

## Adelaide Fire Brigade 1912

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 6 January 1912, page 8**

### FIRE BRIGADE CALLS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called out 352 times last year, which number is an increase of 95 over the total for the previous year. The following detailed list compares the numbers of calls for the two years 1911 and 1910 respectively:—Serious fires, 33 and 5; when damage was slight, 93, 88; chimney fires, 18, 10; grass and rubbish fires, 48, 36; malicious false alarms, 48, 38; false alarms due to line faults, 115, 75. These line faults have been a source of annoyance and trouble to the brigade, but the completion of the metallic circuit which is near at hand will do away with the nuisance. The increase in the number of malicious false alarms is a regrettable feature of the figures. The necessity for a well-equipped brigade is accentuated by the comparatively large number of serious fires that have occurred.

**Kadina and Wallaroo Times (SA : 1888 - 1954), Saturday 20 January 1912, page 2**

### A SENSATIONAL ACCIDENT.

#### FIRE REEL WRECKED.

#### FOREMAN BOOKER INJURED

On Thursday afternoon a sensational accident occurred at Kadina, which for the time created a great deal of excitement. An alarm was received at the fire station at 3.40 p.m., and was responded to by the brigade, in charge of Foreman Booker. Immediately on entering Digby-street it was apparent to the onlookers, and particularly to Mr Booker, that something had gone wrong with the patent harness. The horse in plunging must have released the spring that fastened the collar, and each pull caused the spiked fastening to pierce the animal's shoulder. In flinching from the contact the horse made for south side of the street, and crashed into a castiron pillar that supports the balcony of the Exchange Hotel, and the wheel striking the kerb completely overturned the reel. Both firemen were dashed to the ground, the foreman receiving abrasions about the face and on the left leg, while his assistant was shaken considerably. The top part of the reel was wreched, and minor damage was done to the fire-fighter appliances. Mr Booker requisitioned a trap standing close at hand hastily packed what he thought was required urgently, and proceeded to the scene of the fire, where fortunately his services were not required, as neighbours had the blaze under control.

Considerable damage was done to the balcony and the fire reel. The escape from serious injury to the firemen was wonderful. Foreman Booker deserves the highest commendation for the plucky manner in which he stuck to his horse under trying circumstances, and for proceeding to the scene of the fire in a practically disabled condition. It will be several days before he can resume duty.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 2 February 1912, page 11**

### FALSE FIRE ALARM.

Shortly after 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from Hindley-street. A reel was promptly dispatched to the spot, but it proved to be a false alarm.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 5 February 1912, page 12**

### A FALSE ALARM OF FIRE.

Some excitement was caused in Currie-street on Sunday afternoon by the arrival of the Fire Brigade in response to the ringing of the patent fire alarm fixed to the three-storied warehouse

of Messrs. Colton, Palmer, Preston, & Co. On entering the premises through a window on the first floor, members of the brigade found that a slight defect in the mechanism had caused the bell to ring, and that there was no sign of fire.

**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 13 February 1912, page 6**

FIRE AT EAST ADELAIDE.

The apiarist's supply and furniture factory of Mr. W. A. Drage, at West Adelaide, was gutted by fire on Monday afternoon. The flames were first noticed by the proprietor, who lives next to the works, a few minutes after noon. The five men employed had just left for their midday meal when Mr. Drage, who was among the vines in the garden, had his attention called to smoke issuing from the premises. He rushed to the shop, to find the engine room ablaze. The brigade was summoned, and meanwhile Mr. Drage removed the horse from the stable. He had barely got the animal to a place of safety when the whole of the factory and stables were alight. The Norwood and North Adelaide Brigades and the Payneham Volunteer Brigade were soon on the scene, but could do nothing to save the premises, which were of wood and galvanized iron, and were consumed in a few minutes. The stock of timber, templates, and machinery (including gas engine, saw benches, and other woodworking apparatus) was destroyed. The damage was estimated at £1,600, and represented the life's savings of Messrs. J. & W. A. Drage. The amount of insurance was only £650 in the North Queensland Company. The back fences and sheds of the following neighbours were also destroyed, though some were separated by a right-of-way from the burning building:—Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. E. A. Crozier, and Messrs. R. E. E. Rogers and W. Bates.

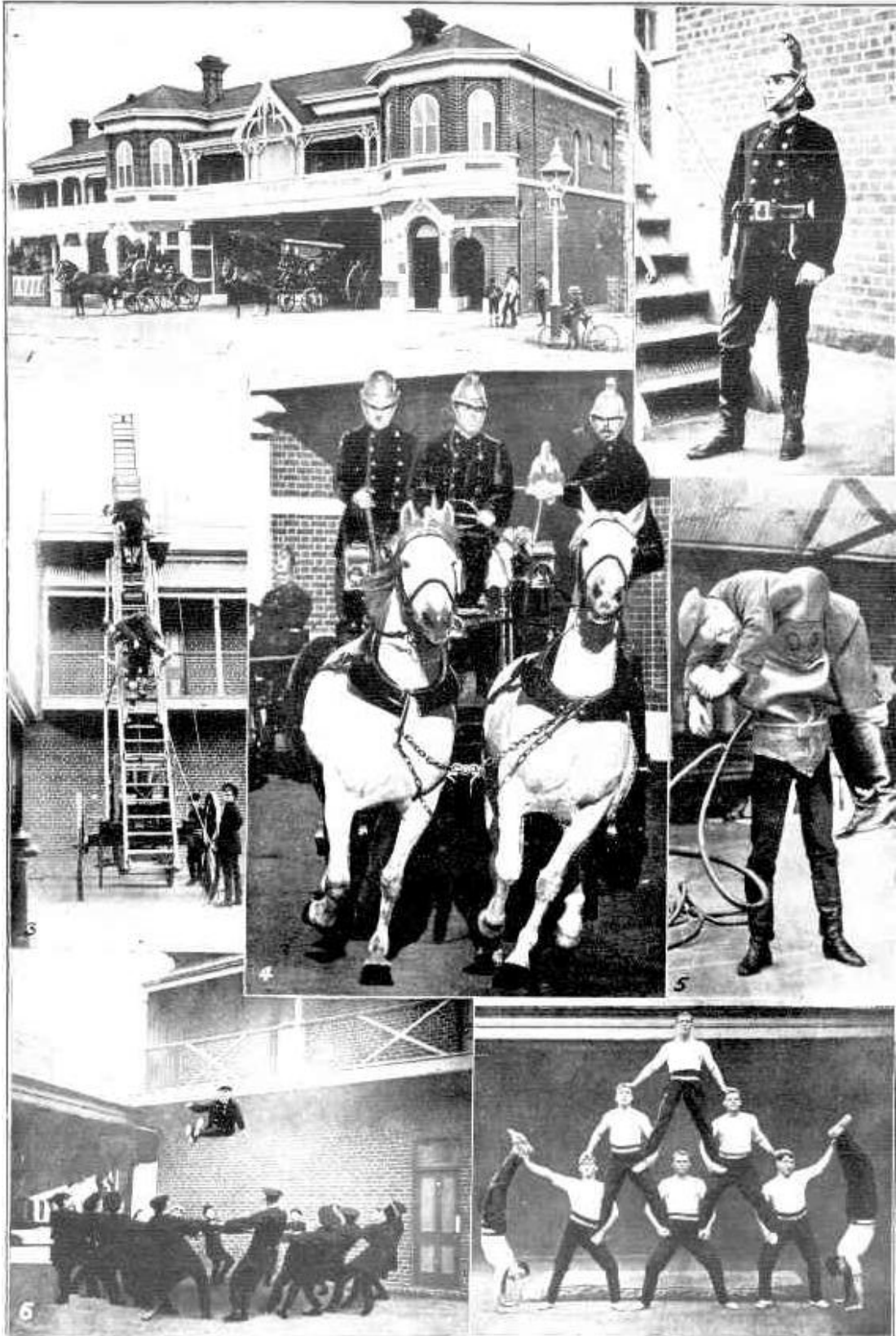
**Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 16 February 1912, page 8**

BOLT OF FIREHORSES.

At 10 a.m. on Thursday a pair of young horses attached to a firereel, which were being driven for purposes of being broken in, bolted from the western side of Hindmarsh square. When turning into Pulteney street they struck a telegraph post south of the square. The reel was smashed, and the driver, Robert Morris, was thrown off, but was not injured by the fall. Both horses got clear. One was caught in Pirie street and the other in Hindmarsh square.

**Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 24 February 1912, page 31**

ADELAIDE'S FIRE-FIGHTERS.



1. The Metropolitan Fire Station. 2. A Typical South Australian Fireman. 3. Practising Rescue Work. 4. Responding to a Call. 5. The Smoke Jacket and Helmet 6. Rescue Work; Jumping into a Tarpaulin. 7. Recreation and Exercise. Photos. Gabriel.

*Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 15 May 1912, page 4*

FIRE IN GROTE-STREET.

Gas Mantle Factory Damaged.

At about 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday a fire broke out in the factory of the Quartzite Mantle Company in Grote-street, and did considerable damage. The building is a new one of one storey, built of brick, and adjoins the Empire Theatre. A girl, who first noticed the fire, said the outbreak occurred in the front portion of the premises. It was only a small blaze at first, but the northerly wind blowing through the front door soon fanned it, and in a short while the place was well alight. As soon as the alarm was given, Messrs. W. H. Haire, H. Wilson, and H. Ainsworth (caretaker), of the Empire Theatre, ran out the line of hose kept on the theatre stage, and affixed it to the water hydrant, placed near the stage-door of the theatre. They played on the water from the rear, but were greatly handicapped by the blinding smoke. When the fire brigade arrived a few minutes later with two reels and a ladder, under Foreman Butler, the men attacked the flames, which were then showing through the roof, from the Grote-street entrance, and succeeded in extinguishing the fire after some hard work. The material used in the manufacture of the mantles is highly inflammable, which rendered the task of the firemen all the more arduous. Most of the fittings and the stock were destroyed or damaged, but the factory manager (Mr. F. A. Beykirch), who was in charge in the absence of the general manager (Mr. A. Dobbie), in Sydney, could give no idea of the loss. When spoken to on the matter he said he was German, and did not understand English. That difficulty was overcome by a reporter addressing him in German, where upon he stated that he could say nothing about the fire. It was ascertained from other sources, however, that the premises were insured. About 15 women and girls, and two or three men, were employed at the factory.

***Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 18 May 1912, page 40***

GROTE STREET FIRE.

The Quartzite Mantle Company's factory, Grote street, was ablaze on Wednesday morning. The outbreak was first observed by about a quarter to 12 by Mr. W. H. Hare, electrician of the Empire Theatre, which adjoins the building. He immediately gave the alarm, and with Messrs. S. Ainsworth and H. Wilson, who comprise the fire staff of the picture show, directed a stream of water on the flames. In the meantime, the Fire Brigade had sent a reel, which was subsequently supplemented by two ladders. The conflagration started in the mantle department, in the front portion of the factory, and spread through the entire premises, the contents of which were highly inflammable.

Some expensive machinery was also destroyed. The employes, most of whom are girls, escaped, without injury.

***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 26 February 1912, page 9***

FIREMEN GONE.

STATIONS ALMOST DESERTED.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK.

AN ATTENUATED BRIGADE.

EARLY MORNING FALSE ALARMS.

CALLS MADE FOR FRESH MEN.

### SOME OF THE EX-FIREMEN.



THE MEN WHO LEFT THE WAKEFIELD-STREET STATION. THEY ARE WEARING THEIR UNION BADGES.

Photo. by L. W. Robertson.

Since noon on Saturday the well-trained firemen at the Wakefield-street Fire Brigade Station and in the Suburbs have not been available to respond to calls to fires.

They say the Fire Brigades Board has locked them out, and the contention of the chairman of the board is that they have discharged themselves. There are volunteers at the stations, but fortunately their services up to the present have not been required. Should a fire break out in the city property owners will have to the to the superintendent, his deputy officers, and about a dozen inexperienced volunteers to check the flames. The position is an alarming one, and in the outlying districts it is almost as serious. It is recognised that property valued at millions of pounds would be at the mercy of a fire, while ex-pert firemen are not available for duty Owners of property so far have been favored by good fortune. Since the fire-men left the head station four calls had been received up till late on Sunday night Three were given in the early hours of yesterday morning, and were false alarms. Three appliances were dispatched in response to one of the calls. Attired in firemen's uniforms and wearing helmets the volunteers proceeded in a hired motor car to the street box from which the alarm had been given. Throughout the day the volunteers— young athletic men, some of whom are employes' of large Rundle-street establishments—were filling in the time playing at various games or lolling about. Two were sitting in the motor car endeavoring to snatch a little sleep, lost when responding to the early morning fake alarms. They wore leggings and helmets. Statement by the Board. The chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Councillor Frinsdorf) made the following statement on Sunday night:—On Friday the superintendent received an ultimatum from the men to the effect that unless the board by 9 p.m. recognised the union, which was to be affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council, they would leave the service. The superintendent said he would pass the message on to the board. There not being sufficient members of the board in town to form a quorum, the superintendent asked that the matter be allowed to stand over for a time, and the men agreed. They, however, handed in their uniforms and said they were no longer firemen, but would stand by as civilians. until noon on Saturday to receive the board's reply. This was as follows:— 1. The superintendent having reported that the men have given the board until 12 o'clock to decide as to whether the union shall have recognition, the board decide that they will recognise an association among the men such as that which exists in the Police Force and the Civil Service, provided that the same is not affiliated with other societies. The board cannot approve of any affiliation which might render the men liable to be called out in sympathy with any strike to the danger of the city. This board notes with surprise the reports in the press suggesting the victimisation of the vice-president of the union, and indignantly repudiates the charge, and affirms, both collectively and

individually, that at the time of his dismissal they were not aware that the insubordinate officer was actively interested in the union, or that he was a vice-president of same. "Without saying whether the reply was acceptable or not the men walked out. The board took immediate action to protect the city and suburbs. The whole of the officers remained loyal, and a limited number of volunteers were taken in at the head station. Many more were available, but we had sufficient to man three appliances. To the calls received during the night the men responded splendidly. I would like here to state that the board regrets that these malicious calls should have been given. The public can rest assured that every provision has been made to meet the emergency. On behalf of the Government, the Chief Secretary has promised support, and the other contributing bodies—the insurance companies and the corporations—endorse the board's action. I have just visited the out-stations, and at each place there are sufficient volunteers available in case of a fire. Up to the pre-sent the board has refrained from taking on hands permanently, so as to give the late employes an opportunity of reconsidering the position. I wish it to be distinctly understood that the volunteers are at the station only in the interests of the citizens and for the protection of life and property. None of them have any intention of accepting a permanent position from the board. We are advertising for men, and will begin to fill the vacancies at once. Applications by our late employes will receive full consideration. The board would deem it a favor if the general public will see that the street alarms are not tampered with. By the men it is stated that we have locked them out, but that charge we deny. As previously stated we were told that unless the union, affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council, was acknowledged the men would leave their employment. We have a duty to perform and discipline must be maintained." At the Head Station. Within a few minutes after the reading of the board's reply at noon on Saturday the men of the head station were filing out into the street. The majority wore the union badge attached to their coat. There was no disturbance or excitement. Pickets were appointed. Members of the police force put in an appearance, and since then one or two have been on duty at the station all the time. At Glenelg the senior fireman remained at his post until the superintendent sent down a junior officer. The station at the Semaphore was closed, and the officer was ordered to augment the strength at Port Adelaide. The arrangements at Port Adelaide are such that a call received at the Semaphore reaches Port Adelaide at the same moment, so that the closing of the station will not result in calls never reaching the firemen. At every other station the fore-man was left by himself, but he has since received the assistance of volunteers. The length of service of the men who left on Saturday varies from 23 years to three days. It is argued that by leaving the service they are liable to prosecution. Clause 5 of the regulations reads as follows:—"He (a permanent member of the brigade) shall not resign or withdraw himself from his duties unless allowed to do so in writing by the superintendent or other officer of the brigade, and not unless he shall have given to such officer fourteen days' previous notice in writing. If he resigns or withdraws without such leave or notice he will forfeit all pay due to him, and will further be formally dismissed by the board." The figures supplied by the men regarding the number of members who have left and the stations to which they belong are as follow: — Adelaide City .. 27 Port Adelaide .. 10 North Adelaide . 4 Fire Float .... 3 Norwood .... 3 Semaphore .... 3 Unley .3 Port Pirie ... 6 Glenelg 3 Islington 1 Kapunda, Gawler, Kadina, and Port Augusta have one-man stations, and the men there have not been called out. Cook Also Leaves. The cook at the head station also ceased work, and the volunteers are doing their own cooking. Orders have been given that single men who have left work must not sleep on the premises, and they had to find accommodation elsewhere on Saturday night. The married men are still occupying their quarters. Government and the Board. The Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. R. Butler) stated last night that the Government had not been approached in connection with the trouble, but he expected that the members of the Fire Brigades' Board would probably meet him and his colleagues this morning to discuss the mat-ter. A Reply to the Board. On Saturday morning the men made the following statement: — "With reference to Councillor Frinsdorf's statement, in which he says that grievances should be reported to the board through the superintendent, we desire to state that three men approached the superintendent through the officers in the station (Fore man Butler and Deputy Superintendent Dickie), with a view to placing a grievance before him. This procedure is the correct way according to the

regulations of the department. The result was that the men were absolutely refused a hearing by the superintendent. A great deal of bitterness amongst the men resulted from this refusal and they decided there and then to form a union for their own protection. Councillor Frinsdorf also states that he told the men that a union was out of the question, and in reply we desire to state that what he did say was that he was agreeable to the formation of a union, and that he would be pleased to accept the position of president, if elected, but that he would prefer to have the organisation described as an association. Fireman Hedger stated clearly that it was not the intention of the men, as a union, to seek affiliation with the Trades and Labor Council, or to be connected in any way with an outside body, either in this or any other State. We might say that at that stage it was not intended to apply for affiliation with the Trades and Labor Council, but the reply of the board to the delegates' requests, and the instant dismissal of their vice-president (Senior-Fireman Barnett), which we think is a case of victimisation, and the decision of the board not to recognise the union, led us to make application to the Trades Hall. In fairness to the men, we think it only right to state that when the superannuation system was introduced the superintendent gave the men to understand that it was a matter of the board putting aside 1/ per week, the men to do likewise, and in the event of an employe leaving the service the whole of the amount would be handed over to him provided he was leaving with a clean record. He also went on to say that the secretary of the board (Mr. Bristowe) would, at a later date, come round and explain the scheme more fully. Up to the present that promise has not been carried out, although two years has now elapsed. No statement was made that the system was to be worked in connection with an insurance company. Some time later, when more conversant with the scheme, the men sent on to the Superintendent a petition, asking to be allowed to withdraw from it. In reply the Superintendent re-marked that if such a thing occurred again the men would be instantly dismissed. At the beginning of 1910 each man was given a book of regulations, one of which was to the effect that all employes joining during the year 1909, and thereafter, should become members of the superannuation system. This rule was carried out until six men objected to join. They were told that the matter would stand over until the end of the year. It necessarily follows that the men who were compelled to re-main in the service felt that an injustice had been done to them. Promotion by Seniority. "Our delegates did not demand that promotions should be by seniority; they merely suggested that it might be taken into account. It was pointed out that a man with three years service was promoted to the rank of senior fireman over the heads of men whose connection with the brigade extends over periods ranging from five to twenty years. And the claim of that promoted fireman to quarters, as they become vacant, received consideration before that of a man with many years' experience, and he, unlike a fireman, is allowed to sit for the officers' examination. You see we are debarred from making any headway. We think length of service is worthy of consideration. This question of promotion led to the formation of the union. We met on a Saturday night and decided to become members of a union. On the Monday following the superintendent called nine of the men into his office, all of whom are senior to the promoted man, and he said, 'What is this I hear? you have formed a union.' Striking the table with his fist, he called out, 'I don't care for a thousand unions.' The men replied that a union had been formed, as they did not consider they had received justice. To this the superintendent re-plied that the man had not been pro-noted, that he had been made a special duty man, and had therefore been given an increase of 6d. per day in his wages. The superintendent added, 'I may have said to the clerk that he was to be paid a senior fireman's wage, but I did not make him a senior fireman. One of the men said. 'What are we to believe? There it is in black and white on the pay-sheet, with your signature attached;' and the superintendent remarked, 'Do you think I read down everything?' They asked why it was they were not all recognised as special duty men. Payment of Wages by Cheque. 'We asked that payment of wages be made in cash, because of the inconvenience we experience in going to the bank, some times we wait four or five days for an opportunity to visit the bank, and often we trust to an outsider to get the cheques cashed. Exchange has been charged us by the bank. Firemen were not aware at the time Councillor Frinsdorf's statement appeared in print that they could get fuel and utensils. With regard to the production of marriage certificate, we do not see the reason for insulting a body because one single man endeavored to impose on the superintendent. The Alleged

Victimisation. "The time has arrived when further particulars of the case of victimisation referred to in Saturday's paper should be given. Senior Fireman Barnett, of Unley, was the man dismissed. The men at this station had had a very hard week—one of the most trying experienced for ten years at any station. The record was five fires in five days, and the length of hose to be scrubbed after each outbreak was about 1,000 ft. The public must understand that there is almost three times as much work to be done on return to the station as there is at a fire. On the Sunday morning following this very strenuous week a call was received at 12.30, and the men re-turned to the station with 500 ft. of dirty hose at 2 a.m. The foreman allowed the men to perform their ordinary station duties and did not give any orders as to cleaning the hose. At 8.30 the foreman said to the driver. "What about scrubbing this hose?" and he replied, 'I have not finished the horses.' To another member of the brigade he made the same remark, and the answer was to the effect that the man was busy preparing dinner. The fore-man next spoke to Barnett, who replied, "Don't you think we have done a fair thing? We have our reel made up, and have 1,300 ft. of hose; we think that that is quite sufficient, but if you are in any doubt, ring up the superintendent or his deputy, and we will abide by the decision.' The foreman said, I think we can settle it here.' He, however, telephoned to the head station, and having switched off, turned to us and said. 'All right boys, we won't scrub hose to day.' On the following day the hose was cleaned. Ten days later the chairman of the board had an interview with the foreman (Mr. Luck), and on the next day Superintendent Rickwood visited Unley and reprimanded Barnett for his alleged breach of discipline. Barnett wrote a note of explanation, but on the Saturday the superintendent again visited the station, and to the surprise of everyone, said to Barnett, 'The board orders your dismissal Barnett. You finish up at 6 o'clock.' No chance was given the man to make a statement or ask why his punishment did not end with his reprimand. The two other men at the station are prepared to swear that, so far as they are aware, there was no refusal of duty. The case is clearly one of victimisation. Why was this man not given an opportunity to appear before the board, and why was he not suspended, as provided for in regulation 7, which reads:— 'Every fireman will be liable to suspension from duty at the discretion of the superintendent, or in his absence, by any other responsible officer of the brigade. Every case of suspension shall be brought before the Fire Brigades Board at their first meeting after the offence, and the suspension may be continued for a further period, according to the discretion of the board. During suspension a man receives no pay.' That the man was not suspended is certain, as we have failed to find any entry in the occurrence book kept for that purpose. Barnett was a man with nine years' experience, and had not a had mark against his name. Representatives on the Board. Six members constitute the Fire Brigades Board. Mr. F. Frinsdorf, representative of the City Council, is chair-man: Mr. W. D. Ponder, M.P., and Mr. F. C. Krichauff represent the Government; Messrs. R. A. Paxton and D. T. Lawes, the insurance companies; and Mr. J. H. Cooke, the suburban and country corporations. Four-ninths of the board's expenditure is contributed by the insurance companies, three-ninths by the Government, and two-ninths by the municipalities.



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*State library of South Australia - Industrial Action [B 37794], Industrial action at Wakefield Street. Approximately 1911, Part of Acre 342 Collection*

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 26 February 1912, page 10**

THE SHOPPING CENTRES.

IF A FIRE SHOULD OCCUR.

The shopkeepers of Rundle-street were mostly incredulous when informed after noon on Saturday that the men had left the fire station. "Impossible" said one. "Neither the board nor the men would allow Adelaide to be unprotected. Nevertheless, when the position was impressed on them there was a commotion. Rundle-street shopkeepers do not need to be told that once a fire got out of hand there the consequences might be more awful than imagination can picture. In that narrow street a fire might sweep all before it, and where it would end it is impossible to say. In every instance the proprietors and Managers of Rundle-street houses who were approached declined to express an opinion regarding the merits of the trouble. The dispute was between the board and the men, they said, and was none of their business. Several deplored the state of affairs which could permit of the head fire station being deserted, and generally they seemed fully aware of the serious position it put them in. Hoses Ordered Out. It is said that one big Rundle-street firm, whose premises are well supplied with water hydrants, ordered every hose to be laid out ready for use. Many other homes, however, were depending solely upon the brigade for the protection of their shops. Some had no hoses in the buildings, and declared that they could not check a fire should one start. Mr. F. W. C. Catt, who has recently made extensive additions to his stores, when questioned, said, "I have no protection at all. If we have a fire and the brigade does not come everything will go. It is deplorable that such a state of affairs can arise. I don't think it will interfere with our insurance risks, but something should be done." Effect of the Early Closing Act. Mr. Colin Stone (proprietor of Messrs Donaldson, Andrews, & Company) expressed a devout hope that no fire would start in the block, in which his premises are situated, and in that he voiced the hope of other shopkeepers in the close-packed corner. "I have a watchman here at night," he said, "but I am not allowed to keep anyone else on the premises because

of the provisions of the Early Closing Act. I suppose we shall have to take our chance, but I will make all the arrangements I can to prevent a fire. The Early Closing Act will permit me to keep no one except the watchman on the premises after closing hours except members of my family." Donaldson, Andrews, and Co, have a big risk, as they have recently purchased and improved the Coliseum building. The manager of Messrs. Foy & Gibson, whose edifice is so prominent in the eastern end of Rundle-street, said the building was well fitted with fire fighting appliances. On each of the floors were four hydrants, and two watchmen were engaged every night. Taken Unawares. Other wholesale and retail business houses recently built in different parts of the city have been fitted with special sprinklers which act automatically in case of fire. Mr. J. Miller Anderson, of Messrs. J. Miller Anderson & Co., Hindley-street, said his firm had a watchman on the premises, but there were no hoses, and if a fire started there it would go unchecked end to end. "You see, we have de-pended upon the fire brigade," he said, "and never thought of the possibility of anything like this occurring. "Up to the present," remarked Mr. G. H. Prosser, a director of the firm of Wilkinson & Co., "we have not considered what we might have to do further to protect our own property, and I am hopeful that no extreme step will be taken to make such action on our part necessary. We have our regular watchmen, always on duty, and throughout the building there are hydrants, so that in the event of an outbreak of fire our own staff could deal with it pending the arrival of the brigade. I feel sure, whatever may be the outcome of the present trouble, that the old staff of the fire brigade would respond to the call of duty" The Work of the Sprinklers. At some of the warehouses it was the custom until recently to exercise a number of the employes in the work of fire-fighting. Once a week it was usual to arrange a call-out to train the men in their special duties with the appliances on the premises, but of late this custom has fallen into dis-use, as greater dependence was placed on the organisation of the fire brigade. At Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s big ware-house in Gawler-place the sprinklers are installed as a safeguard. A pressure of 140 lb. to the square inch is assured by the service, and the manager receives two re-ports daily as to the condition of the sprinklers, alarms, and valves. In the event of one sprinkler being started by a fire in one portion of the building an electric appliance would immediately call up the brigade. What would happen with firemen on strike is of course, another matter. The same safeguards are employed at Messrs. D. & W. Murray's, the Australasian Implement Company's premises. and many other large warehouses in the city.

#### THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

##### AN ANXIOUS TIME.

Needless to say, the developments on Saturday occasioned great anxiety to the representatives of the fire insurance companies in Adelaide, because their offices were carrying risks without the protection afforded by an efficient fire brigade organisation such as Adelaide enjoyed up till noon on Saturday, when the men left their stations. A meeting of the Fire Under-writers' Association was held during the morning to consider the position. The chairman (Mr. J. McDowall) declined however, to say anything about what had been done, remarking that the whole matter was in the hands of the Fire Brigades Board. "We all recognise that a strike of fire-men is a serious menace to the safety of the city should a fire take place," he said, "but for the present we are leaving the whole matter in the hands of our representative on the Fire Brigade Board." Other managers were found reticent in regard to the matter, but all were agreed that they would be pleased when the fire stations were again manned. "Not only is property unsafe at present," explained one local manager, "but the life of persons residing in big buildings is in jeopardy." Insurance Policies and Strikes. There is apparently no "strike clause" in the policies issued by the insurance companies in Adelaide. One clause, which is found in most fire insurance policies, reads:— The insurance does not cover loss or damage by fire during (unless it is proved by the insured that the loss or damage was not occasioned thereby), or in consequence of—(a) subterranean fire, earthquake, hurricane, volcanic eruption, or other convulsion of nature: (b) invasion, act of a foreign enemy, civil commotion, revolution, insurrection, military, or usurped power or martial law. Increase of Insurance Rates Unlikely. Mr. McDowall was asked on Sunday if it had been

agreed by the managers at the meeting on Saturday to increase the premiums on fire risks taken while the trouble lasts. "Oh, dear, no," he replied; "such a proposal has not even been suggested yet. If a person wishes to insure against fire he may do so at the rates that have been ruling of late. As to the trouble with the brigade I have nothing to say; that is being dealt with by the board constituted by Act of Parliament."

#### THEATRES PICKETED.

#### A PECULIAR POSITION.

The Tivoli Theatre was picketed on Saturday night in order to prevent non-union firemen from taking up the duties of the fireman usually supplied by the Fire Brigades' Board. The manager of the theatre said he believed every place of public entertainment also was picketed. The regulations under the Places of Public Entertainment Act, 1910. stipulated that at every theatre with a seating capacity of over 700, at least one trained fireman should be detailed for fire-watch duties, and should be in attendance at least 30 minutes before the entertainment began and 30 minutes after it had finished. The management of the Tivoli paid 5/ a performance for the services of a fireman, and that money had to be prepaid to the Fire Brigades' Board, which assumed the right to supply the fire-man. He had before him a receipt for £1 15/, which amount he had paid that day, and yet no fireman had come to his theatre either for the matinee or for the evening performance. Consequently, although he had paid for the services of a fireman, his principals were liable to be fined for not having a fireman on the premises, the penalty which they might have to pay being an amount not exceeding £20 for the first offence, and thereafter £2 a day. The Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment (Mr. T. E. Smith) had given him (the manager) permission to appoint the mechanist at the Tivoli to be fireman, as he was a duly certificated fireman of the Sydney brigade. Although the theatre was picketed, the pickets had discussed the matter with him in a quiet, friendly way. Mr. Smith (Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment) was in the vicinity of the Tivoli, and he told a reporter that he had instructed all the managers of places affected to take men from their staffs to look after the fire appliances. Those instructions would be followed until the trouble in the fire brigade was settled.

#### AT PORT ADELAIDE.

#### ONLY THREE MEN ON DUTY.

District Officer Napier, who is in charge of the Port Adelaide brigades, wore a worried look when a reporter saw him just before noon on Saturday. "I have nothing to tell you," he remarked, "except that if a fire should now occur in the district the men here will go to it not as firemen but as volunteers. I have received no information yet from the Fire Brigades Board with regard to future action. The men who were, until a few hours ago, under my charge were a fine and efficient body. I much regret the trouble which has caused them to leave. I have nothing to complain about except that they are leaving." At noon the firemen gathered in front of the station, to await instructions from their delegate in Adelaide. A few minutes later they received an intimation through the telephone that they were to pass in all their gear. They entered the station and quickly divested themselves of their uniforms and attired themselves in their private clothes. In an orderly way they left the station. As they did so they said "Good-bye" to both District Officer Napier and foreman Cook. At Semaphore the three men under Foreman Hopkins passed in their gear and did like-wise. Foreman Hopkins then went across to the Port Adelaide station to assist his two companions in the event of an out-break of fire. District Officer Napier put on a fireman's uniform and jack-boots, and remarked that he intended, with Foremen Cook and Hopkins, to do his best to cope with any outbreak of fire. The brigade for the whole of the Port Adelaide district consisted of three officers (District Officer Napier and Foremen Cook and Hopkins), and 17 men. Two officers and 12 men were quartered at the Port Adelaide station, an engineer and coxswain on the fire-float Fire Queen, and an officer and three men at Semaphore. On Sunday District Officer Napier re-ported that matters were quiet. Twice during the night calls were received, but in both instances they were found to be false alarms. The first was received at 11.20 p.m. from the Port-road. The

three men turned out with the reel. In the other case the call was received at 4.10 a.m. from the Montpelier-square fire alarm, in Port-land Estate. In view of probable further false alarms and to relieve the horses from too much work, a motor car was on Sunday morning sent to the Port Adelaide station. During the morning several of the ex-members of the brigade assembled in front of the station and discussed the question of using the motor car with some warmth. "We have no objection," one of them said, "to the board purchasing a car for use. but it should not be driven by an outsider, who is not playing the game. We are not going back now until the board recognise the principle of unionism. In New South Wales and Victoria the fire men have their unions, which are affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council. They have given us their sympathy, and have promised to assist us financially." Councillor Frinsdorf stated yesterday that there was such a disturbance, caused by the men's sympathisers, that the district officer was obliged to send the car back to the city until a later hour. The second attempt to put it in the station was successful.

#### MEN OUT AT PORT PIRIE

THE FOREMAN SINGLEHANDED. Port Pirie, February 25.

Foreman J. C Kellett, of the fire brigade here, on being interviewed yesterday after-noon reported that in conjunction with the other members of the union in the city the six men engaged at the local station knocked off on Saturday morning. While however, they declined the ordinary routine duty about the station they stood by in case of a call out. This state of things continued till 2 p.m., at which hour the six men, who, it is understood, had just received a message from the city, handed in their uniforms and accoutrements, and stated their determination not to turn to again until they had further instructions from the union. Foreman Kellett, who is left by himself at the station, has a single horse harnessed ready to attach to the small reel in case of an alarm, and states that if a fire occurs he will do his best to deal with it.

#### A CALL TO A FIRE.

#### MEN IN CIVILIAN DRESS.

Luckily the firemen who joined the Fire Brigade Employees' Union did not take such a drastic step as to desert the head station on Saturday, as an alarm of fire was received at 10.15 a.m. Attired in civilian dress and wearing the union badge, the men responded quickly to a call to Gouger-street. Deputy-superintendent Dickie and a couple of other men wore their uniforms and helmets. The fire was in the cellar of Messrs, Hazelgrove & Co.'s furniture and hardware establishment, and as the brigade dashed into Gouger-street the men were cheered by the bystanders. They soon had a jet of water playing on to the fire, and many of them were drenched be-fore the outbreak was extinguished. The alarm was given by Mr. C. F. Hazelgrove. The fire was caused through one of the employes striking a match when about to remove some turpentine from the cellar. The floor and a large quantity of stock were damaged by fire and water.

#### THE CONNECTION WITH THE TRADES HALL.

#### WARDERS ALLOWED TO AFFILIATE.

On Saturday afternoon the men held a meeting at the Trades Hall. Speaking at the conclusion, Mr. J. Gunn, president of the Trades and Labor Council, said there was no precedent for the assumption that firemen would be called out in sympathy with strikers. The men, having been unable to obtain redress of their grievances, formed a union, and in order to strengthen their hands had decided to affiliate with other sections of the workers. Guards at the Adelaide gaol and Stockade, and employes at the hospital were members of unions affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council. The board, finding they had no excuse for the stand taken, had put up the bogey of the firemen leaving the stations because other workers were on strike for better conditions. Workers only came out on strike in sympathy with strikers when by remaining at work they were assisting the employer in the fight. It would be time

enough for the board to step in where the men suggested declaring a strike in sympathy with other people. "Must Win Easily." The secretary of the union received a number of telegrams on Saturday. Broken Hill wired as follows:—"Congratulations on firm stand taken against domineering position taken by the board; stand firm; most win easily." From the secretary of the Melbourne organisation came a promise of moral and financial support; and a telegram was received from Sydney asking for full particulars of the dispute. Mr. Ponder interviewed. Mr. W. D. Ponder, M.P., one of the Government representatives on the Fire Brigades Board, when approached on Sunday, stated that he did not wish to discuss the matter. It has been stated that when the men arrived to state their grievances to the board some time ago, you asked to be excused. Is that a fact? he was asked. "As I had another engagement, of which I had previously informed the chairman, I asked to be excused," replied Mr. Ponder. "As it was, I stayed there half an hour and heard most of the grievances aired, and when the time came for me to leave for my other appointment I left the room." Union's Regulations. Members of the union supplied a copy of their rules and regulations on Saturday. The constitution reads as follows:—"The union shall be known as the fire Brigades' Employes' Union of South Australia, rating as follows:—Senior fire-men, first-class firemen, second-class fire-men: third-class firemen; and all other men employed by the Fire Brigades Board of South Australia under the rating of assist-ant officers, foremen, &c., and over the rating of probationary firemen." The objects are stated to be:—To use every legitimate means to advance the interests of its members and to firmly resist all encroachments' that may be attempted." Conditions of Services. Permanent members of the fire brigades have to observe the following conditions of service:—"Every fireman is to devote the whole of his time to the service of the Fire Brigade. He is to serve and reside wherever it may suit the requirements of the Superintendent. He is promptly to obey all lawful orders from the persons in authority over him. He is to obey all the regulations of the service. He shall not resign or withdraw himself from his duties unless allowed to do so in writing by the superintendent or other officer of the brigade, and not unless he shall have given to such officer 14 days' previous notice in writing. If he resigns or withdraws without leave or notice he will forfeit all pay due to him, and will further be formally dismissed by the board. Every fireman is liable to immediate dismissal for unfitness, negligence, or misconduct, independently of any other punishment to which by-law he may be subject. If he be dismissed from the service he is liable to forfeit the whole of his pay then due. Every fireman will be liable to suspension from duty at the discretion of the superintendent, or in his absence by any other responsible officer of the brigade. Every case of suspension shall be brought before the Fire Brigades Board at their first meeting after the offence, and the suspension may be continued for a further period, according to the discretion of the board. During suspension a man receives no pay. A fireman dismissed from the service, or who may resign his appointment, shall immediately after dismissal or resignation deliver up all clothes and accoutrements that have been supplied to him. If any article or articles shall have been in the opinion of the superintendent, improperly used or damaged, a deduction from the pay or monies due to the member will be made to cover the loss sustained. Firemen are insured for one year's wages in cases of death whilst on duty, and weekly wages for a period not exceeding 52 weeks if injured whilst on duty. Auxiliary Firemen. Following are the more important classes pertaining to auxiliary members:— Every fireman shall reside at the station, or within such easy distance therefrom as the board may approve. Every fireman in the employ of the Fire Brigade Board will be supplied with suitable uniform and accoutrements, for the safety, cleanliness, and good order of which the firemen will be held responsible. Each uniform and accoutrements remain and are the property of the board. Any member wilfully damaging or disposing of all or any portion thereof will be prosecuted. Every fireman is required to obey all lawful orders given by persons placed in authority over him, and also strictly to comply with the regulations issued by the board, and entered in the superintendent's order book. Every fireman absent from duty without leave first obtained from the officer in charge renders himself liable to dismissal, in addition to the forfeiture of all pay due to him. No fireman under any pretence whatever is permitted to leave the locality of a fire without the instruction or permission of the officer in charge of the fire. Any fireman guilty of negligence or misconduct or found in such a state as to unfit him to perform the duties required may at the discretion of the superintendent or officer in charge be suspended for the

time being, and in extreme cases may be summarily dismissed from the service. In the event of dismissal all pay due to such dismissed fireman may at the discretion of the board be withheld and forfeited. In cases of suspension the circumstances connected therewith are to be reported to the board, who will deal with the matter. No fireman shall be entitled to any pay during the period he may remain under suspension from duty unless the board on investigation of the circumstances acquit him from all blame in the matter. Unless otherwise provided one week's notice given on either side shall terminate the agreement for service.

**Wages and Hours.** When a man first joins the brigade he serves a period of probation extending over three months, and receives 6/6 per day. Then he is classed as a third-class fireman, and his rate of pay for 12 months is still 6/6. During the succeeding 12 months he is a second-class fireman, in receipt of 7/. and at the conclusion of that period is termed a first-class fireman, his wage being 7/6 per day. When he is promoted to the rank of senior fireman his pay advances to 8/. In every eight days, including Sunday, he is allowed one clear day off duty and one afternoon of 5½ hours, so that out of 192 hours he is off duty 29½ hours.

**Meeting at the Park.** On Sunday afternoon the men attended a meeting at the Botanic Park. They were given a stirring reception as they marched along. Speeches were delivered, and the call to give three cheers for the men and their families was responded to enthusiastically.

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 26 February 1912, page 1**

Advertisement:

The Fire Brigades Board  
Wanted Men for the Fire  
Brigade Service  
Apply Head Fire Brigade Station,  
Wakefield street, Adelaide.  
Fire Brigade Station. Commercial road,  
Port Adelaide  
Fire Brigade Station, Port Pirie.

Advertisement:

**MEN ARE WARNED** that the FIREMEN are LOCKED OUT at FIRE BRIGADE STATIONS, METROPOLITAN AREA AND PORT PIRIE.

Before Accepting Engagement COMMUNICATE with the undersigned.

H. C. WOODS, Hon. SECRETARY Fire Brigades Employees Union.

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**Wanted Men for the Fire**  
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H. C. WOODS,  
Hon. Secretary Fire Brigades Employees' Union.

From the Daily Herald, Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 1912, Page 1.

**Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954), Wednesday 28 February 1912, page 4**

Adelaide Fire Brigade Union.

An Adelaide telegram of Friday says :—"Some time ago a union was formed in connection with the South Australian fire brigades. It was named the Fire Brigade Employes' Union, and was countenanced by the chairman of the Board (Cr. Frinsdorf) and the superintendent. Delegates were appointed by the union to wait upon the board, and lay before it certain matters, which, in the opinion of the men, required looking into. The delegates were received by the board, and their case was patiently listened to. There were indications for a while that there would be an amicable settlement, but at a later date the delegates received a reply which the union regarded as unsatisfactory. A climax was reached last night, when the superintendent paraded the men at the head station, and told them that the board had instructed him to tell them that they must either decide to give the union up or stand by the board. He added that their answer must be in by 6 o'clock this evening, when all the men who decided to stand by the union would be dis-missed. Considerable surprise was ex-pressed in commercial circles this morning at the action of the Fire Brigades Board in coming to such an abrupt determination. All the fire brigades in the State where permanent men are employed are under the union. The men handed in their uniforms this evening, and decided to attend any calls in private clothes till 12 noon on Saturday, so that the public might be protected. Cr. Frinsdorf, chairman of the Fire Brigades' Board, stated to-night that when the men appeared before the board they said that they intended to form a union, but that they would not affiliate with any other body. He added "They have now broken faith, and applied to be affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council. The public may rest assured that they will be protected."

**Southern Cross (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1954), Friday 1 March 1912, page 11**

Twinklins

The permanent firemen engaged throughout the State by the Fire Brigades Board ceased work on Saturday because the board declined to permit them to join a union affiliated with the Trades Hall Council. The strike was settled on Wednesday.

**Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 20 March 1912, page 13**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, March 10, 1912.

BUSH FIRES AT GUMERACHA.

Mr. YOUNG told Mr. Jamieson he would ask the Minister of Agriculture, who was a member of the Bush Fires Fund committee, whether help could be given to people who had suffered by bush fires between Gumeracha and Lobethal.

**Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 21 May 1912, page 6**

BURNT TO DEATH

FATALITY IN THE CITY

CAUSE OF FIRE UNKNOWN

News of a shocking burning fatality was brought to the watchhouse authorities on Monday morning by Senior-Constable Buchanan. The officer stated that as he and Constable Daly were proceeding along North terrace, near Gawler place, at about 6.30 yesterday morning a motor man on a passing electric car called out to them "Something's wrong at No. 76." They hastened to No. 76, North terrace, and discovered a man pulling a burning mattress out on to the front garden. The man had been throwing water on some straw and bedclothes. When he

noticed the constables, he said, pointing to a room from the windows of which smoke was issuing, "There's a man in there, and I think he is dead."

The unfortunate man was found and taken into the open air, where it was ascertained that he had been severely burnt about the head and shoulders. He was taken to the Adelaide Hospital, where Dr. Pitcher pronounced life to be extinct.

Mrs. Mary Isbister, the proprietor of the house, stated that the deceased had been a boarder there for some months, and he went by the name of Maddern. James Wilson, an electrical fitter, also a boarder, said that he awoke shortly after 6 o'clock and found his bedroom full of smoke. He rushed downstairs to the room occupied by deceased, which was directly under his apartment, and discovered that the bedclothes of the bed-room which Maddern was lying were blazing fiercely. He yelled "Fire!" and other boarders came tumbling down to his assistance, and between them they managed to extinguish the flames.

The cause of the fire is at present unknown. The body was later in the day removed to the morgue, where it was identified as that of John Maddern, at one time a prominent postal official in the city and a justice of the peace. The coroner has been informed.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 8 August 1912, page 4***

#### FIRE BRIGADE CALL.

The Metropolitan Fire brigade received a call to Hindley street at 6.40 p.m. yesterday. On arrival at the premises of the Union Engineering Company it was found that a small quantity of kindling wood had been destroyed by fire, through having come into contact with a lighted furnace. No serious damage was done.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 20 August 1912, page 5***

#### FIRE IN CARRINGTON STREET.

At 9.47 p.m. on Monday a call was received by the Metropolitan Brigade from the Hurtle square alarm to 44 Carrington street. The back portion of a block of buildings, occupied by F. Powell, grocer, J. Lyons, greengrocer and confectioner, and Mrs. S. Smith, ham and beef shop, had caught alight. The brigade were promptly on the scene, and by 10.15 p.m. the fire was under control. The rear portion of the premises and roof were severely damaged by fire and water and the contents were totally destroyed. The goods in the front shops were injured by heat and smoke. The premises are insured.

***Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 5 September 1912, page 5***

#### UNPROTECTED AGAINST FIRE FIEND PLIGHT OF THE SUBURBS

##### THREE MORE STATIONS WANTED

It is the proud boast of the average Adelaidean that the city is second to none in Australia, in the matter of progression, in proof of which the visitor is referred to the electric tramway system, the excellently-paved streets, the well-kept parks, and so on.

Of such advantages there is every reason to be proud, but it is a noticeable fact that the system of fire protection in vogue is never mentioned. There is a reason—and a good one—for this, for in the matter of protection from fire Adelaide is hopelessly behind the times. In every other city in Australia there is a fire-protected area, extending some miles on every side of the city, but in Adelaide the only area fully protected is the city proper.

##### A Ridiculous Position.

Under the Fire Brigades' Board Act it is necessary for a corporation or district council to make application to come under the operation of the Act in order that their district shall be placed on the "protected area." The result of this is that while one corporation has made application

the adjoining body has not done so, and thus, while one district is protected, the neighboring one is not. For instance, the Unley district extends from the south park lands on the north to the Cross roads, or Napier terrace, on the south, and from the Glen Osmond road on the east to the Bay road on the west, a total area of 5¼ square miles. The area from the Glen Osmond road to the Kensington Road, containing the suburbs of Rose Park, Dulwich,, East-wood, Marryatville, &c., is unprotected. Again, the area south of the Cross roads, comprising the Burnside, Kingswood, Mitcham, Hawthorn, Torrens Park districts, is totally unprotected. The Nor-wood district is bounded by the Kensington road, the river Torrens, and East Adelaide North. Thus North Kensington, Carryton, and surrounding suburbs are outside the area of protection. Walkerville and Prospect, on the north side of the Torrens, are likewise outside the charmed circle. On the western side of the city the position is even worse, only Port Adelaide and immediate suburbs and Glenelg being afforded protection. The thickly populated manufacturing centres of Hind-marsh, Bowden. Croydon, Kilkenny, Woodville. and Cheltenham as well as the rapidly-growing residential suburbs of Thebarton, Torrensville, Hilton, Underdale, and Henley Beach, are absolutely unprovided for. Certainly Hindmarsh has a volunteer fire brigade, which has rendered valuable assistance in the subduing of conflagrations, but it cannot be expected to be able to deal with a blaze of extraordinary proportions. The same remark applies to the Payneham volunteer brigade.

#### Superintendent Rickwood's Recommendations.

As long ago as 1907 Superintendent Rickwood recommended, in his annual report to the Fire Brigades' Board, that an efficient system of protection for a radius of four or five miles from the city should be provided, but though he emphasised the necessity for such a system each year since, nothing has yet been done. If three more suburban stations were provided, one at the inter-section of the Port road and John street, Croydon (to protect Hindmarsh, Croydon, Thebarton, Torrensville, Woodville, Bowden, &c.); a second at Wayville West (to safeguard the surrounding districts), and a third at Burnside, between Rose Park and Dulwich (for the protection of the Burnside, Eastwood, Knoxville, Dulwich, and adjacent districts), the whole suburban system would be linked up. The strength of such a system would lie in the fact that one station could back up another. Three or four men, with appliances, could be allotted to each station, and if this were done, no matter in which suburb a fire occurred, there would be a brigade within three minutes' call. If a request is received from an unprotected area at present a reel is invariably sent from the nearest station. Such action might be commendable, but is distinctly unfair to the district from which the reel is taken for the reason that a fire might occur in that district during its absence.

It is estimated by Mr. Rickwood that for the expenditure of an extra £3000 the additional stations could be equipped,, and the whole of the suburban area efficiently guarded. It is surprising to learn that of the 23 odd miles of thickly populated area outside the city radius, but eight and a quarter are protected. In face of that fact the expenditure of the additional £300 is infinitesimal, and considering a council has to provide but two-ninths of the outlay the proposition should be one worthy of consideration. At all events, it is high time that some effective system was adopted.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 14 September 1912, page 23***

At the invitation of the president of the Fire Brigades Board (Councillor Frinsdorf), about 100 delegates to the Local Government Association's annual meeting visited the metropolitan brigade's quarters on Friday morning and inspected the fire appliances. A turn-out of the fire-fighters was also witnessed.

#### ***Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 1 October 1912, page 8***

##### GENERAL NEWS.

##### FIRE BRIGADE QUARTERS.

It is now some time since the South Australian Fire Brigades Board purchased the premises occupied by Dr. Fooks, adjoining the metropolitan head-station in Wakefield-street, to provide for an extension of the main building, but as the pre-sent lease has a currency of about three years, it is not likely that anything will be done before the expiry of this term. At the rear of the property, however, there is an area of about 50 x 260 ft., upon which quarters for the married men of the brigade could be erected. There are ten or a dozen married men attached to the headquarters brigade. Four of these are in quarters on the premises, four occupy rooms opposite the brigade, and the others have homes elsewhere in the city. As firemen are continuously on duty—except one day off in eight and an afternoon off in between—it follows that the existing arrangement for their accommodation is inconvenient. There is room, on the vacant land referred to at the rear of Dr. Fooks' residence for half-a-dozen cottages, where the married men of the brigade could be comfortably housed. It might be added that in all the other States increasing consideration is being shown for the married men engaged in fire brigade work, and wherever possible special provision is made for their comfort. At Port Adelaide there are four married men in the brigade, and quarters are now being erected for two of them.

***Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 19 October 1912, page 4***

#### ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE

A "Mail" party, together with friends, attended at the Metropolitan Fire Station, Wakefield streets on Thursday evening, and were courteously shown over the premises by Fireman Holden, who explained the uses and history of the various appliances. The visitors were surprised to learn of the part played by a person breaking a street the alarm. All the bells in the station are set a-ringing, the doors are swung open, the horses are freed from their stalls, and men brought to quarters with a rush — and all from the simple act of "breaking the glass and turning the handle". After a tour of the station the party retired to the gymnasium and concert hall, where a musical and elocutionary programme was gone through, assisted by members of the brigade. The visitors left at 10.30, and all agreed that the time spent had been most educational and enjoyable.

***Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 20 November 1912, page 12***

#### NEW FIRE ALARMS.

New fire alarm call boxes are being placed throughout the city. Some of the old instruments had been in use for about 20 years, and the generators were found to be weakening. The new alarm is operated from the side, instead of the front, as formerly. The instruction on front of the box reads as follows:— "Fire Alarm— In case of fire break glass at side, turn handle, and await brigade."

***Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 23 November 1912, page 41***

#### HALIFAX STREET FIRE.

At a quarter to 2 this morning a general grocer's shop in Halifax street, occupied by Mr. C. R. Thomas, was noticed to be in flames. Mr. Thomas, who sleeps on the premises, was awakened, and noticed that his room was full of smoke. He hurried out in his night attire, and aroused the neighbours, one of whom gave the alarm.

Mr. Thomas remarked:—"I just had time to get my children out of the place. It was a close thing. The origin of the fire is a mystery to me."

Mrs. Stewart, who lives opposite to the store, stated:—"I heard a scream, and looked out of the window, and saw the flames high in the air. I awakened my son George, who gave the alarm."

The crowd of men, women, and children attired in night garments had quickly gathered, and watched the efforts of the firemen with keen interest. The brigade was quickly on the scene

with three reels and the motor. All the occupants left the premises in safety. The flames had taken a strong hold, and the premises were speedily gutted, notwithstanding the utmost exertions of the firemen.

The damage done by the fire at the grocery shop of Mr. C. R. Thomas, Halifax street, on Saturday morning, was partly covered by insurance. The details are:— Stock and fittings, the Northern Assurance Company, for £150; and the jewellery and furniture for £100; and the shop, the property of Mr. F. Burmeister, of the Arcade, for £250 in the Queensland Insurance Company.