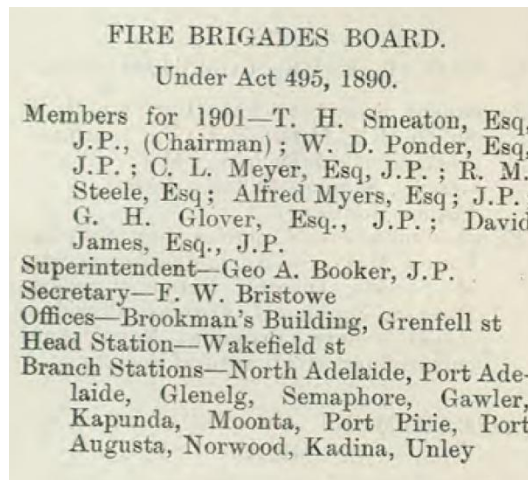


Adelaide Fire Brigade 1901

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1901



Sands and McDougall 1901

[Saturday 23rd February 1901 – Fire at Mr Mackintosh's residence, Fullarton.](#)

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 25 February 1901, page 4

At 8.30 p.m. on Saturday an alarm of fire was received at the head Fire Brigade station from the fire alarm in Young-street, Parkside. The head station and Unley reels attended and found that the fire was at the house of Mr. D. M. McIntosh, in Frew-street, Fullarton. It was confined to a small cottage, about 6 ft. from the main building, which was used as a kitchen and as a bedroom for the children. The fire burnt the door of the main building, but a party of willing helpers, who were on the scene before the firemen, caused some damage by clearing the furniture out of the house. The buildings and contents were insured.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Monday 25 February 1901, page 4

FIRE AT FULLARTON.

At half-past eight on Saturday night an alarm of fire was received at the Metropolitan Station from Unley. The call had come from Young street, whence reels from the head and Unley stations were immediately dispatched. The outbreak appeared to be located in Frew street, Fullarton, where a cottage at the rear of the house occupied by Mr. D. M. Mackintosh, and on the same property, was found to be well alight. The building was completely destroyed, only the walls being left standing. The flames also spread to Mr. Mackintosh's house, but the firemen checked their progress when only a door had been damaged. But for the prompt arrival of the brigade it is certain that the main building would have shared the same fate as the cottage. A space of only 6 ft. separated the two dwellings, which were connected by a covered passage way. Before the arrival of the firemen a party of willing helpers— in fact they proved to be too energetic— had recklessly cleared the house of its contents. Some of the furniture was needlessly damaged, and the front windows of the residence were broken. Superintendent Booker states that this is only another instance of many cases which clearly show that it is far better to leave things undisturbed until the fire men arrive. The cottage was an old one, consisting of six rooms and a pantry, built principally of wood with canvas lining, roofed with iron over shingles. The fire was caused through a curtain in a doorway blowing on to a lighted lamp and upsetting it. Mr. Macintosh found the lamp lying on the floor. A partition caught alight, and the flames spread very quickly. The residences are insured in the Batavia office for £800 and the furniture for £700. The extent of the damage to the cottage was £400, of which £200 is covered in the United office.

Wednesday 27th March 1901 – Fire at Mrs Goldman's shop, Hindley Street, Adelaide.
Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 27 March 1901, page 4

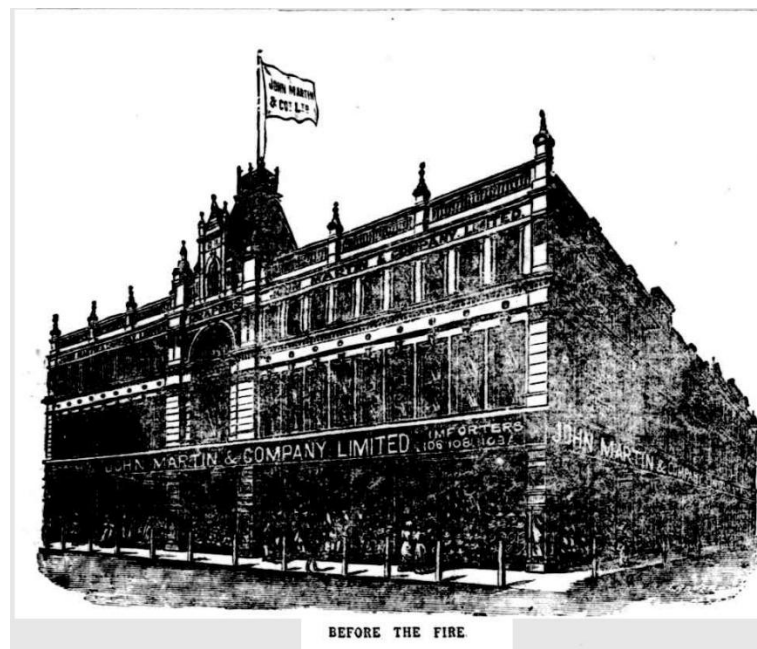
FIRE IN HINDLEY STREET.

An alarm was received at the Metropolitan Fire Station at five minutes to 2 this morning from Hindley street, and a characteristically smart response was made by superintendent Booker and his men. They found smoke issuing from the front of a shop occupied by Mrs. L. Goldman, a secondhand-clothes dealer, next door to the Royal Hotel. One line of hose was brought quickly into play, and in a few minutes the flames, which were confined to a few old garments on the floor of the shop be-hind the counter, were extinguished. Little or no damage was done.

Saturday 6th April 1901 – Fire at John Martin &Co, Rundle Street, Adelaide
Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 8 April 1901, page 6

A DISASTROUS FIRE.

PREMISES OF JOHN MARTIN & CO., LIMITED, PARTIALLY DESTROYED. BETWEEN
£75,000 AND £80,000 DAMAGE.



Since the ill-fated Academy of Music was last burnt to the ground in such tragic circumstances Adelaide has been free from extensive conflagrations in the busy thoroughfares of the city. The Fire Brigade have had several outbreaks to keep them in training, but their resources have not been taxed to the utmost for years. On Saturday, however, they had a big task, for at 11.15 a.m. a fire broke out in one of the windows of John Martin. & Co., Limited, in Rundle street; and, spreading with marvellous rapidity, took complete hold of one portion of the building, and five hours afterwards, when the largest fire in Adelaide for many years had been subdued, damage to the extent of between £75,000 and £80,000 had been done, and one side of the handsome pile of buildings had been reduced to bare walls and smouldering ruins. The enterprising firm had had the second window from the western end of their premises specially decorated for Eastertime, and in it was a striking tableau representing the "Rock of Ages"— a wax figure of a girl clinging to a cross. All the windows are lit by Wenham's burners, which are enclosed in a glass shade, and they were illuminating them on Saturday morning. The whole of the interior of the window space was draped in harmony with the figure and the cross. Muslin was hanging from the ceiling, and some of it was close to the gas shade. It was the gas light which it is believed caused the outbreak, the opinion being held that an escape of gas led to the explosion of the glass covering.

THE ALARM.

Saturday morning is always a busy one in the streets. Hundreds of people promenaded the principal thoroughfare, and naturally the window in question excited considerable attention. At the time of the bursting forth of the flames several ladies were standing in front admiring the representation so finely appropriate to the season. Few of them, however, noticed the flame dart forth. Mrs. Smith, of Fifth Creek, who was near, heard some one remark. "What a heavenly light!" She looked up. "Heavenly light!" she exclaimed. "It is a fire." It was only too true. A young lady named Miss Ethel Hannan states that she saw a jet of flame flash out from the chandelier, catch the draperies, and then all was a blaze. In a moment everything was confusion. The rear of the window was curtained with light material. It was as tinder to the flames. At once the heat cracked the window, and an inrush of wind carried the blaze into the shop. So suddenly and quietly had the fire started and spread that almost the first sound the assistants heard was the crash of the glass. The flames, lapping up the light inflammable stuffs near by, came into the shop with a roar. At the time the place was full of customers. No one thought any more of purchasing. Two women rushed from the street and called out "Fire!" but the assistants and others inside had seen it and with one accord dashed to safety. Some remembered their hats, but the majority thought more of their lives, and in a few seconds the place was deserted. "Here's your change, madam," cried a girl as she rushed with her customer through the other side. The purchaser was too intent on other things to mind that. In an incredibly short space of time assistants, hatless and some coatless, were streaming out from every door. It was well that this was so. At the lower end of the shop the people had scarcely heard the cry before they felt the heat of the flames. The employes upstairs listened with dread to the shrieks of alarm, but they realized their danger in time, fled to the staircase, and joined in the throng rushing into the street. "The fire passed down the shop like a flash," said a shopwalker, who closed the iron doors leading into the eastern portion as he went through. In half a minute from the front window to the back wall, the shop was alight. Those who have admired the beautiful gauzy drapings on the ceilings and the festoons of decorations above the counters can easily imagine how the flames ran along them and set fire to everything on both sides. From the first outbreak one side of the building was doomed. Upstairs went the flames, from the first to the second story, and then to the roof, and in about five minutes the whole of the western portion was a blazing mass. In the eastern division, separated from the western part by a substantial wall and fireproof doors, the assistants for a few moments heard nothing. Their shop-mates from the other side came rushing through. "I am afraid," said a lady buying some velveteen. "It's all right," replied the assistant, "it is only in the window and won't spread." He spoke to empty air, for the lady had fled, and he followed, leaving his hat behind him. Hours afterwards the piece of velveteen with the scissors in it was lying on the counter and the assistant was wearing a new hat. The employes, in that part were allowed more time to think than the others had had. Headed by Mr. A. D. Hayward and Mr. Macdonald, the men rushed to the iron doors on the two stories, and to the side windows, and drew the iron shutters. Their action saved one side of the building from being completely gutted. They had not much time, for when they slammed the doors the flames were beating in their faces.

SPREADING THE NEWS.

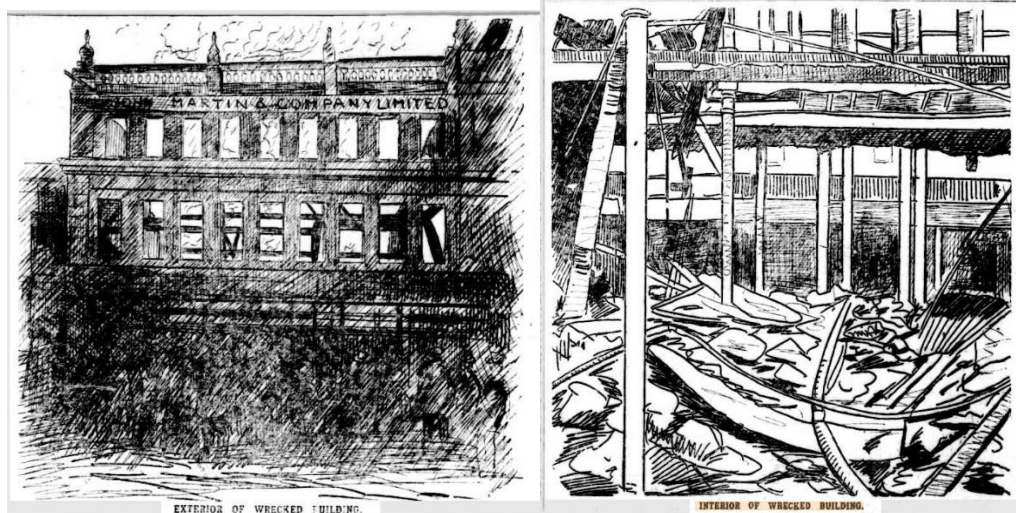
Inside the building, even in the terrible hurry to escape from the fast-spreading blaze, there was no panic. A few of the gentler sex became hysterical, but generally every one was calm and collected, if hurried. Outside there were scenes of wild excitement. Streams of affrighted assistants, nearly all the girls without hats, alarmed every one near by. The cry of "Fire" spread almost as quickly as if carried on the wings of the wind. Those in the neighbourhood flocked to the spot in hundreds, but when fierce flames and dense clouds of smoke arose high above the buildings, thousands of people rushed into Rundle street, and almost as rapidly as the flames progressed so the crowd gathered. There were thousands in the street before the brigade arrived. As soon as the first cry was raised in the shop, Mr. Macdonald, the secretary, hastened to the alarm at the corner of Charles street and rang up the brigade. It needed nothing more than the locality to tell them a fierce fight confronted them. At 11.20 the

indicator at the station signalled the call ; a few minutes afterwards reels from Adelaide, North Adelaide, and Norwood were galloping to the scene. The first steamer was there in five minutes, and the second at 11.30, and at 11.35 the whole available strength of the metropolitan brigade was at work making a desperate effort to save one side of the premises. Troopers came careering madly up from the barracks. Some had not time to put on their uniforms, and they rode to duty in nondescript attires. Constables were dispatched immediately, and by the time the firemen got to work a wide space had been cleared for them.

FIGHTING THE FLAMES.

The first water poured on the burning building was by the private fire brigade of Messrs. G. & R. Wills & Co. This band of workers, under Captain H. Kreuss. received the alarm from Mr. G. H. Lang, who was acting as watchman for Wills & Co., and was standing at the door leading into Fisher place. Mr. Lang's attention was called to Martin's premises by the rush of several girls from the back doors, and a moment later the flames burst into Fisher place. Wills & Co.'s warehousemen were assembling to learn the time for the funeral of their lamented late employer, Mr. Richard Wills, and therefore most of the members of the brigade were in attendance. Mr. J. Brown rang the alarm in Fisher place, and a big line of hose was got out. The volunteers worked manfully against overwhelming odds under the direction of their veteran captain, who was a member of the Adelaide Fire Brigade under the late Superintendent Baker when the volunteer system was in vogue. When the first water was poured on it was only too apparent that nothing could save the premises next to the King of Hanover. That hotel was separated from the fire by a wall, but at the first it looked likely to be included in the list of destroyed premises. A fairly stiff north-west wind was blowing and forcing the flames on to the bricks dividing the two shops. One engine was stationed opposite Charles street to supply the lines of hose working at the front, and the other in the cross street, to force water on from the back, and hoses were also attached to hydrants in Rundle street and North terrace. Under the personal direction of Superintendent Booker the men made a heroic struggle. At 11.30 the two stories were a blazing mass. From Rundle street the building seems to be three rooms high, but facing Rundle street this applies to the front wall only. There are three sets of windows, and out of all these flames were bursting with fury. Floors, fixtures, counters, joists, and beams blazed like shavings. High above the building rose great tongues of flame, and the wind carried clouds of dense smoke far into the sky. Never before has such a fire been seen in daylight in Adelaide. It was pain-ful to stand on the opposite side of the road, the heat was so intense. Every window was a mass of lurid flame. Inside nothing could be seen but an inferno of fire. Right from front wall to back wall there was one burning mass. It was like looking into a seething crater to stand and peer into the centre of the blaze. Tons and tons of water were poured on to the burning stuff on the ground floor, but it had no effect. There was no diminution even at the spot where the water touched. The heat turned liquid into steam in a moment, and the consuming element took charge again. High up on the ladder two men were pouring streams on the upper floor, but with no more success. That portion would have to burn out, and burn out it did. An hour sufficed to turn what was once a two-story warehouse stacked with a remarkably extensive collection of the best of goods into a heap of ruins. The joists of the upper floor soon giving way clashed on to the burning timber below, then with a loud noise the roof caved in, and with it the outside wall cracked, and a portion of the inside of the King of Han-over was wrecked. Sparks in myriads and burning material were borne aloft by the wind, and volumes of smoke darkened the rays of the sun. Efforts were directed from the start to save the eastern part of the premises. The tower was a weak spot, and the flames soon found it out. Heavy smoke poured from out of the covering, showing that the flames had got a hold in-side, and the men on the ladder directed their hoses to the spot, but their time for victory had not come. Writhing fiery serpents crept up each side, and as the water dashed one down another arose, and then there was a big burst and the whole structure was ablaze. It was a bitter fight then. The roof of the eastern portion had caught, and the part the firemen were trying to save was in deadly peril. Hoses were turned on to the blazing tower, and a quarter of an hour's desperate work gave the brigade the victory, for three-quarters of it fell in, and the flames from it were subdued. Not so, however, in the portion where the fire first

started. For an hour, brave and fearless as the firemen are and callous to heat and smoke, they could not approach closer to the burning windows than the roadway. It was an hour and a quarter before they ventured on to the footpath, and afterwards they crept in below the girders supporting the wall, and from close quarters poured tons of water on the burning debris. In an hour the fire in that portion had been got under control— only because the food for the flames had been eaten up, but the men had many a long and weary hour's work in front of them before they finally turned off the water from that spot. At the back from Fisher place hoses were also at work pouring in volumes of water with as much impression as that made by the liquid from the front.



THE EASTERN WING.

In Charles street there was a busy scene. The assistants when they found that for the time being the eastern portion, especially the rearmost building was safe, hastened back and carried out the valuable goods, from the showroom. They worked hard, and in a little while had cleared out the large room of everything except the dummy figures and the articles in the glass case. Three stories up dauntless firemen for hours stood at windows and poured down water on the burning stuff below. Casual visitors to the spot remained a moment and fled from the heat and smoke, but these men, like all their other comrades, gallantly remained and did their duty. More lively were the experiences in the front portion of the building. If the fire had once obtained a strong hold of that the whole block would have been destroyed, and Superintendent Booker early sent men in with lines of hose to guard against any outbreak. In this set of rooms were dresses, laces, silks, ribbons, haberdashery, and all sorts of dainty articles which appeal most to ladies. They would have been as a barrel of powder if the fire could have got to them, and it was only by almost super-human exertions that the fire fighters were able to prevent more damage being done. It was not long after the roof on the other side of the wall caught that the flames crept across the top of the dividing partition, and then along the beams. The roof was doomed, but how much of the stock would be saved from the fire was the question—all was spoilt by water. The fierce element gained, and burning rafters and battens began to fall, but the water was holding the upper hand. Unfortunately for that part the ceiling was lined with sea-weed, and once the flames touched it the difficulty of subduing them was increased tenfold. For hours, after it was certain that the shops at the corner of Rundle street and Charles street would not be demolished, the roof smouldered and blazed spasmodically. It was only when the whole of the roof of the division marked No. 3 in the plan had either been pulled down or burnt, that the embers were finally cooled.

THE SURROUNDING PREMISES.

For a long time after the fire started to the spectator, it seemed as if the King of Hanover Hotel would be burnt. The employes there were among the first to hear of the outbreak, and excitedly, they rushed out of the building. Calm moments followed, but in a few minutes the

lodgers streamed out of the hotel laden with their Gladstone bags and travelling boxes. A lot of country visitors were staying there, and they hastily sought other quarters. The building was not much burnt, but all the bedrooms on one side of the premises were wrecked. The outside wall was knocked out of plumb, and the shock brought down the ceiling in several of the rooms. At the back Vosz's warehouse was badly scorched, and all the other premises were carefully watched.

THE FIRE SUBDUED.

By noon there must have been ten thousand people congregating in Rundle street and North terrace. The eastern suburban trams were diverted around Pulteney street, and the principal thoroughfare was blocked to all traffic. Hard as the troopers and police worked they could not keep back the crowd in Rundle street. It increased every minute, until in the afternoon there was one block of people from the Hanover almost to Gawler place, and from the Arcade to Twin street. When the roof fell with a crash and the outer wall ominously cracked the alarm spread that the front wall was falling. To prevent any catastrophe, the police drove the spectators back from in a line with Messrs. Wills and Co.'s and from level with the Arcade. The troopers had hard work to keep them there, for the curiosity of the public was keen. As a spectacular effect the blaze was robbed of much of its glory by the bright sunshine, but the clouds of smoke could be seen for miles. As soon as the roof and floors of the No. 2 portion collapsed, and the firemen began to make headway, the public had little to see except the front wall, with the window frames smouldering, for all the work was then inside. For over four and a half hours the engines forced water into the buildings, and during that time 1,065,000 gallons was poured on to the flames. At 4 o'clock it was only a question of putting out the smouldering seaweed and rolls of stuff. The fierce struggle was over, and by herculean efforts Superintendent Booker and his men had saved half the building, and had beaten back a fire which had attained a firm hold when they tackled it. As soon as his severe work was over, the superintendent engaged a salvage corps to throw all the goods from the upper story of No. 3 division on to the lower flat, and to turn over everything to see that no cause was left for a fresh outbreak. Work was not nearly ended then. The roof gave trouble all night, and hoses had to be kept continually at work checking fresh outbreaks.

AMONG THE ASSISTANTS.

Luckily the fire broke out in a portion of the building confined exclusively to male assistants. Everything was going along smoothly when the alarm of fire was given. The assistants rapidly passed the word around, and in quicker time than it takes to narrate it customers were hurried out through the back of the premises. Many of the male assistants then turned their attention to the blaze. Seven or eight rushed to the window and attempted to pull the burning material down, while others went to the back of the building to find the hose. What result followed the efforts of those who attempted to put out the flames the barren frame of the building now tells. Those who secured a hose in the hurry rushed in to the centre of the building, but it reached only about halfway up the establishment. The water was allowed to squirt over the goods in the centre, which the fire had by that time not reached. Discovering that their efforts to quench the flames with this appliance were useless it was pulled out again, and the assistants waited for the metropolitan brigade to arrive to show their powers.

REPORTERS TO THE RESCUE.

The general public have no idea of the peculiar and dangerous situations into which a reporter ventures at a fire whilst in search of copy. He forgets falling glass and timber in his desire to faithfully portray the various scenes and incidents. Thanks to the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade and the Commissioner of Police, the reporters were allowed on Saturday to wander anywhere and everywhere, and it was when two members of "The Register" reporting staff were making an excursion through the eastern portion of the building that they rendered assistance the value of which cannot be over-estimated. They were on their way to secure a position on the top of the new building, whence they could obtain a full view of the flames, and were crossing the fancy and dress department, when one

noticed at the end of the shop near the fancy goods a smoulder, then a blaze. He called the attention of his colleague to it and both ran up the passage way to the flames. Here they discovered that a thin blazing batten about 6 ft. in length had fallen from above. Whilst one knocked the piece of wood down the other pulled away the goods, which were just beginning to burn, and both stamped the flames out. In a minute or two a fireman and several others were on the spot and a hose was directed on to the roof whence the burning wood had fallen. But for the timely appearance of the reporters it is probable that all the goods in the new portion would have been well alight.

STATEMENT BY MR. DUDLEY HAYWARD.

"I really don't know that I can say very much," was the reply of Mr. A. Dudley Hayward, the Adelaide manager, in reply to the representative of "The Register" who waited on him on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Hayward was naturally very much up-set at the calamity that had overtaken the business with which he is so closely connected. "I was moving about quietly in the eastern building when some one told me the place was on fire. I immediately went for Mr. Macdonald, and we met just at the secretary's office. He rushed out to give the alarm, and I issued instructions for every iron door in the establishment from basement to roof to be closed. The assistants were battling away with the flames, which when I first saw them were curling around the glass frame above the partition which divides the window from the shop. The men were powerless, and once the things in the shop got alight there was nothing to stop the progress of the fire. I saw to it that all the iron doors were closed, and went with some employes to the top of the Charles street building and shut the windows of the workroom and the reserve store for bulk stuff. One or two men stayed there for a while to make sure that no sparks, had come through. While we were doing that others of the assistants busied themselves in saving valuable silks and other goods by carrying them to shops on the eastern side of Charles street, and in that way a quantity of costly material was rescued from destruction." "To what do you attribute the cause of the fire?"—"It is difficult to say. I can only surmise that something went wrong with the Wenham lamp in the window, and that the drapery caught fire. I know the wax figure had nothing at all to do with it. There was very little in the window, and certainly no lighting appliances other than have been there all along." "What departments have gone?"—"The whole of the Manchester, the carpets, gents outfitting, tailoring, woollens, and flannelettes are swept completely away. The new season's goods of our own importing had all been opened. In the eastern building the water has done great damage to fancy goods, dress materials, underclothing, umbrellas, hosiery, and, other like articles. Altogether our loss will not be far short of £80,000. The resumption of work is out of our hands at present, as the insurance companies are in charge, but I am hoping to take back all the assistants so far as in our power lies."



THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald, secretary to the company, when seen on Sunday, said the window was ordinarily dressed. There was nothing much in it except the wax figure and droppings of cheap buttercloth around the walls and roof. "The window was so arranged," he continued, "that the design, a representation of the famous picture, 'Rock of Ages,' should be shown to the best advantage; but there was nothing in the shape of extra lighting. Each front window contains three panes, and in each pane is a Wenham gas lamp, the only lights the insurance companies allow us to use in the windows. The fact that it was lit up on Thursday and Friday evenings proved that the arrangements were perfectly in order." "How do you account for the outbreak?" the pressman asked.— "I think the globe of the lamp must have cracked through being overheated, and once the current of air got to the flame it flared up like a torch. Being on the north side of the street, our windows are subject to the reflection from the opposite buildings when the sun is shining, and in order to minimise that reflection and help our own

show, and throw more light on the figure, the lamps were burning. A lady rushed into the shop and called out that the window was on fire, and I ran to tell Mr. Hayward, and then, grabbing the umbrella of a gentleman on my way out, broke the alarm at the corner of Rundle and Charles streets. I am certain the wax figure had nothing to do with the breaking out of the fire, for when I saw the flames they were on the draping on the roof, and the statue was then untouched. In an almost incredible space of time the blaze, jumping from one point to another, had spread the whole 210 ft. length of the western building. Naturally, there was a good deal of alarm, but of confusion or panic there was no sign. Every customer and assistant got out safely. The moment I re-entered the shop I gave instructions for all the double iron doors separating the western from the eastern building to be closed, and the order was carried out with, alacrity. It was pleasing to note the cool-ness and promptitude of every one who had any responsibility. They acted almost entirely on their own initiative, and the result was that much good was done." "Did you save your books?"— "Yes, all the important ones, and nearly all the cash was secured. A few shillings may have been lost, but the total amount would not be great. The fact that the iron doors were closed practically saved the eastern building from total destruction, and the watchfulness of the employes assisted greatly in that direction." "Have you formed any idea of the damage done?"— "It would be difficult to give correct figures until the stock and building saved have been valued. I have not been in to-day, but in the case of the western building, which is totally destroyed, the loss must be £46,000 or £47,000. Roughly calculated, the damage to the other part may be nearly £30,000, so that the grand total must approximate £75,000 or £80,000." "You have a large number of assistants. What will be done in regard to them?"— "We have about 250 at work now, and we shall retain them so far as possible. We don't anticipate any bother with the insurance companies, and so soon as we get the salvage stock we will get to work at once. Be sure we shall lose no more time than we can possibly help. It is a terrible blow to us. You may say that the man who lights our windows has been doing so for years. He is the only one authorized to handle the lamps in our establishment, and is thoroughly competent to do his work."

INSURANCES.

The insurances were distributed in various offices as follows:—Alliance, £6,000 stock, £6,000 building, and £1,000 fixtures; Australian Alliance, £2,000 stock; Aachen Munich, £2,000 stock; Atlas, £3,000 stock; Colonial Mutual, £1,000 stock; plateglass, £405; Commercial Union, £6,000 stock; Caledonian, £2,000 stock; Guardian, £3,000 stock, £1,000 fixtures; Imperial, £1,000 stock; Lion, £2,000 stock; Lancashire, £5,000 stock; London and Lancashire, £1,000 stock; London, Liverpool, and Globe, £7,000 stock; Manchester, £3,500 stock; Northern, £3,500 stock, £1,000 fixtures; National of New Zealand, £2,000 stock; New Zealand, £3,000 stock; North British and Mercantile, £2,000 stock; Norwich Union, £6,000 stock; North Queensland, £1,000 stock; Palatine, £1,000 stock; Phoenix, £3,250 stock; Royal, £10,000 stock, £5,000 buildings; Royal Exchange, £1,000 stock; South British, £5,000 stock, £6,000 buildings; Standard of New Zealand, £1,500 stock; Sun, £9,000 stock; United, £2,000 stock; total on stock, £94,750; total on buildings, £17,000; fixtures, £3,000; plate-glass, £405; grand total, £115,155. There was also insurance on rent amounting to £1,600. The amount of £6,000 on the building in the Alliance Company's office was for that portion at the corner of Rundle and Charles streets the roof of which was burnt off. The £6,000 in the South British office was on the western half of the structure, which was destroyed by the fire, and the £5,000 in the Royal Company's office covered the lower risk in Charles street, which practically escaped. On block No. 2. as shown in the plan, the total amount of insurance was £45,750, made up as follows:— £6,000 buildings. £38,750 stock, and £1,000 fittings; on No. 3 block, western front, the total was £41,000—£6,000 building, £34,000 stock, and £1,000 fittings; on No. 1, which is practically saved, the total was £28,000— £5,000 building, £22,000 stock, and £1,000 fittings. Mr. John Creswell, who can reel off insurance figures at a moment's notice, states that since the beginning of the present year insurance companies have had a bad time in Australia and New Zealand. In fires alone their actual loss has totalled nearly £350,000, of which about £200,000 has to be debited against New Zealand. Sixteen years ago the South Australian offices were about £250,000 the bad on their trans-actions, but last year all the back ground had been made up. Now the knock they have had will renew

the task of catching up again. One result of the fire will be that next year the Government will not get any income tax from the insurance offices. About £60,000 is raised by premiums annually, and more than that will be swallowed up by the loss of John Martin and Co.

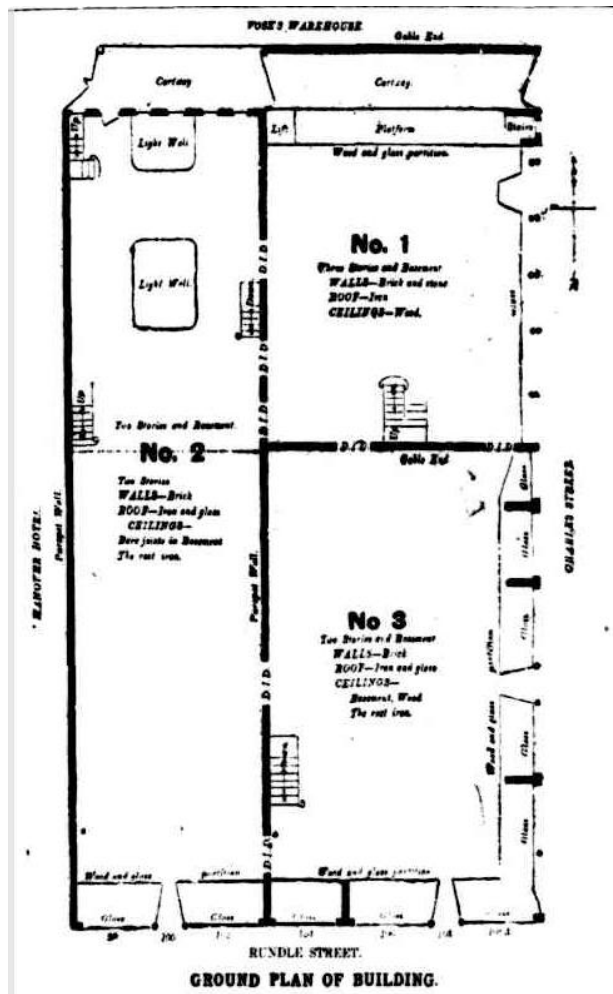
THE STATEMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT BOOKER.

Superintendent Booker was still directing operations on Sunday when questioned on the outbreak. He said:— "When I arrived on the scene I found the western portion of John Martin & Co.'s premises well alight, and the fire already spread over the first floor. At once recognising that that portion of the building was past saving I directed operations towards checking the fire's progress towards the eastern portion, facing Charles street, and in this to a certain extent was successful. The fiercest attack of the fire was, of course, in the western building and it was alight from end to end when we arrived. Considerable difficulty was experienced in saving the other portions, owing to the fire travelling along the roof and lighting the seaweed closely embedded between the ceiling and roof. The force of water necessary to quench this drenched the departments below, which otherwise would have escaped damage. I am more than satisfied with the amount of salvage, for at first I did not expect that nearly so much would be saved. The whole strength of the brigade available was at this fire. It consisted of two steam fire-engines, four, reels, one escape ladder, and a total of 25 men." "Do you think the material at hand sufficient to cope with a big fire?" he was asked. "No. We have always been undermanned, and, as I have stated again and again, the brigade should be increased both numerically and by much heavier appliances to cope with large fires. An engine similar to the one in Melbourne is what is wanted, as it is only by the use of such apparatus as this that any brigade can hope to cope successfully with block fires. There was a splendid water supply, and 1,065,000 gallons of water were used before the fire was got under control, but in addition to this it has been necessary to play water on to the smouldering remains all Saturday night and Sunday. I remained in charge of the fire up to 10 o'clock on Saturday night, when I left a foreman and five firemen in possession. This morning I resumed charge with a relief crew. Those at the station are busy cleaning up and testing the hoses. I should like to acknowledge the great assistance rendered by Colonel Madley and his staff of police. They did their work really well." In response to the question as to the condition of the walls on the western side of the building, the superintendent stated that he thought they would have to come down. "This is but another illustration," he re-marked, "that iron girders supported by cast-iron columns are the very worst features in connection with the construction of a building from a fireman's point of view, as in all cases of fire, when subjected to extreme heat, iron girders expand to such an extent that the walls are forced out on either side. I have seen many cases of fatal accidents caused by such materials being used, for when the cold water is applied they contract almost as readily, and tear the ends of the walls, which have already been loosened by the expansion. Then they collapse."

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING.

The block might have fairly been regarded as one of the most handsome, up-to-date, and commodious of the buildings in Rundle street. Originally it was an eyesore, but during 1898 extensive alterations and improvements were made; and, practically speaking, additions have been going on ever since; in fact, at the time of the fire the establishment was in the hands of the painters. The whole of the front was in cement, and the central portion was embellished with some fine ornamental moulding. The parapet was relieved by the introduction of pediments and roof lights, and on each side of the tower was a neat terminal, which gave a decidedly graceful effect to the general appearance. The tower was added at the time of the new improvements, and had a high mansard roof, with lead covering in the shape of tiles, surmounted by artistic railing. The portion which was destroyed consisted of the older part of the building, and had a frontage of about 50 ft. to Rundle street, by about 210 ft. deep. There were two stories. The ground floor, on the King of Hanover side, took in the outfitting department, gents' hats, clothing and woollen departments, while at the extreme the carpet and linoleum departments were situated, and on the right-hand side, on a parallel line with the "Rock of Ages" window, were in turn the flannelette and Manchester departments, and right

away to the rear was the office. The top floor was practically devoted to the wholesale portion of the business, the departments on that floor comprising outfitting, hats, Manchester, woollens, clothing, and carpets. Entrance was gained to this portion of the building by way of a staircase at the rear, near the office, and it was at the top of this stairway that the employees' hat and cloak room was situated. This demonstrates the small chance hands working in the eastern portion of the establishment had of gaining their hats and effects. Communication between the older building and new was by means of large arches, protected by iron doors 10 ft. wide, therefore the only chance the fire had of gaining a hold of the new part was from the top. This new portion has a frontage of 72 ft. to Rundle street and 210 ft. to Charles street, and it was below here that the magic cave, so widely-known, was situated, it taking up the whole of the basement. The departments on the ground floor of the new building comprised fancy dresses, gloves, &c, and again at the extreme rear the show-room. On the second floor were the board-room, and the wholesale departments connected with the retail counters already mentioned. The boardroom, which was regarded as one of the finest in the building, is now a wreck. It was situated directly beneath the tower, on the second floor of the new building. The room was lighted by a pair of handsome plateglass windows 11 ft. high and 11 ft. wide, sur-mounted with a large elliptical arch. The windows were constructed to open inwardly, so that when fully thrown back the place was converted into a balcony.



THE "ROCK OF AGES" WINDOW.



Mr. F. J. Carr, jun., will have reason to remember his first visit to Adelaide. He came to Australia a few months ago heavily stored with knowledge of window decorating, and his artistic and unique "dressing" of the Mutual Stores and Craig, Williamson, & Thomas's windows in Melbourne has been generally admired. During a recent visit to the sister capital Mr. E. W. Hayward, senior member of the firm, offered him a three months' engagement in Adelaide. The first result of that offer was "The Rock of Ages" window. This window, which was a design emblematic of "Rock of Ages," was regarded as a triumph in decorative art, and although only open for inspection for the first time on Thursday evening it was a general source of admiration. It was in keeping with Easter-tide, and consisted of a figure of a beautiful young girl kneeling on a mound with her arm's outstretched grasping a cross. The cross, was draped with white muslin; in fact, white muslin predominated in the window. The waxen figure was beautifully dressed in cream cashmere. As a relief to the striking and soul-stirring picture pot plants and mirrors were tastefully arranged. The device has been exhibited by Mr. Carr in all the larger towns in the United States.

THE DAMAGE TO THE KING OF HANOVER HOTEL.

Mr. G. Brauner, the lessee of the King of Hanover Hotel, is a heavy loser through the fire, but considers himself fortunate in escaping greater loss. When seen by our representative on Saturday he was bemoaning the damage done to his property and the fact that all his boarders had left him. "Last night," he said, "the house was full of visitors." The barmaids gave up their rooms, and in some of the apartments three and four people slept. To-day there is an empty house; my boarders have sought accommodation elsewhere, and the majority of them are not likely to return. Altogether there were over 100 people in the house." A walk through the building showed what a marvellous escape it had had from destruction. The great heat cracked the eastern wall as the flames leapt and danced seeking a further hold. They played upon the roof of the hotel to such an ex-tent that for a while it was thought the building was doomed. Superintendent Booker had the place well watched, and a flood of water was hosed upon the building. What with heat and water the ceilings of the eastern section of the hotel cracked, and the fall of plaster and the smashing of toilet sets combined with a deluge of water raised a panic in the hotel. Men and women scrambled to reach their rooms to rescue their belongings, and an excited procession dodged hither, and thither armed with frocks and boxes and frills and flounces seeking a safe exit from the building. Con-stables arrived on the scene, and their promptness and good judgment did much towards modifying the excitement. A cart was drawn up to the right-of-way at the rear of the building, and in a little while the belongings of the boarders were placed in safety. During the early stages of the excitement the barmaids left their posts, and a number of unscrupulous persons got away with bottles of spirits, cigars, and a cash box. One individual was caught with a bottle of brandy to his mouth. The police promptly closed the hotel, and business was suspended until well on in the afternoon. The eastern wall of the hotel may require to be rebuilt. It is cracked in numerous places, and has sprung to such an extent that parts of it are unsafe. The ceilings of seven bedrooms on the eastern side need attention, but other sections of the house appear to be intact. Serious damage was done by the top of Martin's wall falling on to a galvanized-iron shed in the yard of the King of Hanover. This was used by Mr. Brauner as a saddlery department, and contained valuable machinery and a spring cart. Some idea of the fall may be gathered from the fact that the building was completely wrecked, and the cart smashed to matchboard.

AFTER THE FIRE.

To realize the full extent of the damage it is necessary to take a tour of inspection through the building. Reporters were in it when roofs blazed above them, but they were not allowed to venture too far away from safety. When the safe point was reached Mr. Booker gathered the pressmen together and took them through the building. Of No. 2 division the full effect can be

seen from Rundle street. The front, back, and side walls are standing, but the two first mentioned are cracked badly and look somewhat unsteady. Here and there are huge girders twisted and broken by the tremendous heat, but there is nothing else but iron columns, beams burnt to cinders, and galvanized iron. The iron doors between the two buildings are twisted and burnt. The departments in this portion were sateens, flannelettes, Manchester, outfitting, hats, gents' slops, woollens, carpets, and offices on the ground floor, and upstairs there were the wholesale portions of the same departments. The firm had just opened their winter stock, so the loss comes particularly heavy. The cloakrooms were in this part, so it can easily be seen what little chance the assistants had of securing their hats and cloaks. Of all these things not a vestige remains. Underneath in the cellar were reserve of oilcloth and packing rooms. Now, unfortunately, this place is piled up with fallen girders, pillars, and beams. In the shop at the corner of Rundle street and Charles street can be seen the combined effects of fire and water. On the ground floor there was about two inches of water, all fallen from above in showers, and it can well be imagined what havoc it has caused among the dress stuffs, ribbons, laces, silks, gloves, umbrellas, hosiery, trimmings, and haberdashery with which the place was stocked. Upstairs in the wholesale department the stock was damaged extensively by burning rafters falling from the roof, which is almost completely destroyed. When the fire was subdued the whole of the goods were cast through the light well on to the floor be-low, and as the heavy bundles came crashing down they wrecked many hundreds of pounds' worth of articles. Downstairs the place is in indescribable confusion. Every thing is sopping wet, and it would make the ladies' hearts bleed to see the finery they so much revel in completely and utterly ruined. In one spot can be seen a huge piece of galvanized iron reposing on a bed of soft billowy lace, in another a beam rests calmly among a nest of beautiful silks and fancy things belonging to the gentle sex. There will be salvage in that department, but all the dainty articles are ruined. From this portion the roof is missing, and the demolished part represents the extent of the fire. Behind this is the showroom, which was cleared out, and above that is a room of laces and such like things, and here again the traces of water and the struggle of the firemen to get to close quarters are only too evident, for the floors are littered with boxes of delicate goods broken and trampled on, and tables of goods overturned and the con-tents scattered and spoilt. Upstairs again is the workroom, which bears many traces of hasty departure. Right under the tower is the handsome boardroom stored with millinery, but now a wreck. The magic cave, stocked with furniture, was not reached by the fire, but it must have held many feet of water. The storeroom was in this portion of the building.

THE FIRM.

Mr. E. W. Hayward, the senior managing director, is at present on his way to Lon-don, where his son, Mr. Frank Hayward, is in charge of the firm's English business. He is expected there in about a week's time. Another son, Mr. A. Dudley Hayward, is the manager in Adelaide. The business is carried on by a limited company, of which Mr. J. T. Hackett is the chairman of directors.

THE BRIGADE AND THE POLICE.

If ever the shopkeepers in the vicinity of the outbreak had cause to be thankful to the brigade it was on Saturday. From the superintendent to the lowest man on the list, every one worked as if it were his own life he was saving. For hours they battled with fierce flames, heeding neither scorching heat nor blinding smoke. Wherever there was a coign of vantage thither a fireman fought his way to get a better chance. No-thing was too dangerous for them, and no task too severe to undertake. On the ground or in the building they steadfastly held their own, and to their lasting honour be it said that once they won a position they kept it. There are heroes on the battlefield and in shipwreck, but inside a burning building with a tottering wall above him the fireman, carrying his life in his hands, does deeds of daring and valour never excelled. Hard as they worked, their task was made more trying for the want of refreshments. Mrs. Balfour early in the day sent drinks to the firemen and the police, but apart from that, and some given to them by other people who were about, they had nothing, and the men were on

duty from 11.30 a.m. until 8 p.m. without a bite or sup. On Sunday also the men were again in the same unhappy state. The superintendent suffers with the rest, for he cannot possibly have a commissariat department with him. Praise is due also to the police for the admirable manner in which they controlled the crowd. Trooper and constable alike strove to the utmost to keep space for the toilers at the fire. They allowed the public to approach as close as safety and convenience of working permitted, yet they firmly but politely prevented any encroachment. The Commissioner (Colonel Madley) and Inspector Sullivan were on the ground, but it was a time in which each man had to act for himself, and the management of the crowd was a tribute to the efficiency and courtesy of the men. For the facilities they afforded to the reporters the latter are duly thankful.

INCIDENTS.

When the alarm of fire was first given the natural anxiety of the assistants to make their exit expeditiously was responsible for numerous incidents. One young lady whilst hurrying along in the crowd was unfortunate enough to drop her purse, containing upwards of £3, and in the rush she had no chance of regaining possession of it. That the members of the gentler sex lost no time in getting out into the street is well illustrated by the fact that the majority of them passed out hat-less, and they visited an opposition drapery establishment en masse for the purpose of purchasing new headgear. In one of the departments the lady assistants had combined in their contributions to buy a present for one of their number who was about to be married. The wedding gift had just been arranged for display in the work-room when the cry of "Fire!" was heard, and all hands hastily retreated to places of safety, leaving the present to be reduced to ashes. "I don't know where my customer is, but here is her change," gasped a lady assistant as she emerged from the building, and there were probably many similar cases, for life is worth more than a few shillings or pence. One lady assistant had served a customer with a hat, and was in the act of receiving the change from the desk when the alarm sounded. Without waiting for either head-gear or money the buyer fled, and as the employee had no possible chance of getting to the cloakroom she popped the hat on her head, and took the same route as the lady to whom she had attended. Shortly before 11 a country friend purchased a suit of clothes and left his old ones to be called for in an hour. Seeing the window in flames, and not wishing to lose a suit which would come in handy at harvest time, he rushed in jumped on to the counter, hastily grabbed his belongings from the other side, and madly rushed out again. To those unaware of the circumstances it seemed a clear case of pilfering, but in the excitement of the moment the "hayseed" ran away unchallenged. One of the young lady assistants, characteristic of a girl, left her purse while she ran to get her hat. Halfway up the stair-way she thought of it, and went to rush back. Discretion proved the better part of valour, and both purse and hat were left to their doom. Pilferers reaped a rich harvest by the fire. In the excitement the bicycles belonging to those employed in the establishment were rushed from the bicycle stable to the back lane, where a large crowd had assembled. Owners grabbed the bicycles when handed out, but one came out and no one claimed it for the moment. One of the light fingered gentry waited a second, took possession, and was making off with it, when an employe rushed up and rescued the lady's machine. A youth was fitting a new hat when the alarm was given. In the excitement of the moment he so far forgot himself as to keep the new one on his head and leave the old one without any money in exchange for it. The work of a fireman is fraught with many dangers, and one of the reasons why Superintendent Booker is so popular amongst his gallant staff is the deep concern he always displays for their well being. The rapidity with which the flames consumed the rafters and supports of the structure made the duties of men in brass helmets on Saturday more than usually perilous. The Superintendent during the fire's three-quarters of an hour devoted much of his time to going round the building, and warning the firemen whose ardour had led them into places in which the practised eye of their leader told him they ran an imminent risk of losing their lives. In one instance he removed several of his men from the vicinity of some tottering stonework on the western wall, which ten minutes later fell with a crash on to the spot where they so recently stood. Happily the members of the brigade all came through unscathed. The police force did praiseworthy work in keeping the excited crowd in check. With so many thousands of eager sightseers this was no easy matter, and the mounted and

foot con-stables had to be constantly on the alert to prevent an inrush of pedestrians. Several refractory individuals had to be severely dealt with, and one persistent young man for a moment eluded the eagle eye of the man in blue, and broke into the open space. He was detected a moment later, however, and an exciting chase ensued to the crowd at the other end, where the policeman proved the superior sprinter, and, over-taking the culprit, led him triumphantly back to where he came from amidst the cheers of the spectators.

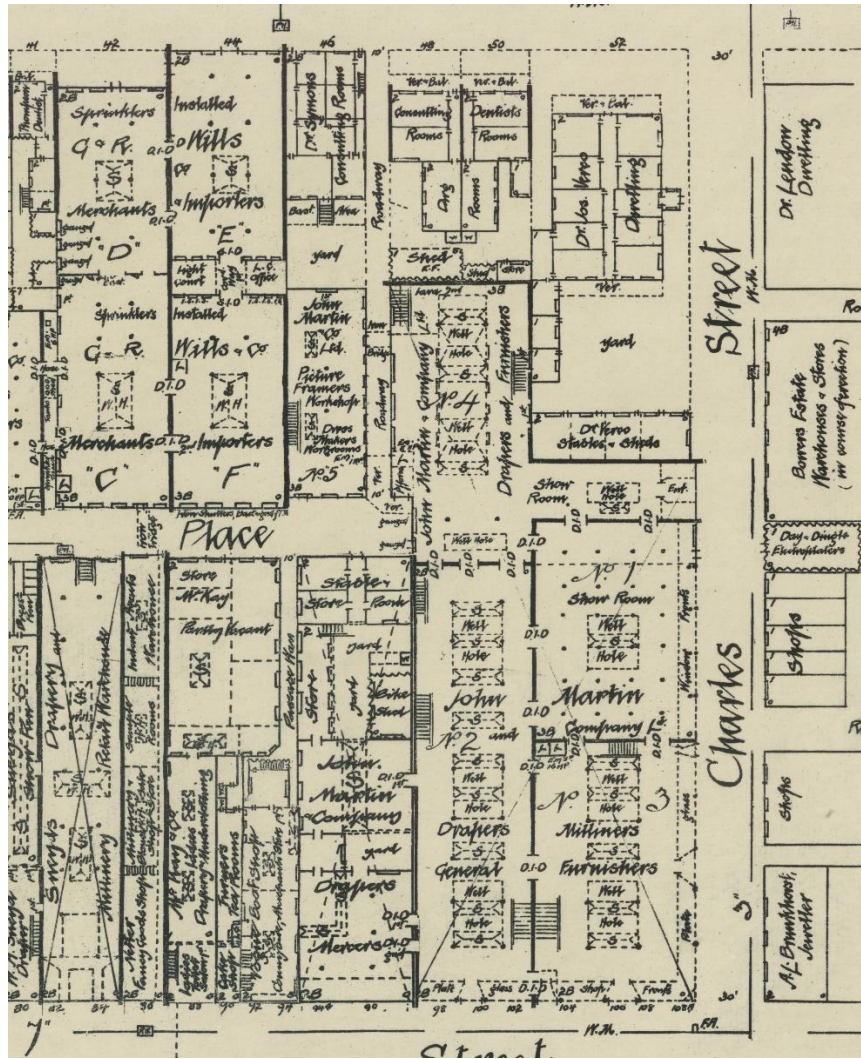
SCENE ON SUNDAY.

On Sunday thousands of curious sight-seers visited the scene of the disaster. The footpath was roped off to prevent the public encroaching too close, but all day the roadway was thronged by people. Fire men were busy keeping a watch on the debris, and the two steamers were working in Charles street pumping water out of the cellar.



B 8836

State Library of South Australia - Rundle Street [B 8836]. A fire at John Martins on Rundle Street. 1901. Photographer John Gazard, Part of Acre 41 Collection



State Library of South Australia – [C112_10] John Martins fire 1901 location .



BRG 121/1/602

State Library of South Australia - The S.A Fire Brigades 1st mechanical appliance in operation during the John Martins fire [BRG 121/1/602], The S.A. Fire Brigade's first mechanical appliance in operation in Charles Street during the 'John Martin's Great Fire'. The steam fire engine is operated by several firemen. The premises of H.L. Vosz can be seen behind them. Taken 6 April 1901. [From scrapbook 92]. Copyright restrictions may apply. David Jones, Botanicca, Building 2, 572 Swan St, Richmond VIC 3121. Approximately 1901. Part of John Martin Collection.



BRG 121/1/594

State Library of South Australia - The John Martin's store on fire [BRG 121/1/594], A photograph of the John Martin's store on fire taken from across the street looking north-east across Rundle Street. A group of bystanders watch the scene while fire fighters work on the building. The shop-front premises of F. Basse, jeweller, and the King of Hanover Hotel, can be seen. Taken on Easter Saturday, 6 April 1901.

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*State Library of South Australia - Fire at John Martin's store [BRG 121/1/595], View looking north-east across Rundle Street at the fire in John Martin's store on 6 April 1901 (Easter Saturday). Smoke is billowing from the top of the building and a firemen's ladder is being used, while groups of bystanders look on. A number of other shop fronts are in view, including T.C. Parks, F. Basse and the King of Hanover Hotel. [From scrapbook 92].
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State Library of South Australia - Firemen in action [BRG 121/1/599], View of the fire ladder and several firemen fighting the John Martin's fire in Rundle Street looking east. Groups of bystanders watch from a distance and from a balcony. Business premises in view include Hall & Savage and M.Hart. [From scrapbook 92].

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BRG 121/1/596

State Library of South Australia - Firemen working on the fire at John Martin's store [BRG 121/1/596], Several firemen at work with a hose on the John Martin's store fire as smoke billows from the darkened and charred building. The fire occurred on Easter Saturday 6 April 1901. [From scrapbook 35].

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State Library of South Australia - Street scene during John Martin's fire [BRG 121/1/600], View looking east along Rundle Street towards the fire in the John Martin's store on April 6 (Easter Saturday) 1901. 70,000 pounds worth of damage was done and one side of the building was reduced to ruins. Firefighters are aiming hoses at the building while smoke billows across the sky. A large crowd of onlookers fills the street. A range of shop fronts can be seen including the Balfours Cafe, J.M. Wendt, F.B.C. and Burlington House. [From scrapbook 92]. Copyright restrictions may apply. David Jones, Botanicca, Building 2, 572 Swan St, Richmond VIC 3121. Copies may be made for research or study. Publication only with written permission from David Jones. All use must acknowledge David Jones Ltd. 1901. Part of John Martin Collection.



State Library of South Australia - Street scene during John Martin's fire [BRG 121/1/601], View looking east along Rundle Street towards the fire in the John Martin's store on April 6 (Easter Saturday) 1901. 70,000 pounds of damage was done and one side of the building was reduced to ruins. Firefighters are aiming hoses at the building while smoke billows across the sky. A large crowd of onlookers fills the street. A range of shop fronts can be seen including the Balfours cafe, J.M. Wendt, F.B.C. and Burlington House. [From scrapbook 11]. Copyright restrictions may apply. David Jones, Botanicca, Building 2, 572 Swan St, Richmond VIC 3121. Copies may be made for research or study. Publication only with written permission from David Jones. All use must acknowledge David Jones Ltd. Approximately 1901, Part of John Martin Collection.

Quiz (Adelaide, SA : 1900 - 1909), Thursday 11 April 1901, page 8



A VIEW OF THE RUINS OF JOHN MARTIN'S, TAKEN FROM THE INTERIOR.
The right-hand corner of the picture shows where the fire originated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 12 April 1901, page 4

THE RECENT FIRE.

Colonel Freeman, adjuster of fire insurance claims, arrived in Adelaide on Thursday morning, and at once started on the work of arbitrating between the insurance company and the insured in respect of the recent fire at the premises of John Martin and Co., Rundle-street. Colonel Freeman is anxious to enable the buildings to be released as soon as possible, as every day of delay means a considerable loss to the insured. It is probable that an amicable settlement will speedily be arrived at. Mean-while firemen are stationed at the scene of the fire with hoses ready to extinguish any possible fresh outbreak from the still smouldering wreckage. Early on Thursday morning a strong wind was blowing, and the men were kept on the alert, frequently having to turn the hose on spots where the wind had fanned the treacherous embers into a blaze.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Friday 12 April 1901, page 2

ANOTHER FIRE.

There seems to be an epidemic of fires. A few minutes before midnight on Thursday Supt. Booker was aroused from his peaceful slumbers to extinguish a fire at the rear of Messrs. Holden & Frost's premises in Grenfell street. Constable J. Kelly was walking down Rundle street when his attention was called to the smoke by somebody at the King of Hanover Hotel. He ran through the Arcade, but, seeing nothing, proceeded down Chester street. Looking back he saw the flames, and at once gave the alarm from the Arcade. The Adelaide reel, steam-engine, and ladder were quickly on the spot, and the North Adelaide, Unley, and Norwood reels followed in rapid succession. A hose was smartly got to work, and in an exceedingly short space of time the blaze was extinguished. Some barrels of oil and a quantity of bagging were alight on a platform, and the fire had just burnt through the door when the reel arrived and subdued it.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 April 1901, page 4

THE RECENT FIRE.

Colonel Freeman, who visited Adelaide to adjust the claims in connection with the recent fire at John Martin & Co.'s establishment in Rundle-street, returned to Melbourne by the express on Saturday afternoon, having satisfactorily accomplished his mission. Colonel Freeman, when seen by a representative of "The Advertiser," declined to disclose the amount for which the claims had been settled, but from another source we learn that the aggregate did not exceed £50,000. The building and stock were fully insured, but the consequential loss of profit, which in this instance amounted to a large sum, was not covered. The premises have been released, and preparations are in progress for the salvage sale.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 23 May 1901, page 7

FIRE BRIGADES INSPECTION.

The annual official inspection of city and suburban fire brigade stations by the members of the Metropolitan Board was made on Wednesday. The members of the board who took part in the inspection were Messrs. T. H. Smeaton (chairman), G. A. Hooker, (superintendent), C. L. Meyer, R. M. Steele, Crs. W. D. Ponder and J. Z. Sellar, Messrs. C. G. Rebbeck (Mayor of Gawler), G. H. Glover (Mayor of St. Peters), F. W. Bristowe (secretary). The following gentlemen, by invitation, accompanied the party:— Messrs. J. W. Caire (Mayor of Port Adelaide), J. H. Mattingly (Mayor of Kensington and Norwood), and A. Mackie (Mayor of Unley). Starting from Brookman's Building, Grenfell street, at half-past 1, in a four-in-hand drag, the party opened a successful and instructive day's work by proceeding to the Norwood station. The alarm bell there was rung, and in about a minute the one-horse reel flashed into the street ready for the fray, while just inside another 60 seconds the firemen were about 100 yards down the road playing a good steam of water on the imaginary fire. The latter, however, happened to be nothing more dangerous than an inoffensive tramcar. After a short inspection of the building, which was found to be in a satisfactory condition, a move was made to Unley. Here the fire-men on the premises were taken completely by surprise, and when the board arrived one of them was standing at the front door quietly gazing into space. "Get to work," ordered the superintendent, in a voice that would have taken all the smartness out of any one but a fire-man, and in the splendid time of 25 seconds the reel, drawn by two fine greys, dashed out of the station. In 1 minute 4 seconds more the hose was fixed to a water main ready to protect a couple of houses some distance further on. The board expressed great appreciation of the neat and bright appearance of everything in connection with the brigade. An adjournment was then made to the Unley Town Hall, where Mr. A. Mackie, the mayor, showed his skilfulness as an entertainer. After several toasts had been honoured the horses' heads were turned towards Glenelg, and a pleasant drive was experienced. Members of the board had prepared their guests for a poor exhibition of the fire-extinguishing art at the sea-side resort, but even after that fair warning the visitors could not refrain from showing their disappointment at the sorry dis-play provided. The contrast between the efficient appliances of the Unley and Nor-wood brigades and the fire protector of Glenelg was too marked to pass without comment. In the last-named municipality one officer, Mr. Peterson, and a small hand reel comprise the whole protection against fire. Besides acting as foreman, fireman, and general commander, the man is expected also to do the work of a horse. Besides being altogether unsatisfactory to the residents this state of things is hardly fair to the officer, for he is liable at any time of the day or night to be called out to a distance of a mile and a half from the station, whither he is compelled to drag at a run his insufficient means of coping with a fire. It would be quite impossible for a human being to put in hard work at the end of a "gallop" of that description. However, no fault, could be found with Mr. Peterson himself, for within 1 min. 55 sec. of the sounding of the alarm he had arrived with the handreel near the post office, about 300 yards from headquarters. After Mr. Smeaton had thoughtfully entertained the party at afternoon tea a start was made for Port Adelaide, where a meritorious turnout was witnessed. In 22 sec. the reel was out of the front door of the station, and by the time another minute had elapsed the men were alighting about a quarter of a mile down the road. The steam engine was on the scene a few seconds later. An officer and ten men comprise the staff, and the residents need have no fear of their capabilities. Before a start was made for the Semaphore the Mayor of Port Adelaide, Mr. J. W. Caire, invited the company into his parlour,

when he announced amid applause that he was no longer only the mayor of a municipality, as Port Adelaide had that day been gazetted a city. At the Semaphore the station, a substantial one, which has been occupied only for about six weeks, was found to be quite up to the standard of those previously inspected. It has a good main hall, stable accommodation for two horses, although only one is used, and comfortable mens rooms and living apartments. Here another example was afforded of how little the visit was expected, for after the turnout it was seen that the half-eaten evening meal was lying on the table of one of the rooms. The reel was in the street, in just over half a minute, while water was flowing through the hose in 1 min. 46 sec. from the time the alarm was given. Dinner was partaken of at the Jetty-Hotel, after which several toasts were honoured. Mr. Caire bore testimony to the general efficiency and smartness of the brigades inspected, and complimented the board on having a truly up-to-date system under its direction. The chairman, Mr. Smeaton, in acknowledging the compliment, which he felt was no empty one, congratulated Mr. Caire on being the first mayor of the second city of South Australia. The party then returned by rail to Adelaide, where the most interesting exhibition of the day was presented. The alarm was sounded at the corner of King William and Way-mouth streets, and the reels were not slow to arrive. The Adelaide reel, drawn by two beautiful black horses, galloped up in 1 min. 35 sec. after the glass was broken, while those of North Adelaide and Unley arrived in 4 min. 45 sec. and 5 min. 15 sec. respectively. This was exceedingly smart work on the part of all three brigades, and the large crowd which had gathered was not slow to appreciate the fact. In a conversation after the inspection the superintendent, Mr. G. A. Booker, expressed his entire satisfaction with all the stations visited, with the exception, of course, of Glenelg, which he would very much like to see put on a better footing. The men on all hands, he said, carried out their duties in a manner which was a credit to the State. The horses also were in the pink of condition.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 1 October 1901, page 4

AN EARLY MORNING FIRE.

At about half-past one on Tuesday morning a fire occurred in the bakery of Mr. J. Nicholls, near the Glenelg Railway Station in King William street. The flames were discovered by Mrs. W. H. Tonkin, whose cries of "fire" attracted the attention of a policeman on his beat near by, and he immediately called the fire brigade from the alarm in front of the Glenelg Station. The firemen arrived promptly, and soon had two hoses playing on the flames. The fire occurred in the bakehouse, which is situated in the rear of the premises, and it had got a good hold when the brigade commenced operations, but they quickly extinguished it. It was impossible this morning, owing to the steam, to estimate the amount of damage done, but it was not thought to be very great. Mr. Nicholls's three children were asleep in a room immediately over the bakehouse, and fortunately the fire was discovered before it had made much progress, or it is probable that considerable difficulty would have been experienced in getting them out in time.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 16 November 1901, page 6

THE FIRE BRIGADES.

The members of the Adelaide Fire Brigades Board waited upon the Premier on Friday, and pointed out the urgent necessity for extra appliances in connection with the work of the brigades. It was represented that while the present machinery at the stations was admirable for dealing with small fires, it was inadequate to cope with those which might break out in large buildings. It was impossible for the board, under the existing Act, to obtain new appliances, and they asked for authority under section 19 of the statute of 1890 to borrow enough money to enable them to acquire fresh machinery. Mr. Jenkins, in reply, recognised the need for an increased amount of money to put the board in a position to meet the growing requirements of Adelaide and suburbs. The Act was passed ten years ago, and since that time the city had developed rapidly, and, therefore, it was apparent that more money was required to carry on the work of the brigades successfully. He asked the board to put their request in writing, and he would look carefully into the whole matter to see if their request could be complied with.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Monday 25 November 1901, page 2

SMALL FIRE.

On Sunday afternoon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the residence of Mr. James Neales, at 85, West terrace, where a small fire had broken out. Little damage was done, and the coroner has decided not to hold an inquest.