

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1891

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.
(Under Acts No. 273 of 1882 and No. 288 of 1883)
Office, No 71 King William street.
Messrs. E. M. Ashwin (Chairman); H. R. Fuller, J.P.; C. L. Meyer, J.P.; S. Malin, J.P.; W. Sketheway, W. B. Wilkinson, J.P.
Secretary, Arthur Bristowe
Superintendent, Geo A. Booker

FIRE STATIONS.
Head, Flinders street, Geo A. Booker and 11 permanent firemen
O'Connell st, North Adelaide, permanent fireman

Sands and McDougall 1891

Sadler, Nathan, mattressmaker
121 Richardson, Mrs H. J.
FIRE BRIGADE STATION—Booker,
G. A, superintendent
Barlow Brothers, coachbuilders
Oliver, Henry, furniture warehse
Pulteney st

1891 Sands and McDougall Directory



Head Station in Flinders Street

Tynte st

102 Hogg, J, baker and confectioner
 106 Rendle, Nat, bootmaker
 108 Tait, Edith, poulterer
 110 FIRE BRIGADE STATION—Sinclair,
 Robt, fireman in charge
 112 Wastell, Mrs E, teacher of piano
 114 Ekers, William, tailor
 118 Dickinson, W. J, grocer

George st—

1891 Sands and McDougall Directory, O'Connell Street

901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912
882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871
860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	
837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	
816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	
792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781
769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780

North Adelaide Fire Station

Norwood Volunteer Fire Brigade, Pirie Street, R. E. Kippist, Secretary.

NORWOOD AND ST. PETERS
VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

No. 1 Station, Parade, Norwood
Horse Reel and Hand Reel.

Captain—T. S. Warman
 1st Lieutenant—J. E. Gooden
 Branchman—F. R. Steed
 Firemen—W. Tuxford, W. Thorpe, F. Fay,
 J. Quilty, H. Burmeister, R. Blundell,
 P. Little, B. W. Blundell, D. F.
 Harrison, and eight reserve men.
 Hon Secretary, R. E. Kippist, Sydenham
 road, Norwood.

KENT TOWN AND ST. PETERS.

No. 2 Hand Reel, Maid and Magpie,
Stepney

1st Lieutenant—C. F. W. Maschmedt
 Branchman—J. W. Cossey
 Firemen—A. Burford, W. J. Porter, E. P.
 Knight, L. Page, and five reserve men
 Hon Secretary, R. E. Kippist, Sydenham
 Norwood

Sands and McDougall 1891

Kent Town and St Peters Reel Station at the Maid and Magpie Hotel, Magill Road North side.



Kent Town and St Peters Fire Reel Location

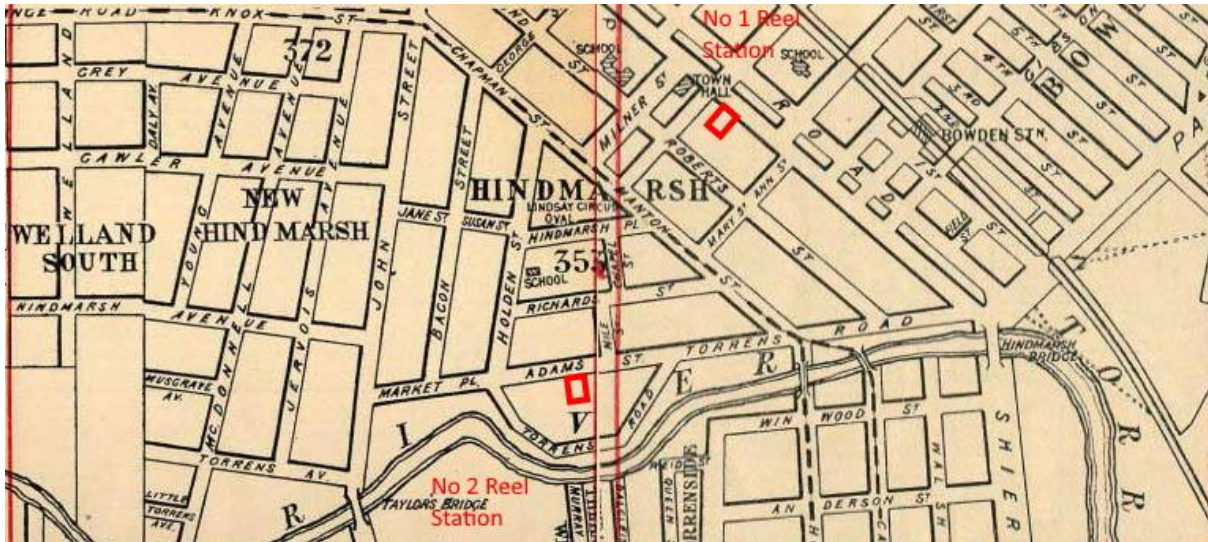
North Adelaide Fire Brigade Station. 110 Tynte Street with Robert Sinclair, Fireman in charge.

Port Adelaide, Robe Street, behind Nile Street and St Vincent Street, East side.



Glenelg, Rodolph Terrace, next to the Terminus Hotel (corner of Rodolph and Jetty Road) East side. Rodolph Terrace became Gordon Street with James Liddle as Superintendent.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade



Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Station locations

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade No 1 Reel next to the Land of Promise Hotel, Port Road with James Duncan as Captain.



State Library of South Australia - Fire Brigade, Hindmarsh [B 35262], Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade with a fire hose reel. Approximately 1890. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Ann st—
Simons, Robert, galvanized
ironworker
Wood, Mrs
Shearing, James, tinsmith,
plumber and ironworker
Weighbrdg—Shearing, James
Jarrett, T. E, steam chaff
mills & wood & coal yard
Jarrett, T. E, chaff merchant
CONGREGATIONAL LECTURE
HALL AND SCHOOLROOM
Lady Daly hotel—Linn, Robert
Bermingham, John, bootmaker
Tremellen, William J, fruiterer
Chilman, John H, tailor
Durnell, Thomas G, general store
BANK OF ADELAIDE—Linder, J, mangr
Snook, George, saddler & harnessmkr
Smith, H, and Son, furnishing iron-
mongers and provision merchants
Gould, John, draper, &c
Macklin, G. J, bootmaker—Carte r,
George Levi, manager
Pierce, J. H, butcher
Mitton, J. E, grocer and teadealer
Ritson, W. W. and Co, drapers
HINDMARSH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE,
No 1 STATION—Duncan, J, captain
Land of Promise hotel—Hosie, Alex
Coombe, E. H. S, chemist & druggist
Arthur, Henry, fruiterer & agent for
Hardy's wines
Brewery lane
Ralph, Alfred W, baker, grocer| and
confectioner
Parker, G. A, chemist and druggist
NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA—
Smith, James A, manager
HINDMARSH INSTITUTE—Moody, Tom
J, hon sec
HINDMARSH CHORAL SOCIETY—Beetson,
J. S, sec
CORPORATION OFFICES — Tait, John,
town clerk and surveyor ; Bishop,
T. J, collector of rates, sanitary
inspector and registrar of dogs
Milner st

1891 Fire Station - Hindmarsh - Port Road, Sands and McDougall Directory 1891

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade, No 2 Reel in Adam Street, Hindmarsh

Adam st—S side
*Left-hand side in continuation of
Torrens st*
Howson, J, carter
Gubbins, James, beamsman
Adcock, Mrs
Thulburn, William, currier
FIRE REEL, No 2—HINDMARSH VOLUN-
TEER FIRE BRIGADE
Wharton, A, blacksmith & coachbldr
Smytherman, S, and Son, fireproof
safemakers
Champion, Francis Henry
APPOLO SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS—
Burford, W. H, & Sons
Wilcox, Geo, skindrying yards
Burnell, Geo, & Co, woolscourers
Peacock & Son, woolscourers
Holden st

1891 Fire Station - Hindmarsh - Adam Street, Sands and McDougall Directory 1891

Norwood. The Parade, North side next to the Town Hall (Corner of The Parade and George Street)

Glanville, Carlisle Street West side, Fire Reel Station 11 with Hy Knowles, Turncock at the Waterworks in charge. Between Mellor Road and Victoria Street. South of the Aerated Water Factory of James T Stephens, corner of Mellor Road and Carlisle Street.



1891 Fire Station - Glanville - Carlisle Street

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 9 January 1891, page 6

FIRE IN THE CITY.

MESSRS HARPER & CO'S PREMISES BURNT.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

18 April 2026

PROMPT ATTENDANCE OF THE BRIGADE.

While the chief cities in the other colonies have recently been visited by fires which have destroyed valuable property, and jeopardised more valuable lives. Adelaide has been singularly free from any extensive conflagration, the energy and promptitude of the local fire brigade having proved equal to checking the fires that have occurred in their initial stages. In a city where manufactures are carried on to the extent that they are in Adelaide, fires are bound to occur, and the smallness of the loss from this cause during many months is conclusive evidence of the efficiency of the brigade. Superintendent Booker, and his men, have had a good many calls in the course of the last twelve months but the electric alarm system, combined with the perfect discipline maintained at the Fire Brigades station, have enabled them to begin work on the flames before they had a chance to do much harm.

One of the most serious fires that has happened in Adelaide broke out on Thursday night. The damage was considerable, but the bulk of the destruction was done before the alarm was given and the firemen got fairly to work. Shortly after half-past 10 flames were observed issuing from the north western corner of the roof of the buildings, at the junction of Grenfell and Pulteney streets, which are occupied by Messrs. R. Harper & Co, coffee, spice, and oatmeal manufacturers. The front part of the premises facing Pulteney street, built of brick and stone, has but a single storey, while at the rear there is a circular tower designed for coffee roasting, and just to the north of the tower the two storey warehouse and store stood. It was from the back of this structure that the flames were first noticed, and the alarm was quickly given to the fireman in charge of the hose cart at the Arcade. He "alarmed" the head station in Flinders-street, and at once proceeded to Hindmarsh square, his arrival there being closely followed by two horse reels from the head station. At this time the whole of Messrs. Harper's store seemed wrapped in flames, and the excited crowd that speedily collected anticipated a large fire. Superintendent Booker, however, got water on to the flames from all the big mains in the neighborhood, the standpipes in Grenfell, Pulteney, and Rundle streets being all requisitioned, and as there was a good pressure of water, it was not long before there was a sensible diminution in the volume of flames pouring from the roof. As soon as the effect of the water was apparent the large galvanized iron gate leading into the yard facing the northern end of Hindmarsh-square was opened, and a hose taken through it into the store and upstairs to the first floor, where burned the heart of the fire. The whole rear of the apartment, which appeared to be stocked with coffee and spices, was ablaze, and the slates from the roof began to fall on the heads of the firemen, They would not be driven back, however, and it was not long before the cascades of water poured into the fire gradually gained the desired end, and extinguished the flames. But this was not accomplished before the whole of the contents of the western portion of the store—which was built of iron with a slate roof—had been destroyed by one or other of the elements to which they were subjected. The front portion of the warehouse was preserved, although the goods stored in it were of course completely soddened with water. The success of the firemen's efforts, and the intelligence displayed in battling with the conflagration were testified to by the preservation of half the upper floor, despite the inflammable character of the wooden partitions separating the different departments, and the preservation of the wooden pillars and beams that supported the roof.

Within ten minutes of the arrival of the firemen the adjacent shirt factory of Messrs. Wills and Co., which was threatened with destruction, was safe, and within twenty minutes the fire was practically extinguished, the lower storey of Harper's building having been

completely saved from destruction by fire, although the valuable stock in it was considerably damaged if not ruined by the water.

The fire undoubtedly originated in the back portion of the top floor, which we have been informed has lately been used for coffee roasting, the engine and furnace which provided the necessary heat for that purpose being situated on the ground floor immediately underneath. The circular tower which was formerly used for the purpose was being repaired, and it was only on Thursday that the roof was removed to allow of certain alterations being made. The cause of the fire is at present unknown, and there appears to have been no one on the premises after about a quarter-past 6 on Thursday evening. At that time Mr. Gardiner, an employé of Messrs. Harper, who lives at Prospect, left by the front door after seeing the place shut up and everything apparently safe. The only other men on the building about that time were Walter Wright, a driver in the firm's employ, and Williams, the engineer and storeman. The former says he shut the back gate at 10 minutes past 6 o'clock and left Mr. Gardiner and Williams there. When he went away there was not the least sign of fire.

THE INSURANCES.

At present it is difficult to estimate the damage, but it is expected to amount to a considerable sum. The building and contents were insured in the Commercial Union Insurance Company for £1,200, and the rest of the policies, amounting to £3,600, were divided amongst the following companies :—Standard, South Australian, Straits, Hamburg, and Commercial.

STATEMENT BY THE MANAGER.

Mr. J. J. Hemphill, the local manager for Messrs. Harper & Co., said he left his office between 5 and 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, when everything was apparently secure. He did not hear of the fire until it was over. The firm had no watchman, fortunately the fire would not hamper in any way the exportation of goods, as the commodities were all stored at their Port Adelaide house. They were very busy, and exported large quantities of tea and spices. He could not form an idea as to the origin of the fire or estimate the damage, but a large portion of their stock appeared to be uninjured, although other portions which were not burnt appeared to have suffered from heat, smoke, and water. He complimented Mr. Booker and the men under his charge for having saved so much. The stock and building were insured, and the damage was no doubt covered. He expressed a hope that the inquest would be hurried on to enable business to be proceeded with, and he was indebted to the Superintendent of Fire Brigades for promising that, although by Act of Parliament he has power to remain in possession of the premises for seven days, there will be no unnecessary delay in handing over the premises to the firm,

THE POLICE

Constable Ardill was the first policeman at the scene of the fire, and before his arrival the flames were bursting through the roof. He ran with all speed to the fireman stationed at the Arcade to give the alarm, but the latter had started for the fire before the messenger met him. Constable Ardill dispatched a messenger to the nearest fire alarm and blew his whistle to alarm other policemen on duty, and a goodly number soon put in an appearance. They managed to prevent the crowd retarding the operations of the firemen, but some larrikins wantonly interfered with the large water hydrant close by the premises, ultimately breaking

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

18 April 2026

the head off it. The greatest difficulty was experienced in checking the flow of water until the turncock, who was immediately sent for, fixed on a new head.



State Library of South Australia - Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide [PRG 631/2/1244], Corner of north side of Hindmarsh Square and west side of Pulteney Street, on November 12th, 1897. The view features the premises of Griffiths Brothers, tea, coffee and cocoa importers and merchants. Griffiths Brothers was founded in 1879. Next door is Robert Harper & Co.'s warehouse. The extreme right is 17 yards north of Hindmarsh Square. 1897. Photographer, Ernest Gall, Part of Acre 86 Collection.



State Library of South Australia - Pulteney Street near Hindmarsh Square [PRG 631/2/457], Pulteney Street, west side. Hindmarsh Square on the left and Martin Lane on the right. Photograph taken

October 1897. The prominent building on the corner of Martin Lane houses Robert Harper and Company importers of tea, coffee, rice and eastern produce. The sign above says "Oriental Mills". 1897. Photographer, Ernest Gall, Part of Acre 86 Collection.



State Library of South Australia - Hindmarsh Square, north west side [PRG 631/2/238], Hindmarsh Square, north side, October 5th 1897, right side of centre houses is 38 yards west of Pulteney Street. Businesses seen include A Walton and Company Confectioners, Pengelley and Hill carpenters, Griffiths Brothers wholesale tea, coffee and cocoa importers and merchants, and behind stands Robert Harper and Company. A glimpse of the iron paling fence protecting the Hindmarsh Square gardens can be seen. 1897. Photographer, Ernest Gall, Part of Acre 86 Collection.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 26 January 1891, page 2

Charles Oldham and George Grandison, members of the Adelaide Fire Brigade, were returning with their fire reel on Sunday afternoon from Morphett street, whither they had proceeded in response to a call, when they met with a serious accident. Rounding Light-square the horse attached to the reel stumbled and the men were thrown out. Oldham had his thigh fractured, while Grandison sustained a wound on the back of the head. The sufferers were conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 31 January 1891, page 4

A Travelling Fire.— At about 2.45 p.m. on Friday a trolley, belonging to the South Australian Plain and Fancy Box Factory, laden with cardboard boxes and tea packets, while proceeding up Rundle-street was discovered to be on fire. The fire was soon extinguished with little damage.

South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895), Saturday 14 February 1891, page 16

Amusements

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
18 April 2026

Theatre Royal.

It is intended to establish a central fire brigade station in the yard of the theatre, in which a building is being specially set apart for the purpose.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 February 1891, page 4

The Advertiser

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1891.

A fire station is to be provided by the proprietors of the Adelaide Theatre Royal, and Superintendent Booker will have a man with reel and hose constantly in attendance.



State Library of South Australia - Hindley Street, Adelaide [B 2909], Hindley Street, Adelaide, north side, in October, 1890. A group of men lean on a lamp-post in front of the Theatre Royal. Another group in top hats are about to enter through the 'Dress Circle' door, whilst a horse and buggy stand in the foreground. A billboard in front of the theatre advertises 'The Candidate', a comedy by Harry Saint Maur (in which he also starred) starting on November 4th; probably in 1886 as this production played at the Melbourne Theatre Royal in October in that year. Built in 1878, replacing a theatre built in 1868, it was eventually demolished in 1962 by Miller Anderson and Co., an Adelaide department store which erected a car park on the site. Extreme right of the photograph is 50 yards west of Gresham Street. Extreme left is 2 yards east of Peel Street. Approximately 1890. Part of Acre 48 Collection

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 9 March 1891, page 7

A BUSY TIME FOR THE FIRE BRIGADES.

FIRES IN ADELAIDE AND GLANVILLE.

Several fires were reported at the head station on Saturday night and Sunday morning, and the brigades were kept busy for a number of hours consecutively. Fortunately neither of the fires was very formidable, and the brigade is so well organised that in each case the danger was met and dealt with in the promptest manner. One of them occurred at Glanville and the others in the city.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
18 April 2026

FIRE AT MR. L. MARAUN'S

The fireman stationed at the Rundle-street Arcade notified the head station at 7 p.m. that a fire had broken out on the premises of Mr. L. Maraun, coachbuilder, Bent street, off Rundle-street. The reels were quickly on the spot, and the flames were soon got under, only a quantity of bedding which was stacked in cases having been injured. We have been unable to obtain the insurances.

FIRE AT MESSRS. J. C. GENDERS AND CO.'S.

The most important of the fires took place in Messrs. J. C. Genders & Co.'s collar factory, and was caused by lightning during the storm which raged on Saturday evening. A flash of forked lightning was seen from the fire brigade station to strike some building near Grenfell street, and at 9.27 p.m. two reels went off and found the collar factory at Messrs. J. C. Genders & Co.'s well alight. It is a galvanized iron building about 60 x 30 ft., standing on the west side of Twin street, and opposite to the large building occupied by Messrs. Genders & Co. at the corner of Grenfell street. At the back of the collar factory is the Adelaide Arcade. The factory contained between 20 and 30 tons of straw, besides a quantity of collars, tools, leather, &c., all of which are very severely damaged by the fire. To extinguish the fire was a difficult task owing to the intensely combustible contents of the factory and also because it had been set alight all over at once by the lightning. Three lines of hose were got to work, and the flames were subdued, although the straw remained a smouldering mass for a long time. Water was still poured upon it occasionally to prevent any new outbreak, and one of the firemen remained in attendance during the night. Part of the roof fell in. Owing to the hour a very large crowd assembled, and at times gave some trouble to the police by interfering with the hydrants. About 30 foot policemen and eight or nine mounted constables were quickly on the spot and kept order. The tramway service was delayed for some time by the fire. Mr. Genders is not yet able to state the amount of his loss or to what extent the property is insured.

FIRE IN FREEMAN STREET.

The brigade received a call from Freeman-street at 1.45 a.m. on Sunday, and on arrival in Grenfell street with two reels from the head station it was found that a quantity of lime in bags had become slack through the rain and had set fire to the bagging and a portion of the wood work adjoining the bags. Fortunately no further damage was done, and the brigade returned to the station.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 11 March 1891, page 4

The Proposed New Fire Brigade Station.

Purchase of Land.

The Fire Brigades Board have just completed the purchase of a piece of land on which it is proposed to erect a new station. The land, which is 85 ft. by an acre deep, is situated in Wakefield-street, on the south side, midway between Victoria-square and Pulteney-street. It will thus be seen that the site is a central one, and has the advantages of fronting a street possessing no tram rails, and which is one of the widest thoroughfares in the city. Tenders will shortly be called for the erection of the station, and the work will be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 14 May 1891, page 3

NEW FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

Some few weeks ago the plans of Mr. T. H. Smeaton for a new central fire brigade station were accepted by the board controlling that department, and in all probability tenders will be called for on Monday next. It is anticipated by Superintendent Booker that the new buildings will be ready for occupation in about four months' time. They will be situated on the south side of Wakefield-street, midway between King William and Pulteney streets, and will be fitted with all the latest appliances for extinguishing fires. It is expected that when all the arrangements in contemplation are completed Adelaide will possess one of the most suitable stations for accommodation of both officers and men in the southern hemisphere. The design is original, inasmuch as instead of being built on the ordinary pattern four or five stories high, it is being so constructed that while being less lofty it will greatly facilitate the speedy departure of the brigade upon a call being received.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 23 May 1891, page 5

NEW FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

As already announced, the Fire Brigade Board have accepted the plans of Mr. T. H. Smeaton for the new fire brigade station, which is to be erected in Wakefield-street at a cost of £3,000. Mr. Booker, the Superintendent, gave all the competing architects a rough draft of what he considered would be the best arrangement of rooms, and the one most likely to afford special facilities for a rapid turnout. Mr. Smeaton adhered to that plan as much as possible, only altering it in detail, and the result is highly creditable to Mr. Booker. It differs in principle from other fire stations inasmuch as it covers more ground than the most of them, the extra space providing accommodation for all the hands on the ground floor. This does away with any necessity for a hasty rundown stairs, or a slip down a pole, and will save several seconds when the alarm bell sounds. The centre of the building is set apart as an engineroom, where all the reels will be kept. It will be 63 ft. by 34 ft., and have a floor of deal planking. The means of exit consists of two large doors 12 ft. wide, fitted with glass panels. These gates are hung on spring hinges, which, as soon as the alarm sounds, open the gates wide. At the rear of the engineroom, which is lighted from above by large roof lights, the stables containing stalls for six horses are placed. The animals face the engines, and are so trained that when the bell rings they immediately go their place in the reel. The stables have special attention in respect to sanitation, and there are the usual fodder boxes fixed above and other necessary paraphernalia. Opening off the engine-room are the bedrooms for the single men, three on one side and four on the other. They are of a nice size and well appointed in respect to comfort. In the front of the building on one side the watchhouse is to be put, and on the other the Superintendent will have his office. The former room is to be 23 ft. by 6 ft., so that there will be plenty of wall space for all the electrical apparatus necessary for such an establishment. Behind the stables it is intended to have a large asphalt court, 73 ft. by 34 ft., which will be used for washing the reels after they have been at a fire. A right-of-way along the side of the building leads into this yard, so that the engines need not go through the station until they have been washed. A large gate connects the yard with the engineroom. As all the apparatus of the reels is made on the premises a room, 25 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft., has been set apart as a workshop. That is entered from the yard. The men having always to be on the place special attention has been paid to their wants, and there is a large recreation-room, 24 ft. by 15 ft., next to a dining-room of the same size. These two are divided by folding doors, which can be removed, throwing the two into one and making a

large room of 40 ft. by 15 ft. Large washing-room, kitchen, bath, and lavatories are provided for the single men. At the rear of the court provision is made for the married men. Five three-roomed houses, distinct from one another, are to be erected, two rooms on the ground floor and one above. Each set of apartments has its own wood and wash house. Upstairs, over the front of the station, the Superintendent has his quarters. They are very good, consisting of a well-appointed house of eight rooms, with bathrooms, pantries, and every accommodation, and having a separate entrance from the front. Speaking-tubes are laid on from the watchhouse to the Superintendent's bedroom, dining, and drawing room, and electric bells are put in every sleeping-room throughout the establishment. The Superintendent has also a special entrance from his house into the watchhouse. The building altogether is 190 ft. by 65 ft. with a right-of-way down one side, the front of the engine-room being set back 10 ft. from the building line, allowing space for the men to congregate without being on the road. The corners of the projecting wings have been rounded so as to give the reels a clear run off as soon as they leave the enginehouse. These wings form two fine bays. As the cost was only to be £3,000 little could be done in the way of ornamentation, so that advantage has been taken of the bays to give the building a neat appearance. There is to be a lookout at the top, some 52 ft. high. All through the building is plain and built of red brick with cement dressings, but as a speciality has been made of the bays, the engine-room, doors, and the porch entrance to the Superintendent's premises, the whole front will have a nice appearance.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 25 July 1891, page 4

An Alarm of Fire.

ALARM OF FIRE IN RUNDLE-STREET.—About 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon a fire was discovered in the basement of the premises occupied by Messrs. Martin Brothers, Burlington House, city. At that hour the establishment is usually well filled with customers, and Friday being a bright day there was an unwonted number of ladies shopping in various parts of the building. Suddenly a strong smell of fire was noticed, and an alarm was raised. Dense volumes of smoke were seen issuing from the basement staircase, and a serious conflagration appeared imminent. The various workrooms on the premises speedily poured forth their occupants, numbering between seventy and eighty girls ; customers and female assistants hurried to the front of the premises, whilst the males of the establishment speedily made their way to the scene of the conflagration. Here it was found that a considerable quantity of ornamental drapery which embellished the ballroom had caught fire, and about 40 ft. of highly inflammable material was blazing fiercely in perilous proximity to the rafters. Soon, however, a dozen pairs of willing hands had torn down the blazing decorations, which were quickly trodden out, and within five minutes of the first alarm the fire had been got under control. Meanwhile the Fire Brigade had been summoned, and were quickly on the scene with the hose. Several firemen descended into the basement of the establishment to convince themselves that all danger was over, and during their temporary absence in the building a meddling person amongst the crowd of spectators who had followed the reels turned on the main, and before the fact was discovered the rear portion of the basement had been flooded. We understand, however, that no damage was done by water, the basement fortunately being comparatively clear at the time. The extent of the damage caused by the fire is understood to be comparatively trifling, although at the outset there appeared to be very little prospect of averting a disastrous fire.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 8 October 1891, page 3

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Some eighteen months since the Adelaide Fire Brigade Board, deeming the accommodation afforded by the present head-station insufficient for the requirements of the city, decided to build a new station more in keeping with the growth of the metropolis and the necessities of the brigade. To this end a suitable block of land was purchased in Wakefield-street, plans were prepared and approved by the corporation, and tenders called for the erection of the new building. The Government expressed their willingness to contribute their proportion of the cost of the new premises, providing the other parties to the transaction would do the same, and the various insurance companies were equally favorably disposed, but the City Corporation who were asked to subscribe in a smaller ratio than the others, have not yet seen their way clear to voting the necessary amount. In this respect the metropolitan corporation has been less liberal than the ones outside the city. Port Augusta has built a most suitable station and leased it to the board, Port Adelaide paid its proportion to the cost of alterations to the local station, and all the other corporations under the Act have contributed liberally in the matter of maintenance and establishment of local brigades. The present head-station is totally unfit for the growing requirements of the city, the accommodation both for the men and the necessary fire appliances being far too limited, while the outlet from the station is so narrow that serious accidents might occur at any moment. As the first few seconds after receiving an alarm are practically invaluable it will be seen that the brigade has to contend with great disadvantages which might entail serious loss both of life and property to the community. Of late Adelaide has been, fortunately, free from any large conflagrations, but unless the brigade advances with the times the result of this cheeseparing policy may prove most disastrous. A few years back, we notice from reports, the expenditure in maintaining the brigade was considerably over £3,000, and now we are informed that the amount must not exceed £3,000, despite the fact that the risks are heavier, and the numerical strength of the brigade has been increased. Compared with the cost of maintaining similar establishments in the other colonies, Adelaide is well off, as in Melbourne a new station is to be erected at a cost of £100,000, while the amount required for maintenance will be £23,000 per annum. In Sydney the Government purchased suitable land and erected two stations at a cost of something like £23,000, while the capital required for the new premises here is less than £5,000, of which the corporation is only asked to subscribe about £1,100. Another matter in connection with this subject is the necessity for establishing a metropolitan area, with the General Post-Office for its centre. Looking through the Fire Brigade Act we find that the metropolitan brigade can at the discretion of the superintendent proceed beyond the limit of the municipality of Adelaide to districts which do not contribute to its support. Thus in the event of a call from the suburbs the brigade might be absent, and a fire occurring in the city, which pays for protection, would be left to work its will. If the system of a metropolitan area were adopted, stations, fire alarm communications, telephone and other signal appliances could be so arranged that a number of men could be massed at any given point without materially weakening any other brigade. This, however, is a matter which can be left to the authorities; but in respect to the want of increased accommodation for the metropolitan brigade, the sooner the new premises are provided the better it will be for the safety of the citizens of Adelaide.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 28 October 1891, page 4

FIRE IN GRENFELL-STREET.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning a summons was received at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade station from the Freeman-street alarm. On arriving in the neighborhood whence the alarm proceeded a fire was observed in the basement of Ferguson & Mitchell, wholesale stationers and importers, situated in Mutual Life Assurance Buildings, Grenfell-street. The fire was soon got under control, but not before damage to the amount of £250 had been done. The insurances are £2000 in the London, Liverpool, and Globe Insurance Company. The premises were locked up at 6 p.m. on Tuesday when all was secure, but on the door being opened by Mr. A. E. Warren at 8.37 on Wednesday morning he found a case of celluloid books on fire. It is supposed that the fire originated through the packed case of celluloid books becoming ignited by spontaneous combustion.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 2 November 1891, page 2

TAMPERING WITH A FIRE ALARM

At the Adelaide Police Court this morning John Finch, an old man, was charged on the information of George Alexander Booker with tampering with a fire alarm, contrary to clause 56 of the Fire Brigades Act of 1890. Inspector Sullivan said it had latterly become the frequent practice of some people to want-only to smash the alarm. Superintendent Booker said he received a call from Hurtle-square at 6.20 p.m. on Saturday. Turned out and found that a false alarm had been given.

On account of the statements of two small boys who were standing near he followed defendant, who was walking through the square, apparently slightly under the influence of liquor. Finch said he had been drinking for two days previously, and did not know what he was doing at the time. The superintendent pointed out that defendant besides breaking the glass of the alarm had to turn a handle inside the box before he could call the brigade. In addition to the fire-brigade authorities being put to great inconvenience the mounted and foot constables had to turn out. The P.M. said that for the information of defendant and others he would read out the clause under which accused was charged. It set forth that any person who tampers or interferes with any fire alarm or other signalling apparatus, or gives a false alarm of fire shall be liable for the first offence to a penalty not exceeding £5 or seven days' imprisonment, and for any subsequent offence shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, with or without hard labor and without the option of a fine. Fined £5.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 24 November 1891, page 4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1891.

On Sunday morning at about 1.55 a fire broke out in the cellar of Mr. O. O. Menz, baker, of Wakefield-street. Superintendent Booker was quickly in attendance with a reel from the head fire brigade station, and the flames were extinguished before any serious damage was done, only an upright post being burnt.