

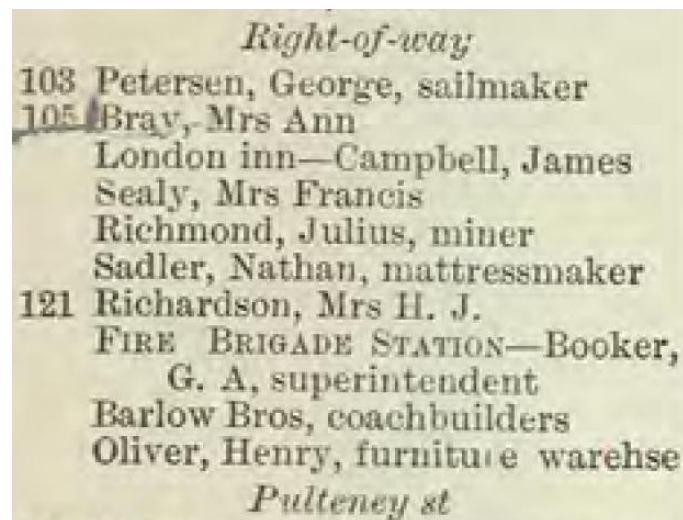
## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1892

### **Locations of Fire Reels**

Head Station: Flinders Street, next to number 121 with G. A. Booker as Superintendent



*Sands and McDougall 1892*



*Sands and McDougall 1892*

Port Pirie Fire Brigade: Herbert Fredrick Hearle, Foreman of the fire brigade in Alexander Street.

Port Adelaide Brigade is located on North Parade between Nelson and Mildred Streets on the East side of the Ship Inn.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Number 1 Station located next to the Hindmarsh Cricket Ground in Hindmarsh place, North side.

Number 2 Station with a fire reel on Ninth Street, North side on the corner of Drayton Street, North East corner.

Number 4 Station on the Port Road, city side of the Land of Promise Hotel with James Duncan as Captain.

Semaphore Brigade on Semaphore Road, South side on the West side of Young Street. A Fire Reel Station opposite the Exeter Hotel.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 1 January 1892, page 4***

The Register. Adelaide: Friday, January 1. 1892.

REVIEW OF 1891.

Fire in Freeman-street.— At about 7.20 on Thursday evening a call was received at the City Fire Brigade Station from the Free-man-street alarm. An engine and a reel were immediately dispatched, and the fire was found to be on the premises of Mr. Joseph R. Moss, upholsterer, Freeman-street, near the corner of McHenry-street. In about ten minutes the firemen, under Superintendent Booker, had extinguished the flames, the chief seat of which seemed to be in the rear portion of the work-shop. The damage consisted in the destruction of a quantity of fibre used for upholstery purposes and some cabinetmakers' tools.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 10 February 1892, page 1***

WANTED, good upstanding HORSE; must be reliable; trial wanted. Superintendent of Fire Brigades, Flinders-street.



***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 8 March 1892, page 2***

Superintendent Booker considers that the fire which occurred in Rundle-street on Sun-day afternoon was due to "the concentrated rays of the sun," and no inquest will be held. Neither the building nor the contents of Mr. Scott Barry's studio was insured. The premises occupied by Mr. Segar were insured for £1,050 in the Royal Insurance Company, but the damages were slight. The insurance on Messrs. Petherick & Co.'s establishment is unknown, but the contents were insured for £500 in the South British Company, £500 in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Company, and £1,200 in the Union Company of New Zealand.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 28 April 1892, page 3***

THE NEW FIRE BRIGADE HEAD STATION.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE.

The ceremony connected with the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Fire Brigade Head Station in Wakefield-street was satisfactory performed on Wednesday afternoon, although the weather was somewhat inclement. The members of the brigade in their neat uniforms and burnished helmets were drawn up in front of their future home, while a guard

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

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of honour from the Permanent Force, under Captain Hawker, was also present. The steam fire-engine, several of the reels, and the fire escape had been brought to the scene, and they were inspected by a large crowd, attracted no doubt by the strains of the Police Band, which was in attendance. At half-past 3 His Excellency the Governor drove up, and he was received by the Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. C. L. Meyer), the other members of the Board present being Mr. E. M. Ashwin (who with the Chairman represents the Insurance Companies), Mr. W. B. Wilkinson (representing the Government), Councillor Robertson (representing the Corporation of Adelaide), Mr. C. Tucker (Mayor of Port Adelaide) representing the Corporations under the Act within a radius of twelve miles of the city, and the Secretary (Mr. A. Bristowe.) There were also present the Chief Secretary (Hon. C. C. Kingston), the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. J. G. Jenkins), Commissioner Peterswald, Messrs. R. M. Steel, G. Boothby, and T. D. De Cean (the trustees for the Insurance Companies), T. H. Smeaton (architect), N. W. Trudgen (contractor), and many others. Mr. MEYER said—May it please your Excellency—Your Excellency has on various previous occasions evinced such a lively practical interest in the working of the Adelaide Fire Brigade that the Board had very great pleasure in asking you to continue your kindly interest by laying the foundation-stone of the new station, and they express their gratification that you have graciously consented to do so. The present occasion is eminently satisfactory to the Board, as it is the first step towards the fulfilment of a long-cherished desire to place the brigade in a position to turn out all appliances quickly whenever called upon to save property and life, and also to place the brave fellows who do battle with the much dreaded fire-fiend in comfortable quarters. (Hear, hear.) From the advanced state of the building your Excellency will observe that ample accommodation is being provided for men, horses, and appliances, and the central position of the station will enable the brigade to reach any part of the city within a very few minutes of receiving the alarm from the various callpoints distributed throughout the city. By the provisions of the Act of 1890 the expenditure of the Board within the City of Adelaide is limited to £3,000 per annum, contributed by the Insurance Companies, Government, and Corporation. The Government have expressed their willingness to contribute towards the expenses of the brigade in a liberal manner, and it is to be hoped that the Corporation will yet be able to increase their annual contribution, as the growth of the city demands further expenditure in order to attain greater efficiency. (Hear, hear.) It is an acknowledged fact that the Adelaide Fire Brigade for its size and strength bears the palm as the smartest in the colonies, and the efficiency of the alarm system is apparent in the comparatively few serious fires that have occurred since its inauguration. (Hear, hear.) With the limited resources at the disposal of the Board it was impossible to provide funds in order to improve the existing order of things out of the annual contributions. The Insurance Companies were therefore appealed to, and have provided the necessary funds for the purchase of a suitable position and erection of a building that will be ample for all requirements for some time. The cost of land already defrayed was £2,000, and the building now in course of erection will involve £3,340, and probably by the time the station is fully equipped with every electrical appliance and mechanical device for saving time, which is the main object to be attained at all outbreaks of fire, the expenditure will total up £6,000. The station will be ready for occupation about the first week in August, when we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming your Excellency and the Countess of Kintore at our "housewarming." (Hear, hear.) On occasions like the present it has been the orthodox custom to present your Excellency with a silver trowel, but a departure will, no doubt, be permitted. The watchword of the brigade is "Ready, aye ready," and the work is essentially practical in

all its phases. (Hear, hear.) The funds at the disposal of the Board are so limited that any expenditure, saving that for practical utility, cannot be defrayed. We have therefore provided a practical implement for the purpose of enabling your Excellency to perform the work. (Hear, hear, and applause) His Excellency then placed the stone in position, and declared it well and truly laid, the band playing "Australia." A document containing the names of the members of the Board, together with copies of the Fire Brigades Act, the last annual report of the Board, and Wednesday's issues of the Register and Advertiser, were placed in a tin underneath the stone. The CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. C. Kingston) said—I have very much pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his presence here today, and his participation in our proceedings of this afternoon. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that we all recognise that His Excellency is ever ready to take part in all movements for the public good, and I think that there is no room for doubt that the proceedings in which we are taking part to-day must have that effect. (Hear, hear.) I think, although I have not had very many opportunities of being brought into contact with the fire brigade of South Australia, that we have got great reason to be proud of the fire brigade we possess. (Hear, hear.) From the humblest member of the brigade to the gentleman who we were so fortunate to secure to direct its operations—I refer to Mr. Superintendent Booker—and also the members of the Fire Brigade Board, at whose instance we are present to-day, we have every reason to be satisfied. I think that in many particulars South Australia has reason to be proud of the disciplined bodies on whom she has occasion to rely. I look round me—and perhaps my humble connection with the Military Forces prevents my dwelling too much on the defenders of our hearths and homes—and see members of the Permanent Force; I think also with the members of the Police Force we have occasion to be gratified. As to the fire brigade, I consider we have got the highest reason to be pleased with the disciplined body we possess and the result of their operations. There is room for difference of opinion in many things, but published statistics furnish a good guide as to the work of the fire brigade during the period it has been under the management and control which it enjoys at present. I have the highest authority for drawing the conclusion from the amount of damage suffered as a result of fires, and which must always increase in the inverse ratio of the efficiency and discipline of the fire brigade in a locality, that the figures show conclusively that our fire brigade compares most favourably with any brigade in the colonies, or, in fact, any civilized communities. (Applause ) Less damage occurs in South Australia in proportion to the population and value of property than is the case in other countries which spend a great deal more money in the maintenance of fire brigades, (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances we should be satisfied with our fire brigade and their work, and I think the efficiency of the men is so well established that there is no more fitting undertaking in which it is possible for us to engage to-day than the celebration of the initial movement towards providing them with suitable quarters. (Hear, hear.) The quarters hitherto occupied by the brigade were only held upon temporary tenancy. To-day we see partly completed the building which I am happy to fancy will be worthy of the brigade which is intended to occupy it. It will add to their comfort, and, if it be possible, to their efficiency, although they have displayed so much in the past. Their convenience and comfort should undoubtedly be considered, and will be promoted by the proceedings this afternoon. I have great pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency for the part he has taken in to-day's ceremony. (Applause.) Mr. TUCKER seconded, and said the thanks of the Board were due to His Excellency for his presence. This was only one more of the many services he had rendered for the good and welfare of the people of South Australia. Three cheers were

given for the Governor. His EXCELLENCY in reply said—Mr. Chief Secretary, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen—I wish to return my thanks to the Fire Brigades Board for having afforded me the privilege of laying the foundation-stone of their new head station. To one who has had opportunities of witnessing the courage, the discipline, the endurance of the members of the great fire brigades in London and New York it must always come as a pleasure to be able, even in a formal way, to help forward younger brigades established for similar purposes and animated by a like spirit. (Hear, hear.) It was not long after I had reached South Australia that I was afforded an opportunity of inspecting the Metropolitan Brigade Head Station in Flinders-street, of seeing the new engine in steam, your new escape-ladder in position, with the firemen at exercise. It reminded me of similar and frequent visits paid to my old friend Sir Eyre Massey Shaw at his head-quarters in the Southwark Bridge road. I thought of the devotion, almost a blind one, with which he had inspired his men. I thought of all the evidences of jealous care with which they surrounded the case containing the battered helmets, the axes, jackets, and what not else, once the property of comrades who had lost their lives at duty's call, and I saw enough of Mr. Superintendent Booker and his men to feel sure that the same spirit and the same enthusiasm animate the brigade here. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, I carried away with me the firm conviction that in justice to the brigade, and to give to the Insurance Companies and to the householders of Adelaide due security, a new head station was urgently needed, and I was most concerned to hear that there then seemed no great probability of such being provided. Gentlemen, I rejoice that so distressing surmise is being to-day disproved. (Hear, hear.) True, the statutory limit to the funds of the Board prevented them from incurring the necessary expenditure, but what has followed? Why, this—that the Insurance Companies, instead of following a course easy of adoption, and frequently resorted to—the course of calling on the Government or Parliament for help in every possible difficulty— have submitted to the truth of the old saw that "Heaven helps those who help themselves," and have come forward and are providing the land and a new station for the use of the Board, the Board becoming, so to speak, their lessees with a twenty-one years' right-of-purchase lease, the rental to be an equitable percentage on the capital invested, and the purchase by-and-by to be at cost price. Such an arrangement must strike us all as being eminently satisfactory and as being an example of which all concerned may be proud, and hope to see more generally followed. (Applause.) Yet one more pleasant task remains for me to perform. It is to express my obligations to you for passing me a vote of thanks. I am sincerely obliged to the Chief Secretary and to the Mayor of Port Adelaide for the generous terms in which they submitted the proposal. Although much of what they said is beyond my deserts, yet they did me justice in so far as they assumed that my interest in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade is very real, and that my pleasure in knowing of their growing success is unfeigned. Mr. Booker and members of the brigade, my last words shall be to congratulate you on the near prospect of possessing a head station suited to your requirements; to assure you that I shall cherish the recollection of the honour I have enjoyed in being permitted to lay its foundation-stone; and to say that while we must all rejoice that no serious disaster has occurred at which proof could be afforded of your zeal and efficiency, yet that the knowledge that soon in their new head station the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, well manned and equipped and with an abundant water pressure, by day and night is ready, ay, ready, for any emergency, adds enormously to our security and commands our admiration. (Applause.) I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all your courtesies; I am grateful to Mr. Todd, or whoever controls the elements, for providing water to extinguish fire this afternoon without the assistance of the brigade; and I assure

you my best wishes are for the Board and the firebrigades under their control. (Loud applause.) Cheers were then given for the Queen, and the proceedings were terminated by the Police Band playing the National Anthem.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 28 April 1892, page 6***

NEW FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

Laying the Foundation-stone.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new fire brigade head station, in Wakefield-street, was performed on Wednesday afternoon by his Excellency the Governor in the presence of a large gathering. The weather did not prove very suitable, as a light rain fell, but in spite of this the proceedings passed off most successfully. The fire brigade, consisting of two reels, the engine, and the escape ladder formed a procession from their present station in Flinders-street, and the 15 men, under Superintendent Booker, together with 12 members of the Permanent Force, under Captain Hawker, constituted a guard of honor, which received Lord Kintore on his arrival at half-past 3. His Excellency was welcomed by Mr. C. L. Meyer (chairman of the Fire Brigades Board), while the other members of the board present were: — Mr. E. M. Ashwin (representing the insurance companies), Mr. W. B. Wilkinson (representing the Government), and Mr. C. Tucker (Mayor of Port Adelaide), Councillor Robertson (representing the Corporation of Adelaide), and Mr A. Bristowe (secretary). Amongst these invited to attend were the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Commissioner of Police, Messrs. R. M. Steele, George Boothby, T. D. de Cean (trustees to the investing companies), J. Langdon Bonython (chairman of the Council of the School of Mines and Industries), T. H. Smeaton (architect of the new building). N. W. Trudgen (contractor), and many others, including a number of members of suburban corporations. The Mayor of Adelaide was unable to be present. Mr. Meyer said:—May it please your Excellency—Your Excellency has on various previous occasions evinced such a lively practical interest in the working of the Adelaide Fire Brigade that the board had very great pleasure in asking you to continue your kindly interest by laying the foundation stone of the new station, and to express our gratification that you have graciously consented to do so. The present occasion is eminently satisfactory to the board, as it is the first step towards the fulfilment of a long-cherished desire to place the brigade in a position to turn out all appliances quickly whenever called upon to save property and life, and also to place the brave fellows who do battle with the much dreaded fire-fiend in comfortable quarters. (Hear, hear.) From the advanced state of the building your Excellency will observe that ample accommodation is being provided for men, horses, and appliances, and the central position of the station will enable the brigade to reach any part of the city within a very few minutes of receiving the alarm from the various call-points distributed throughout the city. By the provisions of the Act of 1890 the expenditure of the board within the city of Adelaide is limited to £3,000 per annum, contributed by the insurance companies, Government, and corporation. The Government have expressed their willingness to contribute towards the expenses of the brigade in a liberal manner, and it is to be hoped that the corporation will yet be able to increase their annual contribution, as the growth of the city demands further expenditure in order to attain greater efficiency. (Hear, hear.) It is an acknowledged fact that the Adelaide Fire Brigade for its size and strength bears the palm as the smartest in the colonies, and the efficiency of the alarm system is apparent in the comparatively few serious fires that have occurred since its inauguration. (Hear, hear.) With the limited resources at

the disposal of the board it was impossible to provide funds in order to improve the existing order of things out of the annual contributions. The insurance companies were therefore appealed to, and have provided the necessary funds for the purchase of a suitable position and erection of a building that will be ample for all requirements for some time. The cost of land already defrayed was £2,000, and the building now in course of erection will involve £3,340, and probably by the time the station is fully equipped with every electrical appliance and mechanical device for saving time, which is the main object to be attained at all outbreaks of fire, the expenditure will total up £6,000. The station will be ready for occupation about the first week in August, when we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming your Excellency and the Countess of Kintore at our "housewarming." (Hear, hear.) On occasions like the present it has been the orthodox custom to present your Excellency with a silver trowel, but a departure will, no doubt, be permitted. The watchword of the brigade is "ready, aye ready," and the work is essentially practical in all its phases. (Hear, hear.) The funds at the disposal of the board are so limited that any expenditure, saving that for practical utility, cannot be defrayed. We have therefore provided a practical implement for the purpose of enabling your Excellency to perform the work. (Applause.) His Excellency having performed the ceremony declared the stone well and truly laid. A tin containing a document giving the names of the members of the board, a copy of the Fire Brigades Act, the last annual report of the board, and Wednesday's issues of The Advertiser and Register was placed beneath the stone. The band then played "The Song of Australia." The Chief Secretary said—I have very much pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks to his Excellency the Governor for his presence here to day and his participation in our proceedings of this afternoon. I am sure that we all recognise that his Excellency is ever ready to take part in all movements for the public good, and I think that there is no room for doubt that the proceedings in which we are taking part to-day must have the effect to which I have referred. Although I have not had very many opportunities of being brought into contact with the fire brigades of South Australia I think we have great reason to be proud of the brigade we possess. From the humblest member of the brigade to the gentleman whom we were fortunate enough to secure to direct its operations—Superintendent Booker—and also the members of the board at whose instance we are now present, we have every reason to be satisfied with them. In many particulars South Australia should be proud of the disciplined bodies upon whom she has occasion to rely. (Hear, hear.) I look round me—And perhaps my humble connection with the military forces prevents me from dwelling too long on the defenders of our hearths and homes—and see members of the Permanent Force. I think also with the members of the police force we should be thoroughly satisfied. And as our attention is directed particularly to the operations of the fire brigade, I think we have the highest reason to be pleased with the disciplined body we possess and with the result of their work. There is room for difference of opinion in many things, but statistics give us a reliable guide as to the work of the brigade during the period it has been under the present management. I have the highest authority for coming to the conclusion from the amount of damage suffered as the result of fires— which must always be in the inverse ratio of the efficiency and discipline of the brigade of a locality—that the figures show conclusively that our brigade compares most favorably with any brigade in the colonies, or in fact any civilised community in the world. (Cheers.) Less damage occurs in Adelaide in proportion to the population and the value of the property than occurs in other countries that spend a great deal more in the maintenance of fire brigades. We should, therefore, be proud of our brigade and of its work. (Hear, hear.) The efficiency of the men has been so well established

that I think there is no more fitting undertaking in which it is possible for us to engage than the celebration of the initial movement towards providing suitable quarters for the men. (Hear, hear.) The quarters hitherto occupied by the brigade were only held on temporary tenancy. We see to-day, partly completed, the building which I am happy to fancy will be worthy of the brigade. (Applause.) It will add to their comfort, and, if it is possible, to their efficiency. Their convenience and comfort should certainly be considered, and I think it will be promoted by the proceedings of this afternoon. I have much pleasure in moving a hearty vote of thanks to his Excellency for the part he has taken to-day. (Cheers.) Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. He was sure the thanks of the whole of the board were due to his Excellency, and it was one more of the many services he had already tendered to the people of South Australia. (Applause.) The motion was carried by acclamation, and three hearty cheers were given for his Excellency. His Excellency in reply said:—Mr. Chief Secretary, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen—I wish to return my thanks to the Fire Brigades Board for having afforded me the privilege of laying the foundation-stone of their new head station. To one who has had opportunities of witnessing the courage, the discipline, the endurance of the members of the great fire brigades in London or New York, it must always come as a pleasure to be able, even in a formal way, to help forward younger brigades established for similar purposes and animated by a like spirit. (Hear, hear.) It was not long after I had reached South Australia that I was afforded an opportunity of inspecting the Metropolitan Brigade Head Station in Flinders-street, of seeing the new engine in steam, your new escape ladder in position, with the firemen at exercise. It reminded me of similar and frequent visits paid to my old friend Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, at his headquarters in the Southwark-bridge-road. I thought of the devotion, almost a blind one, with which he had inspired his men. I thought of all the evidences of jealous care with which they surrounded the case containing the battered helmets, the axes, jackets, and what not else, once the property of comrades who had lost their lives at duty's call, and I saw enough of Mr. Superintendent Booker and his men to feel sure that the same spirit and the same enthusiasm animate the brigade here. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, I carried away with me the firm conviction that in justice to the brigade, and to give to the insurance companies and to the householders of Adelaide due security, a new head station was urgently needed, and I was most concerned to hear that there then seemed so great probability of such being provided. Gentle men, I rejoice that so distressing a surmise is being to-day disproved. (Hear, hear.) True, the statutory limit to the funds of the board prevented them from incurring the necessary expenditure, but what has followed? Why, this—that the insurance companies, instead of following a course easy of adoption, and frequently resorted to—the course of calling on the Government or Parliament for help in every possible difficulty—have submitted to the truth of the old saw that "Heaven helps those who help themselves," and have come forward and are providing the land and a new station for the use of the board, the board becoming, so to speak, their lessees with a twenty-one years right-of-purchase lease, the rental to be an equitable percentage on the capital invested, and the purchase by-and-bye to be at cost price. Such an arrangement must strike us all as being eminently satisfactory, and as being an example of which all concerned may be proud, and hope to see more generally followed, (Applause.) Yet one more pleasant task remains for me to perform. It is to express my obligations to you for passing me a vote of thanks. I am sincerely obliged to the Chief Secretary and to the Mayor of Port Adelaide for the generous terms in which they submitted the proposal. Although much of what they said is beyond my deserts, yet they but did me justice in so far as they assumed that my interest in the Metropolitan Fire

Brigade is very real, and that my pleasure in knowing of their growing success is unfeigned. Mr. Booker and members of the brigade, my last words shall be to congratulate you on the near prospect of possessing a head station suited to your requirements; to assure you that I shall cherish the recollection of the honor I have enjoyed in being permitted to lay its foundation-stone; and to say that while we must all rejoice that no serious disaster has occurred at which proof could be afforded of your zeal and efficiency, yet that the knowledge that soon in their new head station the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, well manned and equipped and with an abundant water pressure, by day and night is ready, ay, ready for every emergency, adds enormously to our security and commands our admiration. (Applause.) I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all your courtesies; I am grateful to Mr. Todd, or whoever controls the elements, for providing water to extinguish fire this afternoon without the assistance of the brigade; and I assure you my best wishes are for the board and the fire brigades under their control. (Loud applause) Cheers were then given for the Queen, and the proceedings terminated by the Police Band playing the National Anthem.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Friday 29 April 1892, page 3***

THE NEW FIRE STATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Will you kindly correct the statement in your sub-leader crediting the Mayor with giving utterance to certain remarks concerning the erection of the new station. The statements referred to were made by the Chairman of the Board, Mr. C. L. Meyer, and they have unfortunately been misconstrued. The Insurance Companies are finding the whole of the required funds, amounting in all to nearly £6,000, and the Government and Corporation of Adelaide are not contributing one iota of the cost. His Worship the Mayor was not present on account of pressing official business. Thanking you for the sentiments expressed in the latter portion of your sub-leader,

I am, Sir, &c., ARTHUR BRISTOWE, Secretary the Fire Brigades Board, Adelaide, April 28.

***South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thursday 19 May 1892, page 4***

Fire at Mellor Brothers. — A small fire occurred at about 6.45 on Tuesday evening in a workshop of Mellor Brothers, situated in Franklin-street. It was supposed to have been caused by a spark from a steam-hammer that was working close by. A cupboard had been partially destroyed before the arrival of the brigade, which, however, extinguished the fire. The Coroner was informed, but considered an inquest unnecessary.

***Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 29 July 1892, page 3***

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

A meeting of the Fire Brigades Board was held on Friday, July 22, when there were present—Mr. C. L. Meyer (chairman), Councillor Robertson, and Messrs. H. R. Fuller, C. Tucker, W. H. Cox, E. M. Ashwin, Arthur Bristowe (secretary), and G. A. Booker (super-intendent). An apology was received from Mr. Wilkinson.

Cheques amounting to £291 3s. 3d. were passed for payment.

The secretary asked whether any form of ceremony in regard to opening the new station would be decided upon by the board, and on the motion of Mr. Robertson it was decided

that the question be considered next meeting. It was resolved that the consent of the board be obtained by the superintendent before he takes possession of the new station. It was resolved, without prejudice to the board, that the contractor be asked to make arrangements to burn coal in the fire-places of the different rooms of the new station, in order to dry the walls before occupation, the board to supply the coal.

The Chairman reported that according to the arrangement with the city surveyor a gap of about 4 or 5 ft. would be left between the two watertables opposite the new station. As this was considered dangerous he had given instructions for the gap to be filled up. The action was approved.

Scheduled tenders were placed upon the table for furnishing the single men's apartments, and it was decided that the sub-committee should at once go to the station and inspect the samples supplied. The sub-committee to have power to act.

The secretary was instructed to ask the Government whether it is their intention to continue the fire alarm at the Exhibition Building, as the board desired to move same to the north side of Hindmarsh-square.

The Under Secretary wrote on July 7 in regard to the superintendent's report of fire protection at the Yatala Labor Prison; the letter was received.

Messrs. S. Newland and T. H. Smeaton wrote on July 12 and 21 regarding drain on the new station premises. The secretary was instructed to obtain from the Government the actual position of affairs in regard to this matter, and the sub-committee, consisting of the chairman and Messrs. Robertson and Fuller, were appointed to deal with the matter after the information had been obtained.

Mr. Tucker reported that he had turned out the brigades at the Semaphore and Port Adelaide, and in each case they had responded satisfactorily to the call.

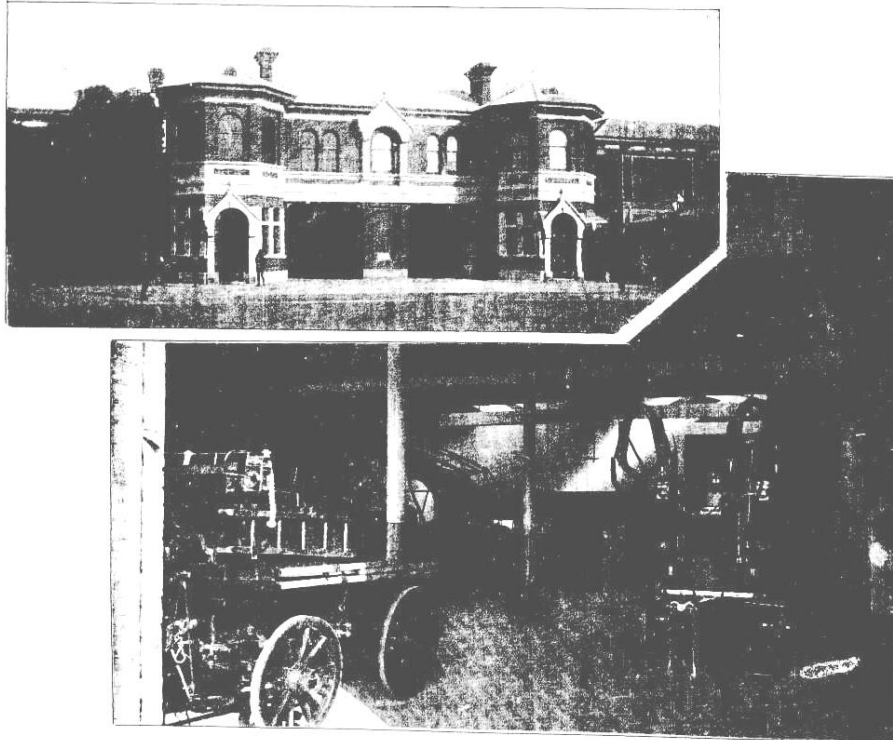
***Pictorial Australian (Adelaide, SA : 1885 - 1895), Monday 1 August 1892, page 3***

**NEW FIRE BRIGADE STATION.**

The Fire Brigade Board having accepted the plans of Mr. T. H. Smeaton for the new station, the building has been erected in Wakefield-street, at a cost of £3,600. 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 single men on the ground floor. This does away with any necessity for a hasty run down 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 engine-room, where all the reels are kept. It is 63 ft. by 34 ft., and has a floor of deal planking. The means of exit consists of two large doors 12 ft. wide. At the rear of the engine-room, 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 to their place in the reel. The stables have special attention in respect to sanitation, and there are the usual fodder boxes fitted 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 is the watch-house, and on the other the Superintendent's office. The former room is 23 ft. by 6 ft., so that there is plenty of wall space for all the electrical apparatus necessary for such an establishment. Behind the stables there is 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 engine-room. 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 16 ft. Large washing-room, kitchen, bath, and lavatories are provided for the single men. On the first floor provision is made for the married men, each man having three rooms. 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-apportioned house of eight rooms, with bath-rooms, pantries, and every accommodation, and having a separate entrance from the front. Speaking-tubes are laid on from the watch-house 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 watch-house. The premises altogether are 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 engine-house. These wings form two fine bays. As the cost was only to be £3,500, 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. 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 has a pleasing appearance. The complement of permanent hands, officers and men, is 15. There are four horses, one steam fire engine, one telescope ladder (60 ft.), three horse reels, and two hand reels. The head station is connected with electric alarms in various parts of the city, and a turnout can be made in under 10 seconds, and as a rule, any part of the city reached under two minutes .

***Pictorial Australian (Adelaide, SA : 1885 - 1895), Monday 1 August 1892, page 4***



THE NEW FIRE BRIGADE STATION, WAKEFIELD STREET.



B 13278

*State Library of South Australia - Wakefield Street [B 13278], Wakefield Street, south side, 1896. The photograph shows the interior of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station. Three horse drawn vehicles can be seen inside the building. Horse harnesses hang from the ceiling ready for a quick getaway. 1896. Photographer, Stump & Co. Part of Acre 342 Collection.*

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 15 August 1892, page 7***

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

A meeting of the Fire Brigades Board was held on Friday, August 5, when there were present— Messrs. C. L. Meyer (chairman), Councillor Robertson, Messrs. W. B. Wilkinson, E. M. Ashwin, Chas. Tucker, H. B. Fuller, and W. H. Cox, Arthur Bristowe (secretary) and Geo. A. Booker (superintendent). Accounts amounting to £204 8s. 11d. were passed for payment. A motion to the effect that it is desirable to have an opening ceremony in connection with the new head station was carried, and the chairman, Messrs. Wilkinson, Robertson, and Tucker, were appointed as a sub-committee, With power to act generally. The Secretary reported that possession of the new station had been taken on Saturday, July 30, being two days before contract time, under certain terms and conditions as contained in letters from the architect and contractor. The action taken was approved of. The sub-committee reported that the single men's apartments had been furnished, and the old furniture sent to an auction mart for disposal. The Secretary reported that the new station was covered by insurance to an amount of £3,500 for a date to be fixed. It was resolved that the sub committee have power to act in regard to furnishing the board room at the new station. F. E. Stuart, of Twickenham, England, wrote stating that the apparatus for opening the station doors will be shipped about June 29. It was resolved that fire-boats for Adelaide, Port Adelaide, and Glenelg, as specified by the superintendent, be procured.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 30 August 1892, page 6***

FIRE OFF LEIGH-STREET.

A fire which, while attended with some considerable loss of property, was soon mastered by the city brigade occurred at the rear of the Black Horse Hotel off Leigh-street, on Monday evening. The alarm was received by Superintendent Booker from the Bank-street fire-alarm at 5.50 p.m, and the reel and steam fire engine were both speedily on the spot, the flames being thoroughly subdued in under half an hour. The premises in which the fire originated were occupied by Mr. B. Cloudsdale as a brush manufactory and warehouse, and owing to the inflammable nature of the stock offered an easy hold to the flames which speedily blazed up to the height of several feet above the three-storey building. Two lines of hose, however, speedily made an impression upon their volume, and the prompt action of the brigade saved the other half of the structure, which is occupied by Mr. Hooper as a furniture warehouse, and Mr. Lehmann as a saddlery manufactory. The fire never spread beyond the dividing staircase, and not the slightest damage was done to the stock of either. The South Australian Fire Insurance Company has been paid premiums on an £800 policy, while the building belongs to the Peacock estate, for which Messrs. Ayers & Ayers are agents. A fireman remained in charge all night.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 13 September 1892, page 2***

FIRE IN HINDLEY-STREET.

Shortly after 3 o'clock this morning the fire brigade received an alarm from Hindley-street and quickly turned out. Within a very short time they had the hoses fixed opposite to the Victorian Furnishing Company's warehouse, which was in great danger of being enveloped in flames. It appears that some cases in a verandah at the back of the warehouse had caught fire, and when the brigade arrived the flames were extending very rapidly. By means,

however, of a plentiful supply of water the fire was soon suppressed, and in a few minutes all danger was over. An inquest will be held at the Coroner's office 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 14 September 1892, page 3***

#### THE FIRE AT THE VICTORIAN FURNISHING COMPANY.

##### STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES.

The efficiency of the small body of men who guard the City of Adelaide against outbreak of fire was amply tested on Tuesday morning when they turned out to the call of fire at the Victorian Furnishing Company's warehouse in Hindley-street. As 2.58 a.m. Superintendent Booker received the alarm from the Bank-street fire alarm, and he at once dispatched a reel and the steamer. Within a very short time the hoses were fixed opposite to the Victorian Furnishing Company's warehouse, which was in great danger of being enveloped in flames. Some cases in a verandah at the back of the warehouse had caught fire, and when the brigade arrived the flames were extending very rapidly. By means, however, of a plentiful supply of water the fire was soon suppressed, and in a few minutes all danger was over. Four cases of furniture were severely damaged by the fire at the rear of the shop, and the contents of the basement were slightly damaged by fire, smoke, and water. The staircase between the ground and first floors was also slightly damaged by fire. The landlord of the premises is Mr. E. Playford, who resides at Mitcham. The building is insured for £2,000, while the contents were insured in the following offices:—Sun, £500; London and Lancashire, £500; Standard, £500; Lion, £500; Atlas, £500; United, £500; and Manchester, £450; making a total of £3,450. Superintendent Booker, who seemed to feel very keenly the danger to which he and his men were exposed, stated on Tuesday evening that he made an examination of the premises, and was surprised to find a quantity of explosive matter, consisting of blasting powder, dynamite, rackarock, and cartridges lying almost side by side. Had the fire reached these explosives the result would have been very serious to property and very likely to life. Superintendent Booker said—"The Inspector of Explosives, if there is such a person, should visit places and look after the storage of explosives. I am determined to have a thorough investigation made of this affair, which reflects in a most disgraceful manner on the proper authorities, who have either neglected to do their duty or are overworked and unable to perform them." With regard to the Victorian Furnishing Company holding a licence for the storage of explosives the Superintendent said he did not know whether the Company held a licence or not, but he would at the proper time try to find out who is responsible for such a state of affair. In describing how he found the explosives he said there was a bucket and a half of blasting-powder, which was uncovered and unprotected. Upon this was some dynamite, and beside it were two cases containing rackarock and cartridges. In the shop of Mr. Hagedorn, in which direction the fire was spreading, was stored about 1,000 gallons of turpentine. A fire broke out on these premises on July 1 of this year. An inquest will be held at the Coroners office at 11 o'clock this morning.

[Wakefield Street Station opened, 87 Wakefield Street](#)

The official opening took place on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1892.

G. A. Booker was Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, Fire Brigades SA.

**South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Saturday 1 October 1892, page 6**

THE NEW FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

OPENING CEREMONY.

On Friday afternoon, in the presence of a large gathering of prominent colonists, His Worship the Mayor (Mr. F. W. Bullock) performed the opening ceremony in connection with the new Fire Brigade station. Among those present were the Chief Secretary (Hon. Dr. Cockburn), the Attorney-General (Hon. W. F. Stock), the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. A. D. Handyeide), the Minister of Education (Hon. J. H. Gordon), Sir Henry Ayers (President of the Legislative Council), Sir J. Downer, the Hons. J. V. O'Loghlin, M.L.C., S. Tomkinson, M.L.C., D. M. Charleston, M.L.C., A. A. Kirkpatrick, M.L.C., and J. Bosworth, M.L.C., the Hons. J. H. Howe, and G. C. Hawker, Messrs. Ash, Bartlett, Brooker, H. E. Downer, Giles, Gould, Grainger, Grayson, Hague, Hancock, Hopkins, Jenkins, Lamshed, McPherson, Moule, Oeman, Scherk, and Solomon, M.P.'s, Messrs. J. H. Smith (Chairman of Railway Commissioners), J. Hill (Railway Commissioner), C. Todd, C.M.G. (Postmaster-General), W. J. Peterswald (Commissioner of Police), L. H. Sholl (Under-Treasurer), J. Mann (Secretary Commissioner Public Works), G. S. Wright (Secretary to the Commissioner of Crown Lands), J. Bath (secretary to Minister of Education), C. C. Cornish (Secretary to Attorney-General) H. C. Muecke (German Consul), J. G. Russell (Commissioner of Insolvency), Messrs. W. L. Ware (Mayor of Glenelg), P. Sansom (Mayor of Semaphore), Aldermen Marshall and Willcox, Councillor Myers, Anderson, Brice, Whelan, Wells, Pullin, Ware, Johnson, Sellar (Adelaide Corporation), and P. Burden (Gawler), Messrs. C. M. Muirhead, A. J. Boase, C. Peacock, W. Hooper, H. Scott, W. G. P. Joyner, R. J. Coombs, R. J. Gully, H. P. Wilson, E. C. Clucas, G. T. Pank (Building Surveyor), E. Ashcroft, E. M. Ashwin, A. Hall, W. Mair, W. Shierlaw, E. T. Waterhouse, J. H. Phillips, B. H. Laker (Town Clerk Port Adelaide), C. M. Bagot, G. Boothby, E. J. Glyde, T. De Cean, W. Bickford, R. M. Steele, A. L. Harrold, A. Hay, G. Scarfe, W. H. Wadey, L. Scammell, T. H. Smeaton (architect), and F. Trudgen (representing the contractors). The Fire Brigades Board was represented by Messrs. C. L. Meyer (Chairman), E. M. Ashwin (representing the Insurance Companies), W. B. Wilkinson (representing the Government), W. H. Cox (Mayor of Gawler), C. Tucker (Mayor of Port Adelaide), Councillor J. Robertson (representing the Corporation of Adelaide), and Mr. A. Bristowe (Secretary). His Excellency the Governor wrote to the Secretary, expressing his regret at his being unable to be present owing to a prior engagement, and wishing the brigade every success. The Fire Brigades Boards of Melbourne and Sydney also wrote stating that they would have been very pleased to have been represented, the distance alone preventing them. The Chairman of the Board (Mr. Meyer), in welcoming the visitors, said it had long been the wish of the Fire Brigade Board to be able to have better accommodation for the fire appliances. After the passing of the Fire Brigade Act of 1890 the Board considered that they were in a position to erect the building. However, although they had power to mortgage and borrow money they could not find people who were anxious to lend them money on the security they offered. They were therefore blocked until the present Insurance Companies who contributed towards the Board offered to provide for the building and land and erect the station. The Fire Brigade Board had a lease of the station for twenty one years, paying the Insurance Company a moderate interest upon their money, the Board having covenanted to purchase the station at the end of the term. The outlay amounted to £??,000. The Board had hard work to make both ends meet, but they hoped to be able to induce the City Corporation to increase the amount they at present contributed. (Hear, hear.) If they agreed

to do that then they would only have to pay 2s. 9d., the Insurance Companies 4s. 9d., and the Government 3s. 9d. The Board considered they had a good work in the building and got as much as they possibly could for their money. They had not spent anything on outward show, but the station was replete with every mechanical and economical appliance for saving time. They were indebted to Mr. Todd for the valuable assistance he had rendered them on every occasion. (Hear, hear.) For all the electric appliances in the watchroom they were indebted to Mr. Todd and the Government electrician (Mr. Unbehaun). The reputation which the brigade had secured for turning out smartly was due in a great measure to the electric appliances, to the fire alarms, and the pillar hydrants. The brigade believed that prevention was better than cure, and although during the last two years the number of calls had equalled those during the time of the great conflagrations in the city and suburbs some years ago the reason they did not appear to be so numerous was because the brigade had turned out smartly, and coped with the fires in their incipient stage before they had made any headway. They had a very efficient officer in Superintendent Booker— (Hear, hear)— and it gave him great pleasure to testify to the efficiency and conduct of the men under the Superintendent's control. (Hear, hear.) When any country fire stations required officers they were supplied with men from the head station after those men had proved themselves efficient in their duties. Therefore the country Corporations could rest assured that their interests were well looked after. The Board proposed for a certain period to allow visitors to inspect the station on one day a week, and he was sure the visitors would receive great courtesy from Superintendent Booker and his men. The architect of the building was Mr. T. H. Smeaton, who no doubt got many of his ideas from Superintendent Booker. The formal opening of the station had been delayed on purpose to get some patent door fixings from London. They had only arrived during the last few days, and had only just been fixed. The contractor (the late Mr. N. W. Trudgen) had done his work very satisfactorily. He had much pleasure in asking His Worship the Mayor to declare the station open. (Hear, hear) The Mayor said they had met that day to celebrate one of the most important events and perform one of the most pleasing ceremonies that had occurred in the history of the City of Adelaide, the opening of the new Fire Brigade Station, which those who inspected the arrangements and appliances would admit was complete in every respect. (Hear, here. ) As to the efficiency of the staff it was almost unnecessary to speak, because again and again the perfect training of the men had been exemplified by the incredibly short space of time they, fully equipped, took to get to the scene of a fire and grapple with the devastating element. (Hear, hear.) A more noble or heroic service could not be chosen. (Hear, hear.) Often had they listened to the thrilling incidents at fires reflecting not only credit, but bringing honour and glory in in the highest sense of the words to the names and memories of those who had never flinched in performing their duty amid heat, flames, and falling buildings, nor hesitated to answer the word of command to face almost certain death— (Hear, hear)— and many had laid down their lives in the service. (Hear, hear.) Even here in Adelaide this had been the case. He had only to remind of the disastrous fire in Rundle-street, and of the memorial fountain to Gardner on the King William-road. He could not help comparing the splendid system of to-day with that which obtained thirty-five years ago, when on information being given to the police station the alarm-bell was rung to rouse the water-carters, who, if not too exhausted by their labours of the day, would harness their horses and take their carts to the Torrens to get filled. Then amid the excitement when they reached the fire if it were still burning— it generally had burned itself out— (laughter)— most of the water was spilt. Later on a fire-engine was obtained, but owing to every one at a

fire considering himself a born fireman the water generally found its way on to the crowd. But now with the well trained brigade and splendid appliances their property and lives were safe. He could not conclude without paying a tribute of praise to the Board, who in face of many difficulties had carried to so successful an issue the scheme for a perfect brigade system. At present the Government paid a third, the Insurance Companies four-ninths, and the Corporation of Adelaide two-ninths towards the maintenance of the system. The cost of the building was, he believed, about £5, 600, and of the plant between £2,000 and £3,000. The annual expenditure was about £3,000. Whether the Corporation of Adelaide would increase its contribution he could not say, but the hint the Chairman had made would be brought before the Council. (Hear, hear.) He wished to mention also the zeal and energy displayed by the Secretary, Mr. Bristowe, whose heart was in the work, and Mr. Superintendent Booker, who was an enthusiast and never more happy than when he had a big fire on his hands, excepting it be when he had succeeded in putting it out. Finally he congratulated the City of Adelaide upon having such a splendid fire station and so perfect and fully equipped fire brigade. (Cheers.) He then declared the station open amid cheering, and by pulling a rope the doors flew open. Almost immediately an alarm-bell rang, the horses were harnessed, and almost before the spectators could realize the fact one of the reels was careering down Wakefield-street. An adjournment was made to the mens recreation room, where light refreshments were provided. Mr. Steele proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor. He believed the Brigade Board would find its income insufficient to maintain its pretensions. The fact that a fire had not got beyond its incipient stages since Mr. Booker had charge was much to that gentleman's credit, but the time would come when an alarm would be given too late, and a fire would have got such control that the men would be unable to do much more than watch the destruction. There were plenty of blocks in the city in which if a fire started the Superintendent and his men would be defied. Then it would be seen, as he thought now, that the numerical strength of the brigade should be increased, and that would require a further expenditure of money. Under the present Act the Board was limited to £3,000. Even when the small rental of £75 had to be paid for the old premises a great deal of ingenuity was required to keep within the limits ; in fact, at the end of a quarter the account had been more than once overdrawn. With the increased expenditure consequent on the new station and the necessity of getting more men the Board would find itself in grave financial difficulties. (Hear, hear.) That indicated to him that there would be an urgent necessity for the repeal of the Fire Brigades Act, and although he was now not a member he thought the Board would hail with pleasure an amendment of the Act. In his opinion it should be remodelled. From whatever source the increased money was to come from, in a short time it would have to come if the city were to be properly protected against fire. The opening of the station was a matter of congratulation all round, especially to the Fire Insurance Companies. (Applause.) The Chief Secretary (Hon. Dr. Cockburn) said that on behalf of the Government, who were the second contributing parties towards the annual expenditure of the brigade, he had pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to the Mayor, who represented the third contributing party. Whether the Mayor would be able to induce those who worked with him in man-aging the civic affairs to increase their contribution or not, they could recognise that the Mayor had performed his duties that day in a way that left little to be desired. On behalf of the Government he had pleasure in ex-pressing how deeply they recognised the work being done by the brigade. The brigade worked in the very direction which above all others was especially the province of Governments— the protection of life and property. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the brigade would continue to

prosper as it had done in the past. (Hear, hear.) He was sorry to hear that the Act had been found to require so early amendment or remodelling, because it was only two or three years since a considerable amount of time, was occupied in passing it. However, he was sure if any amendment was required the Board had only to make their wishes known to the representatives in the House and to the Government, and there would only be one desire, and that was to do what they could to give every inducement and encouragement to a body of men who were so ably fulfilling their duties as were the Fire Brigades Board. The Government recognised fully the valuable work of the brigade, and were pleased to give such contributions as the funds placed at their disposal would enable them to do. On behalf of the Government and the House generally he had pleasure in seconding the motion. The sentiment was warmly received. The Mayor suitably responded. He was somewhat surprised to hear that an amendment of the Fire Brigade Act would be necessary. In conjunction with Alderman Tomkinson, who was Chairman of a Special Committee appointed to look into the Bill, they had then considered it sufficient for all requirements. (Hear, hear.) It was hardly pleasing to hear that a fire might break out which the present staff could not cope with. He hoped such a contingency would not arise, but if it did he was sure the brigade would give a good account of themselves. (Hear, hear.) Sir Henry Ayres proposed 'The Fire Brigade Board. As an old citizen he remembered when they were dependent on one Insurance Company, which like many other Companies in the olden days went, as the natives called it, 'bung.' (Laughter.) He was happy to find that at present there were numerous Companies and agencies in Adelaide. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated the Board on the splendid appliances they had for extinguishing fires, and the fine erection they had for the accommodation of the men, who had a perilous task to undertake. (Hear, hear.) In wishing success to the brigade and the Insurance Companies they were wishing success to themselves. He had always insured all the property he had, and in the course of forty-seven years he had paid a good deal to the Insurance Companies and had received very little back again, and, further, he did not want to receive anything. He hoped he would continue to insure everything he possessed, and never have to make a claim on the Companies. (Hear, hear.) The more property that was insured the lower the rate of insurance would be, and if the Companies got a larger income a bigger percentage could be paid towards the maintenance of the brigade system. (Applause.) The Chairman of the Board briefly responded. The Hon. G. C. Hawker proposed the health of Superintendent Booker and his men. It was necessary that there should be the greatest amount of enthusiasm in the work, because when once a fire got a start the men ran the risk of losing their lives, but they were perfectly willing to run that risk for the sake of preserving life and property. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that the brigade had been of enormous benefit both to the city and suburbs. (Hear, hear.) After the toast had been drunk Superintendent Booker thanked them for the way they had toasted him and him, and he could assure them that they would do their utmost to protect the life and property of the people of Adelaide so long as they had strength to do so. (Hear, hear.) Many people in Adelaide thought that the city was adequately protected against the ravages of fire. As a practical fireman he said they had not sufficient men for the city. He did not wish to create a scare, but they had block risks in the city worth a quarter of a million of money, and when once a fire fairly started it would be lost before morning. At present they had only twelve to fourteen men, and for a city of the magnitude of Adelaide the brigade was undermanned. (Hear, hear.) After inspecting the various appliances at the station the visitors left.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 4 October 1892, page 6***

## THE ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE.

## TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—it gave me great pleasure to read in this morning's Advertiser that the formal opening of the new fire brigade station took place yesterday, and that the superintendent has now such capital appliances for combating fire. I have also to thank you for the compliment to our old Volunteer Fire Brigade men who for so many years combated with marked success the destroyer, did their duty with very inferior appliances, and prevented any fire from extending beyond the four walls of the building where it originated. We of the old fire brigades who are still cumbering the earth would have felt the compliment had we been invited to attend the formal opening of the new fire brigade station, and to have inspected the new and ingenious appliances for fighting fires now supplied.

I am, &c., ARTHUR JNO. BAKER. Norwood, October 1, 1892.

***Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Saturday 10 December 1892, page 4***

## Latest News.

FIRE AT KENSINGTON.—On Thursday afternoon a fire occurred in the kitchen of a house occupied by Mr. Edward Smith, agent, of York-street, Kensington. Mrs. Smith stated that she left the house to go to the city, locking all the doors. A kerosine stove was left burn-ing in the kitchen. On her return she found the rear wall, which is of weatherboards, burnt. John Stace, of Kensington, said that he saw the weatherboards on fire. He burst open the door and extinguished the fire with buckets of water. The flames were issuing from the kerosine stove. The Coroner was informed, but will not hold an inquest.

SMALL FIRE AT FREWVILLE.—On Thursday afternoon a fence which divides the yards occupied by Mr. Arthur Clark and Mr. James Lambert situated on the Glen Osmond-road, Frewville, was destroyed by fire. A small quantity of hay was also destroyed. The outbreak is said to have originated from a fire which Mrs. Lambert had lighted in her yard for washing purposes. The Coroner was informed, but considered an inquest unnecessary.