

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1920

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 1 January 1920, page 6

RECORD FIRE YEAR.

In 1918 the stations throughout the State in the South Australian Fire Brigades Board received 407 calls. That was a record up to that time. It has been eclipsed this year, however, the total to December 30 having been 435. The Superintendent of the Metropolitan Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie), when questioned by a reporter on Wednesday, remarked that the board's year would end at midnight on December 31. There were 18 protected areas in the State, three of which (Burnside, Tanunda, and Wallaroo) had been constituted during the past 12 months. There had been 10 serious fires and 44 in which considerable damage and 105 in which slight damage had resulted; and the other calls had been for grass blazes, burning rubbish, and other minor outbreaks. The biggest conflagrations in Adelaide had been those at W. H. Burford & Sons. Limited, and Messrs. Holden & Frost's. It had been a heavy year for the insurance societies. Mr. Dickie would not say anything further.

The work of the brigades? Well, he said, the men did the work and deserved any praise that might attach to it. He agreed with the comment of the Chairman of the Board (Mr. A. Frinsdorf) that the work of the brigades had been satisfactory in every way. It is generally known that some fine "saves" were effected by the firemen; and, while Mr. Dickie would give them all the credit, he is entitled to a share of it as a capable and keen leader. The State collectively, and particularly individual property owners, owe a debt of gratitude to the brigades for their enthusiastic and valuable protection.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 January 1920, page 16

REGISTRATIONS. THE WEEK'S LIST. Cars and Lorries.

05305, Fire Brigade Board, Wakefield Street, City, 20 M.A.B.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 28 January 1920, page 7

JAM FACTORY GUTTED

Damage £35,000. Firemen Hampered by Water Shortage.

The extensive jam, preserved fruit, and sauce factory of Robert McEwin & Co., Limited, at East Adelaide, was almost wholly destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning. The outbreak was first noticed by a passerby at 4.40 a.m., and by 5 o'clock the firemen were battling with the flames with so much apparent success that it was hoped the main factory building might be saved, and the fire confined to the place of its origin, the engine room at the rear. An insufficient supply of water, however, hampered the brigade; and, once the flames secured a hold upon the main building, the conflagration developed with such rapidity as to place at least two firemen in serious peril. Hose and ladder had to be abandoned, and the firefighters had to beat a headlong retreat to save themselves from destruction. Within a few minutes the roof fell in, and the whole factory was almost instantly reduced to a mass of flaming wreckage.

— Almost totally Destroyed.—

The gutted building faces the Payneham road, where the St. Peters car turns off to the left along Harrow road, and its southerly frontage is about 120 ft.. Its depth is even greater. Part of the factory was two-storied, and beneath were roomy cellars. The contents of the building afforded ample fuel of a highly inflammable nature. there were many thousands of tins of jam, containing about 60 per cent. of sugar, great quantities of preserved fruit, about 50 tons of raw sugar, and, in the cellar, a vast store of fruit pulp. There was much valuable machinery besides, and the factory and contents were insured with the Victoria Company for about

£40,000. All has been destroyed with the exception, it is estimated, of about £5,000 worth. Along the north-west wall of the main building is a large galvanized iron shed, containing about 250,000 tins of preserved fruit, and this has been saved, together with the engine, boiler, and the 13 coppers and necessary plant in the jamboiling room. Not a tin of jam has escaped, and the firm can hope to continue its supplies in this direction only through its amalgamation with the Melbourne firm of Henry Jones, Co-operative, Limited. Even the preserved fruit which has not been reached by the flames will need immediate attention to prevent rust spoiling the tins in which it is contained.

—Poor Water Supply.—

To Mr. David Greenberg, a baker, of Nelson street, Stepney, belongs the distinction of having first seen the fire. From the Magill road he noticed flames bursting from the rear of the factory. At 4.51 a.m. the Norwood Fire Brigade received a call from the Maid and Magpie alarm, and the summons was quickly communicated to the head station and to the North Adelaide brigade. The Norwood brigade was first on the scene, followed soon after by a motor appliance from Wakefield street and another from North Adelaide; and a few minutes later, the horse-drawn steam pump from the head station made its appearance. The 18 inch main along Payneham road was first tapped, and from this there was a tolerable stream of water; but the four inch pipe in Harrow road yielded a poor supply. When the pump was brought in to operation there was not sufficient water to keep it going. Notwithstanding this serious disability, the firemen seemed to be making good progress against the flames, which in the first place, were restricted to the neighbourhood of the boiler and engine house.

—A Dramatic Development. —

Shortly before five o'clock, the managing director of the company, Mr. T. A. Doman, who lives in Winchester street, was advised by telephone of the outbreak, and he passed the alarming news to his son, Mr. Herbert J. Doman, who resides at Payneham road, Joslin, and is also a director of the firm. The latter told a representative of The Register that he cycled to the factory immediately and reached it at about five o'clock. It appeared to him then that the principal building would probably be saved, although the rear portion of the factory was already doomed. Entering at the back, he hurried through the long shed which has already been mentioned as standing along the north-eastern wall, with the object of opening a door at the front to facilitate the work of the brigade. He looked into the main factory as he passed and saw that the fire had not yet spread so far; but almost as soon as he reached the front of the building facing Payneham road the flames burst through at that end. His impression, he said, was that the conflagration had broken away as he left the rear of the premises and had swept through the factory behind him with almost incredible speed. Within a few minutes the roof fell in and the whole place was an inferno, giving out such intense heat, declared Police Constable Trelvelion afterwards, that those who were watching the progress of the fire from Payneham road were glad to retreat to the far side of the street.

— Fireman in Peril. —

When the fire broke through into the factory proper, several firemen were at work on its advancing side; and they were compelled to drop their hose and abandon their ladder and "run for it." Two were in a particularly dangerous corner, and had a narrow escape from serious injury if not from death. Both hose and ladder were destroyed. As the flames reached the stacks of tinned jam the heat began to burst the tins, and burning jam was flung in all directions, and helped to accelerate the progress of the conflagration. In one stack alone there were 5,000 tins of apricot jam. The collapse of the floor quickly followed the falling in of the roof, and a confused mass of machinery and burning stock was immediately piled upon the contents of the cellars. In the front of the factory on the south-western side, 50 tons of sugar made a furious blaze, and here the wall fell in at about 10 a.m. Even at this late hour the heaped-up wreckage within was still burning fiercely, and at intervals a bursting tin of jam went flying into the air by the force of its own explosion. The front walls were bulging ominously, and acrid smoke made the work of the firemen exceptionally trying. Although it

had been possible to save the boiling plant, the large room in which it was housed was a wreck. Only part of the charred floor remained, and portion of the roof had fallen in. The 13 jam coppers, however, each worth £50 or £60, remained intact. The preserved fruit plant, and the can-making machinery were utterly destroyed.

—Fire of a Few Weeks Ago.—

The cause of the fire is not known, but it is evident it originated near the boiler. Work ceased at the factory at 9.30 on Saturday night, and on Sunday the boiler was emptied. On Sunday afternoon the fireman lit a fire to warm the fresh water in the boiler, but this was extinguished, and on Monday everything was prepared for an early start on Tuesday morning. A few weeks ago there was an outbreak of fire in the same factory, thought to have been caused by the ignition of the floor of the drying room above the boiler, but on this occasion the boiler was practically cold. The first outbreak was con-fined to the engine room, and the damage amounting to about £500, had already been repaired.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 30 January 1920, page 2

HERE AND THERE

Through a misunderstanding a telephone message from an East-terrace residence to "come at once," which was intended for a city medical man, was received at about 9 p.m. on January 28 by the city fire brigade, who promptly responded to the call.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 31 January 1920, page 2

PICTURE THEATRE DESTROYED.

BLAZE AT EAST ADELAIDE.

Three Firemen Injured.

A spacious wood-and-iron structure, the Star Picture Theatre, situated near the Maid and Magpie Hotel, on the Payneham road, East Adelaide, caught fire on Saturday morning, and was practically destroyed. At about 10.30 o'clock the Norwood Fire Brigade was on the scene, and shortly afterwards the Adelaide Station was represented. Four lines of hose were utilized, but the flames had secured a good hold. It was stated by a spectator who was one of the first to notice the conflagration that a tongue of flame shot up the side of the wall facing the hotel, and that very soon the ceiling and the walls of the building, which were of wood, were blazing. Several hundred people were soon on the spot, but if they had hoped to witness a spectacular fire they were disappointed. All that could be seen was smoke issuing from the roof and from points along the walls. It was apparent, however, that the flames were working havoc inside the building. The piano, biograph, matting, and films were carried out into the street, and several householders nearby, viewing the fire with apprehension, conveyed some of their belongings out of their residences. A line of hose which stretched across the Magill road interfered with the tramcar traffic in that direction.

—Roof Collapses.—

Meanwhile the firemen were keeping the flames in check, and at about 12 o'clock several of them clambered on to the roof in an endeavour to subdue the conflagration in that portion of the structure. They were working on the rear part, between the ceiling and the roof frame, when the latter fell upon three of them. They were conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital, where Station Officer Thomas Sayers, of the City Brigade, was detained. He was seriously hurt, for one of his lungs was injured by a broken rib, and on Saturday evening his condition had not changed. Mr. W. Lee sustained hurts to both leg and arm, and a fireman named Grow suffered from shock, but has returned to duty. It is thought that the fusing of electric wires was responsible for the outbreak. The building was owned by Mr. H. Crabb, and was leased by Mr. F. J. Coffey. It is stated that the structure, which cost £2,500 to build, was insured for £1,500. The plant was also insured.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 31 January 1920, page 2

THE WATER SCANDAL

ADELAIDE'S DEPLORABLE SUPPLY, FIRE SERVICE HAMPERED.

Despite the plea that the Hydraulic Engineer, being only a servant and not master in his department, is therefore not responsible for a policy which has eventuated in the disastrous conditions which are evident, the "Mail" adheres to the point already advanced that it is the duty of the head of the Hydraulic Department to act as the watchman of the people's interests in all matters affecting water supply. We have shown by reference to the report of the Royal Commission on Water Supply that Mr. Bayer was not fully alive to the need of additional sources of supply, and only when hard pressed did he admit that it would be wise to anticipate the needs of the immediate future and construct the Millbrook Reservoir. As the money was voted for the purpose it was the duty of the responsible officer to see that, concurrently with the construction of the conservation works, the pipe tracks should have been made even if difficulties arose in connection with the supply of pipes. The plea that by securing the pipes earlier interest charges on unutilisable work would have been piled up does not hold good, because in all such works, unless a thorough harmony of progress is secured, there is bound to be an accumulation of unprofitable interest charges somewhere. In this case there is the deplorable fact that until the water in the Millbrook Reservoir can be distributed for sale the cost of construction is being added to every day.

ENORMOUS LOSSES.

Another instance of what can be described only as bungling somewhere is shown in the disastrous fire at St. Peters last Tuesday morning. when £35,000 went up in smoke at McEwin's Jam Factory. According to reports, the water pressure was so small that no effective fight with the flames was possible, in consequence of which property was needlessly destroyed as well as the lives of the firemen endangered. Moreover, at the fire at the Star Picture Theatre at St. Peters this morning the firemen were again hampered by the feeble water service. If it be that the mains are too small, there is no excuse whatever, for a town like St. Peters is not a terra incognita. Its necessities are known and should be met. If it were want of pressure the case is worse, for now that the Millbrook Reservoir is constructed Hope Valley and Thorndon Park Reservoirs can be kept brimful by sending the water to them along the river bed. There is not the least doubt that the water supply of the Adelaide district is being badly handled, and with little hope of improvement until the whole matter is dealt with intelligently, with an eye to the future as well as to the immediate present.

FIREMEN'S DIFFICULTIES.

In view of the seriousness of an inadequate water service the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) was asked by the "Mail" whether he would make a statement on the position. "We have," said Mr. Frinsdorf, "worked at a very great disadvantage for some considerable time on account of the in efficiency of the water supply." "What do you think is the cause of this?" "Owing to the large number of new houses which have been built and because the mains are not large enough to give the necessary supply. Besides, a great many of the old mains have corroded to such an extent as to give only about half the flow that would come from new pipes of the same size. This was borne out by the recent fire at Darling's Mill at Port Adelaide, and had it not been for the services rendered by the float the chances are that the wharfs, the timber yards, and the various stores in that locality would also have been destroyed."

REPEATED COMPLAINTS.

"Have you made any complaints to the Government about the poor, service?" "We have," Mr. Frinsdorf replied, "repeatedly brought this matter under the notice of the Government, with the result that the pressure brought to bear by the Fire Brigades Board was the means of the Government putting down a large main from Hope Valley to Port Adelaide in 1918. No doubt if

the Government carries out the policy as recently enunciated by the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon G. Ritchie) Port Adelaide will be well supplied. At present the majority of the pipes there are too small by half." Managers of fire insurance offices spoken to also complained of the ineffective water supply particularly at a time like the present when Adelaide and its environs are experiencing a cycle of disastrous outbreaks. Speculation has been rife concerning the cause of the conflagrations, and suspicions have been aroused as to whether some have not been the work of incendiaries. But whatever the cause one unfortunate fact that cannot be denied is that our water service is in no sense as efficient as it should be to meet the ordinary everyday requirements of the people, to say nothing of the special demands that are made by an epidemic of serious fires.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 2 February 1920, page 1

INJURED FIREMAN.

Station Officer Thomas Sayers, the fireman who was seriously injured at the Star Picture Theatre fire on Saturday morning, had not improved when enquiry was made at the Adelaide Hospital on Monday morning concerning his condition.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 3 February 1920, page 2

FIREMAN INJURED.

The condition of Station Officer Thomas Sayers, the fireman who was previously injured at the Star Picture Theatre fire, East Adelaide, on Saturday morning, and was taken to the Adelaide Hospital showed an improvement on Monday.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 4 February 1920, page 10

INJURED FIREMAN.

The condition of Station Officer Thomas Sayers, who was seriously hurt at the Star Picture Theatre fire at East Adelaide last Saturday morning, had slightly improved on Tuesday evening.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 6 February 1920, page 4

HALL DAMAGED BY FIRE

CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN DANGER.

The prompt action of Mr. Cavanett and Mr. Regan, a solicitor of Port Pirie, in notifying the Metropolitan Fire Brigade of a fire at the Co-operative Hall, Angas street, made it possible to save the building was much damaged about 3.30 on Thursday morning. The two gentlemen, who were turning into Angas street in a motor, noticed the flames in the window and promptly telephoned the firemen, who were on the spot very soon after.

It was found that the doors of the hall had been severely burnt, and that a portion of the floor was also destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is fortunate that the flames were retarded before they reached the adjacent Co-operative Stores.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 6 February 1920, page 2

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE IN ANGAS-STREET.

A fire broke out in the Co-operative Stores Building in Angas-street at an early hour on Thursday morning. But for the promptness of Messrs. Cavennett and Regan, who were passing, and gave the alarm, much damage might have been done. The fire brigade quickly subdued the outbreak, which was on the second floor. It destroyed a portion of the floor and the swinging doors. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 7 February 1920, page 35

FIRE AT ST. PETERS.

STAR PICTURE THEATRE. FIREMEN HURT.

Just before 11 o'clock on January 31 a fire broke out at the Star Picture Theatre, St. Peters, and despite the strenuous efforts of the fire fighters the flames were not completely subdued till about 12.30. The premises occupy a block of land adjoining the Maid and Magpie Hotel, with a frontage to the Payneham-road, the rear portion facing the Magill-road. At a few minutes to 11 o'clock Mr. Bradbury, of St. Peters, gave the alarm, and the Norwood reel was the first to arrive. It was speedily followed by motor appliances from the headquarters in the city and the North Adelaide station, and a steam appliance. Four lines of hose were quickly at work. The water was taken from the 18-in. main, from which a good pressure was obtained. But the fire which had got into the woodwork between the ceiling and the roof had spread over a wide area, and it was difficult to bring the streams of water into direct play on the flames. The reels were operating from both frontages, and volumes of smoke and steam were continually rising from the building. Several men were on the ceiling with hose pipes, at the rear of the building, where a portion of the roof had been removed to provide access for the water, and at about 12.10 p.m. there was a crash and the cry ran through the throng of spectators, which was considerable by that time, that some of the firemen had fallen with the ceiling, which had collapsed. Their comrades were speedily on the scene, and three men were removed from the debris. One was bleeding profusely from the hand. Another appeared to be badly injured, and was unconscious. In a few minutes they were on their way to the Adelaide Hospital in one of the fire reel motors. At that institution it was found that Mr. Thomas Sayers had sustained serious injuries. Some of his ribs were broken. The other men were not badly hurt. The front part of the structure was constructed in imitation of stone work, and was two storeys high. There was a shop on the ground floor and an office above. These were not greatly damaged by fire, although they suffered considerably from the effects of water. The walls of the theatre were still standing when the fire was eventually subdued, but a large portion of the ceiling and roof had fallen.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 7 February 1920, page 8

FIRE IN THE CITY.

A SHOP GUTTED

At 11.30 p.m. on Friday the Fire Brigade received a call to the establishment at Messrs. Leibovitch & Holmer, copper and brass workers, in Twin-street. The flames had a good hold, and the place was completely gutted. The cause of the outbreak is not known.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 7 February 1920, page 9

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN TWIN STREET.

METAL WORKING FACTORY GUTTED.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade just before midnight on Friday received a call to Twin street. The whole of the plant was turned out to a blaze which proved to be on the premises of Messrs. Leibovitch and Holmer, metal spinners, copper, brass, and nickel and sheet metal workers. The flames had got a good hold on the premises, and it was impossible to save anything of the contents. The firemen extinguished the blaze within a few minutes, and also prevented any serious extension of the fire to the neighbouring premises of Mr. V. L. Courtney's shirt factory. These latter caught alight in a skylight, but water from two hoses soon accounted for this outbreak, and the firm will suffer little more than slight water damage to some of its materials. The amount of the damage at the metal works is not known. These

premises until a few weeks ago were occupied by the Modern Printing Company, which recently removed to a newly erected building in Chancery lane.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 11 February 1920, page 1

THE FIRE FIEND.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call by fire alarm at 4.3 a.m. on Wednesday to the premises occupied by Mr. R. G. Maddern, working jeweller, in Industrial Chambers, King William street. A portion of the fittings was severely damaged by fire, and Mr. R. E. Hosking, bookseller, who occupies the premises beneath, had a quantity of his stock damaged by water.

At 1.44 p.m. on Tuesday, the North Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the premises occupied by Messrs. A. E. Hersey and J Robinson, in Clifford street, Prospect, which is outside the protected area. Wood-and-iron stables and trapsheds were destroyed, and Messrs. R. J. Watson and H. Lonnen, who occupied the adjoining premises, had a portion of their paling fence burned. As the fire broke out in an unprotected area, the attendance of the North Adelaide Brigade was purely voluntarily, and it is stated that serious damage might have been wrought but for the prompt attendance.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 13 February 1920, page 1

TWO SMALL FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received two calls simultaneously about 9.40 a.m. on Friday, one from Unley and one from Norwood.

The former was to the premises of Messrs. J. and H. Mansfield, King William-road, Hyde Park, grain merchants, where a wheat and pollard stack was alight, owing to the burning of rubbish in a tank near the stack. A large quantity of bags of pollard were very severely damaged.

The second fire was in a two-story workshop, owned and occupied, by Mr. B. L. Bond, builder and contractor, at the corner of Adelaide-road and Dover-street, Maylands. The workshop and contents were very severely damaged, and a new English motor car was destroyed. A motor appliance was sent from headquarters to assist the Norwood Brigade.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 16 February 1920, page 1

A CITY FIRE.

Business Premises Guttled.

At 10.57 p.m. on Saturday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called to premises occupied by Messrs. M. J. Casey (manufacturing confectioner), C. H. Jenkins (wicker and basket worker), and E. J. Butler (upholsterer), in a lane off Tavistock street, and immediately at the rear of Segar's furniture warehouse, in Rundle street. All the suburban brigades (Unley, Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton) were in turn called in view of the nature of the danger zone. The response by the brigades was "electrical," and by their fine work they confined the outbreak of fire to the one building, and effected a meritorious save of adjacent structures. On the arrival of the Metropolitan Brigade, within two minutes of the call, the fire had a firm hold on the premises, which were ultimately gutted, and the extensive contents either destroyed or badly damaged. All danger of the flames spreading was quickly removed by the rapidity with which the firemen got their steamers and hoses to work. The absence of wind assisted them in their task. On the western side of the building is situated the factory of Messrs. Pengeliey & Knabe (divided only by a stone wall), on the south is a lane separating the building from Rundle street business frontages, on the east a right-of-way and backyards of small cottages, and in stables on the north, with a right-of-way intervening, were a number of valuable horses belonging to East-End Market merchants, and also two motor cars, but no harm befell them.

Chief Officer Dickie, of the Metropolitan Brigade, said the pressure of the water mains was good. The pressure was diverted by the turncock to the fire area, and the strain on the mains caused one in Rundle street to burst. Thousands of citizens were attracted by the blaze. Some of the womenfolk in the adjacent residences were greatly alarmed by the conflagration, but before midnight it had been got under control. Mr. E. C. Knabe was one of the first to notice the outbreak, and it was he who gave the alarm to the Metropolitan Brigade. The origin of the fire is unknown. The building, which was of stone and brick, and mostly two-storied, belonged to the estate of the late Mr. Gilbert Wood, and was insured. It is also stated that the belongings of Messrs. Jenkins and Casey were insured. No particulars of the amounts of insurance are yet available. Mr. Casey was reported as being out of town on a shooting expedition. The loss by the fire was considerable, but no estimate can be given at present.

—"Wonderful Work."—

Mr. Knabe called at The Register Office on Sunday night to pay a tribute to the firemen. He said:—"The brigades cannot be too highly praised for their quick arrival, and for the way in which they worked. I had hardly left the telephone before the firemen were on the scene. They ran out hoses from North terrace, Rundle street, and the lanes, and attacked the fire from the roof of the building and everywhere else possible. The way they fought was marvellous. It was a wonderful save for us and others adjacent. A man said to me to-day, "You had a close shave!" I replied that we owed everything to the firemen. They deserve all the credit in the matter."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 February 1920, page 6

FIRE IN ADELAIDE.

BUSINESS PREMISES GUTTED.

A fire occurred on Saturday night in a large stone and brick building in a lane leading from Tavistock-street (off Rundle-street), Adelaide. The fire was noticed by Mr. E. V. Knabe, of Messrs. Pengelley and Knabe, undertakers. and at 10.57 he notified the brigade, which turned out smartly with all appliances. Assistance was summoned from the Unley, Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton stations, and the fire was energetically attacked.

The building, which belongs to the estate of the late Mr. Gilbert Wood, had two storeys in the front and one at the rear. The ground floor was occupied by Mr. M. J. Casey, manufacturing confectioner, and Mr. C. H. Jenkins, wicker and basket worker and the upper floor by Mr. E. J. Butler, upholsterer. On the western side the timber store and coachhouse of Messrs. Pengelley & Knabe was protected from the fire by the thickness of the wall. The yard, stables, and other buildings of the same firm adjoin this part. A broad lane divides the rear of shops in Rundle-street from the building, and on the east is a row of small cottages, with the back yards abutting the factory. The other premises which the flames mostly threatened were stables on the north, in which there were said to be 40 horses belonging to East-End Market merchants. The portion of the building occupied by Messrs. Casey, Jenkins, and Butler was well alight when the brigade arrived, and the contents were so inflammable that it was clearly impossible to do more than prevent the fire from spreading to other buildings. The block which was alight was completely gutted, but the firemen made a good save of Messrs. Pengelley and Knabe's premises and of the stables at the north. The horses became very restive when the fire was at its height, but some of their owners, who arrived, pacified the animals until, after about an hours fight, the flames were got under control. A huge crowd of people gathered to watch the fire, which was very spectacular and beautiful in the dark night. Flames leapt up to a great height, and myriads of sparks were carried aloft. When the turncocks did what they could to ensure a plentiful supply of water the pressure became so great that the main in Rundle-street burst. The cause of the fire is unknown. It is understood that there were insurances on the stock of Messrs Casey and Jenkins, but the amount is unknown, and it is not known whether Mr. Butler had his stock insured. The building was insured. No estimate can yet be made of the extent of the damage. Mr. Casey, it is said, left on Saturday morning

on a shooting excursion. Mr. E. C. Knabe paid a tribute on Sunday to the smartness and efficiency of the brigade. He said that after giving the alarm by telephone he hastily threw on some clothing and rushed out to the fire, and the brigade were then pulling up. Only the excellent work of the firemen prevented his firm's premises from being destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 18 February 1920, page 8

FIRE AT ORIENTAL HOTEL.

A fire occurred in the servants' quarters of the Oriental Hotel, Rundle street, Adelaide, shortly before 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening. Smoke was seen issuing in dense volumes from a bedroom at the rear of the main building, and the licensee (Mr. Herbert Walsh) underwent considerable risk in entering the apartment in an endeavour to check the flames with buckets of water. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was quickly on the scene. Several pieces of furniture were badly charred, and a quantity of women's apparel ruined. The fire, it is stated, was caused by a curtain coming in contact with a naked light.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 21 February 1920, page 1

MOTOR BODY WORKS ABLAZE

AGAIN ENDANGERED. HOLDEN & FROST'S

Another fire broke out in Holden and Frost, Limited's, motor body works in Grenfell street, on Saturday afternoon. Shortly after 2 o'clock, Mr. H. Kleiner, of the Commercial Auction Mart, Rundle street, Adelaide, noticed a dense volume of smoke rising up at the rear of his premises. He immediately telephoned the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which wasted no time in arriving on the scene. The conflagration must have originated from the forge right at the back of the old premises, which were destroyed by fire not long ago, and which have been restored. Flames ate through the new wooden floor just above the forge, and destroyed several new motor bodies and a quantity of motor upholstery. A lot of window frames were also consumed. Credit is due to the firemen under Superintendent Dickie's control for having made such a good "save." A few minutes after the arrival of the brigade, the fire was well under control. The amount of damage appeared to amount to a few hundred pounds.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 21 February 1920, page 2

ANOTHER CITY BLAZE

HOLDEN & FROST'S ALIGHT. A LUCKY "SAVE."

Adelaide's epidemic of fires was added to this afternoon when an outbreak occurred at Holden & Frost, Ltd.'s, saddlers and motor body builders, of Grenfell Street. The Metropolitan Brigade turned out with all appliances a few minutes before 3 o'clock, and their timely arrival and efforts prevented the fire spreading to portions of the building where highly inflammable goods were stored. The prompt response of the firefighters prevented a big blaze. The outbreak is believed to have been due to hot coals left in the forge in the workshop on the ground floor. The fire quickly spread upwards to the body building shop on the first floor, which was completely gutted. The inflammable nature of the material caused the flames to penetrate through to the floor above, where all the upholstery work is done. However, a good flow of water quickly subdued the outbreak. The extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained. The premises were insured in the Guardian and Phoenix offices. Mr. Holden stated to a representative of the "Mail" that the fire was most unfortunate, as they had only recently recovered from the effects of the fire a few months ago.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 28 February 1920, page 2

BLAZE AT KNOXVILLE

40 TONS OF HAY DESTROYED.

A big blaze occurred at Knoxville shortly before midday to-day, when a large shed containing 40 tons of hay, the property of Mr. W. P. Hill, bacon curer, was entirely destroyed. Miss Jones, employed on the premises, first noticed the flames, and immediately gave warning. The Adelaide and Unley Fire Brigades promptly responded. The shed was about 60 ft. square, and was an iron structure, valued at £600. The hay destroyed was valued at £200. Mr. Hill stated that the fire represents a big loss, as the place was insured for only £75. The bacon curing factory adjoining narrowly escaped from catching alight.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 1 March 1920, page 2

NO FIRE PROTECTION.

Two calls were received at the Brigade Station during Saturday and Sunday. The first appeal came from Knoxville, where a wood and iron shed and a large quantity of hay, belonging to Hill Bros., bacon curers, were destroyed. The second call was to attend a blaze at Woods' rubbish tip, Gilberton. Both of these districts are outside the fire protection area, which means that the attendance of the brigade must be paid for by the individuals concerned. Prospect, Nailsworth, Medindie, Gilberton, Walkerville, Highbury, Blair Athol, Hawthorn, Kingswood, and Mitcham, which are valuable residential and manufacturing centres, are all outside the protection area.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 3 March 1920, page 6

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

The report of the Fire Brigades Board states that 439 calls to fires—a record— were received last year, 120 of which were malicious false alarms and 57 the result of line faults. Nearly eight miles of hose were used at fires, and the approximate distance covered by the appliances attending calls was 876 miles. The strength of the brigade was 96 permanent firemen, 43 auxiliary firemen, and 30 theatre auxiliary firemen.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 6 March 1920, page 13

A RECORD OF FIREFIGHTING.

The report of the Fire Brigades Board for 1919 records the provision of a fire station at Wallaroo, and states that the township of Tanunda has been brought under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act, and the necessary equipment provided at the first station established under the board's new conditions of service for stations manned by auxiliary firemen. The members of the Tanunda brigade (who are local residents) have been instructed in fire drill by an officer from the head station, and inspections made since the station was established have been to the satisfaction of the board. During the year Mr. W. H. Cox (formerly Mayor of Glenelg), representing suburban and country corporations, retired by effluxion of time, and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Jeffs (formerly Mayor of Kapunda). Mr. Vere F. Bogle, representing the insurance companies, also retired by effluxion of time, and Mr. E. H. Thomas was elected to fill the vacancy. The chief officer's report states that the brigades received and attended 439 calls to fires, being an increase of 32 as compared with the preceding year, which year constituted a record for South Australia. Calls are classified as follows:—Serious damage, 10; considerable damage, 44; slight damage, 104; grass and rubbish fires, 64; chimney fires, 28; justified alarms, 12; line faults, 57; and malicious false alarms, 120. The following is a comparison with the year 1918:—A decrease of two fires of serious damage, an increase of 28 fires of considerable damage, a decrease of 28 fires of slight damage, a decrease of 96 grass and rubbish fires, an increase of three justified alarms, an increase of eight chimney fires, an increase of 29 line faults, and an increase of 34 malicious false alarms. The strength of the brigade is 96 permanent firemen, 13 auxiliary firemen, and 30 theatre auxiliary firemen; a total of 139 officers and men of all ranks. During the year the brigade experienced a large amount of sickness, mostly due to the late influenza epidemic. The number of days off through accident and sickness was 792. as compared with 149 days during the previous year. Motor hose carriages have been installed during the year at

Wallaroo and the head station, and a hose cart fully equipped at Tanunda. A motor hose carriage will be installed at Port Pirie and a motor utility van at head station as soon as the bodies are completed. Twelve additional fire alarms have been installed during the year—10 at Port Augusta, and one each at Port Pirie and Gawler, making a total of 268. Two persons were prosecuted and fined at Port Adelaide for giving malicious false alarms. During the year 41,550 ft., equal to nearly eight miles of hose was used at fires, and the approximate distance travelled by the appliances attending calls was 876 miles.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 10 March 1920, page 8

FIRE IN A FACTORY.

On Tuesday evening Constable Casley observed smoke issuing from the rear of the premises of Messrs. T. J. Richards and Sons, Limited, motor body builders, of Hindmarsh square, Adelaide. The City Fire Brigade was summoned, and appeared so promptly that the men were able to extinguish the flare before much headway had been made. The flames were found to be burning on the first floor of a two storied building, which adjoins the main portion of the factory. Beyond the charring of a quantity of valuable timber, little damage resulted.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 19 March 1920, page 8

MYSTERIOUS CITY FIRE.

Shortly before 9 o'clock on Thursday evening a fire broke out in premises in Coglein street, off Gouger street, Adelaide, occupied by Messrs. Burbury & Neagle, fibrous plaster manufacturers. The fire brigade, responded smartly, and soon subdued the flames. Portion of the firm's plant was damaged in the blaze. Water considerably impaired the contents of the adjoining premises where Mr. Loftes conducts an upholstering business. Apparently the fire broke out in a room of the upper story. The origin of the happening was not discovered. Mr. McGovern, a motor trimmer, who was working at the rear of the place, told the police that about half an hour prior to the alarm he heard somebody moving about in Messrs. Burbury & Neagle's rooms.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 24 March 1920, page 7

A SHOCKING TRAGEDY

FIRE AT A RESTAURANT

THREE DEATHS

FOUR OTHER PERSONS INJURED

A loud report, followed by piercing screams, and the appearance on the footpath of a man and woman enveloped in flames, caused a sensation in King William-street south on Tuesday evening. A blaze, which was caused by the use of methylated spirits, had occurred in a small kitchen at the rear of Messrs. Collings & Green's restaurant, next to the Crown and Sceptre Hotel, and the flames spread with such rapidity that two of the occupants were burned to death, and several others sustained serious injuries, one of them dying after being removed to the hospital. The victims of the tragedy were: —

Dead. Mr. Leslie George COLLINGS, of Rose Park. Norman COLLINGS, aged 3 years, son of Mr. N. C. Collings. Miss Hazel ROBINSON (19), waitress, of Kilkenny.

Injured. Mr. Norman Clarence COLLINGS (29), of St. Peters. Mrs. Martha COLLINGS (30), wife of Mr. N. C. Collings. Mr. Ernest GREEN (29), of Wayville. Miss Joyce BECKETT, of Evandale.

"Burning-Off" Poultry.

The proprietors of the restaurant were Messrs. L. G. Collings and Mr. Ernest Green, and they had been in occupancy of the place, which is known as Melville's fish shop, for about six or seven years. At 5.45 p.m. Mr. Collings was dressing fowls in the kitchen, with his brother (Mr. Norman Collings), the former plucking the feathers out and the latter singeing off. Mr. Green, Mrs. N. Collings and her little boy, with Miss Robinson, and a girl, Joyce Beckett, were also there. The last named had come to the city to see her aunt. Mrs. Collings. Mr. N. C. Collings was doing the "burning off" over a pan containing methylated spirits, and when he poured more of the liquid into the receptacle there was a terrific explosion, with a simultaneous burst of flame. The shock of the explosion was so great that it knocked the soot in the kitchen chimney of Messenger's ham shop, next door, down into the pots and pans.

A Fiery Furnace.

The occupants of the room apparently became bewildered. The flames set fire to their wearing apparel, and they endeavored to get out as quickly as possible. Five of them succeeded in doing so, but Mr. L. G. Collings and little Norman Collings were either immediately overcome by the flames or were entrapped, being unable to open the wire door, and were incinerated. Mr. L. G. Collings and Mrs. N. C. Collings ran through the dining-room into King William-street where persons who had been attracted by the woman's screams endeavored to extinguish their flaming clothing. Mrs. Collings was a mass of fire from head to foot, and was terribly burned. Mr. Collings was also seriously burnt on the back and on the hands.

The Police Ambulance.

The others rushed to the back of the property. Miss Robinson's clothing was also alight, and she soon lapsed into unconsciousness. Mr. N. G. Collings, Mr. Green, and Joyce Beckett fared somewhat better than the others, but it was deemed advisable to remove all with the exception of Joyce Beckett to the Adelaide Hospital. The girl had received burns on the body and legs, but after being attended to by the police matron (Mrs. Moulden) she was taken to her home. Miss Robinson died at the hospital about midnight. A remarkable feature of the tragedy was that the Police ambulance was conspicuous by its absence, the sufferers having to be removed to the hospital in a motor car, driven by Mr. A. H. Thomas, from the establishment of Mr. Harry Lyons, painter, and a trolley belonging to Mr. Jolly, of the Crown and Sceptre Hotel. The police ambulance, it may be mentioned, is inconveniently quartered at the police barracks on the Port-road, a long way from the centre of the city. After this occurrence the authorities will perhaps see the wisdom of having it stationed at the City Watchhouse.

"I Did It"

There appears to be no doubt about the cause of the explosion. At the hospital Mr. N. C. Collings informed a constable that he had poured methylated spirits into a pan in which there must have been a spark. As he was running out of the building he exclaimed, "I did it. I was the cause of it." The flames quickly demolished the kitchen, a wood and iron structure, and travelled into the dining room. When the Fire Brigade arrived the destruction was almost complete, but they succeeded in preventing the outbreak from doing much damage in the restaurant. They could see the two dead bodies lying in the kitchen, but for a while they were unable to get near them, so fierce were the flames. Mr. Norman Collings had been employed by his brother for some time, and his wife, with her two children, had come in with the intention of returning home with him from work. Her boy, Norman, was standing at his father's side when the explosion occurred, and her six-months old baby was being nursed by a waitress, Mrs. Eastwood, in the shop. Some of the firemen and police were affected almost to tears by the awful sight.

Condition of the Patients.

It was reported from the hospital at a late hour last night that each of the remaining three patients was in a serious condition, and Mrs. Collings was not expected to live through the night.

Melvilles Fish and Oyster Saloon approx 1911



State Library of South Australia - King William Street, Adelaide [B 2185], King William Street, Adelaide, looking south from the Supreme Court building, in January, 1911. The Glenelg train is waiting for passengers. The large building with a dome is the newly completed King's Theatre. Lyons' Wallpaper Depot [extreme left] is 72 yards south of Angas Street. Approximately 1911. Photographer, Francis Gabriel. Part of Acre 452 Collection



State Library of South Australia - Oyster Saloon and Ham Shop, King William Street [B 4245], [General description] City businesses from left to right: Part of the Crown and Sceptre Hotel, the Fish, Oyster and Grill Saloon, A.F. Shelton's Ham Shop and the King's Theatre. A tradesman's horse and cart stands outside the Hotel. [On back of photograph] 'Acre 452 / King William Street, east side / August 19th 1927 / The two storey premises on the right of the oyster saloon were converted into a bank in 1928. See B 5122 / Near side of King's Theatre is

17 yards north of Carrington Street. Frontage of bank and ham shop: 13 yards. Frontage of oyster saloon: 6.5 yards'. Approximately 1927. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 452 Collection

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 24 March 1920, page 9

FISH SHOP TRAGEDY.

Sensational Burning Episode.

Three Persons Killed, Four Injured.

One of the most remarkable accidents in the history of Adelaide resulted at about 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening, in three persons being fatally burned and four others being injured. The tragedy arose from a fire which occurred at what was long known as Melville's fish shop and restaurant, adjoining the Crown and Sceptre Hotel, King William street.

The dead comprise— Mr. Leslie Collings (40), of — Master Norman Collings (3), son of Mr. N. C. Collings, of 19 Wheaton road, St. Peters. Miss Hazel Robinson (19), of Stanley street, Kilkenny.

The injured are— Mr. Norman Clarence Collings (29), of Wheaton road, St. Peters; severely burned on back and hands. Mrs. Martha Collings, his wife (30); terrible burns on the body and limbs. Mr. Ernest Green, of Jocelyn street, Wayville; serious burns on body and head. Miss Joyce Beckett, of Bakewell road, Evendale; slight burns on body and legs.

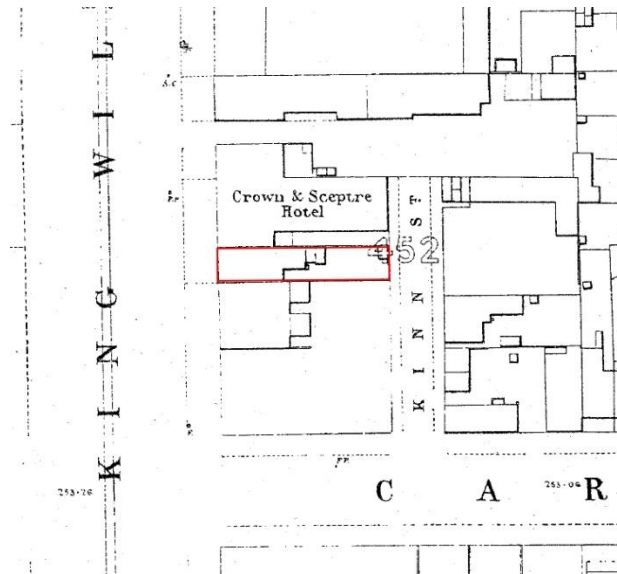
— A Light to Methylated Spirits.—

The restaurant is at present owned by Messrs. Collings and Green. With the exception of Mrs. Wheaton, an assistant, and a six months old baby, all the people connected with the shop were at the time of the tragedy assembled in the kitchen. It is stated that Mr. Norman Collings was pre-paring poultry for cooking, had plucked the birds, and was about to singe them. For that purpose he, in some unexplained manner, applied a light to a quantity of methylated spirits. An explosion resulted, and the whole room was enveloped in flames. The burning spirit was scattered over the apartment, and some of it ignited the clothing of those present. Apparently, several of them were overcome by the fumes. The explosion and screams were the first indication to people in the vicinity of what had happened. Persons outside the premises were met by a sensational sight a few minutes later, when Mr. and Mrs. Collings, with their clothes ablaze, rushed from the shop into King William street, crying for help. Mr. Collings was heard to exclaim, "I did it. I was the cause of it." Mr. Collings collapsed immediately. People hurried to the scene from all directions. Several men promptly attempted to extinguish the burning garments of the unfortunate woman. Eventually a bystander tore portion of her clothing away, and she was wrapped in a blanket. With his wife, the husband was placed in a motor car and taken to the Adelaide Hospital. Mr. Green (the other proprietor) and the two waitresses, Misses Robinson and Beckett, rushed through the back door into Kent street. Mr. Leslie Collings and the boy, Norman, were so overcome that they could not escape from the blazing room, and their bodies were not recovered until the fire brigade had partially extinguished the inside blaze. Both were dead when reached. The corpses were conveyed to the morgue.

—The Kitchen Guttled.—

When the alarm was raised Constables Feudeloff, Thorton, Daly, and Donhardt hastened to the scene, but they were unable to enter the kitchen on account of the flames. They took charge of the injured persons, and, having rendered first aid, had them conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital. There was delay in securing the police ambulance, which is kept at the police barracks, Port road. The fire was confined to the kitchen, which was completely gutted, and the dining room, which was damaged. At an early hour this morning it was reported from the Adelaide Hospital that there was no material change in the condition of the injured

persons, two of whom — Mrs. Collings and Mr. Ernest Green — were in an exceedingly critical state.



Melville's Fish & Oyster Saloon location. 1920



State Library of South Australia - King William Street, Adelaide [B 2185], King William Street, Adelaide, looking south from the Supreme Court building, in January, 1911. The Glenelg train is waiting for passengers. The large building with a dome is the newly completed King's Theatre. Lyons' Wallpaper Depot [extreme left] is 72 yards south of Angas Street. Approximately 1911. Photographer, Gabriel, Francis. Part of Acre 452 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 25 March 1920, page 7

FISH SHOP TRAGEDY.

Five Deaths.

Early on Wednesday morning the death roll of the victims in the terrible burning tragedy at Messrs. Collings & Green's fish shop and restaurant, in King William street, Adelaide, was increased by the death of Mrs. Martha Collings (30). No further details are yet available in explanation of the explosion which caused the fire. On Tuesday night Mr. Norman Clarence Collings (29), of Wheaton road, St. Peters, admitted that he was responsible, but as his injuries rendered his condition critical, he was not capable of supplementing that statement. The unfortunate man died in the Adelaide Hospital at about 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening. The deaths now total five, and the injured persons number two. One of the latter is reported to be in a serious condition.

— Waitress Died.—

Miss Hazel Robinson (19), who died late on Tuesday night, was one of the party who were able to escape through the back entrance. With her clothing in flames, she ran to the back door and into Kent street. When the police arrived she was lying in a neighbouring yard, wrapped in blankets. The unfortunate girl was unconscious, suffering from terrible burns all over the body, head, and limbs. She was placed on a stretcher by Constables Daly and Donhardt and conveyed to the hospital. Miss Robinson was employed as a waitress, and lived with her mother, Mrs. McDowell, at Stanley street, Kilkenny. Her death will be the subject of an inquest, to be conducted by the City Coroner (Dr. Ramsay Smith) at the Insolvency Court Buildings, on Monday morning.

—Distressing Circumstances.—

The late Mr. Norman Collings, whose wife and child were likewise victims of the tragedy, was a returned soldier. He was taken prisoner, and after two attempts finally made good his escape to Holland. Mr. Ernest Green, of Joceyln street, Wayville, sustained severe burns, and the Hospital authorities considered his condition to be very serious on Wednesday night. He was a partner in the business with the late Mr. Leslie Collings. He is married and has a family of three children. Miss Joyce Beckett escaped with burns on the body and legs. After having received treatment on Tuesday night she was permitted to return to her home at Evandale.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 25 March 1920, page 3

TWO MORE VICTIMS

DEAD NOW TOTAL FIVE.

INFANT SURVIVOR OF FAMILY OF FOUR.

The sensational burning tragedy which arose from the fire which occurred at the fish shop of Messrs. Collings and Green, 192 King William street south, on Tuesday evening, was much discussed yesterday. In "The Daily Herald" on Tuesday it was announced that three persons had died from the injuries received. Shortly after going to press the Adelaide hospital authorities communicated the fact that Mrs. Martha Collings, wife of Mr. Norman Collings, had succumbed. Still another victim has to be placed on the list. Mr. Norman Collings after terrible sufferings died about 7 p.m., making the fifth death. It was also learned that Mr. Ernest Green was in a low condition.

The dead are :—

Mr. Leslie Collings (40), Rose Park.

Mr. Norman C. Collings (29), of Wheaton road, St. Peters.

Mrs. Martha Collings (30), wife of Mr. N. C. Collings.

Norman Collings (5), son of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Collings.

Miss Hazel Robinson (19), of Stanley street, Kilkenny.

The injured comprise:—

Mr. Ernest Green, Joslyn street, Wayville.

Miss Joyce Beckett, Bakewell road, Evandale.

— Only Six Months Old Baby Survives.—

The death of Mr. Norman Collings left only one survivor of the family — an infant aged six months. That part is considered the most tragic of the whole occurrence. The little orphan was taken charge of by friends soon after the fire.

— A Returned Soldier.—

The fifth victim (Mr. Norman Collings) known as "Tom Collings," was a re-turned soldier. He left Adelaide with the 9th Reinforcements to the 10th Battalion, and was on his way to Gallipoli when the evacuation occurred. He went to France with his battalion, and as a lance-corporal, took part in the battles at Laventic, Pozieres, and Mouquet Farm, where he was wounded and taken prisoner on August 21, 1916. He spent a little over 12 months in German prison camps, after which he escaped into Dutch Territory, and subsequently reached England. He was invalided home, and at the Keswick Hospital a piece of shrapnel was removed from his nose. He was married only about a month before he left for the front, and his first child Norman, the little boy who was one of the first victims of the tragedy, was born while his father was on active service.

— Death of the Waitress.—

The late Miss Hazel Robinson was employed at the ill-fated establishment as a waitress. When the police arrived on the scene she was lying in a neighboring yard, wrapped in blankets. She was unconscious and suffering from burns all over the body, head, and limbs. The unfortunate sufferer was conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital but only lived a few hours.

— The Scene of the Tragedy.—

Only meagre particulars could be obtained on Tuesday evening regarding the happening. It appears that with the exception of Mrs. Wheaton, an assistant, and the baby, all persons connected with the establishment were in the kitchen. Mr. Norman Collings was preparing poultry for cooking, and after having plucked the birds was about to singe them. It is stated that he applied a light to a quantity of methylated spirits in a pan. Immediately there was an explosion and the room was enveloped in flames. The clothing of those present was quickly ignited. All with the exception of Mr. Leslie Collings and the little boy escaped from the kitchen. Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Collings rushed from the shop into King William street with their clothes ablaze crying for help. A couple of minutes later Mrs. Collings collapsed. Persons near helped to extinguish their burning garments. The two were taken to the Adelaide Hospital in a motor car. Meanwhile Mr. Green and Misses Robinson and Beckett rushed through the back door into Kent street, where they were assisted by Constables Dayman and Gendeloff Daly and Donhardt. The former was conveyed to the hospital, while the latter was taken to her home.

The fire was only confined to the kitchen, which was completely gutted. The dining room was not damaged.

— Inquest to be Held.—

A report regarding the fire has been made to the City Coroner, and it has been arranged that an inquest on the death of Miss Hazel Robinson, who succumbed to her burns on Tuesday night, shall be opened at the courtroom, Insolvency Court at 10 a.m., on Monday next.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 25 March 1920, page 1

THE BURNING TRAGEDY.

Condition of Mr. Green.

The condition of Mr. Ernest Green, one of the victims of the King William-street burning accident, was reported on Thursday to be very low. Mr. Green was a part proprietor of the restaurant at which the fire occurred, his partner having been the late Mr. L. G. Collings.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 26 March 1920, page 7

THE BURNING. TRAGEDY.

THE SIXTH DEATH.

The death occurred at the Adelaide Hospital, about 9 o'clock last night, of Mr. Ernest Green, the sixth victim of the terribly tragic fire in King William-street on Tuesday. The news of this death will doubtless add to the great demand that has already been voiced that there should be an adequate and up-to-date motor ambulance service available in this city, as there is in other cities in the Commonwealth. Had there been such it is quite possible that the lives of some of the six victims might have been saved, for much speedier medical attention would have been possible. Miss Joyce Beckett is the only person remaining alive who was in the kitchen on Tuesday night.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 27 March 1920, page 32

A SHOCKING TRAGEDY.

FIRE AT A RESTAURANT.

FIVE DEATHS.

TWO OTHER PERSONS INJURED.



The late Mrs. Martha Collings and Norman Collings.



The late Miss Robinson.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Monday 29 March 1920, page 1

CITY BURNING TRAGEDY.

WAITRESS'S STORY.

Verdict of Accidental Death.

The City Coroner (Dr. W. Ramsay Smith) held an enquiry at the Insolvency Court Building on Monday into the death of Hazel Alice Robinson, who died at the Adelaide Hospital, on Wednesday, from burns received at Messrs. Collings and Green's Restaurant in King William street, Adelaide. William D. J. McDonnell, labourer, of Stanley street, Kilkenny, said deceased was his step-daughter, and was 19 years of age. Myrtle L. Eastwood, wife of Harold Eastwood, of Black Forest, said she was employed as a waitress at the premises of Messrs. Collings & Green, King William street. At about 5.45 p.m. on March 23 she went to the ground floor from upstairs and into the pantry. Messrs. Leslie and Norman Collings were there preparing poultry. Mr. Green walked from the kitchen into the pantry, and Mrs. Martha Collings and her baby had apparently just entered the kitchen. Witness took the child and proceeded to the dining room of the shop. Almost immediately afterwards Mr. Green rushed past her with his clothes on fire, and he was followed by Mrs. Collings, whose attire was also ablaze. Mr. Norman Collings ran the other way, and witness also went to the rear of the establishment. The method of singeing poultry was by putting spirits into a small saucepan, lighting it, and holding the poultry over the flames. The spirits were kept in a large tin away from the saucepan, and when the latter required refilling a gallon tin was used. She did not notice the little boy in the kitchen. When she walked into the kitchen the persons in it were all engaged with the poultry. Dr. Rieger, of the Adelaide Hospital, said deceased was admitted at 6.15 p.m. on March 23, and died about six hours later. The cause of death was due to shock following upon burns. Mrs. Martha A. Collings, her husband (Mr. Norman Clarence Collings), and Mr. Ernest Green were received at the institution, and died from similar injuries. Constable Thornton deposed that on the evening of March 23 he took Mr. N. C. Collings and his wife to the Adelaide Hospital. Collings spoke to him regarding injuries, and said, "It was my fault. I had a tin of methylated spirits, and went to pour some in a pan. There must have been a spark in it." The Coroner said he found that the deceased came to her death from burns received by an accidental explosion of methylated spirits."



State Library of South Australia - Hazel Alice Robertson [PRG 280/1/3/324/1], [PRG 280/1/3/324/2], [PRG 280/1/3/184], [PRG 280/1/26/163], Waitress Hazel Alice Robertson of Stanley Street, Kilkenny, was one of six people who died of burns from a fire at the Collings and Green Fish Cafe at 192 King William Street, Adelaide on 23 March 1920. 1917, Part of Searcy Collection

Narracoorte Herald (SA : 1875 - 1954), Tuesday 30 March 1920, page 3

TELEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, March 29.

THE KING WILLIAM STREET BURNING TRAGEDY.

An inquest was held to-day concerning the death of Hazel Alice Robinson, waitress, one of the six victims of the tragic fire in the King William Street restaurant on March 22, following the explosion of methylated spirits during the singeing of poultry. The Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 30 March 1920, page 8

FIRE QUICKLY STOPPED.

Prompt action by both the police and the Adelaide Fire Brigade, quenched a fire in its first stages at the timber yard of Walter & Morris, Ltd., Grote street, Adelaide, on Monday night. At about 10 o'clock Constable Walsh, who was on duty in the neighbourhood, noticed smoke arising from the premises. He made investigations, and then summoned the firemen. They found a fire burning among the fittings of the boiler room. Not many minutes were required to make all secure, and little damage resulted.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 2 April 1920, page 4

SMALL FIRES IN ADELAIDE.

At 5.32 p.m. on Thursday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Whitmore square fire alarm to the establishment of Mr. W. J. Grubbs, carrier, which had caught alight through some tar boiling over. Practically no damage was done.

A call was also received by telephone at 5.45 p.m. stating that A. M. Dobbie's brass foundry in Pirie street was alight. No damage was done, except for the moulding shed, which was burned slightly.

A third alarm was received from Waymouth street at 6.46 calling the brigade to No. 292 in that street, where the house occupied by Mrs. B. A. Christophers had caught fire. A bedroom and its contents were severely damaged by fire, and Mrs. Christophers, who is now getting up in years, had to be treated for shock. The firemen stated that while rounding the "Advertiser" corner to the fire a pedestrian rushed on to the roadway and slipped. Had it not been for the skill of the driver the young man might have seriously injured.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 April 1920, page 35

FIRE AT A TIMBER YARD.

A splendid "save" was effected on Monday evening through the promptness of Constable Walsh and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, at the timber yard of Messrs. Walter & Morris, Ltd. The constable, who was on duty in Grote-street, noticed the reflection of flames in the skylight of the saw-tooth roof of a portion of the premises, and he immediately gave the alarm. Two appliances were quickly on the spot, and it was found that some shelves in the engine-room were well alight. In a few minutes the flames were subdued, and one of the apparatus was sent back to the station. As a breeze was blowing at the time, the conflagration would have been serious but for the smartness of the call and the response. As it was the damage was not heavy.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 3 April 1920, page 36

CITY COUNCIL QUERIES.

At the Adelaide City Council meeting on Monday Councillor Cain asked the Lord Mayor (Mr. F. B. Moulden) whether, in view of the fatal results from the recent fire in King William-street south, he could inform the council if enveloping rugs were carried on fire engines when attending an outbreak of fire. If such were not the case, would the Lord Mayor suggest to the board the desirableness of adopting that course as an additional means of preserving life? The Lord Mayor promised to have the matter brought before the Fire Brigades Board. He also said he would enquire why the police ambulance could not be accommodated at the Police

Court buildings, Victoria-square. If it were not possible to do so at present he would request the authorities in the interest of public safety to provide such accommodation at once.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 10 April 1920, page 11

HOUSE CURTAINS BURNT.

A small fire occurred at the home of Constable William Lawrence, 240, Wakefield-street, on Friday evening. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade extinguished the outbreak after a dress basket and curtains had been destroyed. A 15-year-old boy who was passing the house at the time of the outbreak heard the cries of three children and pluckily entered the building and rescued them.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 28 April 1920, page 2

POT OF PITCH UPSET.

A pot of pitch was upset in Kither's Building. King William-street. on Wednesday morning. The flames set alight to the flooring in the dental surgeries being prepared for Messrs. Lipman's. The Fire Brigade effected a prompt save.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 28 April 1920, page 8

FIRST AID AT FIRES.

Recently Councillor Pullin drew the attention of the Adelaide City Council to the first aid facilities in connection with the fire brigade, and at the meeting of the council on Tuesday a letter was read from the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr. E. Frinsdorf) stating that enveloping rugs were not carried on fire appliances, but that all appliances were supplied with salvage sheets, which could be used as effectively as enveloping rugs. All station officers and foremen in charge of appliances had passed the St. John Ambulance examination and were qualified to give first aid to the injured. All necessary first aid equipment was carried on each of the board's appliances. In every instance where the necessity had arisen first aid had been rendered by the board's officers, and the injured persons had on different occasions been conveyed by or under the brigade's supervision to the Adelaide Hospital or the nearest hospital.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 11 May 1920, page 7

BEDDING ON FIRE

On Monday afternoon a fire was discovered in an upstairs bedroom at Mr. Treleaven's fish shop, King William-street south. It was caused by bedding having come into contact with a naked light. The flames were promptly extinguished by the fire brigade.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 3 June 1920, page 3

SMALL CITY FIRE.

A few minutes before 5 p.m. on Wenesday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to Dr. H. Martin's office, Conville Chambers, North terrace. Two reels were quickly on the scene, and the flames were extinguished before much harm was done. Only Dr. Martin's office and its contents were damaged

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 19 June 1920, page 1

FIRE IN HINDLEY STREET.

A GOOD SAVE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the furniture shop of Messrs. F. H. Ring & Co., 124 Hindley street, about 1 p.m. on Saturday. Hundreds of people rushed to the scene.

Admiration was expressed at the expert way in which the firemen ran out the hose to vantage-points in the two-story building and conquered the flames. The outbreak occurred in, and was practically confined to the basement of the premises. It is not yet possible to assess the actual damage by flame and water, but the brigade effected a good save. The caretaker of an adjoining shop stated that the fire broke out shortly after the premises had been closed.



State Library of South Australia - Hindley Street looking east [B 5161], Hindley Street, looking east . Taken at 2.50 pm on February 12, 1929 to show the traffic. Businesses depicted include Robert E Howie, A MaCrow and Sons Pty. Limited, Frank H Ring Furnishers, Smith tailors. 12 February 1929. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 53 and Acre 54 Collection

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 19 June 1920, page 1

"A SMOKY JOB."

FIRE IN HINDLEY STREET.

Shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Hindley Street alarm, where it was discovered that a fire had broken out on the premises of F. H. Ring & Co., furniture manufacturers. A huge crowd had been attracted to the scene, but there was nothing picturesque to satisfy the curious. The blaze was confined to the basement, where considerable damage was done. Other portions suffered from the clouds of smoke. A few minutes sufficed to bring the blaze under control. As the brigade put it, 'it was a terribly smoky job.'

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 21 June 1920, page 9

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

A SMALL FIRE

At about 1 p.m. on Saturday the Fire Brigade received a call to the furniture showroom of Messrs. F. H. Ring & Co., 124, Hindley-street, near West's Coffee Palace. Owing to the prompt arrival of the brigade the outbreak was subdued before much damage was done. The fire started in the basement, and was confined to that portion of the premises. The caretaker of an adjoining property stated that flames were seen issuing from a basement window a few minutes after the premises had been closed for the day.



State Library of South Australia - Hindley Street looking east [B 5161], Hindley Street, looking east . Taken at 2.50 pm on February 12, 1929 to show the traffic. Businesses depicted include Robert E Howie, A MacCrow and Sons Pty. Limited, Frank H Ring Furnishers, Smith tailors. 12 February 1929. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 53 & 54 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 26 June 1920, page 9

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT A "FUN PARLOUR."

The "Fun Parlour" in Hindley street created a new diversion shortly after 11 o'clock on Friday night, at which hour the Metropolitan Fire Station received a call to the premises. A crowd of about 300 people quickly gathered to witness the fire, which was characterised by heavy clouds of smoke. The whole building was well alight when the brigade arrived, and there seemed grave danger of the spread of the flames to adjoining proper-ties. Owing to the prompt response made by the brigade, however, a splendid save was effected. The brigade was under the direction of Chief Officer Dickie, and had the use of all the available appliances from the head station, while the out stations were "standing by." The building and contents were seriously damaged. The premises are owned by Messrs. Watts and Burden, who conduct their business in the front of the shop, while the rear part of the building is occupied by Messrs. Belcher & Blackmore, dentists.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 2 July 1920, page 7

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT AN HOTEL.

Excitement was caused shortly after 9 o'clock on Thursday night when smoke was seen issuing from the top of Mr. J. H. Flannagan's Imperial Hotel, at the corner of Grenfell and King William streets. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was soon at the scene of the blaze, and the

flames, which had attacked the rafters of the roof, were quickly extinguished. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Monday 5 July 1920, page 1

FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY.

The South Australian Fire Brigade will hold a demonstration at the headquarters station (weather permitting) on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Exhibitions of fire drill, life-saving, with big ladder and jumping sheet, gymnastic displays, and general turnout as for a fire call of all appliances, should form a splendid entertainment for visitors. Admission will be by silver coin, and the whole of the proceeds will be donated to the aid of Mrs. Collings and Mrs. Greene, whose husbands lost their lives at the disastrous fire in King William-street on March 23.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 13 July 1920, page 2

AN ALARM OF FIRE.

As part of the scheme of illumination of the Town Hall last evening magnesium flares were projected through openings in the top of the tower at the Town Hall. These gave off dense volumes of smoke, creating a realistic impression of a burning tower. Unfortunately the effect was too faithful, and a cry of "fire" was raised. The brigade were summoned, and after threading through the densely packed crowds arrived at the Town Hall to find that their services were not required. When people realised what was being done in the tower they enjoyed the situation. The crowd changed rapidly, however, and about three-quarters of an hour later a similar call was made on the brigade. Fortunately their services were not required.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 14 July 1920, page 10

FIRE AT AN HOTEL.

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the Brecknock Hotel, King William street south, at 10.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The firemen had a difficult task in suppressing flames which issued from one of the chimneys.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 15 July 1920, page 6

EXCITEMENT FOR NOTHING.

The clanging of bells and the whirring of racing motor engines caused great excitement in Grenfell street on Wednesday evening. It was the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and it pulled up outside the Imperial Hotel at 8 o'clock. Soon many curious people surrounded the appliances. They had seen considerable volumes of smoke issuing from the roof of the hotel or from immediately behind that building, as seen from Grenfell street. When the brigade arrived, however, the smoke was no longer visible, and after a brief inspection of the neighbouring buildings, the brigade returned to headquarters, while the people discussed the occurrence, and then went away.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 24 July 1920, page 2

TRAMCAR "FIRE."

In King William street on Saturday, about 1 p.m., an electric tram car became enveloped in smoke. It was diverted into Currie street, and an officer of the Trust summoned the Metropolitan Fire Brigade which soon smothered the outbreak with chemicals. A wheel box had become heated, but little damage resulted.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 24 July 1920, page 2

ELECTRIC CAR ABLAZE.

As the result of a fuse box ignition on a combination car bound citywards from Hindmarsh shortly before 1 o'clock to-day flames commenced to issue from underneath the car by the time it reached the city. It was found necessary to side-track the car into Currie Street, and the services of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were called in to extinguish the outbreak.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 29 July 1920, page 2

KING WILLIAM-STREET EXPLOSION.

REPORT BY DR. HARGREAVES

Following on the fire which occurred in a restaurant in King William-street south in March last, caused by an explosion of methylated spirits, by which six persons lost their lives, the City Council caused enquiries to be made with a view of taking action to prevent a repetition of such a practice. At their request the Director of Chemistry, Dr. Hargreaves, prepared a report, setting out the dangerous nature of the spirits, and the council has approached the Government with a request that this article be included in the Inflammable Oils Act.

The Town Clerk, in a letter to the Secretary of the Local Government Department, Adelaide, dated July 28, says:—"I have the honor to refer to the tragedy which occurred in the restaurant in King William-street, Adelaide, in March last, where the explosion of a tin of methylated spirits caused six persons to lose their lives, and to inform you that the Director of Chemistry was asked to submit a report for the information of my council, stating what action he would re-commend being taken to bring under the notice of the public the great danger involved in using methylated spirits in view of the fact that the Commonwealth Government had given instructions to the effect that methylated spirits for industrial purposes should contain 2 per cent. of either coal tar naphtha, shale naphtha, petrol, gasolene, petroleum, benzine, shale benzine, or petroleum naphtha; and for what was termed 'mineralised spirits,' the use of as much as 20 per cent. of ben-zine. It was understood that as the result of these instructions methylated spirits has become highly dangerous to use. The Director of Chemistry submitted a report on July 6, in view of which the council directed that an endeavor should be made to have "methylated spirits" included in the Inflammable Oils Act, 1908. An advertisement will also be inserted in the meantime, warning the public of the inflammable nature of the spirits. I am directed to ask that the Government will give this matter early consideration with a view to giving effect to the council's wishes.

The Expert's Report.

The report of Dr. Hargreaves, which is addressed to the town clerk, Adelaide, reads thus:—

With reference to your letters of April 10 and June 15, dealing with alcohol methylated in accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth Trade and Customs Department, I may state that for methylation the addition of petrol, benzine, or coal tar naphtha has been required for many years. The recent statutory rules, 1919, No. 69, require the alcohol to be of strength at least 60 deg. over proof, and to be methylated by the addition of 1 per cent. of wood naphtha, half of 1 per cent. of pyridine, and 2 per cent. of either coal tar naphtha or shale naphtha, or petroleum naphtha, or petrol, or gasoline, or benzine.

There is a proviso that what is known as "mineralised spirits" may be made containing from 2 to 20 per cent, of benzine, but such spirits are for special uses, and are not sold in the ordinary way as "methylated spirits." The danger, therefore, that arises from the ready inflammability of ordinary methylated spirits is no greater at the present time than it has been for years past. Nevertheless, methylated spirits containing only 2 per cent. of benzine is a more inflammable substance than was the methylated spirits of pre-federation days.

Pure spirits of the same strength as methylated spirits (63 per cent. O.P.) have a flash point of about 60 deg F., and some samples of methylated spirits have flash points of about 60 deg. F., but other samples of methylated spirits, containing more inflammable methylating substances have been found to flash as low as 40 deg. F. The flash point of methyl alcohol,

which is contained in wood naphtha, is 32 deg. F., and acetone (another constituent) is very inflammable, while the petrols, benzines, and naphthas flash at temperatures lower than the freezing point of water.

All the substances, therefore, which are required by the Customs to be added to alcohol to methylate it tend to lower the flash point and increase the inflammability. In other words they tend to make the risk of fire or explosion much greater than would otherwise be the case.

At present methylated spirits are not included in the Inflammable Oils Act, 1908, so that they can be stored in unlimited quantities, and there are no restrictions on the handling, transport, and storage.

As methylated spirits will probably come into more extended use as fuel for motor cars and internal combustion engines, there may be considerable danger in its uncontrolled use, and this danger will be increased if there is added to the spirits highly inflammable material, such as ether.

The only action that I can suggest to the council is that of giving a general warning (conveyed in the press and by posters) as to the inflammable nature of methylated spirits, and by a general education of the public in support of the principle of including methylated spirits in the same category as petrol, benzine, and the lighter types of kerosine.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 4 August 1920, page 5

The Motoring World.

07273, 07274, 07275.—Fire Brigades Board, Adelaide, Ford Trucks.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 18 August 1920, page 10

A SMALL FIRE.

The Fire Brigade received a call at noon on Tuesday to the premises of Mr. Sym Choon, a fruiterer, in Rundle-street east, where a large quantity of fireworks under the counter was alight. The flames were quickly extinguished, but not before Mrs. Choon had her eyebrows and hair sightly scorched.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 18 August 1920, page 4

"WAR" IN RUNDLE STREET.

Loud and continued reports in the eastern end of Rundle street on Tuesday morning made people in the vicinity imagine that a small war had begun. Investigations showed that a large quantity of fireworks, stored under the counter in Sim Toon's greengrocery establishment, had, as a result of spontaneous combustion, become ignited, and crackers, "wheels," and rockets made merry play for several minutes. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was notified, and upon the arrival of a machine a blaze was quickly extinguished. Little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 25 August 1920, page 8

FIRE IN A BEDROOM.

A fire broke out on Tuesday at the residence of Mr. H. Crafter, a motor driver, at Gilbert street, Adelaide. Mrs. Crafter was at the back of the house when smoke was observed issuing from a bedroom. The fire brigade was summoned and quickly subdued the flames. Furniture, bedding, and clothing in the room were considerably damaged. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 4 September 1920, page 3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SATISFIED FIREMEN.

From D. R. ROBERTSON:— On behalf of the whole staff of the South Australian Fire Brigade I wish to thank you for the assistance tendered us through your paper in our recent claim for better conditions, which is now satisfactorily settled, quite realising that without your help we would not have been in our present position.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 September 1920, page 2

FIRE IN CHEMIST SHOP.

In response to a telephone message early this evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade answered a call to an outbreak of fire on the premises of Mr. W. Wasteil, chemist. King William street, City. On arrival the place was enveloped in smoke, due to the window curtains becoming ignited. The outbreak was promptly extinguished.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 13 September 1920, page 4

On Saturday evening, about 7.30, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Mr. W. Wastel, and proceeding to the spot found the place full of smoke, the result of the burning of some window curtains. The fire was quickly extinguished, and little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 15 September 1920, page 10

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At about 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Hurtle square to a shop occupied by Mr. A. Keith. It was found that a lighted candle which had been placed on a chest of drawers ignited a cover on which was a child's celluloid doll, and set fire to the contents of the piece of furniture, slightly damaging them.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 15 September 1920, page 2

CELLULOID

DANGEROUSLY INFLAMMABLE.

In response to a call from the Hurtle Square Fire Alarm at 7.30 on Tuesday evening, the Metropolitan Brigade turned out to the shop premises of Mr. A. Keith. It was found that a lighted candle had come in contact with a chest of drawers cover, on which was lying a celluloid doll. This set things alight, with, the result that some damage was done to the contents of the bedroom.

The seriousness of this lies not so much in the lighted candle as in the celluloid doll, and as it is not universally known that celluloid is one of the most inflammable of substances. A warning to the public in that respect will not be inappropriate. Lieutenant-Colonel Fox, of the London Salvage Corps, speaking at the International Conference of Professional Fire Chiefs, at Bradford, England, stated that there should be legislation, making it a criminal offence to manufacture, store, or sell children's toys made of this material. The fires which had broken out in consequence of the storage of this stuff had been of most horrible description. Those of the members of fire brigades who had had the misfortune to see the bodies of those destroyed by fires caused by this frightful substance would note that it was time the regulations governing its manufacture storage and use were made most drastic. He agreed that there might be a necessity for using celluloid in making certain delicate instruments, but for general use such things as children's toys, haircombs, &c., it was so dangerous that it ought not to be used. He also mentioned the dangers of indiscretly storing and handling cinematograph film. Celluloid, when once alight, burns with marvellous rapidity, and great care should be taken in handling it near an exposed flame.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 14 October 1920, page 7

EARLY MORNING BLAZE.

Hyde Park Grainmill Burnt.

Between the hours of 4 and 5 o'clock on Wednesday morning, the well-known grainmill, situated at the extreme end of the Hyde Park electric car terminus, was destroyed by fire. At about half-past 4 o'clock Mr. John Maxwell, who lives opposite the structure, was awakened by a crackling noise. He saw that the mill was on fire, and immediately notified the Unley Fire Brigade. Evidently the building must have been burning for some time, as, when the firemen arrived, the whole place, with its contents, was a mass of flames from end to end. Two motor reels from Adelaide were also summoned. On the north side was a house occupied by Mr. Belcher. The flames began to lick across, but a liberal supply of water prevented any more damage than blistered window frames and fascia boards. The pressure of water was powerful. Mr. James Mansfield, who lives at Church street, Upper Mitcham, is the owner. The cause of the blaze is unknown. The insurances, which are with the New Zealand Insurance Company, are as follow: —On the building, £265; stock, £590; and machinery, £735.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 16 October 1920, page 2

FIRE IN THE CITY.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade in response to a telephone message to-day answered a call to an outbreak of fire on the premises occupied by Mr. Ingleby, a toymaker, of Hanson Street City. The shop and contents were badly damaged. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 21 October 1920, page 1

FIRE IN WAKEFIELD-STREET

A fire was discovered at the Central Picture Palace, Wakefield-street, at 3.30 a.m. on Thursday, and before it was extinguished damage estimated at about £250 was done. One dressing-room was destroyed, and the prompt action of the fire brigade prevented the flames from spreading. A neighbor, Mrs. Quinn, who had risen early in order to prepare breakfast for her son, saw the reflection of the flames from her window, and her son, at once went to the fire station and gave the alarm. He then ran back, prised open a door, and admitted the firemen, who effected quite a good "save." The management assure us that notwithstanding the unfortunate occurrence they will be able to hold a show this evening as usual.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 6 November 1920, page 6

FIRE IN THE CITY.

About 12.53 a.m. to-day the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the King William-street alarm to a small fire in a shop in Gresham-place, off Hindley-street. The outbreak was soon under control, and not much damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 6 November 1920, page 2

SMALL FIRE.

Shortly before 1 o'clock this morning, in response to a telephone message from Mr. Horace Duncan, of the Gresham Hotel, the fire brigade attended a small fire at the Van Dyck Studios in King William Street. Little damage was done in the upstairs portion, but the water got into the part below occupied by the Adelaide Sweets Depot. The origin is unknown.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 12 November 1920, page 4

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

At 11.58 on Thursday night the Fire Brigade was called by telephone to King William street, where it was found that a motor car owned by Mr. A. E. Terry and driven by Mr. G. Davies,

was on fire. The fire had started by a naked light being brought into contact with petrol while the tanks was being filled. The car was severely damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 12 November 1920, page 9

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

About 11.58 p.m. on Thursday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was informed by telephone that a motor car driven by Mr. G. Davies, was on fire, petrol vapor having come into contact with a naked light while the petrol tank was being filled. The brigade turned out and extinguished the flames. The car was seriously damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 12 November 1920, page 8

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR CAR ABLAZE.

Shortly before 12 o'clock on Thursday night a motor car owned by Mr. A. E. Terry and driven by Mr. G. Davies caught on fire in front of the King's Theatre, King William street south. The blaze was caused by petrol vapour coming into contact with a naked light, while the tank was being refilled. The flames were extinguished by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, but not before the car had been considerably damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 13 November 1920, page 10

A CITY FIRE.

A stir was caused in the city shortly before 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon, when it was noticed that buildings, situated off Victoria street, owned by Mr. Buttery, and occupied by Messrs. Davis, Browne, and Co. as a bulk store, were ablaze. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade were summoned and eventually the flames were extinguished. The fire is stated to have been caused by a spark from a motor car. The building and contents were insured with the Queensland Insurance Company for £1,000 and £1,500 respectively.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 13 November 1920, page 2

A SMALL FIRE.

The kapoc department of Messrs. Davis Browne's establishment, in Victoria place of Hindley street, was the scene of a fire which occurred shortly after 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon. The fire was discovered by an employe named Ferman, and the brigade was informed. The firemen were quickly on the scene, and soon had the fire under control. A large quantity of kapoc and flock was destroyed. The building and contents were insured in the Queensland company for £2500.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 15 November 1920, page 4

FALSE ALARM.

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call from Frome road at 5.45 on Sunday evening. A motor brigade was dispatched, but there was no fire and the alarm appeared to have been maliciously broken.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 17 November 1920, page 7

HINDLEY STREET FIRE.

A small fire at the premises of L. Conrad in Hindley street was responsible for the appearance of the brigade in that thoroughfare at 9.15 o'clock on Tuesday night. A bag of shavings on the balcony had, in some unknown way, become ignited. The burning shavings were thrown on to the road, and the firemen extinguished the flames.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 November 1920, page 9

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

A SMALL FIRE.

About 7.42 p.m. on Saturday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Messrs. A. W. Dobbie & Co.'s premises, Featherstone-place off Gawler-place. It was found that some oil barrels were on fire. The blaze was extinguished before any serious damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 22 November 1920, page 6

FIRES AND A GOOD SAVE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade had three calls on Saturday, but to only minor conflagrations. At about a quarter to 8 in the evening it was summoned to Featherstone place, off Gawler place, Adelaide, to the premises of Dobbie & Co., where an oil engine and a number of oil barrels were damaged. Previously, the firemen had attended outbreaks in Young street, Parkside, and Waymouth street, Adelaide. A fire of more serious possibilities occurred at Haussen's Brewery, Richard street, Hindmarsh, at five minutes to 10 on Saturday night. Damage to the extent of about £100 was done to the liquor boiling room, but the department next to it accommodated more inflammable contents, and the effective work of the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade, consisting of 23 men under Deputy Superintendent Wakefield, prevented the spread of the flames. It was considered to be "a good save." There was a gang of men employed at the brewery at the time of the fire.



State Library of South Australia - Haussen Brewery, Hindmarsh [PRG 631/2/346-347], Views of the Haussen Brewery in Hindmarsh. 1911. Photographer, Gall, Ernest. Part of Hindmarsh Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 3 December 1920, page 8

FIRE IN RUNDLE STREET.

At about 10.30 on Thursday morning a fire occurred in a shop occupied by Mr. Charles Junker, 280 Rundle street. Mr. Junker was looking for a bolt, when the light from the candle, which he was using, caught on to a shelf. The fire brigade was called, and little damage was done beyond a quantity of toys being destroyed. The stock was insured for £600 in the Ocean Accident Insurance Company.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 4 December 1920, page 8

ADELAIDE FIRE BRIGADE APPLIANCES.

When seen on Friday with reference to the statement by Sir Raymond Dennis, that the fire-fighting appliances in Adelaide are out of date, and the city by retaining them in commission is not adequately protected against the spread of fires, the chairman of the Fire Brigades Board

(Mr. E. Frinsdorf) said the equipment was by no means obsolete, and compared very favorably with what was to be found in the capitals of the other States, with the exception of the big ladder, which was admittedly not so high as was desirable. Within recent years considerable improvements had been in-stalled, and an efficient motor service had superseded the horse-drawn appliances previously used. The head stations had had its Merryweather motor pump for about 10 years; but it was still working most satisfactorily, and had given excellent results at big fires. The Government were putting down larger water mains in Adelaide as quickly as possible, and it was expected that when this work was completed pumping would not have to be resorted to. Under present conditions it was rarely that the pump had to be used. He did not think it had been necessary to employ it in Adelaide since the big fire at Burford's soap and candle works in February, 1919, but it had been used to extinguish an outbreak in a ship's hold at Port Adelaide. Negotiations had been proceeding for some time for securing an up-to-date fire float at Port Adelaide, and it was hoped that it would be installed next year. The present was not the proper time to buy expensive machinery if they could manage without it. There was no urgent need to "scrap" appliances that were proving capable of meeting all requirements. Underlying the criticism by Sir Raymond Dennis appeared to be the fact that the Adelaide Fire station was not using his firm's make of engine.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 11 December 1920, page 38

TRAGIC HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK.

FIRE IN A SHOP.

With the aid of a candle, Mr. Charles Juncken, manager of the Australian Tinware Manufactory, 280, Rundle-street, was searching in the shop for a bolt at about 10.30 a.m. on December 2, when the candle set fire to a shelf. The flames quickly spread, and the Fire Brigade was called. A portion of the stock, which was insured with the Ocean and Accident Company for £600, was damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 15 December 1920, page 5

Registrations of Cars The following are the latest registrations of cars, lorries, &c, granted by the South Australian Registrar of Motor Vehicles (Mr. P. H. Wells) :

Fire Brigades Board, Adelaide, 22.5 Ford truck. 08488.