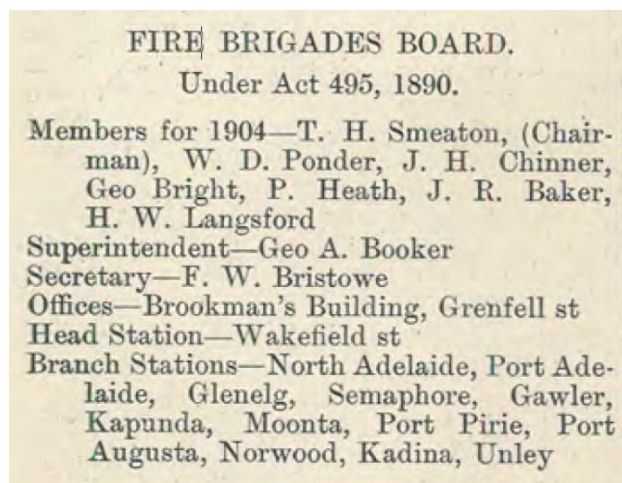


Adelaide Fire Brigade 1904

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1904



Sands and McDougall Directory 1904

Metropolitan Fire Brigade Stations

Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, Wakefield Street, Booker, G. A, superintendent fire brigades S.A.

North Adelaide Fire Brigade Station, O'Connell Street, Cleveland, A. B, in charge.

Port Adelaide Fire Brigade station, Commercial Street West side, Hedger, H. H, foreman in charge.

Semaphore Fire Brigade Station, Jagoe and Hall Streets, Goddard, F. H, foreman in charge.

Glenelg Fire Brigade Station, Augusta Street, McDonald, G, fireman in charge.

Norwood Fire brigade Station, Parade, South side, Benda, Alf, in charge.

Unley Fire Brigade Station, Edmund Street, North side, Oldham, Chas, foreman.

Gawler Fire Brigade Station, Stephens, H. N, frmn Fire Brigade, Lyndoch rd.

Kadina Fire Brigade Station, Cooper, G, supt Fire Brigade, Taylor st.

Kapunda Fire Brigade Station, Cook, Ernest, foreman fire brigade, Main st

Port Augusta Fire Brigade Station, Horrocks, W. T, foreman fire brigade, Commercial rd.

Port Pirie Fire Brigade Station, Hopkins, F. F, foreman fire brigade.

Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade Stations

Hindmarsh Place, North side, No 1 station, Duncan, Jas, supt ; Dover, W. S, sec

Ninth Street, North side, No 2 station

From the 1904 Fire Brigades Board Annual Report.

The plant of the brigades is as follows:—Four steam fire engines, one hose and coal van, eleven horse reels, four hand reels, three hose carts, two telescopic ladders, and 23 horses.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 18 January 1904, page 7

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

MAYFIELD & SONS' STORE.

On Saturday night, at 7.55, an alarm of fire was given from the alarm box at the corner of Charles and Rundle streets. The reel, steamer, and ladder from the Metropolitan Fire Station were quickly sent out, and within half a minute of reaching the base of the fire (a bulk store at the rear of S. Mayfield & Sons' shop in Rundle street) had a line of hose playing on to the flames. The Unley, Norwood, and North Adelaide reels turned up in a few minutes; but the work of extinction had been so well begun that only one reel, that from Unley, was required to be brought into action. The fire was confined to the central portion of the building, a three-story structure, and, though when the fire-extinguishing apparatus reached the place flames were bursting through the windows and out at the roof, half an hour sufficed to subdue the fire, and the damage was confined to one portion of the building, the floors and staircases in the central part of which were burned away. A large crowd assembled in Rundle street, but were kept well in order by the police and mounted troopers. The fire being confined to the back portion, there was little for the people to see. By some strange fate several large fires in thickly built neighbourhoods have taken place at times when the Superintendent of Fire Brigades has been out of town. The fire on Saturday evening marked another of these coincidences, for Mr. Booker had only on the previous evening left for Wallaroo by invitation from the mine directors to advise regarding the trouble at Taylor's shaft. He had, however, left the charge of the station in good hands. Foreman Luck, of the head station, was in command, and disposed his forces well. He laid out three lines of attack, and brought two branches of hose to play on the flames, from Rundle and Grenfell streets, and had a third line from Rundle street in readiness in case of emergency. The lastnamed hose was not used, as the extinction of the fire was seen to be possible without the damage by water that would have been entailed had it been brought into recognition. All the Foremen of the suburban fire stations were present, including the Unley foreman, who was on leave, and, being in the neighbourhood at the time, put in an appearance without uniform.

—The Alarm.—

The alarm was given at 7.55 by Charles H. Robertson, employed at the Public Benefit Boot Company, Rundle street. Robertson said he was sitting in the office at the back of the shop, which is close to Mayfield's store, when suddenly he saw flames coming through one of the lower windows of the adjacent premises. He at once rushed across Rundle street and broke the glass of the alarm box, and in two or three minutes the reels began to arrive.

—Marine Volunteers. —

A number of marines from H.M.S. Royal Arthur and H.M.S. Tauranga were in Rundle street on temporary leave. It is a rule of the service that wherever naval men may be they are liable to be called on to assist in case of fire. These jolly Jack Tars did not wait for a formal call, but willingly abandoned their pleasure and worked like Trojans in the dark alleyways and among the dirt and wet. A. Hiscox, A.B., A. Coe, stoker, and O. Todhunter, A.B. of the Tauranga, particularly distinguished themselves.

—Mr. Mayfield's Statement —

Mr. E. A. Mayfield, one of the partners in the firm, told a reporter that he was un-able to account for the origin of the fire. The place in which it occurred was a three story building, used as a polishing shop and bulk store, and had been, so far as he knew, finally closed up at about 1 o'clock that afternoon. The insurance on the building would amount to roughly £500, and on the stock to about £900. That the horse is to be banished from cities is certain, and we welcome the change which has already begun. It may mean, as Mr. Briton Riviere says, the banishment of the most beautiful form of traction in the world, but it will also mean cleaner streets, a far longer life to roadways, a vast difference in the length of traffic, and considerably less expenditure by the municipal authorities on the upkeep of their streets.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 19 January 1904, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE FIRE AT MAYFIELD'S.

It's officially announced that an inquest is not considered necessary in connection with the fire at Messrs. Mayfield & Sons'. The interior of the factory presents a sorry sight. The ceilings and floors of the upper storeys are so badly damaged by the flames that in some places they will not bear a footfall, while all around is charred by fire and blackened by smoke. On the upper storey chairs, which have been burnt to charcoal, and curling sheets of iron, are tumbled in a confused medley ; on the middle floor furniture of various kinds is scorched and discolored, and on the ground floor sofa springs, fibre stuffing, chair legs, and books are mixed in disorder. Preparations for the restoration of the interior of the building are being made.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 January 1904, page 34

FIRE AT MESSRS. S. MAYFIELD AND SON'S.

Fortunately for the citizens of Adelaide the dread cry of "Fire! fire!" does not often ring through the streets of the city. It was after a lapse of several months that again the warning was heard on Saturday night in Rundle-street. As usual on Saturday evenings that thoroughfare was crowded with pedestrians and some consternation was raised. Then the crowds saw clouds of smoke rising from the direction of the Arcade, and in a few moments the clouds were tinged with a reddish glare—the reflection of a fast-extending furnace. The crowd surged in the direction of the fire, and as they did so there came the shouts of "Way there!" and the sound of galloping hoofs — the brigade was supporting the reputation it has gained for smartness in reaching fires. It was soon found that the fire was located in Messrs. Mayfield and Son's factory, at the rear of their Rundle street shop. Thousands of people gathered in Rundle-street, and also in Grenfell-street, and news as to the progress of the fire, which was almost entirely hidden from the crowds, was passed from lip to lip. From the Hamburg Hotel to the York Hotel in Rundle-street was one dense, mass of humanity, and all tram traffic had to be stopped through the principal thoroughfare. The spectators waited patiently for half an hour, but were not rewarded with any of the brilliant sights which are the usual accompaniments of a fire, and in less than an hour the fire was completely subdued, and then the crowds, sought other amusement. It is estimated that the total damage caused by the outbreak will be under £1,000, and this is fully covered by insurance. The fire brigade was on this occasion in charge of acting Superintendent Luck. It is a remarkable co-incidence that on three of the rare occasions on which Superintendent Booker leaves Adelaide a fire has broken out in the city. Several years ago he went up to Broken Hill in connection with a fire at the mines, and an outbreak occurred in Adelaide during his absence. He was also away when the fire at Messrs. Grasby's store took place, and on the present occasion he was at the Wallaroo Mines superintending the arrangements for combating the fire in Taylor's shaft. Of course, in case of emergency the Adelaide Fire Brigade is always ready to render assistance, and it was only after serious deliberation that the Fire Brigade Board allowed the men and apparatus to be sent to Wallaroo. But in such a case it is essential that Adelaide should have sufficient apparatus to be able to send a portion away without leaving the local brigade depleted. Had the outbreak on Saturday night been of greater seriousness all the equipment obtainable would have been urgently required to fight the flames. To the bystanders it seemed as if a considerable time elapsed before the water was turned on the fire, but there must be taken into consideration the excitement attending the incident which made seconds seem like minutes. Mr. Luck stated that within two minutes of his arriving on the scene of the fire the water was turned on from the hydrant in Grenfell-street, and a few moments later from the line of hose which was run out from Rundle-street down the lane at the side of the Arcade. At the time Mr. Luck reached the scene the factory was in flames from the bottom to the top, and the wooden door panels of the polishing shop had been completely burnt away. The windows had also been burnt out. He could not ascertain how the fire originated as it had

gained too great a hold, but half an hour later he had the fire under control. The brigade did not leave the scene until 10 o'clock, when all danger of smouldering fragments creating a new blaze had been dissipated. An inquest was not considered necessary.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 1 February 1904, page 7

FIRE IN KING WILLIAM STREET.

SERIOUS DAMAGE.

About 5.53 a.m. on Saturday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Stephens-place alarm. The steamer, reels and ladder were quickly on the spot, and shortly afterwards the metropolitan force was supplemented by the Unley, North Adelaide, and Norwood reels. The fire was quickly seen to be in the basement premises occupied by Messrs. Anderson and Hall, jewellers, King William-street, close to Rundle-street, but, owing to the denseness of the smoke pouring from the places extreme difficulty was experienced in locating it with exactitude. All the shops were, of course, locked up. Some of the firemen, with a hose, went up Faulding's-lane, and reached the back premises of the buildings, and a door was quickly forced. It was found to be the cigarette room, belonging to Messrs. Duhst and Biven, and was full of smoke. A second doorway was then broken away, and the burning premises were reached. Almost simultaneously the firemen in front had effected an entrance through the staircase leading from King William-street to Waterhouse Chambers, and the lowest four steps being cut away a double stream of water was soon pouring on the flames. The work and store room in the basement, belonging to Messrs. Anderson & Hall, extend from a blank wall on the north side of Messrs. Leaver & Co.'s to Rundle-street, and it was in this apartment that the fire apparently broke out. The efforts of the firemen were directed to confining the flames as far as possible, and fortunately they were attended with complete success. The fire extended to the ground floor shop of Messrs. Anderson & Hall, which is seriously damaged by fire, water, and smoke.

Messrs. Duhst & Biven have suffered a loss in the damage by smoke and water to their premises, principally the cigarette-room, and slightly in the shaving room. The latter was only saved from further damage by an iron partition which separates the two premises. Messrs. Duhst & Biven are insured in the Northern Insurance Company for £850 on stock and £100 on fixtures. In several places the firemen had to cut away portions of the flooring, in order to make an escape for the smoke. The damage here as estimated at about £25. The Shop of Mr. G. W. Cox, jeweller, adjoining Messrs. Duhst & Biven's in Rundle-street, escaped with some slight damage. His premises were insured in the Sun Fire Association Company for £350, and by 10.30 a.m. the company's valuator had inspected his premises, and satisfied Mr. Cox's claim. The fancy goods establishment carried on by Messrs. J. W. Hill & Co., in Rundle-street, adjoins Mr. Cox's shop and his extensive basement premises. These are largely stored with woollen and fancy goods. The smoke was very dense in that part for some time, and it is feared that a good deal of damage has been effected, but, until a thorough examination is made, nothing can be said with any certainty. The stock is fully covered by a policy in the Norwich Union office.

The basement and shop of Messrs. Anderson & Hall are almost completely spoiled. The stock, fittings, and tools are insured in the London and Lancashire office for £800. The Shop is smashed about, doors being broken away and all the fixtures and much of the stock shattered. A stairway leading to the basement is almost burnt away, and that portion of the establishment is almost completely wrecked. A most valuable set of watchmaker's tools are covered with debris and water. Some gold watches, which on Friday evening had been taken to pieces for repair, are scattered about somewhere, and about £100 worth of new watches is spoiled, it is believed, beyond repair. Fortunately the bulk of repair work, and much new stock, has been preserved in a safe. A valuable clock, which had been left with the firm for repair, is broken, and altogether Mr. Anderson, when asked, said that it was almost impossible even to guess the value of the damage done. The whole premises are saturated with smoke and water, and much time will be lost in making the premises fit for use again.

The offices upstairs are undamaged. The fire would have attained most serious proportions but for the promptitude of Police Constable Noblett, who was on duty, in notifying the Fire Brigade, and the immediate response of that body. The premises are old, and had the flames once reached the ground floor it is possible that the whole block might have gone

The total amount of damage done by the fire has not been definitely ascertained, but it is understood to be well covered by the insurances. The City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) was informed of the fire, and it has been decided that an enquiry will not be necessary.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 8 March 1904, page 4

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

At a little after 8.30 on Monday morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were summoned from the alarm on the corner of Stephens place and Rundle street. The fire reel dashed up in splendid time, and quickly located the trouble in the premises of Messrs. Elliott & Strong, of the Liliputim Bazaar, nearly opposite the Hamburg Hotel. The suburban brigades closely followed the city representatives. In the wake of the hurrying reels large business crowds rapidly gathered, and the vicinity was soon blocked. However, after playing the hoses on the first floor of the building, whence smoke was issuing, the fire was extinguished. Upon examination it was found that portion of the floor and passage on the first floor had been damaged by fire, and that part of the stock in the shop had been slightly injured by water. How the fire originated is at present unknown. Messrs. Kingston & McLachlan represent the owners of the property, which with the stock is insured for £1,000 in the South British, for £600 in the Alliance, and for £1,200 in the Liverpool and London and Globe Fire Insurance Companies. Messrs. Elliott & Strong opened their premises for business a little later, and nothing unusual was noticeable, excepting that the assistants were busily overhauling the soddened portions of the goods.

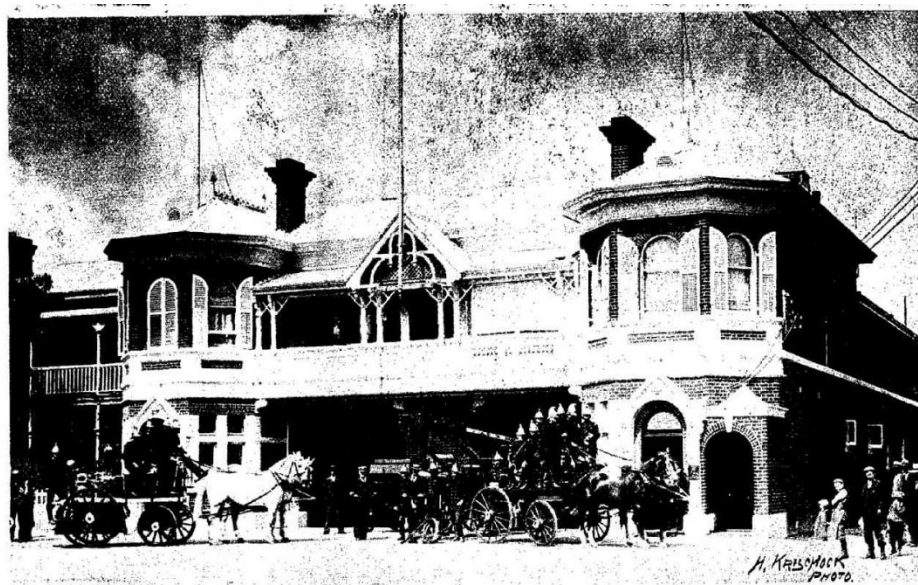
Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924), Wednesday 30 March 1904, page 12

Fire !

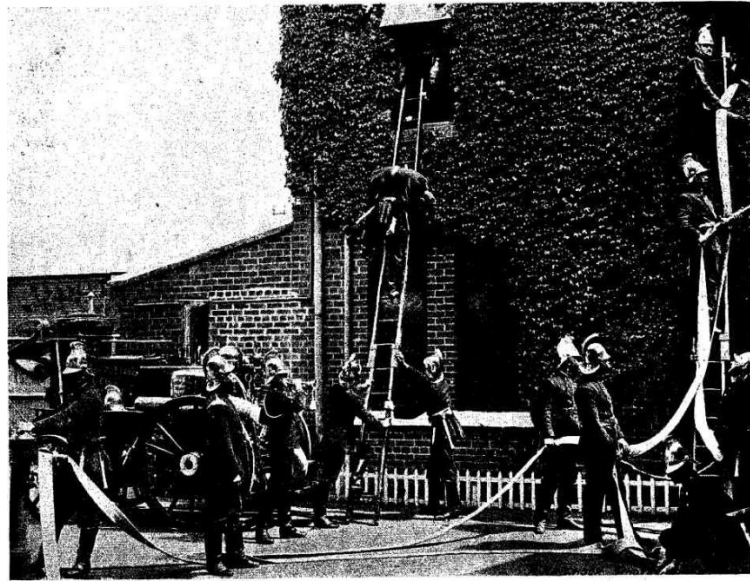
When an excited citizen smells smoke in the city of Adelaide, and, rushing to one of the many fire alarms in the city, breaks the glass and turns the handle according to directions, he doesn't usually give himself much time to picture what sort of sudden things are happening at the other end of the wire as a result of his action. Things do happen, however, with bewildering rapidity, as THE CRITIC learned the other day on the evidence of eye and camera. "Right! Where will you begin?" said Superintendent Booker when we asked to have a look at his machines (alive and otherwise). Said we, "At the beginning." He then showed us a rehearsal of a fire alarm and its consequences—a performance that impressed on us the efficiency of his fire-fighters more than hundreds of newspaper articles would have done. Each man has his individual place. Each man is ready at that place at about half a second's notice. That is the secret of the Brigade's ability. "A man in bed. Here, who can turn out quickly?" and the foreman passed on the summons as a laughing volunteer ran up to respond. To do the thing thoroughly we wanted to see the whole circumstances of a fire alarm, from the awakening of the sleeping fireman to the return of the forces. Superintendent Booker stood at the pole of his "steamer" like a post-captain Casabianca. The man who volunteered to be awakened from sweet refreshment with the gods to hurried preparation for active service on a "bilerplate," was rather bashful as regards being "took," but after much chaff the volunteer was forthcoming. The bell went. He sprang up like a rocket, grabbed his boots and "other things" lying ready, and was half-way into them when the camera and flashlight caught him. He couldn't have looked more fire-awakened. His face for one moment seemed to say, "I thought the fire was farther off than this," with natural surprise; and then he grasped the idea, and smiled, while there was a burst of laughter from the onlookers. "Now you shall see a turn-out," said the man who presses the button. Again the bell was set going, and the consequences of that ring were truly marvellous. We rubbed our eyes in astonishment. From, seemingly, the floor, the roof, the sides of the room, started up a body of

splendid looking men, who rushed the reel. Simultaneously Hector and Daylight, a pair of beautiful chestnuts, with an energy and eagerness that tells they know what is at hand, trotted up the "aisles" between the rows of machines and took their allotted places. Two men were ready at the collars and one at the reins. The former reached for the suspended harness, gave the collars a smart pull, that caused them to drop from their cunning holders on to the horses' necks, snapped them to at the bottom. Ready ! From start to finish it took about two seconds, and in another second the men were on the reel, out of the big doors, and away. A word just here as to the splendid fittings with which the station is supplied. For instance, the apparatus, that holds the collars over the pole is just as simple and speedy as ever it could be. Grasping the top of the harness with hooks are two cunningly contrived suspenders, which let go their burden when jerked from below. These instruments are affixed to two ropes, which unite at the ceiling. Here they pass over a pulley and down along the wall into a small cupboard. To this end of the rope there is a big lead weight, which exactly balances the collars at the other end. This useful idea admits of the harness being suspended at any height required above the horses, and so greatly adds to the convenience of the firemen. Booker's men are very speedy getting out their reels. At the bugle we rushed into the front, and there was everything all ready to gallop to a fire. We didn't take very long getting to the front door either. Indeed, the firemen were so quick that Mr. Booker yelled back, "Wait a minute; where's that photographer?" Then, when the camera had safely reached the other side of Wakefield-street we, by this time reinforced by a large crowd of "gutter-snipes," enjoyed a fine gallop past of the reel and the engine. By the way the firemen on those machines yelled out to an inoffensive coal man who happened to be crossing

Critic photos.



THE METROPOLITAN FIRE STATION, ADELAIDE.



AT THE BURNING BUILDING, FIREMEN RUNNING OUT THE HOSES . RESCUE WORK.



SOME OF THE MEN AND THEIR PETS.

Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924), Wednesday 30 March 1904, page 13

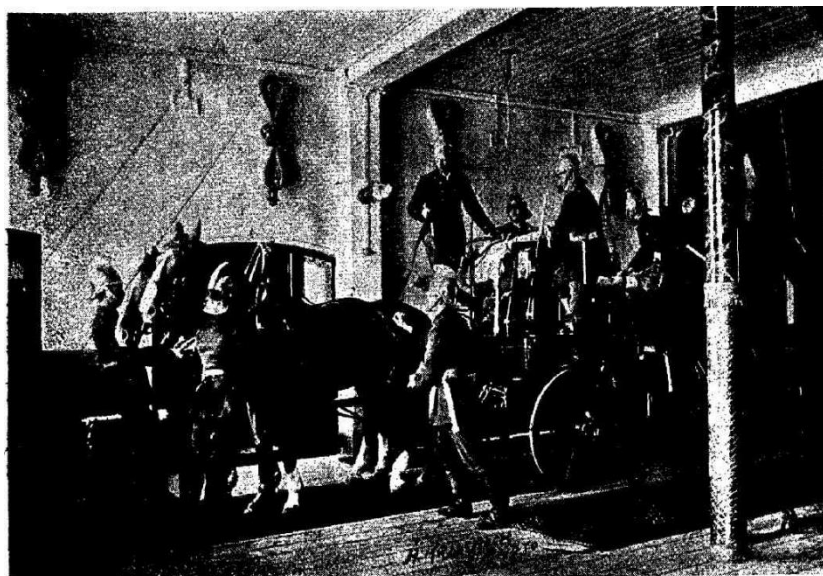
(continued from page 12)

the street any one would have thought there was something quite serious on hand. This done, the men returned and assembled in the yard at the back for drill, wheeling out the "steamer." From a wonderful box on this creature's back they hauled, out "feeder," hoses, ropes, red flags—all sorts of strange things. This was one item of the drill—working the engine at a fire. The "feeder" is filled with water, and thus the engine gets its supply, which it at once pumps out through a hose the other side. A fireman stoker takes up a position on the offside with a long iron shovel. And there you have the "wet blanket" ready for action. "Jump up into the tower there and save some one from a dreadful death with your lifeline," ordered the Superintendent, with a grin. Three men raced up steps to a 16-ft. height with a rope, and one offered himself as a victim to the operation of life-saving. Those on the elevation threw down one end of the rope to hands below, grasped the other end, and lowered the unconscious sufferer by means of a patent loop to terra firma. "Now then," shouted the foreman to the man who was being saved, but who looked much more as if he were being killed; "throw your limbs slack." And the "victim" posed as well as he could in mid-air, and looked an extremely pathetic figure as they lowered him. Lastly, we were treated to an exhibition of lifesaving by means of scaling ladders. These are fitted with sockets, so that they may be neatly joined

together, and the firemen showed us how they bring down men from burning buildings. Suppose you are the person whose existence fire is threatening to cut short. The brigade below lets you know its assistance is at hand, props its ladders against the windows, and deluge everything with water from powerful hoses. Then the strong, able-bodied men clamber into the room, throw you over their shoulders, as we have seen a butcher treat a sheep, and descend with you thuswise. It is a very much harder thing than it looks, is walking down a ladder with a man on your shoulders. The brigade made a fine sight on their ladders in this drill, with the sun reflected from their burnished helmets on to their cheerful faces. "That's all," said Booker and his men at the close of this scene. "That is our routine." We all know how well-equipped is the Adelaide Brigade, but the actual sight adds much to the conviction. Booker's men are little short of trained machines. "They can go anywhere and do anything," as the Iron Duke loved to praise his regiments. Spare time, of which the firemen have surprisingly little, they fill up in painting and other industries in their workshop. Superintendent Booker and his men were most obliging, willing to do much for our special delectation.



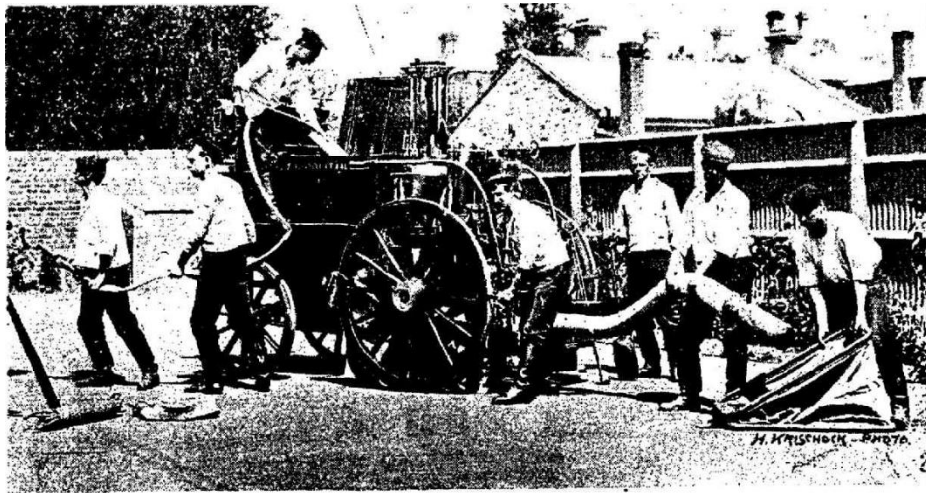
THE ALARM—FIREMAN AROUSED BY THE FIREBELL.



MANNING THE REELS AND HITCHING THE HORSES.



A TURN OUT.—GALLOPING TO THE SCENE OF THE FIRE.



Critic photos. AT DRILL WITH THE FIRE-ENGINE.



DRILLING FOR RESCUE WORK-- LOWERING A LIMP COMRADE.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 April 1904, page 35

FIRE IN PULTENEY-STREET.

There are few things which spread so rapidly as an alarm of fire. This was evidenced on Tuesday afternoon, when crowds of people rushed from all directions to the scene of a destructive conflagration at the premises of Mr. W. J. Rawling, tinsmith and iron-worker, Pulteney-street. The call for the brigade was given at about a quarter-past 4, and within a few minutes a crowd extending into Pirie-street had gathered to see the burning building. Although the origin of the fire is not known, the locality in which it was first seen was noticed by several persons. It appears that a little girl passing the front of the shop was amongst those who called attention to the fire. About the same time Mr. R. E. Hermann, who is a partner with Mr. Rawling in the Best Light portion of the business, which was carried on on the premises, noticed the flames, and did what he could to extinguish them, and at the same time sent one of the employes to give the alarm and call out the brigade. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a notification of the fire from the Globe Timber Mills alarm at 4.10 p.m., and Superintendent Booker turned out immediately from the head station with a reel, steamer, and ladder. He also called in the Norwood, Unley, and North Adelaide reels. On arrival at the scene of the fire the building was found to be well alight, back and front, and the flames had already reached the top floor, and could be seen coming through the windows. The brigade immediately got to work, and two lines of hose were run in at the front of the building and two at the rear. Steady and well-directed streams of water were poured into the burning mass, and after a sharp tussle, lasting about 20 minutes, the flames were practically extinguished. The front portion of the shop was badly damaged, and the contents were almost completely destroyed, but the back part of the premises was saved, as were also the adjoining buildings. The shop contained lamps and tinware, but a number of wooden partitions materially helped the flames to take a firm hold.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 23 May 1904, page 6

FIRE IN PEEL-STREET.

MOTOR CYCLES DESTROYED.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE.

A fire occurred in the two-storey building occupied by the Sphinx Motor Cycle Works. Peel-street, on Saturday evening and considerable damage was done before the flames were extinguished. It appears that Mr. C. F. B. Anderson, an employe of the company, of which Mr. A. D. Tyler is manager, was putting some petrol into a receptacle attached to a motor bicycle at 5.50 o'clock, when the fire started. He was pouring the petrol from a large tin into a smaller vessel, and a lighted, but closed, bicycle lamp was about two yards distant at the time. Suddenly Mr. Anderson noticed a small streak of blue light on the floor, and the next instant the large tin of petrol was ablaze.

Mr. J. C. Blakely, who was standing near by, rushed out of the place on seeing the flames, and ran to an alarm at the Theatre Royal to call the Fire Brigade.

An Unfortunate Mis-Step.

Mr. Anderson pluckily picked up the blazing tin, with the intention of carrying it into the street. He had almost reached the steps leading into the roadway when he tripped over the doormat with his heavy burden. In a moment there was a terrific explosion; the burning liquid was scattered in all directions, and soon the whole place was enveloped in flames. Mr. Anderson, who was hurled back about half a dozen yards into the workshop by the force of the explosion, ran through the thickest of the flames into the street. His clothes were ablaze when he reached the roadway, but Mr. Blakely soon extinguished the fire on his companion's

clothing, but not before Mr. Anderson's arms had been rather severely burnt. The wounds were dressed at the Adelaide Hospital.

Two Calls Received.

The Fire Brigade received two simultaneous calls to the fire. Superintendent Booker and his men turned out in remarkably smart time, and as the flames were licking up against the walls of the large buildings opposite the narrow street the reels had to dash through the blaze to get to the large water mains. The police were also promptly on the spot, and kept large crowds out of Peel-street to enable the fire-men to attend to their work without hindrance. At first there was considerable danger of the fire spreading to the large buildings opposite the doomed works, but the brigade vigorously attacked the fire at its heart and soon had it under control.

The premises presented a sorry spectacle after the fire had been extinguished. The ground floor was almost covered with the remains of what were once costly motor bicycles and parts. The steel rims were doubled up like pieces of bent hoopiron, the tyres had completely disappeared, and altogether the bicycles looked as if they had been tossed aside for some rubbish heap. Among them was noticed a destroyed "trailer" for a motor cycle. The stout boards forming the floor of the top apartment and the stairway leading to the place were considerably burnt, and it is a wonder they did not collapse. A large quantity of bicycle accessories and workmen's tools has been completely destroyed. Some of the bicycles burnt had been left there for repairs. Mr. H. R. Gibbs, dentist, had sent his motor cycle there for slight alterations before an intended trip into the country and his machine was destroyed.

The Damage.

The exact extent of the damage cannot yet be ascertained, but it is estimated at £1,000. The property was insured for £500 in the National office, and for £600 in the New Zealand Company.

A Plucky Man.

Mr. Blakely states that Mr. Anderson displayed much pluck in his futile attempt to prevent the fire from spreading, and but for the unfortunate false step which he made when approaching the open door-way his efforts would probably have met with success. Both Mr. Blakely and Mr. Anderson had a narrow escape from being incinerated, for owing to the rapidity with which the flames spread they were trapped within the burning premises for a time, and only escaped a fearful death by rushing through the inferno, and taking a big leap into Peel-street.

A Hot Half-hour's Work.

Superintendent Booker turned out a reel, steam fire engine, and ladder from the head station, and the North Adelaide, Unley, and Norwood brigades were called in to assist. The building was well alight on the ground and first floors when the firemen arrived, and two lines of hose were got to work, one from Currie-street and one from Hindley-street. In half an hour from the time the water was turned on all danger of the fire spreading was over. Whilst it lasted the firemen had hot work. The damaged building is owned by Mr. J. W. Tyler.

No Inquest.

The City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith) has decided not to hold an inquest.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 23 May 1904, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE FIRE BRIGADE MEDALS.

The ceremony at which Lady Le Hunte was to have presented long-service medals to five members of the Fire Brigade on Saturday was indefinitely postponed on account of the unpropitious weather.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 27 May 1904, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A SMALL FIRE

A small fire occurred in one of the par-lours of the Globe Hotel in Rundle-street shortly after 7 on Thursday evening. Before the brigade had arrived the fire had been extinguished, the curtains being the only material burnt. The reels from Norwood and North Adelaide also attended.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 9 June 1904, page 2

ACCIDENT TO FIRE-REEL.

FOUR MEN INJURED.

On Wednesday night, just before halfpast 9, people in King William street were alarmed by two horses attached to a firereel, without any men on it, dashing furiously along the road. A crowd instantly rushed to the head station, where the runaways had gone, and all sorts of wild rumours spread. There had been a serious accident. A few minutes previous the brigade had turned out for drill, and as the two-horse reel passed out of the building something went wrong with the spring hook attached to the reins. Owing to the reins becoming unfastened the horses were unmanageable. Clearing the station they bolted at a furious pace along Wakefield street towards the Queens statue. Superintendent Booker stated afterwards that it was the duty of the men on the reel to harness the animals, and in their own interests they should see that the fastenings were properly adjusted. As the reins came away from the horses the men jumped, and the driver (Fireman Butler) was thrown off his seat to the road. There were five men on the reel and seeing that the horses had bolted, and that the driver had been jerked out, they jumped off sideways. The men from the station immediately ran to their assistance. Fireman Wakeman was picked up unconscious, and was found to have two severe cuts on the head, besides other wounds. The driver and Firemen Stoneham and Nosse were also hurt, but not so badly as Wakeman. The hon. surgeon to the brigade (Dr. Napier) was soon in attendance and dressed the wounds of the injured men. Superintendent Booker, who was absent at the time, was informed of the occurrence by telephone, and he gave instructions that Wakeman and the others, if necessary, should be removed to the Hospital. The sufferers, however, did not sustain injuries serious enough to necessitate their removal from the fire station. The horses continued their mad gallop along Wakefield and Grote streets, then returned to King William street via Waymouth street. The main thoroughfare was crowded at the time, and the reel had many narrow escapes from collisions. It just missed a motor car in front of the Town Hall. Fortunately, however, the horses dodged everything in their way. They dashed along to the Queen's statue, and then to the station. They turned in, but there was a crowd in front of the footpath, and swerving out, the horses continued their course nearly to Hutt street, where they stopped. No damage was done to the horses or the reel.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 9 June 1904, page 3

SENSATIONAL BOLT.

FIRE-REEL HORSES RUN AWAY.

A FIREMAN SERIOUSLY INJURED.

A somewhat remarkable bolt occurred shortly before 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, when two horses attached to a reel belonging to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade station careered at top speed through a portion of the city.

Superintendent Booker made the following statement to a representative of The Advertiser concerning the affair:—"Whilst the men were out for drill in Wakefield-street on Wednesday evening an accident happened to one of the spring hooks of the rein, part of which had unfortunately been left unfastened. As a result the reel became unmanageable just outside the station. The work of attending to the harness is carried out by the men who ride on the vehicle, and therefore it is to their interest to see that the harness is properly adjusted. Through the rein-hook not being properly fixed the driver was thrown from his seat to the ground, whilst the other men jumped off sideways while the horses were bolting. One of the men, named Wakeman, was severely injured, being badly cut about the head, and remained unconscious for a considerable time. Three others, Stoneham, Butler (the driver), and Nosse, were more slightly injured. The injured men were at once picked up, and taken into the station and attended to by the brigade's surgeon, Dr. Leith Napier. I have given instructions that Wakeman and any others who are injured are to be sent to the hospital." The injuries to Wakeman include several bad cuts on the head, which were sewn up at the station by Dr. Napier.

The reel and horses were uninjured, which is somewhat remarkable considering that the horses travelled at top pace west-ward along Grote-street, north to Waymouth-street, down King William-street to the Queen's statue, and back to the station. The horses apparently intended to turn in, but owing to the presence of a crowd continued along Wakefield-street, until they were pulled up by some newly-laid metal near Hutt-street. Superintendent Booker was absent at Glenelg at the time of the accident.

Some remarkably narrow escapes from serious injury were experienced. About 50 boys of the Boys' Brigade, who had been attending the ball at the Town Hall, were just leaving the building as the runaway horses galloped past. Had the boys been released five seconds earlier they would have been right in the course of the reel. During its run down King William-street the reel narrowly missed a motor car, a cab, and a pie-stall, but nothing was injured.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 10 June 1904, page 4

THE FIRE REEL ACCIDENT.

Foreman W. Wakeman, who was injured on Wednesday night when the two horses attached to a metropolitan fire brigade reel bolted in the city, is progressing most satisfactorily. He recovered consciousness prior to his removal from the fire station, and is now at his home, near the Norwood Fire Station. The two wounds on his forehead will, however, take some time to heal up. The other injured men, Butter, Nosse, and Stoneham, will be able to resume duty in a day or two.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 13 June 1904, page 5

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE MEDALS.

A large number of people assembled at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade station on Saturday afternoon to witness the presentation of long-service medals by Lady Le Hunte to members of the brigade who had spent ten years in the employ of the board. Lady Le Hunte, accompanied by his Excellency the Governor and Miss Swete, were met as they alighted from their carriage by Superintendent Booker, the National Anthem being played by the band of the head station during the ceremony, while the Union Jack was simultaneously run up to the truck of the flagstaff above the station front. The chairman and Mrs. Smeaton received the viceregal party as they entered the building, and the members of the board were introduced to them. These were Messrs. W. D. Ponder (councillor, Adelaide), J. H. Chinner (Mayor of

Unley), H. W. Langsford (Mayor of St. Peters), and G. Bright (Mayor of Gawler). There were also present the Premier and Mrs. Jenkins, the Mayor of Adelaide, Mrs. and Miss Cohen, the Commissioner of Police (Colonel Madley), the Naval Commandant (Captain Clare, C.M.G.), members of the City Council, the under secretary (Mr. L. H. Sholl, D.S.O.), the acting secretary of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr H. M. Bristowe), the chairman of the Fire Underwriters' Association (Mr. R. A Paxton), the vice-chairman (Mr. W. G Coombs), and well known citizens.

The party retired to the quadrangle at the rear, which was ablaze with color, lines of bunting being suspended overhead, and the platform entirely covered with tasteful drapery. The Chairman said that in inviting the company to be present to witness the proceedings in which Lady Le Hunte and certain of the employes of the Fire Brigades Board would take a principal part, they were following a happy and, he was persuaded, a wise custom. In such an institution as the Fire Brigade it was the duty of those who were entrusted with its management to see that a link of sympathy between the public and the men whose lives were at call day and night for their protection was ever maintained, and the gathering that afternoon was a further effort by the board in that direction. Sentiments of more or less potency always gathered around and closely allied themselves with associations of uniformed forces. Indeed, but for the sentiment which stirred public feeling at spasmodic intervals, it might be that some of those uniformed forces would be forgotten—until they were wanted. There was, however, a sentiment attaching to a firefighting force which was not easily forgotten, for the work of those men was an almost everyday factor in the life and welfare of the community in which they were engaged. Yet few people in a city like Adelaide realised how much depended on the men whose life's work it was to stand between them and disaster and death. They were full of gratitude to the men of the brigade, who had done and were doing so much to enable the people to dwell in reasonable security. (Cheers.) Poets had sung of the valor and heroism of soldiers and sailors. He wondered when someone would be inspired to immortalise the service which they had gathered that day to honor. Day and night those men were at call, their motto, "Ready, ay, ready!" When citizens were asleep, dreaming not of danger, the argus eye of the Fire Brigade was watching over their safety, and strong hands and brave hearts were ready to fight for the protection of their life and property. The work of the Fire Brigades Board extended from Port Augusta down to Adelaide. More than 100,000 people and millions of pounds' worth of property were under their care, and all this responsibility the board carried out for £11,000 per annum. They had a compact fighting force, efficient and strong right up to its capacity. They had only about 20 men to protect the whole of the city of Adelaide, and the accident two days before which incapacitated four men was a serious thing to them. They did their best, and he was hoping for a change before long. What the change would be he did not know, but something should be done to increase the strength of the brigade. It was altogether too weak at present, and the members of the board would not rest satisfied until it was strengthened. It had been their custom to give to those men who had been in their employ for 10 years a medal, to show what they had done. He asked Lady Le Hunte to present the medals to those who had won and were fully entitled to them. (Cheers.)

The Recipients of the Medals.

Her Excellency then pinned bronze medals on the breasts of Fireman E. J. Kelly (Semaphore), Fireman J. Parsons (Port Adelaide), Foreman A. Bender (Norwood), and Fireman T. Whitehair (Metropolitan). A medal due to Foreman J. C. Kellett (Moonta) had been posted to him on the previous day. The medals bear on the obverse the seal of the board, and on the reverse an inscription. Her Excellency, at the request of the Chairman, also presented a medal to Mr. C. L. Meyer, who retired from the board last year after 23 years' service. During that time, said the Chairman, Mr. Meyer's work had been as faithful as that of any man in the brigade itself. They had determined that the best form the memento of his connection with the board could take was that bearing the same device as the medals presented to the men, but with the sentiments of the board inscribed on it. The inscription reads:—"Presented to C. L. Meyer, Esq., on the completion of 23 years' service on the Fire Brigades Board. June, 1904." Mr. Meyer, in acknowledging the presentation, said the medal

would bring back many happy recollections of profit-able hours spent in the service of the board. The Fire Brigades Board when he first became associated with it was of very small dimensions, and had passed through many troublesome times. He congratulated the members of the board and the public of South Australia that they had such an efficient board and brigade at the present. It was as efficient as it was possible to make it with the funds at the disposal of the board, and if they had not a capable executive officer the work of the board would be of no avail. He praised the work of the superintendent and the men under him.

A Vote of Thanks to Lady Le Hunte.

The Premier proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Le Hunte for presenting the medals. He was pleased that the superintendent had such confidence in himself, for it inspired confidence in the men under him. The Mayor of Adelaide, in seconding, referred to the interest taken by Sir George and Lady Le Hunte in charitable, philanthropic, and other institutions, not alone in Adelaide, but all through the State. He assured the gathering that there was no portion of their corporation funds devoted to better use or placed under worthier control than that voted to the Fire Brigades Board. The chairman had waited on him on many occasions and directed his attention to the fact that they wanted more money for their purposes. But he would not enter upon a controversial question. To the men of the fire brigade they owed the safety, in a large measure, of their lives and property. The brigade was one of the most important organisations in the metropolis. The vote was carried by acclamation.

The Governor's Acknowledgment.

His Excellency said he had been asked by his wife to say how pleased she was to receive the compliment of being asked to distribute the medals. It was an extreme pleasure to him to accompany his wife, and that pleasure was increased by seeing and congratulating the winners of the medals of distinction for long service. Ten years was a long time in a man's life, and when they knew that the men had spent 10 years in the service of the brigade they felt it an honor to do honor to them. It was also a pleasure to see the number of medals increasing. He saw that the men drawn up before him were wearing the King's medals for valor in the field—in South Africa and China—and there was nothing more glorious than to come back with those on their breasts. The fire brigade had a special interest to him, because the men came from a profession which appealed to him—the sea. They were the handy men, who could do as well afloat as on shore. They knew that the men of the brigade would never fail when the call came, whether to protect life or property, in their devotion to duty. (Cheers.)

A Full Turnout.

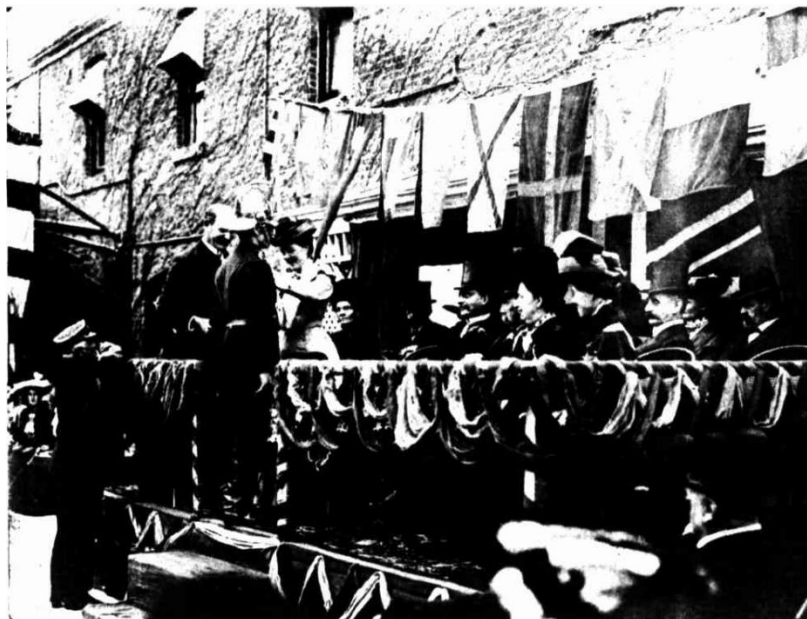
Afternoon tea was then taken, and the proceedings terminated with a demonstration by the brigade, which was a feature of the ceremony. The visitors lined up within the station, and at a signal given from the callroom the whole service, consisting of two steamers, a reel, and a ladder, was manned and, having cleared the station, set off in a westerly direction along Wakefield-street. It was about as large a turnout as could be made from any station in Australia. On the return run the superintendent, standing in the roadway, gave a signal to the drivers approaching to continue their gallop past the station for a spectacular display. The spirited beasts dashed away in great style. The spectators pressed into the road to see the gallop past, for it is seldom that such a scene is witnessed. Only the ladder, which was drawn by one horse, was stayed, and it was run up to a height of 70 ft. while the engines were returning. Then 11 men, with the agility and confidence born of long practice, climbed the rungs and stationed themselves at various intervals while the photographers "snapped" them.

The viceregal party, who had watched the manouvres from the balcony, descended, the guard was formed, and the farewells were taken.

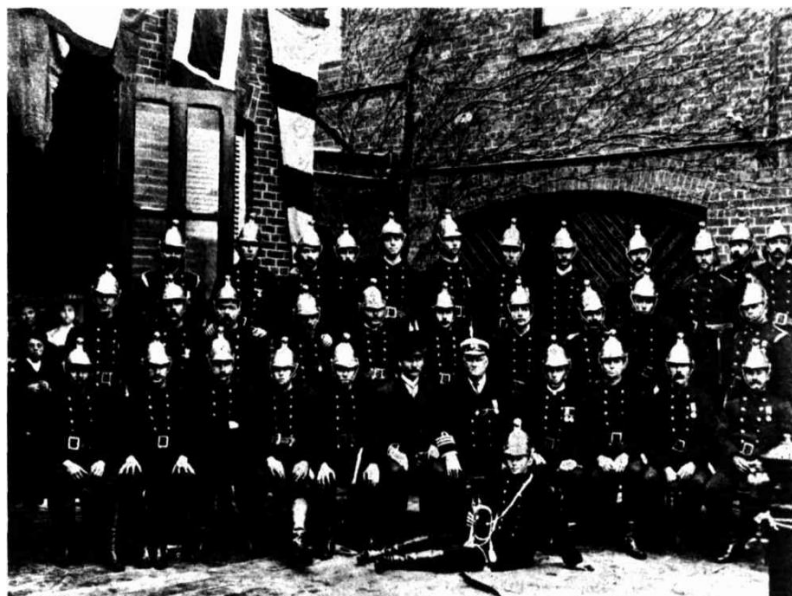
Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 18 June 1904, page 23

PRESENTATION OF FIRE BRIGADE MEDALS FOR LONG SERVICE.

Photo, W. S. Smith, Arcade.



LADY LE HUNTE FASTENING ON A MEDAL.



THE BRIGADE.



THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE STATION, WAKEFIELD STREET.



MANNING THE FIRE ESCAPE LADDER.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 17 October 1904, page 4

FIRE AT BANKSIDE.

HARDY'S CELLARS DESTROYED. WINE PUMPED ON THE FIRE.

A BRAVE HELPER SCALDED. LOSS ESTIMATED AT £20,000.

A fire resulting in enormous loss broke out at the winery in connection with Messrs. T. Hardy & Sons' vineyards at Bankside on Saturday afternoon. The property is situated in the district of Underdale, between Thebarton and Hindmarsh, and some of the best wines made in South Australia have been produced by these vineyards, which are nearly 50 years old.

How the Alarm was Raised.

At about 1.15 p.m. on Saturday, Miss Hardy saw flames rising from the centre of the cellar buildings, which are situated about 30 yards from the two-storey house in which Mr. Hardy resides. The engine whistle was sounded, and the employees, together with Mr. Robert Hardy

and Mr. T. A. Hardy, soon arrived on the scene, but by this time the cellars, which are well stocked with wine, had caught alight. They soon realised that there was no possible chance of dealing with the fire with the means that were available, as water was exceedingly scarce, the contingency of a serious fire not having been guarded against by the proprietors. Although the River Torrens runs close by there was no method of obtaining a copious supply of water thence, while the nearest main was fully a quarter of a mile away. Amongst the first outsiders to arrive was Constable Moloney, the officer in charge of the Thebarton police-station. He lent valuable assistance, and sent a man to telephone for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. At 1.40 p.m. the hooter at the Brompton gasworks sounded an alarm, and Lieutenant E. Wakefield, who was at the central brigade station in Lindsay Circus, was soon ready with the horse reel. In a very short time Superintendent J. Duncan, in charge of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Fire Brigade was at the scene of the fire. The firemen, however, were powerless to act, as there was not a supply of water at hand. Half an hour later Superintendent Booker, with the metropolitan brigade arrived, and he was in the same fix as the volunteer brigade. There is a water main along the road near Holbrook's-bridge, over a quarter of a mile away from the winery, and the superintendents decided to couple the hoses together to cover the distance, about 500 ft. of the Hindmarsh hose being employed in that service. Before a stream of water could be thrown on the flames the buildings were almost destroyed. The firemen worked well, and Superintendent Booker deserves great praise for the manner in which he coped with a difficult problem. The Hindmarsh Brigade rendered considerable assistance, and Superintendent Booker spoke in complimentary terms of the help they gave.

Rivers of Wine.

The cellars, where the fire broke out, were well stocked with wine, stored for the most part in large vats. As the heat increased the vats burst, and the sparkling wine poured out in streams, overflowed the walks around the doomed buildings, and saturated the ground. "What a pity." said a thirsty soul, "that all this good stuff is running away and no one can drink it." Had the covetous individual attempted to slake his thirst with the wine that was running in rivulets from the buildings, he would undoubtedly have asked for a drop of water to cool his tongue, as much of the liquid was almost at boiling point. Mr. Samuel Skinner, a butcher, was unfortunate enough to have both legs right up to his thighs severely scalded with the hot wine in the early stage of the conflagration. He went down the cellar under the dwelling occupied by Mr. T. Hardy, ran along an underway passage for some distance to reach the wine cellars so that he might close the iron doors erected to cut off communication between the two premises, and thus prevent the flames extending to the house. Suddenly there came down this channel a rush of wine heated nearly to boiling point, and Mr. Skinner was almost overcome. Timely aid was given and he was rescued, and big injuries were attended to subsequently by Dr. Niesche.

Wine to Extinguish Flames.

A large quantity of wine was used as a substitute for water in the work of extinguishing the flames. For nearly two hours the firemen, under the direction of Mr. Booker, threw from the steamer two streams of wine upon the fire, and they looked extremely pretty as they glistened in the sunlight. The feed-pipe of the steamer was connected with the house cellar, and a constant and full supply of wine was obtained, as after it had been played on the flames a large quantity flowed back to the lower level again, and helped to form a fresh supply. Some of course, evaporated as a result of the heat. When the steamer ceased its operations there was still over 6 in. of wine over the floor of the cellar below. The spirit in the wine produced attractive effects as it came in contact with the flames. When the fire had apparently subsided another vat would burst, and the wine, reaching some live coals, would throw up a blaze of scintillating light in beautiful and dazzling tints. Without a copious supply of water, however, satisfactory results were not obtained in subduing the conflagration. Notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen, the whole of the buildings, excepting an outer shed and the boiler-house, were destroyed, while some of the walls fell in as the lintels were burnt through.

The Estimated Loss.

It is estimated that when the fire broke out there were about 250,000 gallons of wine in the cellars, and this, together with the buildings, was said to be worth about £25,000 or £30,000. The insurances effected on the buildings and contents amounted in the aggregate to £16,726. About one-third of the loss will have to be borne by Messrs. Hardy & Sons, as they were not insured for the full value. Mr. T. Hardy, sen., informed us on Sunday that the amount of wine destroyed was 110,000 gallons. It is estimated that the damage, resulting from the fire will reach fully £20,000. The property was insured with the National Insurance Company of New Zealand, of which Mr. J. Creswell is secretary, the amount being allocated as follows:—On building of cellar. £1,000; wine, £12,125; casks and vats. £2,351; machinery and utensils of trade. £750; dwelling and furniture. £750. Only a small proportion of this amount was retained by the National Insurance Company of New Zealand, and many companies are affected by reinsurance.

The Promises.

The Bankside vineyard comprises 50 acres. Mr. Thomas Hardy took up his residence on the land in 1853, and seven years later began winemaking. Commencing in a small way, he added building to building until the area of his wine cellars reached nearly three-quarters of an acre. The buildings were chiefly two-storey in height. The walls were variously built of mud, concrete, stone, and brick, while they were covered with wood and iron. There were three floors, inclusive of the basement, almost entirely covered with large vats filled with some of the best wines. Indeed, the bulk of that destroyed was the best; and a quantity of olive oil shared the same fate. The output from these cellars was 50,000 gallons of wine per annum, and of olive oil 1,000 gallons. Mr. Hardy's dwelling, which is two storeys in height, and has 12 rooms, is about 40 ft. distant from the cellars, which are connected with the cellars under the dwelling by a subterranean passage. The dwelling narrowly escaped destruction, for it is surrounded by a wooden balcony, and some parts of it were ignited by the flames being blown by the wind across the intervening clear space. In view of the impending danger the rooms were cleared of the furniture and effects.

Statement by Superintendent Booker.

Superintendent Booker, when seen by a representative of The Advertiser on Sunday morning, made the following statement:— "At 1.45 p.m. on Saturday information was received at the headquarters fire station in Wakefield-street of a fire in Thebarton, but owing to the faulty communication some time was lost in ascertaining the exact position of the fire. The reel was immediately turned out in charge of the super-intendent, and upon arrival at Mile-End we found that the fire was not in those cellars belonging to Messrs, Hardy & Sons which are situated at the junction of the Henley Beach-road and the road to Hindmarsh. Soon afterwards, however, a man on horse-back came along, and piloted us to the scene of the fire, which was at Messrs. Hardy & Sons' Bankside establishment. Upon arrival there I found that the cellars were well alight from end to end. Many of the vats of wine had burst, and the roof had fallen in. To make matters more difficult, I found that the nearest water main was fully 1,800 ft. away from the fire. Fortunately by borrowing the hose from the Hindmarsh Volunteer brigade, which was present, and joining it to 1,000 ft. of our own hose, we were able to get one stream of water to play on the fire. Seeing at once that there would be a total loss if more stringent measures were not adopted, I immediately sent for a steam fire-engine from town, and this arrived at 2.30 p.m. under a full head of steam. All this time the wine from the vats which had burst was flowing from the cellar where the fire was located, by means of an underground passage, down an inclined plane into the cellar beneath the residence, and it covered the floor of that cellar to a depth of 4 ft. As soon as the steam fire-engine arrived I gave instructions to put the suction pipes into the cellar beneath the house. By this means I was able to throw two powerful one-inch streams of wine on to the fire, and so prevent a total destruction. The engine room and boiler-house, together with a quantity of wine, were saved, I estimate that the loss, speaking roughly, will be over £20,000."

Do you know what the insurances are?

"I have heard that it is covered to the extent of £17,000 by a policy with the National Insurance Company of New Zealand, which, of course, would only retain a small portion of that amount. I should say that the whole of the building and contents would be valued at about £25,000 or £30,000.

Have you any knowledge as to the cause of the fire.

"We have been unable to find out the actual cause."

When was the fire completely extinguished?

"It is not extinguished yet. I have had an officer and two men working all night at the fire, and they were relieved this morning by another officer and two men. I expect that it will be Monday morning before we can remove all the appliances which are being used at the fire. Prior to the brigade getting to the fire some willing workers had, as usual, removed the whole of the contents of the private house, and as they were not too careful I am afraid considerable damage was done to the furniture in the process. The police, both foot and mounted constables, rendered me every assistance in their power."

Between 16,000 and 18,000 Gallon's of Wine Used.

Superintendent Booker showed our representative the steam-engine which had been used to pump the wine on to the fire. Although it had been washed with hot water and soap it reeked with the smell of the boiling and be-smoked wine which had passed through it. The firemen had worked all night in making all the appliances, except those left at the fire, ready for another call. It may be mentioned that the wine which was pumped through the steam engine was so heated by the fire in the cellar that it almost reached boiling point. In fact it was so hot that the men were compelled to wrap bags around the "branches" to enable them to hold them. Mr. Booker showed great foresight—the result of his vast experience—in using the wine in the cellar. He thus established an endless supply of fluid to fight the fire, because as fast as it was pumped into the cellar, where the fire was, it flowed by the subterranean passage back again into the cellar, where the suction pipes of the engine drew it upwards again, and in this manner the same wine passed through the hoses several times. Superintendent Booker calculated that during the time that the steam-engine was working he pumped between 16,000 and 18,000 gallons of wine on the fire. It is worthy of mention that although the firemen became drenched in wine, and could have obtained it readily in any quantity, they did not taste a drop of it, but drank freely from the bucket of milk which was passed round. In the fire brigade there is a stringent rule against any fireman drinking liquor while on duty, and this instance of abstention speaks well for the excellent discipline of the firemen.

A Moral from the Fire.

When asked whether he had any comment to make regarding the fire, Superintendent Booker said—"I might state that this loss by fire is another instance that clearly proves to me that the present Fire Brigades Act requires immediate attention. The late call, alone, and the inability to instruct us as to the class of fire or the exact locality, meant thousands of pounds lost. Proper means of communication should, in the interests of the taxpayers, be established from all districts within a reasonable radius direct to the headquarters station. When it is taken into consideration that the whole of Thebarton, as in this instance, all the districts between Glenelg and Adelaide, also Prospect, Medindie, Walkerville, Burnside, Glen Osmond, and many other district councils near Adelaide are totally unprotected, it is time, in my opinion, that something should be done in the interests of those who may expect a fire at any time. All cities, towns, and suburban municipalities have to contend against a loss by fire, and as an expert of many years' standing I fail to see how any of these places can expect protection when a fire breaks out, if they do not make provision prior to the misfortune. Not one of these districts contributes a farthing per annum to the expenses of the Fire Brigades Board. At the fire in question 13 men and two officers were engaged in fighting the flames, and the plant used cost the city of Adelaide considerably over £1,000, and yet Bank-side is within the

Corporation of Thebarton, which does not contribute towards the maintenance of the Fire Brigade in any shape or form, but, as in all other such cases, the moment a fire breaks out all haste is made to ring up the Metropolitan Fire Brigade." What advantage do the corporations which contribute to the maintenance of the Fire Brigades obtain under those circumstances?

"They have practically no advantage over the districts which do not contribute. The brigade is undermanned at the present time, and we ought to have considerably more men. With half the brigade away at a fire in one of those non-contributing districts a great portion of Adelaide might be destroyed. Under the existing Fire Brigades Act a great responsibility is thrown on my shoulders. Under clause 34 of the Act power is given to the superintendent "if he thinks fit" to proceed out side the municipality of Adelaide with the whole or any portion of the brigade for the purpose of protecting life and property. The same clause also gives the Fire Brigades Board power to direct me to go. As however, it would be almost impossible for the board to be called together to instruct me to go in an outlying district, I have had to carry this responsibility on my own shoulders. Personally, I do not think it is fair, or in the interests of the ratepayers of the city of Adelaide, that any portion of the metropolitan brigade should proceed to districts which are not contributing to the Fire Brigades Board."

The Cellarman Interviewed.

Mr. John Steward, cellarman, said he was the last man on the premises prior to the fire. He left the place at 1 o'clock. Before leaving he went through all the cellars carefully, and found everything apparently all right. He added—"After I went through No. 9 cellar, and seeing that there was nothing irregular. I locked the doors. During the morning some of the casks were sulphured, a process which is done by dipping strips of calico in sulphur which are then fastened to a piece of wire and placed in the casks to burn them out. The sulphured calico is ignited by the flame of a candle. We have never had an accident during these operations, and I am not aware that there is any danger. The sulphuring of the casks took place at about 11 o'clock. Mr. T. Hardy and our wine expert, Mr. Seeck, were the only persons who used the candle while the sulphuring of the casks was being proceeded with. The casks are bunged after sulphuring. I am sure they put out the light safely. Just after noon we started to sweep up, when no lights were required, nor were any used. Everything was safe when I shut the cellars, and I was the last to leave. I hung the keys on the locks in the usual place at the dwelling-house, and went home."

Another Inspection.

Mr. T. N. Hardy said that when he left about 1.5 p.m. the cellarman had locked up and had hung up the keys. At noon he had carefully looked through the cellars and had found everything safe. Nothing inflammable was kept, in the cellar.

Mr. T. Hardy Speaks.

Mr. Thomas Hardy, head of the firm, was absent from home at the time of the fire, and he arrived at 5 o'clock, when the flames had been extinguished. He sorrowfully went over the demolished cellars, and said —"That was the work of a lifetime. I came here in 1853, and started this industry in 1860, adding one building to an-other until the whole has reached its present dimensions, and now it is all destroyed. Our business arrangements, I am glad to say, will not be interfered with by the destruction of the cellars and wine, as this is a small concern compared with what we have at Maclaren Vale and Tintara."

The Pressure of Water.

Mr. W. S. Dover, secretary of the Hindmarsh brigade, said his brigade arrived at the wine cellars at 1.45 p.m., five minutes after the hooter was sounded at the gas works, but there was no hope of saving the buildings as water could not be obtained in sufficient quantity until the hose had been connected with the water main near Holbrook's-bridge. He did not think the pressure was more than 35 lb. to the inch, and consequently the firemen were handicapped in their work.

Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946), Saturday 22 October 1904, page 33

FIRE AT AN ADELAIDE WINERY.

The well known winery at Bankside Vineyards, Adelaide, one of the oldest in the state, belonging to Thomas Hardy and Sons, was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon. The Bankside property comprises about 60 acres, on the bank of the Torrens. The homestead and winery are set close together in the midst of carefully cultivated vineyards, fruit orchards, orange groves, and garden land. There was a storage capacity of 400,000 gallons, and last year Mr. Thomas Hardy made 30,000 gallons. The winery was three stories high, crushing being done on the top floor and fermenting on the second and basement floors. The fire appears to have started shortly after the workmen left at 1 o'clock. When first seen at 10 minutes past 1, it was well alight, and the difficulty of combating the flames when the brigades arrived was enhanced by the fact that the nearest mains were half a mile away. Meanwhile the flames were doing great destruction, and every few minutes the spirit in the large tubs of wine would boil and cause the great casks to burst with a loud report, and throw a crimson fountain of wine, which flooded the cellars. Superintendent Booker saw in this development a new fire extinguisher, and for a hour and a half poured two 1 in. jets of wine upon the flames. Such of the liquid poured on the fire as flowed back into the basement was used again and again. During most of the time the nozzles of the hoses had to be held by the firemen with bags on account of the intense heat of the wine passing through them. The damage is estimated at £25,000, and the insurance covers £16,000. The origin of the fire is not known.

FIRE AT THE ADELAIDE BANKSIDE WINERY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16.



1. FIREMEN SAVING SOME OF THE PORT WINE. 2. STREAMS OF WATER AND WINE BEING Poured ON THE FIRE. 3. THE RUINS AT SIX P.M. : FIRE STILL BURNING. 4. AFTER THE FIRE : MAIN PORTION OF THE CELLARS.

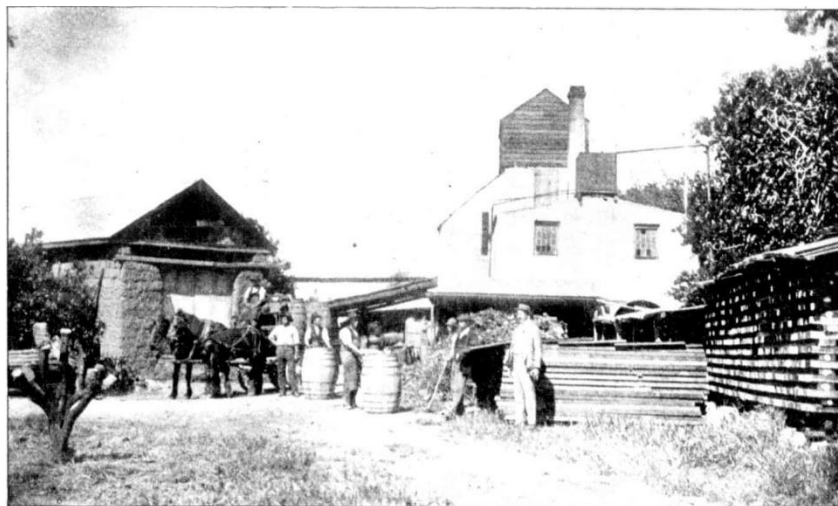
(H. Krischock, photo.)

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 22 October 1904, page 27

THE FIRE AT MR. T. HARDY'S BANKSIDE WINE CELLARS.



MR. HARDY'S RESIDENCE. WHICH NARROWLY ESCAPED DESTRUCTION.



THE PREMISES BEFORE THE FIRE.



AFTER THE FIRE. GRAPHIC VIEW OF THE RUINS.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Wednesday 26 October 1904, page 1

MAYFIELD'S FIRE.

A CLEAN SWEEP. SHOWROOMS COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

The fire which broke-out in the big furniture establishment of S. Mayfield & Sons, Rundle street, at about 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning was thoroughly subdued by 4 o'clock. Long before that hour it was certain that the splendid efforts of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade had confined the blaze to the one set of premises; but elements of danger prevented the quenching being carried into effect as speedily as might otherwise have been the case. When the conflagration was at its worst the police, who co-operated so well with the firemen, sounded the alarm that the eastern wall was bulging outward, and the position looked so threatening that all the men were withdrawn. The high southern wall protected the workshop, and the risk of the fire spreading in that direction was reduced to a minimum. Efforts were then concentrated on the Rundle street front, and four hoses were kept continually going—two through the spaces formerly occupied by the windows, one from the verandah, and one from the top of the escape ladder, which was run up 40 ft. from the roadway. By this means an entrance through the main shops was made available after three-quarters of an hour's fighting, and once the men were able to get in among the ruins the burning mass at the south end was tackled. Just as the town clock struck 4 the last big flare was reduced, and a few minutes later there was practically nothing but a black, gaping space, over which rolled, an ever-reducing volume of smoke. As daybreak broke on the scene the reels one after another rolled up their hoses and left for home, and when the ordinary business of the day was begun only one line remained to deal with the smouldering heaps.

GRAND WORKERS.

Once more the members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade have demonstrated their skill in the particular sphere of life in which they move. By the time they arrived on the spot the chances of saving Mayfield's premises were exceedingly remote, and great danger threatened the adjoining premises, especially on the eastern side. Than Superintendent Booker no man can quicker grasp the difficulties of a big fire, and he so disposed his men as to grip the conflagration on Wednesday morning at its most vital points, and press it back within its certain limits. Then inch by inch he fought it down to the centre of the main building, and there extinguished it. All this was accomplished without mishap. and the excellence of the performance is another tribute to the efficiency of the brigade. For its strength it does really wonderful work, and there is no doubt that Adelaide owes its immunity from serious spreading fires to the high standard of its fire fighters and the thorough practical and theoretical knowledge of the burly superintendent.

THE RUINS.

Thousands of people visited the place on Wednesday. There was nothing to see but bare walls and an occasional jet of smoke issuing from fissures in the ruins. The demolition was complete, and the only things which had an upright position were the portions of the iron supports which stood after the roof and the ceiling of the first floor had collapsed. Galvanized iron sheets twisted like paper, bricks, beams, iron girders, and charred furniture were mixed up in one confused mass. An occasional flicker was to be seen from a bundle of mats or inflammable stuff, but all signs of excitement were gone. The high brick wall at the south end saved the workshop, but the eastern wall is exceedingly dangerous, and a high wind would very likely bring it down. At the south-eastern corner it is cracked from top to bottom. The fireproof door leading on to the first floor was closed, and, though charred and black on the inside, formed a complete foil to the spread of the blaze southwards. The pulley and rope used to haul big pieces of furniture from the workshop to the upper showroom remained intact, although the beam to which the block was attached dropped inside the wall and pulled several bricks with it.

OTHER SUFFERERS.

Excepting in the tailoring and mercery establishment of Hogan & Keightley, very little damage was done to occupiers of adjoining shops by fire, but several places suffered through the water visitation. At Hogan's the fire came in from the top and destroyed the roof. The burnt timbers fell into the workshop, and one charred beam rested on the face of a large mirror,

which was not even cracked. Most of the stock in the front escaped, but water was dripping freely from the ceiling. Several of the employes assembled outside, and one girl asked a fireman to find her gold-rimmed spectacles, which she had left in a machine drawer. Sure enough, on inspection, he found them without a scratch. In the Public Benefit Boot Company's shop large sheets of paper had peeled off the walls and fallen over the hanging stock, with the result that many pairs of boots were saved from a wetting. There was ruin from water in other parts, however, and two large mirrors in what was the ladies' fitting room were cracked right across. The proprietor of the Adelaide Photo Company regards his escape as simply marvellous. The back part of his premises was protected by the wall which was built after the fire at Mayfield's 12 months ago, and though the flames ran right along the front parapet they never leaped it with sufficient force to catch the wooden shutter which closed the light from the northern upstairs room. In one or two places the water soaked through into the ceiling, but so far as he could see only one glass in a photo frame was broken by the heat. At 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning the western wall was uncomfortably warm. Comley's ham shop was thoroughly drenched, but otherwise it was all right. Mrs. Comley said that before retiring at night it was their practice to look a round to see that everything was safe. Between 12 and half-past 12 on Wednesday morning the usual inspection was made, and at that time there was no sign of the impending danger which caused them such a scare. On the other side of Mayfield's is the Crown Photographic Studio, and by dint of continuous effort this was also saved. In a short visit during the morning very little damage was apparent, excepting that in the studio itself part of the glass roof was smashed, and a fair quantity of water was lying on the floor. Owing to the condition of the western wall, however, it was deemed unsafe to occupy the premises.

THE INSURANCES.

The insurances on the building and stock were as follow:—Messrs. Mayfield & Sons—Australian Alliance, £1,000; Aachen and Munich, £765; Atlas, £1,000; Colonial Mutual, £400; Imperial Alliance, £1.250; Yorkshire, £500; Liverpool, London, and Globe, £750; Phoenix. £650; Royal, £3,550; South British, £500: United, £500: Victoria, £500; Commercial Union, £2.500; New Zealand, £1.500; total, £15,365. Messrs. Hogan & Keightley's stock is insured in the Standard Company for £570, and that of the Public Benefit boot shop in the North British for £1,500. TATTERSALL'S CLUB PRO-PERTY ESCAPES. Owing to the alterations and improvements to Tattersall's Club Premises, a considerable amount of the club's furniture and effects was recently stored at Mayfield's, and early on Wednesday morning it was feared that it had succumbed to the flames. It appears, however, that it was stocked in the store at the back of the gutted building—which the fire did not reach—and accordingly escaped injury.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 28 October 1904, page 11

MAYFIELDS FIRE.

THE INQUEST.

On Thursday morning. The City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith) held an enquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at the premises of Messrs. S. Mayfield and Sons', Rundle-street, on Wednesday morning. Mr. A. V. Piper watched the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. Mayfield & Sons., Mr. G. M. Evan on behalf of the insurance companies, and Superintendent Booker on behalf of the Fire Brigades Board. Edwin Arthur Mayfield, of Glenelg, said he was a partner of the firm. On the evening of October 25 he left the premises in question just before 6 o'clock in company with some others. Mr. W. E. Mayfield, nephew of the witness, locked up the premises and everything appeared to be right. There were no lights burning. The lighting of the offices was by incandescent gas-lights and the windows and show room by electric light. There were no pilot lights in any of the gas burners. There was nothing on the premises spontaneously inflammable so far as the witness knew. The store was insured in various offices. He had no opinion as to the cause or the probable cause of the fire.

By Superintendent Booker.—The electric light was put into the windows about March last. They had not had any trouble with the electric light. He believed there were eight electric lamps.

By Mr. Evan—The premises were lease-hold, and the lease contained a covenant to insure the building. He did not think the lease stated the sum. The witness kept one key, and his nephew, W. E. May-field, kept one. A driver kept a key of the back door. There were only two ways into the yard. He did not know the value of the stock destroyed, as they had not taken stock since last January. They imported, manufactured, and bought furniture, but he could not tell the proportions. There was a fire on the premises in January last, in a different part of the buildings. They were not able to ascertain how it occurred.

By Mr. Piper—The electric light installation had been inspected, and a certificate given.

By Superintendent Booker—The present fire was the third which had occurred a different times on the premises. The electric light was installed by Newton & Co. They gave a price for the work, which the Witness's firm accepted.

By the Coroner—The first fire occurred some years ago. It was put out by one of their own men, and was caused by boys smoking in the flock-room.

Thomas Burnet Wheatley, of Glenelg said he was salesman in Messrs. Mayfield and Sons' shop. He left the premises on Monday evening in company with Mr. Edwin Mayfield and Mr. W. E. Mayfield. The premises appeared to be all right at that time.

By Superintendent Booker—There had been no trouble with the electric light in the shop. He fancied the switchboard was made of wood. He did not revisit the premises after leaving them until Wednesday morning.

Richard Curgenvin, a packer, in the employ of Messrs. Mayfield, said it was his duty to lock up the back premises. He did so on Tuesday evening at about a 5.55 o'clock. Everything was in order at that time, so far as he knew.

William Ernest Mayfield, partner of the firm, living at Thornton-street, Kensington, left the premises in Rundle-street on Tuesday shortly before 6 o'clock, in company with Mr. Edwin Mayfield and Mr. Wheatley. He took the key of the door and kept it.

By Superintendent Booker—The main switch of the electric light was always left on and was in the front near the window.

Constable McDonald deposed that he was on duty in Rundle-street centre on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. He noticed a smell of something burning and crossed the street to Mayfield's premises, where he found smoke issuing from the south-west of the premises. He called out to another constable to give the alarm. This was about 1.5 a.m.

Superintendent Booker said the brigade received a call at 1.10 a.m. on Wednesday. He turned out all the available appliances. When he reached the fire he found Mayfield's premises well alight. There was nothing on the premises to show the cause of fire. He had a theory that it might have been caused by defective light installation, as he had met with several during the past month.

By Mr. Evan—The brigade broke into the premises at the back door, which was locked.

The Jury, without retiring, returned a verdict that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 29 October 1904, page 12

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

FIRE IN FREEMAN-STREET.

Some excitement was caused in Freeman-street at 10.40 a.m. on Friday, when the full strength of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade dashed up to the premises of Mr. H. Oliver, bedding manufacturer, in reply to a call from the alarm at the corner of Grenfell-street and Gawler-place. Smoke was issuing from an iron building at the rear of the shop, where a quantity of flock was stored, and a couple of hoses were immediately pointed at the fire from the inside. Superintendent Booker, perceiving that the fire would not develop into a serious conflagration, ordered the steamer, the ladder, and a reel back to headquarters, and left the work in charge of Foreman Luck and several men. Half an hour's attention sufficed to subdue the flames, which could not be seen from the outside. A hole was burnt through the roof, from which a considerable volume of smoke issued. Mr. Oliver's employes assisted the firemen in removing the material from the building, and the amount con-summed by fire and damaged by smoke was not great.

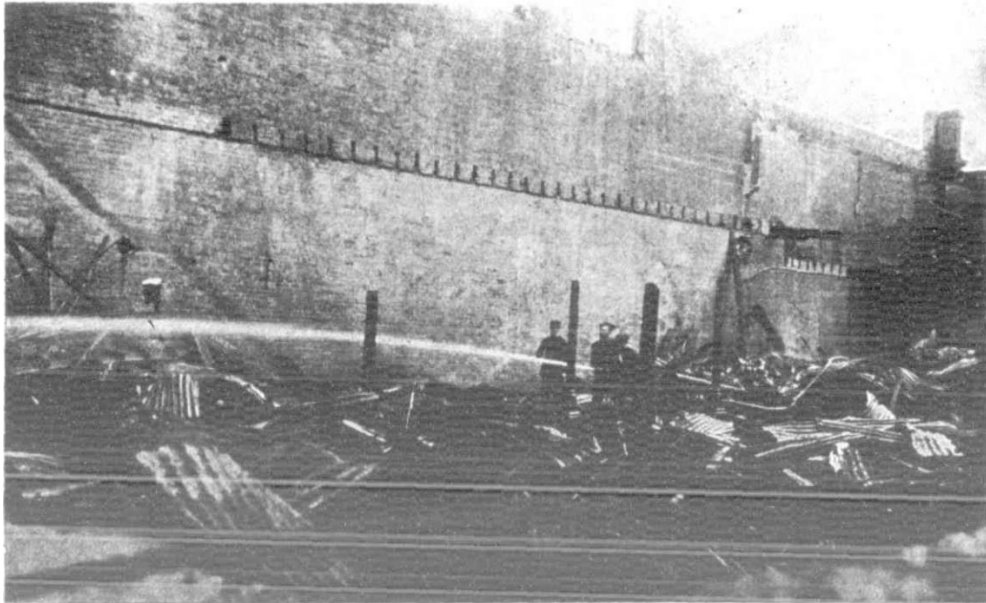
The City Watchhouse authorities have received a report of the fire, which states that it is alleged that a boy, whose name is not known, entered the premises and struck a match to light a cigarette. He then threw either the match or the cigarette into some kapok. The police are enquiring into the matter.

Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 29 October 1904, page 24

THE FIRE AT MAYFIELD'S.



RUINS AS SEEN FROM SOUTH END.



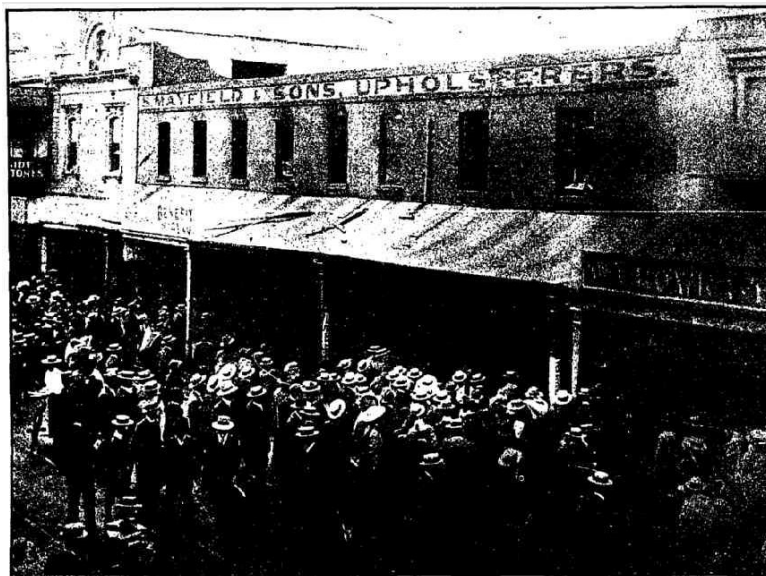
VIEW OF RUINS FROM EAST SIDE.



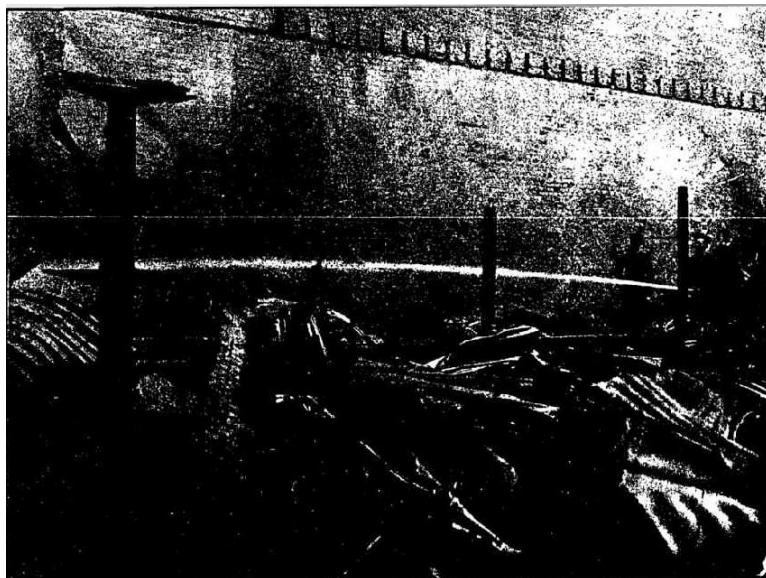
VIEW FROM RUNDLE STREET.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 29 October 1904, page 30

THE FIRE AT MAYFIELD'S FURNITURE WAREHOUSE.



VIEWING THE RUINS.



AT WORK ON THE SMOULDERING DEBRIS.



THE FIRE AT MAYFIELD'S. INTERIOR VIEW, LOOKING TOWARDS RUNDLE-STREET.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 2 November 1904, page 9

MAYFIELD'S FIRE.

To the Editor.

Sir—As it is impossible that the report of the evidence tendered at the enquiry into the circumstances surrounding this fire, appearing in your issue of the 28th ult., may be the cause of some misunderstanding as to the safety of electrical installations and apparatus as regards fire risks, we beg respectfully to point out—(1) With reference to the evidence suggesting defective installation. It is our standard regulation that every installation shall pass a rigorous test and inspection, both before being connected to our mains and at frequent intervals thereafter. The installation under notice passed our test satisfactorily at the date of connection, and again as recently as July 7 of this year. In addition to our tests the Fire Underwriters' Association, on behalf of the insurance companies, conduct a further test and examination before the work is approved. The whole of these tests show clearly that this installation was perfectly safe and sound as regards fire risk. (2) We are further strengthened in our opinion that this fire could not have been of electric origin, for the reason that, as stated in the evidence, it was first observed at the south western portion of the building, whereas the electric installation is located in the eastern and northern portions, and the company's service to the building remains intact, which could not have been the case had there been any fusion of the wires. With regard to the safety of the electric installations generally, we extract the following from the rules issued by the Phoenix Fire Office:—"The electric light, in the opinion of the Phoenix Fire Office, is the safest of all the illuminants, and is preferable to any other, when the installation has been thoroughly well put up to its satisfaction."

—We are, &c.,

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND TRACTION COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.
(H. Ashworth. Adelaide Secretary).

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 9 December 1904, page 4

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

A call was received at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station at 7.10 a.m. on Thursday to a fire at William street, Norwood. A reel was immediately dispatched, and upon arrival on the scene it was found that reels from the Norwood Station had already two jets of water playing on the fire, upon the premises of Mr. R. J. Buttery's cabinet-making establishment, at the corner of William street and Osmond terrace. The conflagration had obtained a good hold, and the whole building, consisting of jarrah posts and iron, was destroyed. The premises were insured in the United Insurance Company for £430.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 10 December 1904, page 10

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A FIRE CALL FROM NORWOOD.

On Friday morning, shortly before 11 o'clock the headquarters fire brigade received a call to Coke-street, Norwood. On arrival at the scene they found that their services were not needed. Garden refuse was being burnt, and a wooden fence close by had become ignited, but a few buckets of water quickly quenched the fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 13 December 1904, page 4

A small fire occurred in Melbourne street, North Adelaide, on the premises of Mr. J. L. Vilepastour, a house painter, The flames caught a paling fence, and burnt a quantity of grass in a paddock adjoining. The North Adelaide and Adelaide reels were quickly on the scene, and the fire was soon extinguished.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 16 December 1904, page 4

In view of recent controversy regarding the celerity of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Mr. C. Ferrors, with the approval of the superintendent, decided to test the men. On Wednesday, shortly before mid-night, he broke the alarm opposite to Messrs. Crooks & Brooker's premises, and there timed the arrival of the reels. The horse reel from the head station was on the spot in 2m. 59s. and the engine in 4m., the North Adelaide reel in 7m. 25s., Norwood in 9½m., and Unley in 12m.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 23 December 1904, page 5

FIRE IN JOHN-STREET.

SINGER'S PREMISES ABLAZE.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE.

Almost within a stone's throw of Messrs Mayfield & Sons', premises, which were recently demolished by fire, there was witnessed on Thursday night another outbreak. On this occasion the place attacked was the rear portion of Messrs. Singer & Co.'s premises, where the sewing machines are fitted together and repaired. Within half an hour the fire had wrought considerable havoc and a rough estimate made by a gentleman who went inside the building after the fire placed the damage by fire and water at no less than £2,500, and probably this is below the mark. The fire, was fortunately soon under control, and did not encroach upon the showroom which fronts upon Rundle-street, although, both the smoke and the water permeated the entire building.

The Call Received.

At a few minutes after half-past 1 o'clock on Thursday night a representative of The Advertiser was proceeding home-wards down Wakefield-street, when he heard the alarm bells ringing in the head-quarters of the Fire Brigade, and immediately the firemen, who live on the opposite side of the road to the station dashed out of their houses and ran to join the brigade dressing as they ran. In half a minute one of the doors of the station opened automatically, and out dashed the reel, and the next moment the other door was opened, and the steamer, followed by the extension escape ladder, was rapidly driven towards the Arcade. It appeared that two calls had been received almost simultaneously one from the Charles street fire alarm, and the other from that in Grenfell-street. Our representative ran to the scene of the outbreak, and although the brigade was already on the spot it was not until some time after his arrival that the water began to play on the flames which by this time were to be clearly seen. Even before the pressman reached Pirie-street on the way to the fire he could smell an odor of burning—as if paint or oil were being consumed. By the time he reached the building this smell was much increased, and black smoke with occasional flames came pouring out of the premises. The fire apparently broke out in the rearmost portion of the factory. In a minute or two the flames had greatly increased, and came belching out from the rear window, illuminating the whole surroundings, and presenting a majestic sight. About ten minutes later the rear building was wrapped in flames, and the roof was burnt through in places. The smoke was then noticed coming through the eaves at the front of the building, having been forced through the upper room facing Rundle-street. The ordinary ladder was put up to the rear of the building, and two firemen plunged through the dense smoke, and played the hose directly on the hot-bed of the fire, doing splendid service. This line of hose was attached to the hydrant immediately in front of the Plough and Harrow Hotel, which is on the opposite side of Rundle-street, and another line of hose was got to work from the hydrant near the Arcade in Rundle-street. The superintendent (Mr. Booker) then ordered the escape ladder to be raised in Twin-street, but it was found that it would not assist matters, as at that time the roof was not burnt through. Despite the work of the two lines of hose, the fire seemed to be gaining ground, and a cheer broke forth from the crowds that had gathered as the sky was again illuminated by the flames bursting through the roof.

An Accident Averted.

The second line of hose was being got through the second window when an accident was narrowly averted. The fireman with the hose was just mounting the window-ledge from the ladder, when the superintendent gave the order "Turn on the water." The fireman was unprepared, and the force of the water coming through the hose caused him to stagger, and it was with great difficulty that he managed to cling to the ledge. Mr. Booker realised the man's plight, and ordered the water to be turned off, while another man went up the ladder to assist his comrade out of his dangerous position.

The Fire Overcome.

Soon afterwards the brigade obtained complete mastery over the fire. At 10 minutes past midnight all danger was practically over, and the order was given to damp the fires of the steamer, which had been standing by. It is stated that the brigade received the call shortly after 11.30 p.m., and that it was not until 11.45 p.m. that the first line of hose was got into action.

The First Sign.

Captain Batchelor stated that he was passing down Rundle-street on Thursday evening, when he smelt a peculiar odour as if there were some oily substance burning. He looked up Twin-street, and saw the reflection of the fire on the side of the wall. He dismounted from his bicycle, and running to the fire alarm at the corner of Twin-street and Grenfell-street, broke the glass and rang the bell. He gave the alarm at 26 minutes to 12. He then took out his watch, and timed the arrival of the brigade. According to his reckoning the brigade reached the scene 25 minutes after he gave the alarm, but it must be remembered that another alarm was given, and that might have been a little earlier. Mr. F. Odlum, of North Adelaide, was walking his bicycle along Rundle-street when he saw flames coming out of a window. He ran to Charles-street and gave the alarm.

The Building.

The building is a two-storied one, and faces upon Rundle-street. On the right hand side is Twin-street, and beyond that Messrs. McRostie & Co.'s premises, which have also a record for fires. On the left-hand side of Singer's building is the shop occupied by Mr. P. Holland as a boot establishment. The side of the building which was attacked by fire on this occasion extends to a depth of about 100 ft. along Twin-street, and this rendered the fire easily reached by the brigade after they had smashed in the side factory door with axes. Separated by a narrow lane from the scene of the fire is an importer's office, which forms part of Gay's Arcade. The fire was in such a position that had a good wind been blowing it might have spread through the whole block.

The Superintendent's Account.

Superintendent Booker, when seen after the flames had been conquered, said—"The building was well alight on the first floor when we arrived, and the flames were confined to two rooms. We immediately got to work with a line of hose in Twin-street. A 6-in. hose from Rundle-street was passed through a side window, and a second line of 7-in. from Rundle-street, was taken through the side door right into the heart of the fire. By midnight the flames were practically extinguished, and the suburban reels were sent home soon afterwards. whilst the ladder went back to the head station. The rest of the men were then set to work at salvage, and everything was done to save the big stock in the building. Owing to the early call all danger was soon averted, but had it been delayed there is no doubt that we would have had a very big fire. I am pleased to say that owing to the few extra men granted last month we found the work very much easier not only in fighting the fire, but also in carrying out salvage operations. I was also in a position to send the suburban reels home earlier than usual to protect their own districts in case of necessity. Within three and a half minutes of the receipt of the alarm

at the head station the first line of hose was playing on the flames. The origin of the fire is unknown."

Interview with the Manager.

The manager (Mr. J. H. Thompson) stated that he left the establishment a little after 5 p.m., and had no idea of the cause of the conflagration. One of the boys working there told him that he passed the building at about 8 o'clock, and everyone had then left the establishment. The damage was covered by insurance in the Colonial Mutual Company. The building and contents were insured for £5,000. The two rooms in which the fire occurred were used for stocking woodwork, sewing machines, and polishing work was also carried on there. Fortunately they were not carrying a very heavy stock, but in a week or 10 days he expected 600 or 700 machines to arrive. There were about 100 machines stored in the two rooms the contents of which were destroyed, and they were valued at from £13 to £14 each. A man had been working in one of the rooms burned out, but he left before 8 o'clock.

The chief mechanic stated that at about 8 o'clock he opened the side door of the establishment, and left his bicycle there. He went away immediately.