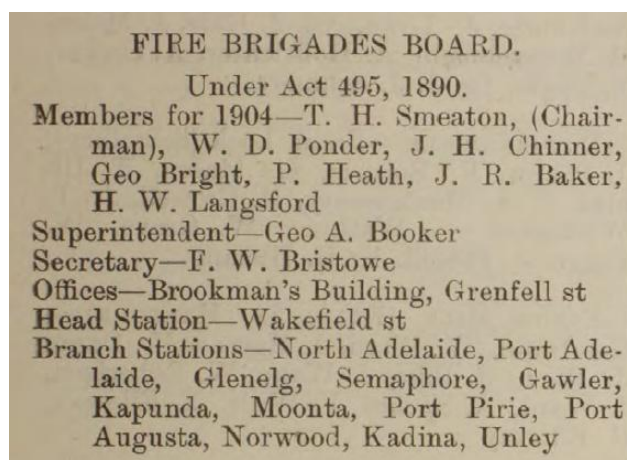


Adelaide Fire Brigade 1905

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1905



Sands and McDougall Directory 1905

From the 1904 Fire Brigades Board Annual Report

The plant of the brigades is as follows:—4 steam fire engines, 1 hose and coal van, 11 horse reels. 4 hand reels, 3 hose carts, 2 telescopic ladders, 24 horses.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 25 January 1905, page 4

FIRE IN HUTT STREET.

At seven minutes past 9 on Tuesday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from an alarm in Hutt street. Upon arrival there they found that a fire had broken out in the shop occupied by Mr. W. D. Biggs, hairdresser and tobacconist, next to the General Havelock Hotel The flames were extinguished in a few minutes, and Superintendent Booker found it unnecessary to avail himself of the services of the suburban reels. The contents of the shop are insured for £100, which will easily cover the slight damage which was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 25 January 1905, page 6

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

SMALL FIRE IN HUTT-STREET.

At about 9.7 p.m. on Wednesday a call was received at the Adelaide fire station from the alarm in Hutt-street, and the reel, steamer, and ladder were immediately dispatched to the spot. On arrival it was found that a tobacconist's shop, tenanted by Mr. W. Biggs, and situated adjacent to the Havelock Hotel, was well alight. It was necessary to utilise the reel only, and about ten minutes after the call was received, the outbreak was subdued, but not before a portion of the stock had been destroyed. The contents of the premises included a quantity of cigars, and, owing to the smell which emanated from these smouldering wares the fire at first appeared to be more serious than it really was. The smartness with which it was combated by the brigade prevented the fire from spreading to the adjoining premises. The shop is the property of Mr. F. Williams, and, with the contents, is insured for the sum of £100.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 2 February 1905, page 7

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of the Fire Brigades Board for 1904 was issued on Wednesday, the main features of which are as follows:—

The new Act, which came into force on December 10, 1904, amongst other fresh provisions, removes the limit of contribution to be paid by the municipality of the city of Adelaide, and thus allows opportunity for the acquisition of additional equipment which has for a long time proved to be necessary for the reasonable protection of life and property in the city. With this fact in view the board decided to recommend its successors to provide a huge steam fire-engine, capable of delivering a large stream of water at the rate of 750 gallons per minute, the employment of a deputy superintendent and two additional firemen, and extensive alterations to the head station in order to accommodate the increased staff. The board also recommends that the district of Walkerville should be brought under provisions of the Act, and expresses its regret that the Act was not so framed as to be made applicable to the Hindmarsh and Thebarton and other municipalities. The usual inspection of suburban and country stations has been made, and the brigades throughout found to be in a satisfactory condition. A new flat roof for the engine-house at the head station has been provided, and new premises acquired in Tynte-street for the accommodation of the North Adelaide brigade. The Moonta station has been improved and extended by the acquisition of adjoining premises. The board considered it necessary to strengthen the head station staff for the summer months, and accordingly five extra firemen were engaged. Rearrangements of the Gawler, Moonta, Kapunda, and Kadina staffs have been made. An auxiliary fireman has been dispensed with at each of these stations, and their places filled by probationary fire-men. An amendment of the Places of Public Entertainment Act was passed during the last session of Parliament, providing that reasonable provision for the safety of the public attending public places of amusement must be made, but without specifying the nature of the provision. The board earnestly hopes that in the administration of this Act some such excellent regulations as are adopted by the London County Council will be taken as the basis of what is required in order to properly safeguard the public. The board desires to place on record its appreciation of the smartness and efficiency of the officers and men, and the satisfactory condition of the stations and appliances under the charge of the superintendent. It also wishes to express its satisfaction with the manner in which the secretarial work of the department has been carried out, and of the unfailing zeal of the secretary in assisting members of the board to fulfil their sometimes difficult and onerous duties.

Mr. Bookers Report.

The superintendent (Mr. G. A. Booker in his yearly report says:—The total number of calls to fires and supposed fires received by the various stations during the year has been 144; of these 33 were false alarms, 13 were chimney fires, and 98 calls to fires, of which 32 resulted in serious damage, and 66 in slight damage. The fires of the past year, compared with those of the year 1903, show an increase of 18 in those resulting in serious damage, and a decrease of 13 in those resulting in slight damage; in chimney fires a decrease of 5, and in false alarms an increase of 10. During the past year I visited and inspected the country stations, and found them as efficient as can be expected for the amount of money

expended, which standard or efficiency, however, is far below what it should be, when it is considered that no assistance can be received from other brigades in the event of an outbreak of fire. I trust that during the coming year the board will be enabled to establish horse reels at Kapunda, Kadina, and Port Augusta, the same as at Glenelg, as it is impossible for the foreman in charge of any of these stations to achieve satisfactory results, the men being quite knocked up by dragging the hand reels prior to their starting work at a fire. I trust that during the coming year the board will purchase a complete salvage outfit, which should be kept in readiness for instantly turning out to all fires in the city and suburbs. Increased accommodation at the head station is urgently required, and I trust that during the coming year this very serious defect will be remedied. I feel it my duty to again report that a large steam fire engine of a minimum capacity of 750 gallons per minute is urgently required, as it is impossible to work fires satisfactorily with small jets of water; I would strongly recommend that an engine of this description be ordered early in the year, as it would be several months before we could hope to have it landed in Adelaide. Six men have been added to the strength of the brigade during the past year, and a new station has been acquired at North Adelaide, which will meet the requirements of the brigade for many years to come. There is a movement on foot in the eastern States to convene a conference of fire brigade authorities to discuss the question of fire alarms and telephones with the Deputy Postmaster-General in Melbourne, with the view to procuring a better and at the same time more economical system. I quite concur with the authorities in the eastern States that such a conference should be held to discuss the question, with a view to taking united action to secure the best possible service at a minimum cost; I would therefore recommend that should the conference be held South Australia should be represented. I wish to express my appreciation of the efforts made by the officers and members of the police force, who have maintained order at fires and assisted the brigade by every means possible. I am pleased to report that the discipline and general efficiency of the brigades under my control is in every way satisfactory. Our list of wounds and other injuries for the past year is slight. Owing to the nature of the work of fire extinction and the way in which it must be carried out a certain number of accidents can scarcely be avoided. There have been during the year 9 cases of ordinary illness and 10 injuries, making a total of 19 cases, some of which were serious. The plant of the brigades is as follows:—4 steam fire engines, 1 hose and coal van, 11 horse reels. 4 hand reels, 3 hose carts, 2 telescopic ladders, 24 horses.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 23 February 1905, page 4

SMALL FIRE AT THE GLOBE HOTEL.

At about 11.20 on Wednesday morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station received a call to a fire which had broken out in the Globe Hotel, Rundle street. The Adelaide reels were soon on the spot, followed a little later by the brigades from North Adelaide and Norwood. The out-break occurred in the bathroom situated near the front of the building, and was first noticed by a barmaid, who at once gave the alarm. To enable the firemen to get their hoses to work it was found necessary to remove a portion of the roof over the room. The fire was soon extinguished, and the damage done is not considered serious.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Tuesday 28 February 1905, page 1

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

There was a fire at the east end of Rundle street on Monday evening. It did not cause much trouble. When the alarm was received at the head station Superintendent Booker was entertaining the members of the Military Club and their lady friends, who had a unique opportunity to see the brigade tested. In Rundle street about 9.30 a cry of fire rang out, and the re-flection of flames shone over the buildings on the south side of the street. Pedestrians could see that the premises at the rear of Messrs. Krantz Brothers' and near to the northern side of the New Market were ablaze. The guests at the Fire Brigade station were not so well informed. Ladies in evening dress and gentlemen in uniforms or in frock coats, were admiring the horses or looking at the wonderful appliances to assist in speedy turnouts, while others had already gathered in the assembly room, where the first item of a concert had just started. Suddenly, above the hum of the pleasure seeking party, the gong rang out. It was not a full-dress parade for the men. It was a call to business from a bad spot in the city. Guests rushed to one side when the horses dashed from the stables to the carts and the doors slid open. The fires were lit in the engines, and in a few ticks of the clock the firemen, who had a few moments before been pointing out the novelties in the station, were out on the reels in the street dashing off to duty. When they came back they were not nearly so pretty. Dirt and grime were on their faces, mud and slush on their boots, and their clothes carried the pungent odour of smoke; but they had put the fire out. After all, it was not much. The rear premises of Messrs. Krantz Brothers, next to the New Market, had caught alight. The contents of the lower story, which was used as a tailoring establishment, were badly burnt, and the things in the upper room were also damaged, while two traps standing in the passage way leading to the market were destroyed. The building, however, suffered little, for Superintendent Booker had sufficient water turned on to flood the whole place, and the danger of a big fire was over a few minutes after the brigade arrived. Hundreds of people assembled in Rundle street, and brigades came from all the suburbs. The Unley horses were travelling so fast around Hurtle square that one slipped on the tramline and was badly cut. He will need a spell for a day or two.

Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), Thursday 27 April 1905, page 1

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

At 12 minutes past 9 on Wednesday night the Adelaide Fire Brigade Station received a call from Norwood. The head reel turned out and proceeded to the outbreak. The Norwood reel was also in attendance. The fire was discovered among bags in a chaff store belonging to Messrs. G. Gray & Co., of Nelson street. But little damage was done, and the flames were soon extinguished. The building is insured in the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 17 June 1905, page 6

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

About 8.55 on Friday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Charles street fire alarm. All the appliances from the head and suburban stations turned out, but the blaze was more sudden than serious, and was quickly subdued. It originated in the bulk store at the back of the Town and Country Stores, the property of Messrs, Hunt, Corry, and Co.; among a quantity of Japanese matches which had ignited spontaneously. Super-intendent Booker remarked—"It was only a few minutes' job."

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 7 August 1905, page 4

IN A FIRE STATION.

"Just a few sparks," remarked Superintendent Booker on Sunday morning as he handed to a reporter the official accounts of two small fires. "Part of our business, though," he added. "They provide opportunities for testing the efficiency of our equipment." Practical drill exercise? "Exactly." But the alert members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade are ever ready for an emergency. They are trained by a skilfully organized system which, as far as possible, approximates to the disciplined ideal of the British Navy. The atmosphere of the station has in it the elements of naval exactness. There is a place for every-thing and everything is in its place. If the burly, resourceful superintendent were asked to state his professional motto he would probably give it in three words—"Discipline, method, organization." The routine is machinelike. The men are parts of a piece of smooth-working harmoniously toned mechanism. A shrill-pitched bugle awakens them to the proverbial tick, and it calls them to every meal. The day's duties are defined in emphatic typewritten sentences—so definitely indeed, that at a given time Mr. Booker can say just what work is proceeding and explain the disposition of his subordinates. Even the daily dress of the employes is dictated by regulation down to the shape of the cap and the colour of the tie. Twice a year instructions regarding the character of the uniform to be worn are sent out to all parts of the State, and on the prescribed date every fireman in South Australia dons his winter or summer garments, as the case may be. This is only a detail after all, but it is typical of the system— a system which will challenge comparison for its completeness and facility of application with any in the Commonwealth. To the visitor uniformity, order, and unfailing cleanliness are the appealing characteristics of the fire brigade buildings. The most fascinating illustration is, of course, provided at the capital city, where the brick-red and immaculate white facade of the chief depot is such a conspicuous feature of the street architecture. Pass through the mysterious-looking switch room, with its rows of sensitive. shutters and glittering bells, to the main floor where the spick-and-span appliances— a model of dexterous arrangement— are located, and where stout hoses are coiled snake-like on the walls: inspect the stables and the men's quarters, it is all the same— method, order, everywhere. Superintendent Booker has made fire-fighting a science. He has been answering false alarms and putting out conflagrations for a quarter of a century. The superintendent is one of the most successful chiefs in the realm of Australian fire brigades.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 19 September 1905, page 4

FIRE AT NORWOOD.

Sgt. Bennett reported to the Metropolitan Watchhouse authorities that a fire occurred at Mr. Nicholas Butterly's grocery shop on Sydenham road early on Monday morning. At about 20 minutes to 3 Mr. Butterly heard a crackling noise, and awakened to find the room full of smoke. He immediately opened the door leading into the shop, which was in flames. Mr. J. Shard communicated with the fire brigade, and a reel from Norwood and two from the head station promptly arrived and extinguished the fire. The whole of the stock was destroyed. The stock was insured in the North Queensland Company for £55, and the premises in the South British Company for £450.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 20 November 1905, page 4

FIRE IN HALIFAX-STREET.

At 11.25 o'clock on Saturday evening the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call from the alarm in front of the Detective Office, and on responding were informed that there was a fire raging in the premises occupied by Messrs. Cronin Bros., drapers, of 76 and 78, Halifax-street. On arrival it was found that the place was fairly well alight, and two lines of hose, one from the front and the other from the rear of the premises, were set at work. The fire was soon under control. One portion of the shop was considerably damaged by fire, and another part by smoke and water. A large quantity of drapery and boots was destroyed, but the extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained. The building, which is of one storey, belongs to a trust estate, and is insured with the Royal Insurance Company for £500. The suburban brigades were not called out.