

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1914

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 January 1914, page 43

WAS IT INCENDIARISM?

At 8.55 p.m. on Tuesday the Fire Brigade received a call from Hurtle-square, and on arriving at the scene of the fire found that an outbreak had occurred in a house occupied by Mrs. Evans, of Ely-place. The blind in the dining-room down-stairs and some clothing hanging on a door in one of the upstairs rooms were alight, but the brigade extinguished the fire with chemicals before any further damage was done. Mrs. Evans, who discovered the fire on her return from a shopping expedition, asserts that the outbreak was the work of an incendiary, whom she saw running away. The back door of the house had been broken open.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 3 January 1914, page 30

THE EDWARDSTOWN FIRE





DESOLATE SCENES.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 5 January 1914, page 1

FURNITURE FACTORY DESTROYED.

GREAT DAMAGE DONE.

EARLY MORNING BLAZE.

Another furniture factory was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning, the establishment of Messrs. R. J. Buttery and Son, situated at the corner of Young and Rundle streets, Kent Town, being gutted. When the Norwood Fire Brigade arrived on the scene shortly before 1 a.m. the premises, a two-story wood and iron structure, measuring about 150 ft. in length, were well alight. Flames shot into the air to a height of about 100 ft., and for a while the heat was terrific.

It was soon seen that there was little hope of saving the building, which was well stocked with furniture; and consequently the firemen gave their attention to preventing the fire from spreading to the neighboring houses. In this they were successful, and, with the exception of the destruction of a fence, the damage was confined to the premises of Messrs. Buttery & Son.

The factory, which was full of inflammable material, was completely burned out within half an hour of the time the outbreak was discovered. The Norwood Fire Brigade, which was first on the scene, did useful work checking the progress of the flames in the early stages, but aided by a westerly breeze the fire gradually made headway. The motor reel from headquarters was on the spot shortly afterwards, and another line of hose proved sufficient to keep the fire within bounds, although all efforts to save any portion of the factory or its contents were, as stated, fruitless.

Mrs C. L. Griffiths, who lives next door, was awakened by the reflection of the flames, and went to give the alarm, but found that a policeman, who had seen the fire from Rundle-street, Kent Town, had already done so.

The fence dividing the premises of Mrs. C. L. Griffiths from those of Messrs. Buttery & Son, though surrounded by a large hoarding, was destroyed, owing to the dropping of lighted pieces of timber from the burning building.

At half-past 1 the fire was well under control, but in parts of the ruined building fierce flames were continually shooting up as some particularly inflammable material, such as resin, was ignited, and small popping explosions were heard now and again, but not serious ones.

Despite the unusual hour a large crowd of men and women gathered—clad for the most part in night attire—and watched with interest the firemen at work. Some of them, indeed, took too much interest, and went home drenched with the spray from the hoses.

A few years ago the firm had the misfortune to have their factory, situated in William-street, Norwood, destroyed by fire.

A HEAVY LOSS.

Mr. R. H. Buttery resides at Henley Beach, and knew nothing of the fire until he drove to town on Monday morning to reopen the factory after the holidays. He is quite unable to explain the cause of the outbreak, which means to him a very serious loss. The factory was closed on December 24, and had not been reopened at all during the holidays, so that it is obvious the origin of the fire was not internal. It is surmised that the out-break may have been caused by a lighted cigarette end or match being carelessly thrown under the door.

Mr. Buttery estimates the total damage at £2,300, only £800 of which is covered by insurance. The building was insured for £300, the plant and machinery for £350, and the stock for £150. The machinery included a fine 30-h.p. Crossley gas engine, a 36-in. circular saw bench, an 18-in. circular saw bench, a 36-in. band saw, an 18-in. thickness planing machine, a 9-in. "buzzer" planing machine, a boring and morticing machine, a tenoning machine, a verticle reversible spindle machine, a lathe, and a sand papering machine.

About a dozen hands were employed, but their loss of tools, with one exception, is covered by insurance. There was in the factory a big stock of timber, marble. and tiles; and upstairs a quantity of furniture in various stages of construction. The ruined factory attracted a good deal of attention from passers-by on Monday. Absolutely nothing appeared to have escaped, and the building was a mere skeleton of charred timber and twisted iron.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 5 January 1914, page 14

GENERAL NEWS.

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

On Saturday morning Superintendent Rickwood, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, stated that the complete returns relating to the work of the fire brigade during 1913 were not yet available. He was, however, able to furnish the following figures:—Number of false alarms for the year (malicious), 70; number of false alarms (line faults), 49; calls to chimney fires, 16; calls to grass and rubbish fires, 33; calls to fires where the damage was slight, 129; calls for serious fires, 10; total, 307. As compared with 1912 these show a decrease of 15 malicious false alarms, a decrease of no false alarms resulting from line faults, an increase of two calls to chimney fires, a decrease of 17 calls to grass and rubbish fires, an increase of seven calls to fires where the damage was slight, and a decrease of six serious fires. The total number of calls for 1912 was 386, as compared with 267 last year.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 5 January 1914, page 4

FIRE BRIGADE CALLS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received 307 calls last year, or 59 fewer calls than in 1912. The following is a comparison of the calls received during the past two years:—False alarms (malicious), 1912, 85; 1913, 70. False alarms (line faults), 1912, 79; 1913, 49. Chimney fires,

1912, 14; 1913, 16. Grass and rubbish fires, 1912, 50; 1913, 33. Fires resulting in slight damage, 1912, 122; 1913, 129. Fires resulting in serious damage, 1912, 16; 1913, 10.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 7 January 1914, page 1

FIRE! FIRE!

THE ADELAIDE BRIGADE.

To be at the beck and call of the public every moment of each night and day is not an enviable position for any public department. Adelaide, however, possesses one such body which, in recent years, can proudly proclaim that no failure of duty has been honestly charged against it. Adelaide has reason to be satisfied with its firefighters. They are not a large body, if the area to be protected is taken into consideration. Thirty-five men constitute the full strength of the brigade, but they are the chosen of many. The personal element constitutes the chief factor of success in any walk of life, and it applies with full force to the Adelaide brigade. Every day the public are able to judge for themselves, and the verdict is favourable.

—The Chief Officer.—

At the head of the brigade is Chief Officer Rickwood. He has just changed his title. Until the past few days he was Superintendent Rickwood. The chief officer is a Cornishman. He was born at Gorranhaven, near the fishing centre of Mevagissey, in April, 1862. His father was chief officer of coastguards. He joined the navy in 1874, entering the training ship Impregnable at Plymouth, and first came to Australia in the corvette Sapphire (Capt. E. H. Merley) in the early part of 1876. The Sapphire was for four years on the Australian Station acting chiefly as patrol ship of the South Sea Islands. Cadet Rickwood returned to England in the latter part of 1879, and went through the gunnery school on H.M.S. Cambridge at Plymouth and the torpedo school on H.M.S. Vernon at Portsmouth. He qualified first class in both. He joined, in 1881, the Nelson, which came to Australia as the flagship, and was appointed captain of the maintop and acting torpedo instructor. In 1885, on the completion of the commission of the Nelson, he was appointed officer instructor of the New South Wales Naval Brigade, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 1899. Federation had then been resolved upon, and as the new order of things meant for Lieut. Rickwood retirement from the service at the age of 50. he decided to use his own words, "not to wait, but to seek work which would mean activity much beyond that." Consequently he came to South Australia, and joined the brigade as deputy superintendent in 1905. Two years later the then superintendent, Mr. Booker, left for England, and Lieut. Rickwood was appointed acting superintendent, which position, eventually merged into the full charge of the brigade. Although Chief-Officer Rickwood has been in Adelaide for only eight years, he has been in a unique position to observe its changes, and its growth. When he arrived in 1905 he recalls as an interesting fact that not one place of amusement was open. The Theatre Royal was undergoing repairs, and the Tivoli Theatre was closed. To-day there are 14 places of amusement open (each capable of seating more than 700 people), to which, firemen have to be sent nightly. Business premises have increased in proportion, and so have the anxieties of the brigade. There are still many bad fire-risks in the city, the chief officer says. The worst are the timber yards, which, if he had his way, he would remove to the outskirts. The timber yards do not worry the brigade in themselves. If they are burned that is their look out, but while they are burning, they institute a menace to surrounding properties, which should not be subjected to such a danger. Warehouse risks have also grown, as many such buildings are larger and taller than they were.

—Future Operations.—

There will shortly be more work in the way of firefighting to be done. The Fire Brigades Act just passed comes into operation this year. It provides for an extended area of work, as outside districts can, on the recommendation of the Fire Brigades Board, and with the approval of the Government, be protected by the establishment of a permanent brigade, which will be under the jurisdiction of the board. As the new brigades come into existence

each will, so says the chief officer, "back up the other." No district will at any time be left unprotected, as is now the case. In present circumstances should a fire break out beyond the boundaries of Norwood, and the local brigade go to it, Norwood is left without means, for the time being, of fighting a fire which might occur within its confines. When the new system is in full play, the absence of one brigade from its home station will be provided for by sending another to temporarily take its place.

—The Men—

Chief Officer Rickwood speaks highly of his men. "It's like blowing our own trumpet," he said to a representative of The Register, "but I think our men constitute one of the most efficient brigades in Australia. Every one of them is fit, and enthusiastic about his work. They are all most keen, and I say it as their officer, who must find fault where he can, that they are a credit to the brigade. We have no internal troubles, which, of course, makes for smooth and efficient working. You as a newspaper man must say whether I am right or wrong." The decision was entirely in favour of the chief officer's eulogies.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 17 January 1914, page 37

ANOTHER FURNITURE FIRE.

MELVILLE, LIMITED, BURNT OUT.

The last four serious fires in the metropolitan area have been in furniture factories. The first was in the early part of December, when the factory belonging to Melville, Limited, on Magill road was burnt out. Then followed Pengelley's and Buttery's, and on Tuesday afternoon Melville, Limited, in the firm's new premises at Payneham were destroyed. After the first conflagration, which gutted the factory, the company secured premises, belonging to Mr. C. F. Muller, situated on Payneham road about 200 yards on the city side of Sewell's gardens. There the business of furniture manufacturers was carried on. At about 5.30 p.m. a fire broke out and ruined plant and machinery which, it is estimated, was valued at about £1,000.

The trouble occurred within the bounds of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade. Within the last few weeks electric alarms have been installed in the Payneham area, and since then there have been quite a number of genuine calls. The members of the brigade are summoned by a hooter. They were called out, and the Norwood Brigade was notified from Maylands. The motor reel from North Adelaide was also sent to the scene. When the firefighters arrived, the wood and iron structure was ablaze, and efforts were directed to save the surrounding buildings and outer sheds. The brigades, working under Foreman Brand, co-operated with the Payneham volunteers, and finding that the factory was doomed, directed their attention to saving a shed at the rear, 13 ft. by 14 ft., which was stocked with window sashes, doors, and other materials. This was saved. A brick house facing Payneham road, occupied by Mr. J. Frayne, foreman for Mr. C. F. Muller, who formerly used the premises in his business as a builder and contractor, was also protected. In this building Messrs. Sando & Stirling, house and land agents, have offices. The factory, however, was totally destroyed, with the exception of a gas engine, which was little damaged. Melville, Limited, reckon the loss, according to Foreman Brand, at £500 or £600, including new plant and machinery, and Mr. Miller considers that the machinery and building have been damaged to the extent of £300 to £400. The factory was 90 ft. by 60 ft., composed of wood and iron, and was valued at about £300.

—Police Reports.—

Constable Richardson, stationed at Payneham, reported that stock and machinery to the estimated value of about £1,000 were practically destroyed. The report added:—"William C. Melville, manager for the firm, states that after being burnt out at Magill road a short time ago, his firm rented the present building from Mr. C. F. Muller, to allow them to carry on their business until a new building was erected at the former place. He was at the factory this (Tuesday) morning, but left about 10.30 a.m., and about 5.40 p.m. he was rung up by telephone, and told that the place was burning. The stock was valued at between £500 and

£600, and he considers the machinery belonging to Mr. Muller was worth about £350. Victor J. Walsh, of Broad street, Payneham, machinest, states that he was the last of the employes to leave the premises, which he did about 5 p.m., after closing the back door and turning off the gas at the meter. At that time there was no sign or smell of fire. Half an hour later the alarm was given, and when he arrived with the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade (of which he is a member) the place was well alight. Frank McRostie, of Broad street, Payneham, carpenter (and a member of the Payneham Brigade) states that he was in First avenue, Joslin, when he noticed smoke issuing from the centre of the back part of the building. He got there as soon as possible, and the fire had not got a great hold at that time, and appeared to have started not far from the centre, in front of the gas engine. David Gilbert, (captain of the Payneham Volunteer Fire Brigade), states that he and 11 members arrived on the scene within five minutes of the alarm being given, but the eastern half of the building was well alight, and all they could do was to prevent it from spreading to the adjoining premises. Mr. Miller, the owner of the property, it at present staying at Noarlunga on a holiday.

—A Fine Volunteer Brigade.—

The residents of Payneham have every reason to feel proud of their volunteer fire brigade, which consists of 10 men. During the last 18 days that body has had to respond to no fewer than seven calls. At yesterday's conflagration the brigade was on the scene in four minutes after the hooter gave the alarm. But for the prompt response the damage would have been much greater, as all around Melville's shop are stocks of timber, which were preserved in-tact. On December 31 the brigade made a fine "save" on the occasion when two shops opposite the Payneham Institute were gutted. Considering that most of the members of the brigade are daily engaged in laborious work it is no mean task to keep themselves in readiness for a call out, besides having after each fire to clean up from 600 to 1,000 ft. of hose. But for the existence of this volunteer organization the ratepayers of the district would probably be called upon to contribute at least an-other 1d. rate as their contribution to-wards the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Men who give their services gratis for such a cause are deserving of every support, and it is hoped that their recent splendid work will bring them much more practical assistance in the future from the people than has been received in the past.

—The Insurances.—

Mr. W. E. Collins, one of the directors of Melville, Limited, states that the stock was insured for £550 and fire machinery for £70 with the Queensland Company.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 21 January 1914, page 4

THE EDWARDSTOWN FIRE.

Mr. E. J. Mathias, manager for Messrs. Pengelley & Co., Edwardstown, whose works were recently burned down, was a passenger for Melbourne by the express yesterday. Mr. Mathias said good progress was being made with reinstating the works, and it was hoped they would be ready for business shortly, but trouble had been met in securing suitable engines. It would be three months before the new engines arrived from England, and he was going to Melbourne, accompanied by an engineer, to make arrangements for a temporary power plant.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 2 February 1914, page 6

FIREMEN'S FUNERAL.

The late Mr. H.B. Hedger (foreman of the Norwood Fire Brigade), who died as the result of injuries he received at the fire at Messrs. R. J. Buttery & Sons' premises, was accorded a fireman's funeral on Sunday. The cortege left his late residence in Birrell street, Norwood headed by the Norwood Mission Band, under Mr. G. Williams. The coffin was placed on the hose cart, which had taken Mr. Hedger to the fire, and the vehicle was drawn by the same team of horses. All along the route to the West Terrace Cemetery hundreds of people watched the mournful procession, which marched to the strains of the "Dead March" in "Saul."

The men from the metropolitan stations and Port Adelaide joined in at East terrace. They were under Chief Officer Rickwood, and Deputy Chief Officer Dickie. Station Officer Bland, who has the supervision of the Norwood branch, made all the necessary arrangements, and controlled the cortege. The Hindmarsh volunteer force and the Payneham volunteer section were led by Chief Officer Plenty, with two lieutenants and Capt. Gilbert with one lieutenant respectively. When the coffin was passing the head station the flag was half-masted, and the men on duty under Station Officer Butler paraded on the footpath in front of the building, and reverently saluted as the remains of their late comrade were borne along. The pallbearers at the grave were Foremen Teague, Woods, Scheller, Parsons, Griffin, and Schiminant. Foreman Koskee drove the horse cart, with Fireman Buchanan at the brake. The Rev. E. H. Bleby conducted the service, at the conclusion of which the band played "Go bury thy sorrow." A large number of wreaths were sent by the officers and men from all stations. Although the majority of the men were in attendance, the various districts were fully protected. There were sufficient men under Station Officer Butler at headquarters to man three appliances, and a reel and three men were sent to Norwood to relieve those who were at the funeral. All other portions of the metropolitan area were carefully guarded, and the volunteer brigades arranged for various members of the respective companies to be on duty.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 4 February 1914, page 4

MOTOR CAR IN FLAMES.

Mr. A. H. Dobbie, of Messrs. A. W. Dobbie & Co., of Gawler place, was driving his motor car along Rundle street at 11 o'clock last night after having spent the night at the Tivoli Gardens, and was just about to turn into Gawler place when the hood at the back of the car suddenly burst into flames. A large crowd gathered and assisted Mr. Dobbie to extinguish the flames. The fire brigade was summoned, and although it arrived upon the scene very quickly the fire was extinguished before its arrival. Very little damage was done, and Mr. Dobbie was able to drive the car to his home in Torrensville.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 13 February 1914, page 6

FIRE IN HUTT STREET

FAMILY AROUSED BY FIREMEN.

A call from the Hutt street fire alarm was received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade at 11.45 on Wednesday evening.

A cool drinks and confectionery shop occupied by Mr. N. Lindner was found to be well alight, and the family was all asleep at the rear of the house, oblivious of any danger.

The inmates were soon aroused and the firemen got quickly to work on the flames, which were promptly extinguished. The counter was severely damaged by fire, and most of the contents of the shop were practically ruined by the heat and smoke. The policeman on the beat re-ported that everything was all right at 11.30, and the fire must have developed with remarkable rapidity.

Saturday Mail (SA : 1912 - 1917), Saturday 14 February 1914, page 1

BIG CITY FIRE

SANDFORD & CO'S PREMISES.

REFRIGERATING HOUSE GUTTED.

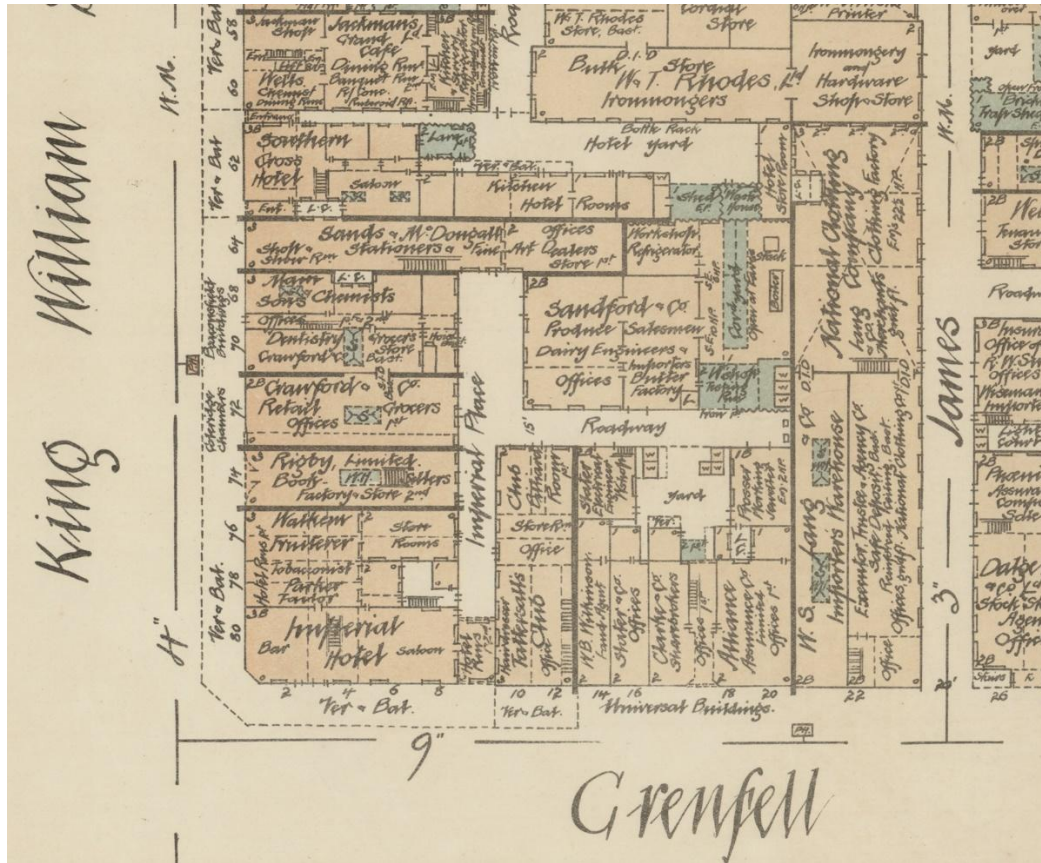
Shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon the chef of the Southern Cross Hotel noticed flames issuing from the refrigerating house of A. W. Sandford & Co., whose premises at the rear adjoin the Southern Cross Hotel. The fire brigade was immediately summoned, and half a dozen lines of hose were soon playing on the burning pile. The fire had a good hold when the brigade arrived, and the quick mastery of it was a feather in the cap of Superintendent

Rickwood and his staff. Surrounding brick walls protected the spread of the fire to some extent, but the brigade was hampered by the comparative inaccessibility of the place. At the time of going to press the fire had been practically conquered. In the short space it lasted, however, extensive damage was done. Residents in the Southern Cross Hotel had anxious moments when the blaze was at its height, and the sight of flames leaping round the rear of the building prostrated two of the waitresses. The whole of the refrigerating house appears to have been gutted, and the loss promises to be heavy.



PRG 280/1/8/163

State Library of South Australia. Fire at the premises of A.W. Sandford and Co. Ltd [PRG 280/1/8/163]. Roof-top view taken from the offices of "The Register" of smoke billowing from a fire at the premises of A.W. Sandford and Co. Ltd, produce salesmen and auctioneers, dairy machinery and refrigerating engineers, Imperial Place, Adelaide. 14 February 1914. Part of Searcy Collection



Sandford & Co's business, Imperial place, Adelaide The location of the fire on Saturday 14th February 1914. From the 1912 Fire Insurance Maps of Adelaide.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 17 February 1914, page 6

SANDFORD'S FIRE.

On Monday members of the firm of A. W. Sandford & Co., Limited, inspected the scene of the fire, which occurred on Saturday afternoon, and definitely ascertained that the carpenter's shop, machinery room, laboratory, the two refrigerators, and, portions of the rest of the building had been destroyed. The damage done, although great, did not prevent the firm from carrying on business as usual. In fact, from 8 o'clock on Monday morning the trade was being supplied with produce. It was impossible correctly to estimate the amount of damage done, but the figures will be available to-day. The usual sale, of produce will be held at 11 o'clock today, and the poultry sale at 12.30.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 17 February 1914, page 8

MESSRS. SANDFORD AND CO.'S FIRE.

THE INSURANCES.

Hundreds of people visited Imperial-lane, off Grenfell-street, on Monday to inspect the damaged portion of the premises of Messrs. A. W. Sandford and Co. The extent of the damage done by Saturday's fire has not yet been ascertained, but investigations are being made in order to find out how great has been the company's loss. The opinion was expressed that the Metropolitan Fire Brigade had effected a splendid "save." A representative of the company informed a reporter that they were able to cope with the business through having duplicates of the damaged plant, and their customers had not been inconvenienced. Numbers of vehicles of produce dealers and grocers, who were obtaining goods, were at the premises throughout the day, and it was hard to realise that a serious fire had occurred. The produce auction sales will be held to-day as usual. Fortunately the bulk of the company's stocks,

machinery, engines, etc, are held at Mount Gambier and Port Adelaide, and the fire having occurred at the week-end, consignments of produce in the city had been practically cleared. The premises are insured in the Victoria Insurance Company for £2,250, and the stock and plant are covered in various offices to the extent of £8,000.



The aftermath of a fire at the premises of A.W. Sandford and Co. Ltd [PRG 280/1/8/111]. The aftermath of a fire at the premises of A.W. Sandford and Co. Ltd., produce salesmen and auctioneers, dairy machinery and refrigerating engineers, Imperial Place, Adelaide. 14 February 1914. Part of Searcy Collection

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 21 February 1914, page 44

A FORTUNATE "SAVE."

FIRE AT A. W. SANDFORD & CO.'S PREMISES.

"The outbreak occurred in broad daylight, there was no wind, we could see exactly what we were doing, and fortune was on our side, or the fire might have been one of the largest in Adelaide." Such were the comments of a member of the brigade concerning the blaze that on Saturday afternoon demolished an important department of the establishment of Messrs. A. W. Sandford & Co., produce salesmen, and auctioneers, of Imperial-place. The premises destroyed were situated in an extensive block of buildings in the very heart of the city.

The Alarm Given.

The news of the fire was received by the brigade at 1.48 p.m. from the alarm in front of the Southern Cross Hotel, and with accustomed speed the fire engines and the other carriages bearing the appurtenances for fighting the flames, were dashing down the streets from the Wakefield-street station to the danger-point. They were soon on the scene, the leaders of the brigade making first for the Southern Cross Hotel, but they were quickly informed of the locality where their services were needed, and they turned into Grenfell-street and entered the lane where the burning building was situated. The premises of Messrs. Sandford & Co. are extensive. The western portion is substantially constructed of brick and stone, but the eastern part, where the fire occurred, was of a more flimsy kind, the materials used being wood and iron. To add to the menace thus created, the place which was devoted to dairying work was filled with articles likely to burn fiercely and with rapidity. There were large stocks of lubricating oil, a considerable quantity of butter, and much dry wood used in the construction of churns and other appliances. When the brigade arrived the fire, which started in the middle of this part of the building, had got a firm hold, and was blazing steadily, and there was considerable difficulty in locating the exact spot where the large flow of water available would do most good.

A Great Crowd Gathers.

The operations of Superintendent Rickwood and his men were much hampered at the outset, because the eager crowd that gathered as soon as the alarm of fire was raised swarmed into Imperial-place and blocked all available approaches to the burning building. Their curiosity got the better of their sense of danger, and the firemen were too busy getting their hoses ready and erecting their ladders to give much attention to the throng of spectators. Inspector Burchell and Sub-Inspector Edwards were, however, promptly on the spot with a good force of foot constables and mounted police, who firmly but tactfully worked the intruding civilians back into Grenfell-street, and so left a clear space for the brigade.

The Seat of the Fire.

The brigade then set to work with a will, but it was quite an hour before they made much impression with the fire. The refrigerating plant used in connection with the dairying business of the firm was on the ground floor towards the back of the building, and when the premises were left by the employes of Messrs. Sandford and Co. at 1 p.m., although everything thought likely to cause danger was cleared out, the fire and the furnace under the boiler was left alight, as it was intended to go back on Saturday evening to complete work that could not satisfactorily be done during the heat of the day when the shade thermometer registered over 100 deg. Mr. Rickwood is of opinion that the subsequent blaze originated near this boiler, and as on the first floor, just above it, were stored dairy appliances and produce together, with the material used in the carpenters' shop for the manufacture of churns and other implements there was plenty of fuel when the flames began to gather strength. The bulk stock is kept in the firm's stores at Port Adelaide, but there was a good deal of inflammable material to say nothing of the lubricating oil to add to the fierceness of the fire, and to render the task of the brigade intricate and unpleasant.

Ammonia Cylinder Explodes.

About a quarter of an hour after the brigade had got seriously to work with their hoses a loud burst of sound was heard. It was caused by the bursting of an ammonia cylinder, which blew a hole 4 ft. in diameter clean through the northern wall. This explosion was followed by a huge column of black smoke which rose high above the building, and was visible all over the city. As a spectacle the fire was not particularly remarkable, for no flames were seen above the surrounding building, but vast columns of smoke floated away on the light breeze towards the north-east, and this was turned to steam as the water began to flood out the burning material. Mr. Rickwood estimates that altogether 200,000 gallons were used. The firemen showed enterprise and courage in their efforts to quench the flames, and they were to be seen high up on roofs, parapets, and windows working manfully despite the great heat. The flames ran up the electric lift well and ignited the wooden structure on the roof above it, so that the firemen

had to mount to the spot and tear off the sheets of corrugated iron with which it was covered in order to bring the water to play on the burning timber. The seaweed, with which the roof of the stone portion of the building was packed, also became ignited, and the water with which it was drenched found its way to the stock beneath and streamed down the walls of the warehouse, leaving broad black streaks. Some water also found its way into the basement of Messrs. Sands & McDougall's store, but comparatively little damage was done. By 3 o'clock Superintendent Rickwood was able to say with confidence that all danger to the adjoining buildings was over. Mr. Sandford Informed. Mr. J. W. Sandford, the managing director of the firm whose premises were damaged by fire, is on his way to England, but Mr. J. S. Colquhoun, who is acting in his stead, sent a wireless message to Mr. Sandford to inform him of the fire and the extent of the injury it had done. Business to go on. Mr. Colquhoun said he was unable to estimate the loss, which would be considerable, but the premises and plant were covered by insurance. "We have always provided for the contingency of fire," he added, "and we have churns and butter workers fixed up elsewhere, so that the business will not be seriously interrupted. The firm will be able to receive the regular consignments of produce as usual, and will be in a position to deal with them, so that neither consignors nor our customers will be inconvenienced. Only the back portion of the premises has been burnt out, so that we shall still be able to hold our auction sales as usual.



The State Library of South Australia, A fire at the premises of A.W. Sandford & Co. Ltd Produce Mart, Grenfell Street [PRG 280/1/8/164]. Horse drawn Metropolitan Fire Brigade vehicles, fire officers, and passers-by outside the premises of A.W. Sandford & Co. Ltd Produce Mart on Grenfell Street following a fire. 14 February 1914. Part of Searcy Collection

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 26 February 1914, page 14

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Fire Brigades Board for the year 1913 states:—

The lease of the head fire brigade station, Wakefield-Street, Adelaide, expired on July 31, 1913, and in accordance with the terms of same, the board was required to purchase the property on that date from the lessors—a number of the leading fire insurance companies, which under the title of the Fire Brigade Station Trust acquired the land and built the station thereon in the year 1892. The board was enabled to make very satisfactory financial arrangements to meet this obligation. A Bill to amend and consolidate the Fire Brigades Acts in force was introduced into Parliament by the Government during last session, and was passed and became law on December 18, 1913. The new Act contains amongst other important amendments, power for the board to extend their operations into districts not now protected by permanent brigades, and this is a matter which will receive early consideration. The Act reduces the membership of the board to five members, in place of six members as at present, and this portion of the Act will come into force after January 31, 1914. Two inspections of the city, suburban, and country fire brigades were made by the board, and they were found to be thoroughly satisfactory. The board has every reason to feel satisfied with the efficiency, discipline, and loyalty of the officers and members of the brigades under their control. The report of the Chief Officer (Mr. W. G. Rickwood) states:—The number of calls to fires, or supposed fires, was 307, being a decrease of 59, as compared with the previous year. These are classified as follows:—10 fires of serious damage, 129 fires of slight damage, 33 grass and rubbish fires, 16 chimney fires, 70 false alarms (malicious) and 40 false alarms (line faults). Compared with the year 1912 this shows a decrease of 6 in fires of serious damage, an increase of 7 in fires of slight damage, a decrease of 17 in grass and rubbish fires, an increase of 2 in chimney fires, a decrease of 15 in malicious false alarms, and a decrease of 30 in false alarms due to line faults. On two occasions in the city and once outside a protected district fires assumed large dimensions, and were with difficulty prevented from spreading to surrounding properties. The menace to surrounding properties of having timber yards in the heart of the city still exists, and in the event of any of them getting alight under adverse conditions, the loss must be enormous unless some provision is made for fire breaks. The installation of new fire alarms in the city and the completion of metallic circuits have been the means of reducing the false alarms by over 50 percent, thus saving a large amount of wear and tear on appliances and worry to staff. Twenty-three additional fire alarms have been installed during the year, making a total of 189 in use. The whole of the plant and equipment is in good order and condition. The motor hose carriage ordered during the year is expected to arrive daily, and should be a useful addition to the fighting plant of the city. The total strength of the brigade under my command is 87 permanent officers and firemen, 7 auxiliary firemen, and 15 auxiliary firemen for theatre duties. During the year 8 men resigned and 2 were dismissed, The discipline and efficiency of the brigade are all that could be desired. Theatre, building, and hydrant inspections have been periodically drilled and instructed in the trial that an officer should be appointed for inspecting duties, especially where inflammable material, such as cases, crates, casks, straw, &c. are stored, so that the risk from such may be reduced to a minimum. Three thousand seven hundred and forty theatre duties have been carried out during the year, and at each of three places of public entertainment an auxiliary fireman is on duty continuously during the day and night performances. On three occasions the services of the firemen on duty were required at their places of public entertainment to attend to outbreaks of fire. The staff at the various theatres, &c. have been periodically drilled and instructed in the use of fire-fighting appliances. There have been eight accidents to fireman during the year, viz. :— Two burns on hands and limbs, two scalp and lacerated wounds, four severe strains. One of the above is still off fire duty, and one on light duty.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 March 1914, page 22

FIRE AT HARRIS, SCARFE. & CO.'S.

At about 1 o'clock this morning the Fire Brigade received a call to Grenfell-street to a fire in Harris, Scarfe, & Co.'s premises. The blaze, which was at the rear, was quickly extinguished

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 9 March 1914, page 3

FIRE ALARM

HARRIS, SCARFE, & CO.

An electrical fire alarm in the block of buildings between Grenfell and Rundle streets, occupied by Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co., attracted the attention of the fire brigade at a quarter to 1 o'clock on Saturday morning.

The firemen, with a complete outfit of appliances, responded quickly to the call. A length of hose was attached to a plug in Grenfell street and extended into the centre of the premises. The firemen were met by an aggressive Irish terrier, the companion of the night watchman's lonely vigil, and armed with lanterns made an effort to discover the fire. No sign, however, could at first be seen of any outbreak, and the alarm soon after ceased ringing.

The night watchman (Mr. Shlak), however, had located the outbreak in the basement and extinguished it with a hand device.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 10 March 1914, page 15

A SMALL FIRE.

Shortly after 12 o'clock on Monday, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Hurtle-square alarm. On arriving at the alarm they found a fire had broken out at the rear of the premises occupied by Mrs. Hamp, and owned by S. C. Bond, of Glenelg. The cause was some lime which had got damp. Little damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 17 March 1914, page 9

LIEUTENANT RICKWOOD.

DIES SUDDENLY ON MONDAY. EFFECT OF HARD WORK.

A SPLENDID OFFICER.

The life of every member of a fire brigade is constantly in jeopardy on the occasion of a big conflagration, for not only is there a possibility of fatal accident, owing to the collapse of a roof, a floor, or a wall, but the extreme heat has also to be reckoned with, as well as the effect of excessive physical exertion, and the results which follow from long work in drenched clothes. In the case of the chief of the brigade there are in addition to these perils the risks attaching to the mental exhaustion which often follows the anxieties of fighting fires which threaten to become specially destructive. During the last few months Adelaide and its vicinity have suffered greatly from extensive fires, for there came in quick succession such serious outbreaks as those at Pengelley's factory, Edwardstown; Berry, Hodgson, & Co.'s timber-yards, Port Adelaide; Bickford's, Buttery's, Melville's, the Lion Timber Mills, and the menacing fire at Sandford & Co.'s warehouse, which, if it had not been handled with great skill and courage would undoubtedly have "swept away a large portion of one of the largest and most valuable commercial blocks in the city. Indeed, experts at the time stated that the danger from that fire was greater than that from any previous blaze which had occurred in Adelaide. Recently Foreman Hedger, of the Norwood Fire Brigade, died as the result of long exposure to the intense heat while engaged in his arduous work during the fire which occurred at Buttery's establishment, Kent Town. Now Lieutenant W. G. Rickwood, R.N., chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, has fallen a victim to duty.

The utmost regret will be everywhere felt at the news that Mr. Rickwood died suddenly at his residence, Wakefield-street, early on Monday morning. He was taken seriously ill shortly after the fire at Sandford's factory, in Imperial-lane, which was a source of very grave concern to him, for from the first he saw in what jeopardy many adjacent buildings stood, and how vital it was that the flames should be confined to the premises in which they first made their appearance. He was even then in ill-health; but no one who watched him at his difficult and delicate work would have recognised the fact, for he manifested all his accustomed alertness

and skill while directing operations. "I reckon this is the worst block in Adelaide for a fire to get away in," he remarked, when his men had triumphed over the flames, "but thank goodness, we have now got it under control." Only a few days later Mr Rickwood, who had contracted a cold and was evidently run down, had to go off duty, but nothing serious was anticipated as the outcome of the illness until Monday morning, when, after being under the doctor's care for three weeks, he was suddenly seized with an attack of angina pectoris, and he passed away not many minutes afterwards. Before this fatal seizure Mr. Rickwood appeared to be recovering, and it was thought that he would be able to resume the duties of his position again very soon.

Mr. Rickwood, who had won the complete confidence of the Fire Brigades Board, and of the general public by his splendid work as superintendent of the brigade during the last five years, was also extremely popular with the members of the brigade, who recognised his ability as a fireman, and were grateful to him for many acts of consideration in the course of their trying work. On Monday there was not only the mark of respect visible in the half-masted flag above the station, but there was an aspect of sorrow throughout the whole establishment. The place was silent, and mournful in appearance, while the men moved about quietly and spoke almost in whispers. The utmost sympathy was shown, too, for the bereaved widow and family. For the present the duties of the Superintendent will be carried out by the Deputy Chief Officer, Mr. Dickie, for no matter what tragedy may occur the brigade must be ready for duty every moment of the day. Mr. Dickie is a most capable officer, and he has had large experience in the work of fire fighting.

Superintendent Rickwood was born in Cornwall in 1861 and so was 53 years of age. His father was chief of the coastguard section at Gorranhaven, and Mr. Rickwood at the age of 12 joined the British navy. He saw much service, and made himself proficient in several branches of his profession. The sea has for many years been the favorite training ground of fire-fighters, both in England and Australia, and a large proportion of the members of the various brigades in the Commonwealth are sailors. Coming to Australia. Mr. Rickwood first acted as an instructor, and he was placed in control of the life-saving apparatus on the eastern coast of New South Wales. He then became a member of the Sydney Fire Brigade. He had then attained the rank of a lieutenant in the Royal Navy. On August 29, 1905, he was selected to fill the post of deputy superintendent of the Adelaide brigade, under the late Superintendent Booker. He was at the same time put upon the naval unattached list in this State. When he left for Adelaide the "Sydney Morning Herald" wrote of him:—"By his removal the New South Wales naval forces will sustain a severe loss, as to Lieutenant Rickwood much of the efficiency and splendid record of the corps is due. He proved himself to be a capable instructor in all branches of naval work for a number of years, and difficulty will be experienced in obtaining an all-round man of his calibre to succeed him. The chief reason which induced him to accept his new post was the fact that, according to the Defence Act regulations a person holding his rank must retire at the age of 50, and as no pensions are provided it is a service, as more than one staff officer in the defence force has remarked, to get out of at the first favorable opportunity. If a referendum of rifle shots were taken as to who was the best shot in New South Wales the name of Lieutenant Rickwood would most likely be on top. He has represented New South Wales in many inter-State matches, and always figures among the principal prize-winners at the Randwick meetings."

On August 30, 1905, Mr. Rickwood became superintendent, and since that time he had conducted the operations of the brigade in a most efficient way. He had not only led them with wisdom and intrepidity when they were called upon to fight some large fire, but he also, with consummate skill, conducted the necessary work of training during the periods between the alarms. He maintained excellent discipline, and he earned the complete respect and admiration of the members of the brigade. He was an ideal officer. Cool in the face of danger, courteous to all who had business with him, and always conscientious in the performance of his duty, both in the station and when on active service. Mr. Rickwood had won several trophies as a marksman, including the silver medal of the National Rifle Association (England).

Mr. Rickwood leaves a widow, four daughters (Mesdames Tokrett and Schneider and Misses E. and M. Rickwood), and a son (Mr. W. Rickwood), who is on the staff of one of the city banks), together with a very large circle of friends. Two of his brothers are officers of the British navy.

The Chairman's Tribute.

Councillor Frinsdorf, the chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, on being interviewed in respect to the death of Lieutenant Rickwood on Monday after-noon, said:-"In conjunction with the members of the board I deeply deplore Mr. Rickwoods death. He was a most valued officer. During the five years I have been chairman I have come into almost daily contact with him, and always found him to be most zealous and courteous in all his dealings. 'He was a strict disciplinarian, but, at the same time a very just man. He was actually loved by his men on account of the fair treatment they knew he al-ways meted out to them. It is about four weeks since he first complained of being ill, but we did not think the indisposition likely to prove serious. He was off duty for two or three days before the fire at Sandford's, but he came back again in time to take charge of the brigade there, and did excellent work. Shortly after that fire I had practically to insist on his taking a rest once more. He desired to go on as usual, but I saw he was completely run down, and thought a short respite from strenuous work would restore him to his usual health again. Up till Saturday night at 9 o'clock, when I last saw him, Mr. Rickwood had apparently greatly improved in health, and the doctor had then not been to see him for a week. He arranged, in fact, to go round the Spencer Gulf trip, and intended to start to-day. He was taken suddenly ill at 1 a.m. on Monday, and the doctor was sent for but on arrival did not think anything very serious was the matter. He treated his patient and went downstairs to his motor, into which he was just about to enter when he was called back, and on returning to the bed-side he found Mr. Rickwood dead. The cause of death was angina pectoris. The board are tendering an official funeral to the remains. The Commissioner of Police has intimated that the Police Band and the police will take part in the pro-cession. At fires the police and the fire brigade are always brought into close con-tact, and no one could know Superintendent Rickwood without liking him.

REFERENCES AT UNLEY COUNCIL.

At the meeting of the Unley City Council on Monday evening the Mayor (Lieutenant Colonel Dollman) referred with deep regret to the death of Superintendent Rickwood, and said all those who, were in a position to know realised that since the late superintendent had occupied his position his duties had been carried out most thoroughly. There could be no doubt that his death had been hastened by exposure and exertions in connection with recent fires, at several of which splendid saves had been effected through the foresight of the superintendent. He thought it would be fitting on the part of the council to pass a motion of condolence with the widow and family. Later in the evening Alderman Cooke moved-"That a letter be sent to the relatives of the late Lieutenant Rick-wood expressing sympathy with them in their sad bereavement, and also bearing testimony to the excellence of the work done by the late officer, and to the high esteem in which his memory will be held." The motion was carried unanimously.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 20 March 1914, page 7

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received an alarm at 9.35 p.m. on Thursday from Rundle street east. Appliances were sent out, and the shop and back room of Drew M. Brown's pictureframing establishment were found alight. A few minutes' work sufficed to extinguish the blaze before much damage had been done.

Border Watch (Mount Gambier, SA : 1861 - 1954), Saturday 28 March 1914, page 2

FIRE BRIGADE SUPERINTENDENT.

The Fire Brigade Board has appointed Deputy-Chief Officer Dickie, to be Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in succession to the late Superintendent Rickwood.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 28 March 1914, page 19

METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE.

THE NEW CHIEF OFFICER. MR. DICKIE APPOINTED.

The Fire Brigades Board met at Brookman's Building on Friday and appointed Deputy Chief Officer Dickie to be Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in succession to the late Mr. Rickwood. Mr. John Edward Dickie has had nearly 30 years experience in the fire-fighting service in this State, and he is an exceedingly capable and popular officer. Although he was born at Wandsworth, London, 50 years ago, Time has dealt kindly with him, and he appears to be still in the prime of life. At the age of 13 years he was apprenticed to the Liverpool shipping firm of P. Iredale, and Son, and he served his time in the sailing ships Penrith and Lizzie Iredale. In the latter vessel he visited Australia in the seventies. Before he was 18 years old he won a second mate's certificate. In that capacity he served on the ship Roanoke, in which he went to the East Indies. Mr. Dickie relinquished the life on the sea in 1883, and for a little over a year he was employed in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in London, which was then under the charge of Captain Sir Eyre Massey-Shaw.



Chief Officer Dickie

It was in June, 1885, that Mr Dickie, soon after his arrival in Australia, joined the Adelaide Fire Brigade as a fireman. The staff at the head station, which comprised 12 men, had been reorganised under the late Superintendent H. C. Salter, and the brigade was then stationed in Flinders-street. Mr. Dickie is the last man left in Adelaide of the original twelve. Two of his fellow firemen at that time were Captain Hugo, who is now Inspector of Fire Brigades in New Zealand, and Superintendent Woolley, of the Auckland brigade. About 20 years ago Mr. Dickie was appointed to take charge of the Port Adelaide brigade, and after a couple of years at the seaport centre he was brought back to the head station. Thence he was transferred to Port Pirie, where he was in charge of the brigade for three years, after which he became second officer in charge at the Adelaide station under Superintendent Booker. His next move was back to Port Adelaide for five or six years as district officer. In September, 1905, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Superintendent at the head station in Wakefield-street under the late Mr. Rickwood, and on numerous occasions he has acted as chief officer.

Mr. Dickie has had many exciting experiences in connection with fires during his long career. The one of which he probably has the most vivid recollection occurred on the night of May 21,

1902, when Pritchard's Buildings, in Grenfell-street, were burnt out and damage done to the extent of about £8,000. This fire threatened to destroy the block between Gawler-place and King William-street on the south side of Grenfell-street, and it served to draw attention to the need of the brigade at that time for a larger staff and more appliances of an up-to-date nature. Mr. Dickie, then the senior foreman of the brigade, was in charge of the operations at the rear of the burning buildings. He proceeded down a passage a few feet wide at the side of Cowra Chambers, and although he had a lantern he did not notice a light well in his path, and he fell heavily to the bottom, a distance of from 15 to 20 ft. A citizen who was assisting the firemen endeavored to rescue the foreman from his perilous position, but he also fell into the pit and was rendered unconscious, having received serious injuries. By this time flames were bursting through a window above them. A party of firemen, however, soon extricated Mr. Dickie and the private citizen, and Mr. Dickie, who had sustained a compound fracture of the right leg, was removed to the hospital, where he happily made a rapid recovery. His promotion to the rank of chief officer, which position he has filled in a temporary capacity since the death of Mr. Rickwood, is a source of gratification to his fellow members of the brigade, and it is confidently believed that he will carry out his duties to the satisfaction of the board and the public.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 14 April 1914, page 4

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

Shortly after 6 p.m. yesterday the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the Lion Timber Yards, Franklin street. The message was sent from the Post Office fire alarm. On arrival the brigade found that the smoke from the furnace had been mistaken for an outbreak of fire, and its services were therefore not required.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 18 May 1914, page 6

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

At 4.43 on Sunday afternoon the fire brigade received an alarm, which proved to be false. Two motor appliances, the escape, and the steamer, turned out smartly, and went to the west end of Waymouth-street, where the glass of the street fire alarm was found to be broken. Appearances suggested that the alarm was malicious, an offence that is punishable by a heavy penalty.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 13 June 1914, page 16

A SMALL FIRE.

A small fire occurred about 10 a.m. on Friday at the residence of Mr. J. Hassell, laborer, of 340, Carrington-street, but before the Fire Brigade arrived the flames had been extinguished by workmen engaged upon an adjacent building. The fire originated from a washing copper, the woodwork of a verandah catching alight.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 6 July 1914, page 6

FIRE AT TORRENSVILLE

RESIDENTS EARLY MORNING CALL.

A fire broke out on the Henley Beach road, Torrensville, which burned out the front portion of two shops and damaged several others, about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning. Mrs. Martin, who keeps a grocery business, was aroused by a loud noise, and on getting up observed a flash of light in the front corner of her shop. She jumped out of the side window and told her boy to run and tell Mr. Arthur, who lives two doors away. But the little fellow was so terrified that he did not go any farther than the back yard. In the meantime Mr. Robinson, who lives nearly opposite, saw the flames and ran over and awoke Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and family.

While Mrs. Martin was waiting for assistance she was battling with baskets of water to try to put out the flames. Seeing nothing could be done to save the front portion of the building she got out all the furniture she could move. The Adelaide firemen responded to a telephone call in record time, and had they been a few minutes later nothing could have saved Mrs. M. Arthur's shop, and also the block of buildings, which consists of 11 or 12 shops.

The shop on the east side was occupied by Mrs. Venus, who carried on a milliner's business, but no one lived in the back portion. All the goods were destroyed, but the loss is covered by insurance.

By the time the fire reached Mrs. Arthur's ham shop the occupants, with the aid of neighbors, had removed most of the furniture and goods to the opposite side of the Henley Beach road. The water damaged a portion of the goods, but they were insured in the Queensland Insurance Company. The shop on the west side was unoccupied.

All the occupants had to leave in their night attire. Mrs. Martin, whose husband is at Broken Hill, is the biggest loser, as she states her stock of groceries, &c., was worth £250, and was insured for only £150. The furniture was covered by a like sum. The Hindmarsh Fire Brigade was telephoned for, but the Exchange could not get into communication with the Gas Works. The owner of the properties is Mr. Kilgariff, and it is understood that they are insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 6 July 1914, page 15

FIRE AT TORRENSVILLE

TWO SHOPS GUTTED.

A CONSIDERABLE LOSS.

At about 3.30 a.m. on Sunday people living in the vicinity of Henley Beach-road, Torrensville, were awakened by an alarm of fire. The scene of the outbreak was the premises of Mrs. Alice Martin, grocer and storekeeper. The fire had a good hold, and spread rapidly to the adjoining shop, occupied by Mrs. Venus, milliner and ladies' draper. Both shops were gutted. They belonged to Mr. Thomas Kilgariff, of Melbourne, and were insured in the Queensland Insurance Company for £500 each.

Mrs. Martin closed the shop at about 1 p.m. on Saturday, and at that time everything appeared to be all right. There was no sign of fire. She went to bed at about 11 p.m., and at 3.30 on Sunday morning was awakened by "a crackling noise" coming from the front of the shop. The fire at this time had a strong hold of the place, and after throwing several buckets of water over it without making any impression, Mrs. Martin called Mr. McGorey and Mr. Arthur, who reside in a neighboring shop, and summoned the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Mrs. Martin lost all her stock and some of her furniture. The stock was insured in the Queensland Insurance Company for £150, but was valued at about £225.

Mrs. Venus, the occupier of the second shop destroyed, did not reside on the premises. She lives at Stephens-avenue, Torrensville. She stated that her stock was insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company for £450, but was valued at £500.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 6 July 1914, page 1

A BIG BLAZE.

Two Shops Demolished.

Early on Sunday morning there was a big blaze on the Henley Beach road, Torrensville, as the result of which two shops and their contents were completely demolished. Damage amounting to a little under £2,000 was incurred, but a considerable portion of it was covered by insurance. The shop at which the fire originated was occupied by Mrs. Alice Martin, grocer and storekeeper, who lived in premises at the rear, and the flames spread to and destroyed the building rented by Mrs. E. E. Venus, milliner and ladies' draper. Both shops were owned

by Mr. Thomas Kilgariff, now of Melbourne. Mrs. Martin, in the course of a statement, said that she closed her shop at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and at about 11 p.m. retired to bed. There were no suspicious signs then. At about 3.30 a.m. she was awakened by a crackling sound coming from the front portion of the shop, and she at once arose to investigate. She then noticed a fire near the iron window, and immediately called her grandfather (Mr. McGorey) who was also sleeping on the premises. The flames, however had a strong hold by that time, and were spreading quickly into the next building. Mrs. Martin tried to extinguish them with several bucketsful of water, but without success. She then called up Mr. Arthur from a shop two doors away, and he communicated with the Fire Brigade. The stock and a considerable portion of furniture were destroyed. The stock was insured in the Queensland Insurance Company for £150, although it was said to be worth about £225, and the furniture was covered to a similar extent. Mrs. Venus, who resides at Stephens avenue, had also closed her shop at 1 p.m. She was not called until 4.30 a.m., and when she arrived upon the scene both shops were practically destroyed. Her stock was insured in the Liverpool, London, and Globe Company for £450, but she valued it at £500. Although the fire was first noticed at 3.30 o'clock it was not until 4.20 that the Adelaide Brigade was notified, and the motor reel with 10 men was at once dispatched. When the firemen arrived, however, the flames had a strong hold upon the two shops. Two lines of hose, one from the front, and the other from the rear, were placed in position, and the main efforts were directed to confining the blaze to the structures alight. This was successful. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 20 July 1914, page 4

FIRE ALARMS.

Spontaneous ignition was supposed to be the cause of an outbreak of fire which did slight damage at the Parkside Mental Hospital early yesterday morning. Night Attendant Topperwein observed smoke issuing from a dining room in the men's quarters. He summoned the Adelaide Fire Brigade, and with assistance from other members of the staff, subdued the flames. A cupboard, window, and portion of the floor were destroyed, and slight damage was done to the ceilings. About 7.30 o'clock last night the brigade received a call from Gray street, but the call proved a false alarm.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 27 July 1914, page 3

MALICIOUS FIRE CALLS.

About 8.29 on Sunday night the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the alarm at the corner of West-terrace and Waymouth-street. On arrival the firemen found that a false alarm had been given. Chief-officer Dickie spoke strongly of the practice of bringing out the brigade on false alarms. "This is the fourth Sunday night in succession that these malicious calls have been received, and all from the same alarm," remarked Mr. Dickie. "It appears to be the practice of certain boys in that portion of the city to jest with the brigade in this manner."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 August 1914, page 14

A SMALL FIRE.

At about 9.30 p.m. on Monday the Fire Brigade received a call to Mr. A. W. Arnold's bootshop, at 54, Carrington-street. The fire was confined to some rubbish in a cellarette, and was soon extinguished.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 19 August 1914, page 13

ALARM OF FIRE.

Between half-past 1 and 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning a loud report and the simultaneous ringing of a fire gong on the premises of Harris, Scarfe & Co., Ltd., Gawler place and Grenfell street, attracted a squad of police to the place. The metropolitan Fire Brigade also turned out.

The incident was occasioned by the bursting of a waterpipe which automatically set going the fire alarm.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 8 September 1914, page 3

CHIMNEY ON FIRE.

In response to a call from a South terrace street fire alarm last night the motor reel of the Adelaide Fire Brigade hurried to the spot, where the firemen were informed that a chimney was on fire in Gilles Street. Proceeding to the house of Mr. Archibald Mather, the firemen quickly extinguished the flames.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 17 September 1914, page 7

BRIGADE DEMONSTRATIONS.

The weekly demonstrations at the head fire station, Wakefield street, consisting of working of all fire appliances, rescue drill, gymnastic display, and general turnout, will start on Tuesday, September 22, at 8 p.m., and will be held weekly, weather permitting. A silver coin will be charged for admission.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 23 September 1914, page 7

A SMALL FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Morphett street alarm at 12.40 yesterday morning. On arrival it was found that the contents of a shop occupied by Messrs. Ismay and Adeoson were burning. The chemical appliances were used to extinguish the flames. No water was needed. Slight damage was done to the contents of the shop.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 23 September 1914, page 4

FIRE BRIGADE DEMONSTRATION.

The weekly demonstrations at the head fire station, Wakefield-street, were resumed on Tuesday evening, but the attendance of the general public was not large, as it was the first occasion for some months that the display has been given. A silver coin was asked for admission, and half the proceeds are to be devoted to the Red Cross Fund and the remainder to the recreation fund of the brigade. The men, under the chief officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie) acquitted themselves well. The demonstration included the working of all the fire appliances, rescue drill (rescuing insensible persons, smoke helmet, and ladder rescue work), a gymnastic display (pyramids, parallel and horizontal bars, vaulting horse, and ground tumbling), and a general turnout into the street.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 26 September 1914, page 2

CHIMNEY FIRE.

The Fire Brigade was called this evening to a house occupied by Mrs. E. Hayman, in Somerset terrace, off California street, Adelaide, where one of the chimneys was ablaze. The outbreak was quickly extinguished.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 28 September 1914, page 2

A CHIMNEY FIRE.

On Saturday evening the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to a house occupied by Helen Hayman, in California street, City, where a chimney was on fire. The flames were extinguished by chemicals.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 5 October 1914, page 2

SMALL FIRE.

At 10 minutes past 8 on Sunday night the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call from the Brown street alarm. The fire was found to be on the premises of Mr. J. Hurley, at the corner of Brown and Gilbert streets. A shed and firewood were slightly damaged, but the flames did not spread to the house.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 7 October 1914, page 1

ALARM OF FIRE.

Just before 9 o'clock last night an alarm of fire was given from Gawler place, Adelaide. Mr. F. Clarke, in the employ of Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, & Co., saw sparks being blown by the breeze from the top of a new building next door to Messrs. D. & W. Murray's. The metropolitan brigade turned out, and the firemen on clambering to the top of the building found that the wind had fanned into activity some smouldering charcoal which had been carelessly left in a plumber's pot.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 13 October 1914, page 7

FALSE FIRE ALARM.

As the result of the telephone wires crossing, a message was automatically sent to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade early yesterday afternoon registering an outbreak of fire in Fisher place. Portion of the gear was dispatched, but it was discovered that the alarm was a false one.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 17 October 1914, page 19

AN ALARM OF FIRE.

Two clerks, Messrs. S. Prince and M. Clark, while working in the skin department at Elder, Smith. & Co.'s premises in Currie-street, on Friday night, shortly after 11 o'clock noticed a smell of fire. They discovered that a short circuit had occurred in connection with a lift in the premises. The fire brigade were summoned by an employe of Mr. Walter Rankine, proprietor of the White Horse Hotel, and soon discovered the cause of the trouble. Superintendent Dickie stated that the short circuit had caused a burning of the insulation. No destruction of property resulted.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 22 October 1914, page 6

FIRE BRIGADE CALLS.

Simultaneously with an alarm being received from Gilbert street at the fire brigade headquarters about 7.30 o'clock last night a chimney of a house in Landrowna terrace, Victoria square, caught fire. The brigade raced past the Victoria square blaze only to find that the call from Gilbert street was a hoax. On their return the firemen attended to the defective chimney. A number of false alarms have been given from Gilbert street lately.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 26 October 1914, page 2

FIRE BRIGADE CALLS.

Several calls were received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Saturday. At 12.20 p.m. the brigade was called to the property of Mr. P. M. Newland, at Knightsbridge, where a quantity of grass was burning as a result of boys playing with matches. Little damage was done. A few minutes after 8 p.m. a call was received from Beulah road, Norwood, and were sent to the house of Mr. S. Oliver, Osmond terrace. A small quantity of clothing was damaged. At 11.55 p.m. there was a call to the house of Mr. Reid, Gillies street where the contents of two rooms were destroyed. The cause was unknown. Yesterday evening at 6.45 p.m. a call was received from the Lion Timber Mills, Franklin street, but it proved to be a false alarm.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 5 November 1914, page 4

RAILWAY STATION FIRE ALARM.

The fire alarm connecting with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station, which for a long time has been fixed near the old carriage shed, at the North Terrace Railway Station, has been removed to the new carriage shed, and is now located at the south-eastern corner of the shed.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Monday 16 November 1914, page 4

Serious City fire

Ironmonger's Loss

A Sensational Accident

FIREMAN FALLS FROM LADDER.

Theatre-goers were astonished on Saturday to see the fire brigade hurrying down Hindley street in full force. The alarm at the corner of Bank street had been broken just before 8 o'clock, and the reels had but a short distance to go to the premises of Messes. W. T. Flint & Son, limited, ironmongers and drapers. An immediate response had been made, and when shutters had been removed enormous tongues of fire were lapping up the furniture in the rear portion of the great warehouse. The conflagration had already secured a powerful hold, and a difficult task confronted the brigade. Plucky efforts were made, and the outbreak was eventually checked, but not before a considerable amount of damage was done. As Bank street is a narrow thoroughfare, the work of the fire-fighters was made a hard one. A quarter of an hour after the alarm was given dense clouds of smoke were pouring from the top floor, which was intensified when the hoses were turned on, but almost simultaneously smoke poured forth from another section. Fireman Tom Fisk was mounting the ladder with the hose when the water was turned on and a sensational incident occurred. The force of the water caused him to lose his footing, and he fell from the top of the ladder to the street below, a distance of about 40 feet. Several members of the Red Cross Branch of the Expeditionary Forces went to his assistance, and he was rushed away to the Hospital. By 8.15 the crowd had increased to an enormous extent, but a large force had no difficulty in keeping them under control. The gallant efforts of the firemen mounting the ladders in dense clouds of smoke were wildly cheered. Five minutes later the conflagration had spread rather than lessened in power, and assumed serious proportions.

THE INJURED FIREMAN.

A LUCKY ESCAPE.

Fireman Tom Fisk who fell from one of the ladders, was fortunate in only sustaining comparatively slight injuries, considering the height from which he was precipitated by the hose he held getting out of control. On enquiry at the Adelaide Hospital this morning we learned that except for a few bruises and the fracture of a small bone in his hand, he escaped serious harm. He will be able to leave the institution this evening.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 2 December 1914, page 8

LOCAL BRIGADE BUSY.

The Metropolitan, and Norwood Fire Brigades were busy on Tuesday, when five alarms of fire, were received. The first call was at 3.35 a.m., to an outbreak at the ham and beef shop in the occupation of Mr. H. A. Moss, on the Payneham road, and opposite the Maid and Magpie Hotel. The building was considerably damaged, and the contents wholly destroyed. The fire spread to the adjoining premises of Messrs. Moore and Binks, chemists, and slightly damaged the dispensing room. Both the premises belong to Mr. S. Newland, and were insured. The cause of the fire is unknown. At 9.10 a.m. the Norwood Brigade received a call by telephone to attend an outbreak in the Norwood parade. It was found that some tar at the

grocery store of Mr. W. Gluis, the owner and occupier, had ignited. The blaze was quickly subdued before any other damage had been caused.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 2 December 1914, page 8

A YOUTH INJURED.

The Metropolitan and Norwood Fire Brigades were called at 1.20 p.m. on Tues-day to an outbreak at the grocery store of Mrs. Larkin, in Seventh avenue, St. Peters. The premises are newly built, and have been in occupation for only a few weeks. Eric Stuart, aged 17, who lives at Unley, and is employed at the shop, sustained severe burns about the face and arms, and had to be taken to the Adelaide Hospital. The fire, which destroyed the shop and contents, and dwelling rooms, was caused through the explosion of a spirit stove. The property was built and owned by Mr. R. H. Taylor, of Seventh avenue, who had not completed the insurance arrangements, and the damage, which is heavy, represents a dead loss to him. The stock was also uninsured. Last week the dwelling rooms were taken by Mr Gardiner. While the fire was being extinguished a call was received from Magill. An engine was withdrawn and sent there, but the alarm was found to be a false one. On Tuesday night at 11.30 o'clock the Metropolitan Brigade had a call from the Norwood Post Office alarm. The fire was found to be on the premises of Mr. Lawrie, confectioner, and was caused by a light coming into contact with the window dressings. The contents were slightly damaged. This was the fifth call received from Norwood within 24 hours.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 11 December 1914, page 8

FIRE IN GILLES STREET.

Shortly after 10 o'clock on Wednesday night an alarm of fire reached the headquarters fire brigade. A detachment of firemen hurried to Gilles street east on the motor and found that slight damage had been done in a house occupied by Mrs. Dickinson as the result of a curtain dragging across a lighted candle. The contents of the place, which was owned by Mr. A. McLeod, of Parkside, were not insured.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 December 1914, page 3

SMALL FIRE.

The fire brigade received a call at 5.48 p.m. from Sturt street fire alarm to an outbreak in Gilbert street in Mr. D. Henry's private residence. It was caused by the curtains coming in contact with a candle. The owner of the house is Mr. F. Mitchell, Rundle street. The window blind and curtains were destroyed and the window frames slightly damaged.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 14 December 1914, page 6

FIRE ALARMS

CURTAIN CATCHES FIRE

From the Sturt street fire alarm, shortly before 6 o'clock on Saturday evening, the fire brigade received a call to the house of Mr. David Henry, in Gilbert street. Window curtains, which had been burned as the result of being blown over a naked light, were totally destroyed, but the fire was extinguished before the arrival of the firemen.

SPRINKLER OUT OF ACTION.

A sprinkler installed for the purpose of fire protection at the firm of Colton, Palmer, & Preston, Ltd., Currie street, got out of order on Saturday night with the result that the fire brigade was unnecessarily called to the premises about 9 o'clock.

OUTBREAK IN AN OFFICE.

Mr. John Sheridan, who lives in Bray street, off Wakefield street, looked out of his bedroom window shortly after 9.30 o'clock last night, and saw volumes of smoke issuing from a window in a building in Victoria place, opposite, occupied by the Independent Workers' Association of South Australia. He at once informed Mr. Evans, caretaker of the new Education Buildings near by, and an alarm was sent to the fire brigade, which arrived a few moments later. Severe damage was done to the office fittings and furniture. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Mr. F. Whitfield, of Kent Town, is the owner of the property, and the extent of the insurances were not ascertainable.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 15 December 1914, page 6

FIRE IN WAYMOUTH STREET

AN OFFICE BURNED OUT.

The Adelaide Fire Brigade was called out about a quarter to 8 o'clock last night to an outbreak in Waymouth street, the alarm being sent from a street fire alarm. On arrival the firemen found the office of Mr. Maurice Byrns, teacher of languages, in flames. The office is situated on the first floor of the building which is known as Waymouth Chambers, and is owned by Mr. A. L. Chapman, of Currie street. The firemen prevented the flames spreading, but before they were subdued Mr. Bryns' office was completely gutted.