith. This decision was come to in accordance with the Fire Brigade Act, a clause in which empowers a superintendent of fire brigades to take immediate steps for the demolition of dangerous walls. The city building surveyor, however, could not have ordered them to be pulled down without giving three days' notice. At the suggestion of Mr. G. T. Park I sent for J. J. Leahey, the contractor for the erection of the new building of the Bank of New South Wales, and instructed him to immediately carry out the demolition of the walls. It was not, however, until 11 o'clock on Christmas Day that search for the body of Gardner could be resumed, when I engaged eight men, who all worked with a will. The remains of the unfortunate fireman were discovered quite unrecognisable at a few minutes after noon. A shell was then procured from Messrs. Pengelly and Knabe. and the body taken to the city morgue. During Christmas morning there was a great outcry from several of the on-lookers against the search for Gardner not being carried on, but I refused to allow any one to risk their lives in the endeavor to recover the body. I have to speak in very high terms of the valuable and prompt assistance rendered by the volunteer brigades present. I remained at the fire all Friday night, and did not leave it until 3 o'clock on Christmas afternoon. There will be a public funeral of the unfortunate men, but arrangements respecting it have not yet been completed with the friends of the deceased. The deaths of Gardner and Clark have been acutely felt by all the firemen. Gardner's untimely fate is especially shocking to us at the head station, where he was a general favorite on account of his many good qualities — including willingness and undoubted bravery — and where we have always lived as one happy family. At the big stations in London the loss of a fireman does not effect to any extent the whole of his companions, but here with our limited number of firemen Gardner's demise seems like one snatched from a family circle."

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 27 December 1886, page 6

THE BRIGADES AND THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. H. C. Salter, the Superintendent of Fire Brigades, who, by-the-way, was married only the day before, made the following statement to one of our representatives:—' At 7.41 pm. on December 24 I received a call from Wymouth-street Fire Station (No. 2 Brigade) to a fire in Rundle-street. Upon turning out a large fire could be distinctly seen— in fact the flames therefrom were rising mountains high. I ordered out the North Adelaide Brigade and also the Hindmarsh and Norwood Volunteer Brigades. Upon arrival at the fire, which was some time between 7.40 p m. and 7.45 pm., I found the Academy of Music, Messrs. Castle & Co.'s premises, and one of Mr.

Cunningham's shops all well alight from top to bottom, and the flames coming through the roofs of each. I wish here to complain of the neglect of the public, or rather of those whose premises were at the time in danger, in not informing the Head Fire Brigade Station or some of the other brigades of the conflagration. - There were several telephones in the vicinity, in fact within a few yards of the fire, and not one was used. There were telephones at Messrs. Marshall and Co.'s, Birks's, Primrose's, and the Globe Hotel. It was stated that the Arcade telephone was out of order, at the time, but this must have been untrue, as messages were sent through it to the Head Station on the following day and subsequently. Nothing in the meantime had been done to it by the Post-Office authorities. That telephone is used every night by the fireman who goes on duty. Had we been called before of course we should have been at the fire before. We rely to some extent on the public to assist us in these matters. We are always in readiness, and the utmost is done to answer a call in the shortest possible time. We have permanent men about the station, and not more than one man is allowed away on leave at the same time, and without the assistance of the public we cannot be expected to attend on fires. The public must recollect that firemen do not patrol the streets watching for fires. From the time we receive a call we can leave in thirty or fifty seconds. The brigade were hissed and hooted when we arrived at the scene because we were late ; but whose fault was it that we were ten minutes after the fire broke out? Not ours, decidedly. There was no cause for the way in which the public received us, and all the firemen and myself were very much hurt at our reception. Of course the crowd of people were unaware of the cause of our being late in arriving. I was at the Head Station when the Waymouth-street Brigade telephoned, and attended the fire as soon as possible with the Head Station Reel. On arrival No. 2 Reel was getting to work, and No. 1 was not long behind. No. 3 Brigade was also soon on the spot. Messrs. Primrose & Co.'s reel was at work from the beginning. This reel was playing at the back to prevent the fire approaching the brewery. The brigade hose was laid through their premises to work on the back part of the fire. The cause of the rapid falling of the walls is, in my opinion, owing to the very shoddy buildings that are being erected at the pre-sent time under the existing Building Act, and when attacked by fire become nothing short of mantraps. These buildings seemed to be of that description. Where the two men were struck there was no fire at all. They were killed in Mr. Cunningham's shop, which was not alight in front. A hose had been run into the shop to cut off the fire which was making its way at the back from extending to Mr. Cunningham's other establishment. When we arrived in Rundle-Street we had as full a pressure as we could expect, but during the summer months the pressure is not sufficient to play on a fire until the water is localized by the turncocks, which process occupies from half an hour to three-quarters of an hour. While referring to this, perhaps I may as well add that it is considered necessary that a steam-engine for casting water should be provided. I gave my opinion on this subject last year I think, and I consider that such an engine should be procured for the protection of the city. Very high buildings are now being erected, and with our present means of conveying water a great deal of time must elapse until sufficient pressure is given to us by the turncock to reach the upper stories of these buildings. If we had a steam-engine we could throw water almost immediately after arrival on any of the buildings in Adelaide — in fact, within eight minutes after leaving our stations, i.e., the time taken up for raising 100 lb. of steam,

the quantity required to work the engine. At the time of the falling of the walls on the two firemen I was engaged getting lines of hose to work from Grenfell-street and Gawler-place, and was not acquainted of the accident until Clark had been dragged out from the debris. The fire was under control at 11 o'clock, but it was not until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning that I was able to knock off the water and muster all the firemen in front of the Academy and find out if any were missing. Immediately it was ascertained that a man was missing. I engaged six labourers to search for Gardner, but owing to the dangerous condition of the overhanging walls I knocked the men off in three-quarters of an hour, feeling that I could not endanger six lives in searching for the remains of one who most have been dead many hours. There was a great outcry from the public to search for the missing man, and volunteers were freely offered to continue the search, but I could not take the responsibility of allowing them to do so. I speak in very high terms of the prompt attendance of the volunteer brigades (St. Peters, Norwood, and Hindmarsh) and of the manner in which they worked at the fire. The willing ness and eagerness they displayed was really more than could be expected. This of course applies to all the firemen. I also received the greatest possible assistance from the strong body of police who kept the crowd back. I believe the Hydraulic Engineer was present, and other heads of that department. The turncocks worked hard to give a full pressure of water, and all whose duty it was to help in subduing the flames worked in a smart and creditable manner. I was not able to give the brigade rest between 7.45 p.m., when we arrived, and midnight, when all the firemen were sent home, and three members of the St. Peters Brigade were left in charge.'

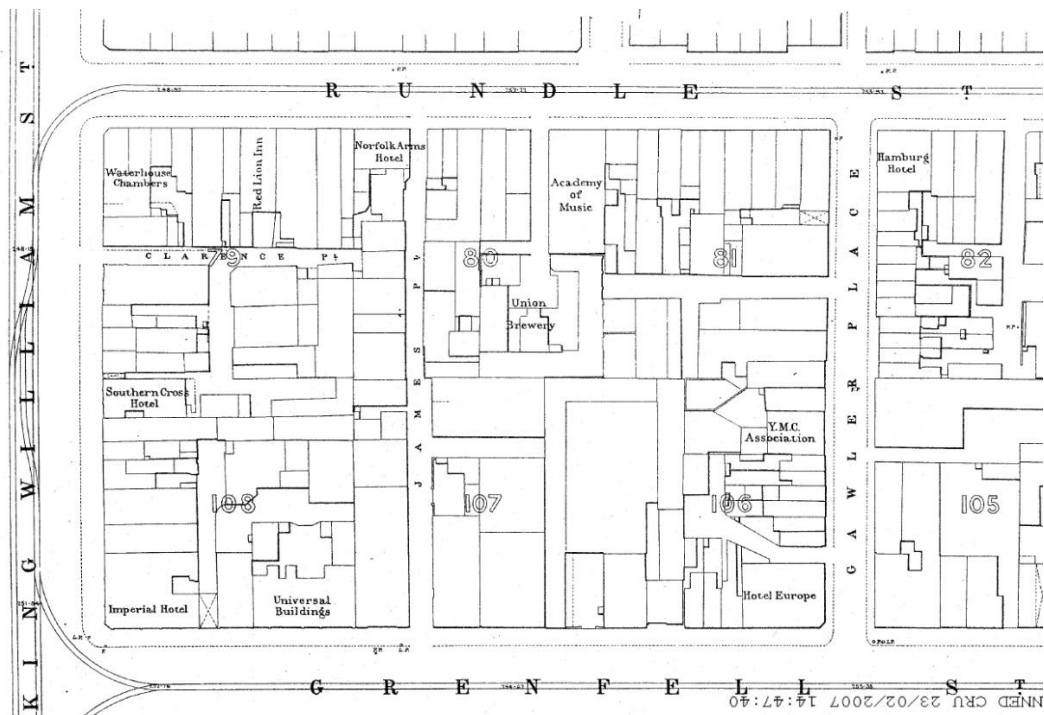
THE FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.

INQUEST ON THE BODIES.

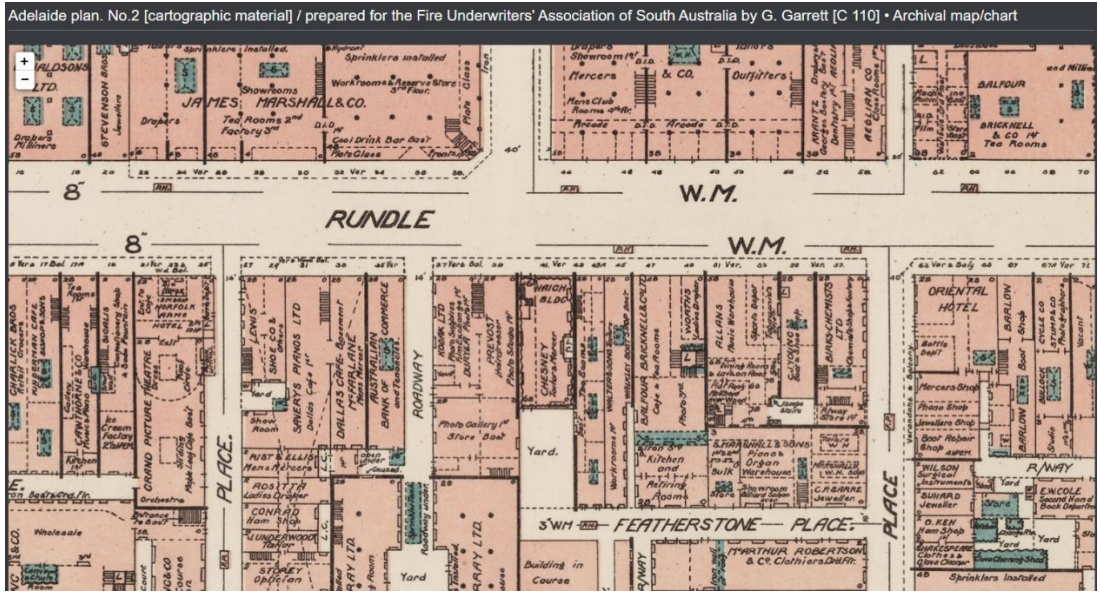
The enquiry into the cause of the death of Messrs. A. Clark and J. Gardner at the fire in Rundle-Street on Christmas Eve was resumed by the City Coroner at the Elephant and Castle Hotel on Wednesday morning. Mr. J. B. Anderson represented Messrs. Castle & Co., and Inspector Bee attended on behalf of the police. Mr. Cunningham was present. Ronald Shearing, Deputy-Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, recalled, said— I had every appliance at the fire. I had a very good supply of water, but there is not sufficient power of water at any time to reach the Academy roof. The hose was in good order, except that burnt at the fire. I think it would be an advantage to the brigade if we had two or three more men. No report of the fire reached my station. I am not aware of any report being forwarded to the Head Station with the exception of that which I sent. I think the fire had been burning twenty minutes when I arrived. It was at 7.39 p.m. when I saw the smoke, and within six minutes we were playing on the fire. By the Foreman— When I arrived the flames were reaching over to the Academy. I did not see any danger in taking the two deceased in with me. I thought I was doing my duty in going in with them. It was through the wall falling that the two men were crashed. If a proper fire-engine had been there the water could have been sent to the top of the Academy. Edward Shaw, groom at the Plough and Harrow, Rundle-Street, said— I heard the cry of fire, about a quarter past 7. When I arrived Castle's place was all afire, I was at one time in the Fire Brigade, and assisted at the fire. I saw the deceased go into Cunningham's with Shearing. They were in about two

seconds when there was a great crash. I thought Castle's wall gave way and fell through Cunningham's, where the deceased were. I saw Mr. Shearing on the footpath, and on looking round I saw the arm of a man in Cunningham's shop, which I have heard was Clark's. I heard Clark say, 'For God's sake get me out as soon as you can.' I think he was alive when he was taken out. I saw nothing at the fire relating to the actions of the brigade to find fault with. Dr. Lloyd, Senior House Surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital, said between 9 and half past 9 Clark was brought to the Hospital. He was conscious and suffering from extensive burns. I saw him several times during the night and next morning about 10 o'clock, when he was sinking fast. The post-mortem examination of the back showed that from the buttock to the head was one continuous burn. The arms were encircled in burns from the shoulders to the hands. The right leg and thigh were also encircled, and there was a burn along the back of the left thigh. The burns of the back extended over the sides of the chest and the abdomen on both sides. There was a small burn on the right cheek. The burns were not very deep. The lungs and kidneys were congested, due to the burns. The congestion of the kidneys was the immediate cause of death. Paul Phillips, draper's assistant, in the employ of Messrs. Castle & Co., said on the night of the 24th, about half-past 7, he was lighting the window. He used a stick with a brass rod and a taper at the end. The window was filled up with new materials— muslins and laces. He had to move a box of costumes about, which made a space about 15 inches by 2 feet, through which he put the taper. While lighting the jets the fire started. It was a piece of wide flounce lace which first caught. The first thing he did was to pull back the costumes blocking the small doorway, and call out that the window was on fire and for water. The fire travelled from the window right through the shop. He did not know if anybody was sent for the Fire Brigade. He knew nothing of the death of the young men. By Inspector Bee— The lace was about 2 feet below the jet. I had to reach about 9 feet to the first jet. It is my opinion that something fell from the taper, and started the fire. My taper was not near, the lace. I have been in the habit of lighting the window for two or three years. By Mr. Anderson— The wax taper was that ordinarily used for the purpose. By a Juror.— I had not finished lighting the jets. By Inspector Bee — When the gas was turned on outside all the jets in the window would be open and the gas might be escaping. There were nine or ten burners in the window. George Pank, City Building Surveyor, said Castle's building was erected before the Building Act came into operation. The height of the walls was about 40 feet, and the length 90 or 95 feet, having no cross walls to stiffen the boundary walls. There was nothing to tie the walls. The wall which fell was, in my opinion, properly built. It was 14 - inch brick work at the bottom, and 9-inch above the ceiling joist. The building was erected in accordance with the provisions of the Building Act. The beams put across the walls should be plastered over and about 8 inches by 12 inches. Henry Charles Salter (Superintendent of Fire Brigades) said— I was called to the fire at 7.41 by telephone from the Waymouth Street Fire Brigade Station. - I estimate that we were on the fire in three and a half minutes. I think that the Academy, Castle's, and the back of Cunningham's were well alight when I arrived. The other reel was there before me. At the time of the fall of Castle's wall I was getting lines of hose to work from the right-of-way off Gawler-place and from Grenfell-street. The first intimation I had was from Mr. Shearing, who met me in James place, and told me a man was buried. I ran round and saw Clark uncovered as far as the

waist. There were four or five men uncovering him, and after asking whether there were any more underneath, and receiving an uncertain answer, I continued getting lines of hose to work. At the time I left the scene of the accident I could plainly see that any further search was impossible, owing to the fire having travelled to the front, and that beyond Clark's body the whole of the debris had fallen into the cellar. Before leaving I instructed the firemen present to put the hose on that part and keep it cool. As soon as it was safe to do so I knocked off all the water and mustered the firemen in front of the Academy, and found out who was missing. I engaged six men from the bystanders with shovels to clear away the debris and try and recover Gardner's body, but owing to the dangerous state of the overhanging walls I did not like to risk six lives, and decided to discontinue the search. About 4 o'clock I sent for the City Building Surveyor. Mr. Pank and myself considered the walls unsafe, and I decided to have them down. The search was not continued till half-past 11 on Christmas morning, and at ten minutes past 3 the remains were found, and conveyed to the City Morgue. The time between the discontinuance and recommencement of the search was taken in bringing down the walls. In the summer months we can never get a good pressure until the turncocks have turned off several valves and formed a district. We had the full pressure as soon as possible. I was surprised that no call was received previous to the fire being seen by the Waymouth-street Brigade. Considering we had such a late call with twenty other firemen we could have done no more. Hitherto I have had sufficient men to keep fires within bounds. That was because we had an early call, The Postmaster General has had instructions and the work is in progress of erecting street fire alarms. The deaths were purely accidental, and the accident was uncontrollable. The Jury returned the following verdict:— 'That the deceased, Alfred Clark and John Anthony Hugh Gardner, came to their deaths through the falling of a wall on December 24, 1886, and we think that the walls were quite unsafe, and that the present Building Act should be amended.'



1880 Smiths Survey



Academy of Music - 1924 Adelaide Plan 2