

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1921

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 1 January 1921, page 1

SMALL FIRE.

Sgt. Wilkin reported to the Watchhouse authorities that at 1.30 this morning smoke was noticed issuing from the fan-light of the main door of the Ritz Soda Fountain, at 110 King William Street. The brigade was communicated with, and when the door was burst open the mat was found well alight, and a small hole burning in the floor. The flames were quickly extinguished and little damage resulted.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 1 January 1921, page 2

GRENFELL STREET FIRE

GOOD SAVE.

DAMAGE BY WATER PREVENTED.

To-night was one of the last evenings that a fire might be expected, but excitement was caused in Grenfell Street shortly before 7 o'clock by the appearance of the brigade. In response to a telephone message the firefighters attended at Commercial Buildings, French Street, nearly opposite Harris, Scarfe's, where it was discovered that a blaze had broken out on the third floor. The place was full of smoke. The firemen tackled the portion of the premises occupied by Hunter, Davey, and Co., tailors, where the contents were scorched and burnt. Then attention was given to G. R. Ridge & Co., agents and carriers. Just below these offices was the wholesale drapery store of Mr. H. R. James. To prevent damage by water the firemen covered up the materials with waterproof sheeting. This was the means of preventing hundreds of pounds of damage.

Subduing the outbreak proved an extremely dirty and difficult undertaking, and the brigade were working on it for a couple of hours. The operations were under the personal supervision of Chief Officer Dickie, and there was no doubt the brigade made a remarkable save. The premises are situated in a most dangerous position from a firefighting point of view. The motor pump stood by, while all the salvage gear and two first motors were brought into requisition.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 1 January 1921, page 6

HEAVY YEAR FOR FIRES.

During 1919 there were 439 calls at the stations in connection with the South Australian Fire Brigades Board. That was a record for the State, and an increase of 32 over the previous highest total. The term ends on December 31 at midnight. At noon yesterday the chief officer of the Metropolitan Brigade (Mr. J. E. Dickie) stated that the calls to that time for this year had been 404. There were 19 stations in various parts of the State, one having been added during the past 12 months— for Balaklava, to operate from January 1. The staff for the State was 144 of all ranks, and of them 39 were at the head station in Adelaide. Among the most noteworthy fires for 1920 were those at a fish shop and restaurant in King William street south (through which half a dozen persons lost their lives), Darling's Mill and The Advertiser bulk store at Port Adelaide. McEwin's Jam Factory at St. Peters, the Star Picture Theatre at Stepney (where three firemen were injured through the collapse of the roof), and Holden & Frost's, while there were several serious outbreaks at Wallaroo and Port Pirie. Mr. Dickie was typically modest when questioned concerning the merits of the work of the brigades. Good saves? Well, the firemen preferred to leave an expression of opinion on that matter to the public! It is generally recognised that in their arduous and dangerous duties the members of the brigades have rendered excellent services, and effected many fine saves, and to all of

them the thanks of the community is well merited and is, as a matter of course, heartily extended.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 3 January 1921, page 5

FIRE IN ADELAIDE

BRIGADE EFFECTS GOOD SAVE.

At 6.53 p.m. on Saturday the Metropolitan fire brigade received a call to attend a fire in French street, off Coromandel street, which runs between Grenfell and Pirie streets just east of Gawler place. The brigade was quickly on the spot, and discovered that Commercial buildings were alight in the third and fourth floors. An entrance was made by forcing the doors, and lines of hose were soon playing on the burning premises, which had generated an intense heat. The fire appeared to have been burning some time, and had gained a great hold on the third floor in that portion of the building occupied by Messrs. Hunter, Davey, & Co., tailors.

It was some time before the flames were subdued, and the contents of this portion of the building were totally destroyed. Several firemen were overcome by the heat and smoke. After subduing the flames on the third floor the firemen turned their attention to the fourth floor, which is occupied by Messrs. G. Ridge & Co., general carriers and agents, and soon had the fire under control. The first floor of the building is occupied by Mr. H. R. James, a wholesale draper, and the premises were well stocked with valuable goods. The prompt action of the brigade in spreading salvage sheets over Mr. James' stock prevented serious damage being done by water. Commercial Buildings is situated in a busy block, where the buildings are closely packed, and the quarter is regarded as a "block risk" by the fire brigade authorities, Had the fire passed beyond the Commercial Buildings the whole block to Pirie street would have been endangered. The full strength of the brigade stood by in the rain in view of the serious possibilities. The fire brigade authorities are of the opinion that the fire started on the fourth floor and travelled downward. At a late hour on Sunday night no particulars were available as to the full extent of the damage or the amounts of insurance covering the damaged premises and stock.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 8 January 1921, page 2

SMALL CITY FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 2.56 this afternoon to the premises of Messrs. G. P. Harris, Scarfe, and Co., in Grenfell Street. The brigade turned out promptly, and discovered that a fire had started in the paint department, but little damage was done.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 10 January 1921, page 4

A SMALL FIRE.

The metropolitan fire brigade received a call on Saturday afternoon from the sprinkler at Harris, Scarf, & Co., Gawler place. On arrival the brigade found a small fire in the paint department. This was quickly extinguished and very little damage was done.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Wednesday 12 January 1921, page 5

FIRE IN THE CITY

SMART SAVE BY BRIGADE.

About 9.15 p.m. on Tuesday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to attend a fire that had broken out in the basement under the shop of Sharples Brothers, printers and stationers, of 98 Hindley street. The fire was first noticed by a lad named Basil Young, aged 13, who resides at No. 2 Miller street, off Waymouth street. The brigade was quickly on the spot and extinguished the flames, which were confined to the front portion of the basement. The

windows of the shop were cracked as a result of the heat and water, and practically all the glass front between the window floor and the pavement was destroyed. The full extent of the damage could not be ascertained.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 13 January 1921, page 8

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to a wood-and-iron shed at 167 Flinders street, City, occupied by Mr. E. C. Butler, a tinsmith. Upon arrival it was found that a blaze had begun owing to a pot of Brunswick black either having boiled over or fallen off a stand, but the flames had been extinguished before the brigade reached the place. Only minor damage resulted. In attempting to check the progress of the flames. William Nancarrow, a youth, living at Malvern, was slightly burned on the right arm and the left side of the face.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 15 January 1921, page 38

FIRE IN HINDLEY STREET.

SHARPLES BROS.' PREMISES AGAIN DAMAGED.

For the fourth or fifth time within the last few years the premises of Messrs. Sharples Bros., printers and stationers, 98, Hindley-street, were the scene of a fire on Tuesday evening. At about 9.15 o'clock a boy, Basil Young, noticed flames issuing from the basement in the front of the shop, and he ran to an alarm near by and called the brigade. Two motor conveyances responded and the firemen arrived so quickly that they were able to confine the outbreak to the basement. Had the fire secured a good hold, the adjoining buildings would have been seriously endangered. The flames, which could be seen from King William-street, originated in the book-binding department where a quantity of valuable paper and finished and partly completed books were stored.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 15 January 1921, page 12

EARLY MORNING FIRE.

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call by telephone at about 1.30 a.m. on Friday from Mr. Maiden (manager of the Sir John Barleycorn Hotel) to No. 86 Rundle street, known as Midway Buildings. The brigade were promptly on the scene, and extinguished the flames, but not before rooms occupied by Mr. R. Habib, an importer, had been gutted.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 15 January 1921, page 2

CHIMNEY ABLAZE.

The City Fire Brigade in response to a call at 3.30 this afternoon attended to an outbreak of fire at the Grand Coffee Palace in Hindley Street. On arrival it was found that one of the chimneys was ablaze. The firemen promptly extinguished the outbreak.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 22 January 1921, page 39

A CHIMNEY ON FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 3.42 p.m. on Saturday to the Grand Coffee Palace, Hindley-street, where the alarm had been given on account of flames making their way up the main chimney. The firemen used a chimney pump and any danger was soon averted.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 22 January 1921, page 19

THE FIRE BRIGADE THANKED.

Last week a fire broke out in the early morning right in the business centre of Rundle street. The Fire Brigade were on the scene within two and a half minutes of receiving the call from the Barleycorn Hotel opposite. A resident at the hotel said the blaze was so big that he expected the whole block to go. It was a wonderful save and the owner of the premises has written to the Fire Brigade Board thanking them for their promptness and fine work. He incidentally remarked that he was satisfied that one gallon of water at the right time was better than a ton of water five minutes late.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Thursday 27 January 1921, page 2

Local and General

Road catches Fire.

A road afire is a novel sight in any part of the world, and it is not surprising that residents of sleepy Hilton, a hamlet just west of Adelaide, who were near the spot, rubbed their eyes in astonishment when they saw smoke rising from the woodblocked road which leads to the place. A section of the road close to a culvert was ignited and the fire brigade was called to subdue the flames. It is surmised that the fire had been smouldering for several days.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 1 February 1921, page 1

EARLY MORNING FIRE

FACTORY DESTROYED,

The furniture factory of Messrs. Cox and Cameron, a wood and iron structure, in Eli-place. between Gilles and Halifax streets, was destroyed, and a confectionery factory, conducted by Mr. W. A. Blackeby, was severely damaged by a fire which occurred at an early hour on Tuesday morning. The premises were leased from Mrs. Keingunther, of Gilles-street, and were insured. The alarm was given at 12.48 a.m., and the Metropolitan Brigade turned out in full force. By that time, however, the fire had a very strong hold and there was no hope of saving the place. The flames shot up to a great height, and gave rise to considerable excitement and alarm in the locality. From houses in Gilles-street immediately at the rear of the doomed structure the occupants removed their belongings into the roadway for safety. All danger of the blaze spreading, however, was soon averted. The establishment of Messrs. Cox and Cameron's was insured with the Sun Company for £100, and Mr. Blackeby's premises were covered for £400 with the L.O.A. Company.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Tuesday 1 February 1921, page 1

CASUALTIES.

SMALL FIRES.

Two fires occurred in the metropolitan area on Monday afternoon. At about 20 minutes after 2 o'clock the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Messrs. McLaurin Bros., grocers and bakers, of Nottingham avenue, Keswick. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. Slight damage resulted to the building, and the contents of the bakehouse were destroyed. The shops were insured for £910, and the bakehouse for £105. At 3.40 o'clock a small blaze broke out at 152 North terrace, Adelaide, in a workroom used by Mrs Maddern for dressmaking purposes. The place was insured for £350, and the damage was estimated at £50.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 28 February 1921, page 2

FIRE BRIGADES

CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT.

In his annual report of the work done by the South Australian Fire Brigades for the year ending December 31, 1920, the chief officer, J. E. Dickie, states:—

The brigades received and attended 412 calls to fires, being an decrease of 27 as compared with the preceding year. Calls are classified as follows:—Serious damage, 16; considerable damage, 45; slight damage, 106; grass and rubbish fires, 53; chimney fires, 25; justified alarms, 15; line faults, 56; and malicious false alarms, 96. The following is a comparison with the year 1919; an increase of six fires of serious damage, an increase of one fire of considerable damage, an increase of two fires of slight damage, a decrease of 11 grass and rubbish fires, an increase of three justified alarms, a decrease of three chimney fires, a decrease of one line fault, and a decrease of 24 malicious false alarms.

Inspections.—Two inspections of country and one of city and suburban stations was made; also theatre, hospital, building and hydrant inspections have been made during the year. Notices were served for the removal of any inflammable material which was considered to be dangerous to the adjoining properties in case of fire, which were complied with.

Theatre Duties.—6403 duties have been carried out during the year by the theatre auxiliary staff, which is an increase of 1130 compared with the previous year; also a fireman has been on duty at the continuous places of public entertainment during all performances. The staffs of the various theatres, &c., have been periodically drilled and instructed in the use of the fire appliances installed. The hydrants, hose, and chemical extinguishers have been inspected, the hose tested, and extinguishers recharged before licenses have been granted or renewed.

Staff.—The strength of the brigade is 99 permanent firemen, 15 auxiliary fire-men, and 34 theatre auxiliary firemen, a total of 148 officers and men of all ranks.

Brigade Surgeon.—During the year 1920 the brigade surgeon (Dr. L. J. Pellew) examined the whole of the metropolitan and suburban staff, with the result that four members were found to be medically unfit to continue in the service. In addition to this some 50 candidates for firemen were examined, and several cases of sickness in the staff were attended, the most serious case being appendicitis, for which a successful operation was performed. The number of days men were off duty through accident and sickness was 537 as compared with 792 days during the previous year.

Plant.—Motor hose carriages have been installed during the year at Port Pirie, Kapunda, Moonta, and Kadina; a motor utility van has been installed at the head station. The repairs to plant, &c., have been efficiently carried out by the staff in the brigade workshop. The whole of the plant is in good order and condition.

Stations.—Renovations and repairs to station buildings have been carried out by the staff, and are all kept in good order.

Fire Alarms.—Thirty-six additional fire alarms have been installed during the year, viz., 16 at Norwood, 16 at Wallaroo, two at Glenelg, and one each at Thebarton and Port Pirie, making a total of 304.

Appliances, &c.—During the year 48,000 feet, equal to over nine miles, of hose was used at fires, and the approximate distance travelled by the appliances attending calls was 905 miles.

Discipline.—The discipline and general efficiency of the brigade has been satisfactory.

The officers and members of the police force, the Waterworks Department, and the Electric Supply Company rendered valuable assistance to the brigade during the year. My thanks are due to the officers and staff for their co-operation and the efficient manner in which they carried out their duties during the year.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Friday 4 March 1921, page 1

BLAZE IN HINDLEY STREET.

Early Morning Outbreak.

The Fire Brigade received a call at 1.45 o'clock on Friday morning to Hindley street, and on arrival it was discovered that a blaze had broken out in a portion of the establishment of L. Conrad, in Victoria-street. Large quantities of fat and other inflammable articles materially helped to feed the flames, but the smart and efficient work of the brigade officers soon got the conflagration under. The packing room, which is at the rear of the building was not damaged, but the smoke house was burnt to the ground. Other apartments on the same floor, including the spice room, the paper store room, the carpenter's workshop, and the storeroom for old documents and books were burnt, and the contents of the rooms practically destroyed. The hydraulic lift was damaged, as were the tanks in which small goods were kept. Although the cooking room did not suffer to any great extent, the doors and rafters caught alight, and the lunch room was burnt down. The first floor and the roof of the building were gutted, and the walls only remain. Fortunately the firemen were able to attack the flames from all sides, and thus confine the water to the interior sections of the building where the outbreak occurred. It is not known how the fire started.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1921, page 2

A DAY OF FIRES

WOMAN BADLY BURNED.

SERIES OF OUTBREAKS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade had a busy time to-day. At 10.51 a.m. it received a call to a private dwelling at Rosetta Terrace, Walkerville, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. W. Gray. The stables and coachhouse, together with the contents, were totally destroyed, and Mrs. Gray was badly burned. The outbreak is said to have originated from some rubbish which was burning next door. The fire occurred outside the protected area of the fire district.

The second fire broke out shortly after 6.30 this evening, at the electric supply depot of Messrs. Unbehau & Johnstone, Gawler Place. The outbreak was notified to the Metropolitan Brigade from a fire alarm and by telephone message from the Oriental Hotel, and four appliances, under Chief Officer Cooper, were dispatched. On arrival of the firemen, dense clouds of smoke were issuing from the front of the shop, and the flames had a substantial hold in the back storeroom, where a considerable quantity of electric light apparatus was stored. However, the firefighters quickly gained control and succeeded in confining the outbreak to the store, and in about an hour had subdued the outbreak. The whole of the contents of the store were destroyed, and the heat of the blaze did much damage to an adjoining showroom leading into the front office. The origin of the outbreak is unknown. The contents of the building were insured with the Palatine Office. The rear portion of the storeroom of Messrs. Varcoe & Co. was also damaged by the fire.

Still another call was received by the brigade, which at 8.19 to-night turned out to a fire in a house occupied by Mrs. E. V. Smith, in Robert Street, City. No serious damage was done, only portion of the kitchen ceiling being charred.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 12 March 1921, page 5

FIREMAN'S FAREWELL.

Members of the Fire Brigades, Wakefield Street, gathered together on Friday evening to bid good luck to one of their late comrades, Fireman G. C. Saunders, who has left to take up duties in another department of the Government service. He was presented with a gold medal from the officers and men as a token of esteem.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 16 March 1921, page 1

FIRE ALARMS.

An Offender Punished.

The City Fire Brigade, as well as the various suburban brigades, have been from time to time annoyed by false alarms on the part of stupid persons. The practice has become frequent lately, and the vigilance of one constable at least has at last been rewarded by the capture of one of the culprits. At the Adelaide Police Court on Wednesday morning (before Mr. T. J. S. O'Halloran, S.M., and justices) Ebenezer M. Kilsby pleaded guilty to a charge of having, at Southwark, on March 15, unlawfully given a false alarm of fire. Constable Parkinson, in giving evidence of arrest, said he had been on the lookout for such offenders for some time, as the brigade had been several times called out on false alarms. Kilsby was fined £3, and 15/ costs.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Friday 18 March 1921, page 2

FIRE AT COACHBUILDER'S.

As John Harris was passing the premises of J. A. Laughton & Son, coachbuilders, North terrace, about 9 o'clock on Thursday evening, he saw that they were in flames, and he immediately summoned the fire brigade. Men and appliances were quickly on the spot, and they set about extinguishing the fire, which had broken out in the workshop. Before the flames were quelled the workshop, in which a large quantity of timber, paint, and oil was stored, was practically gutted.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 18 March 1921, page 7

A CITY FIRE.

At North Terrace West.

The clanging of the firebell arrested the attention of those in the centre of the city, at about 9 o'clock on Thursday evening, and the motor appliances of the Metropolitan Brigade were observed dashing along North terrace, where a tell tale glow appeared towards the western end. The trouble was located at the premises of Messrs. J. A. Lawton & Sons, a spacious collection of buildings, ancient and modern, with entrances on North terrace and Fenn place. It was from Fenn place that the conflagration was first seen, and the magnificent work of the Fire Brigade, under Deputy-Chief G. P. Cooper, confined the damage to the coachfoundry portion of the premises. The axle department escaped, and stacks of valuable seasoned timber were also saved. It is too soon to estimate the damage. When The Register went to press the fire was still smouldering. The business of Lawton and Sons, established in 1865, is now carried on by the five sons of the founder, and they have also a factory at Kilkenny. Coach-building, motor engineering, steel foundry work, and axle making are among the industries plied by this firm. An insurance is effected with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

—A Narrow Escape.—

When the brigade reached the spot, flames were already visible. Before firefighting could be begun two big double doors in Fenn place had to be attacked, and their panels chopped through. Then, with the aid of two hoses from North terrace hydrants, and one in Fenn place, a good play of water was maintained. In the side street survives part of the oldest section of the city, and the five little houses which it contains had a narrow escape. Had there been a strong wind—fortunately the night was calm—the fire might have crossed the narrow street, and the result would have been disastrous.

—Dangerous Work.—

Inmates of the houses crowded to their doors waiting for a signal to pack up their possessions, but, happily, none came. People in all garbs lined the bystreet, and hung out of upper story windows. Even a local dog performed his part by rushing up to a hose and treating it as though it were a snake. The police, as usual, did their part, under Sgt W. D. Stuart, in assisting at the critical time. Although the conflagration lacked obviously sensational

details, it carried its attendant dangers none the less. When some of the firemen were on the ladders, a live wire made itself forcibly felt; and, again, glass was shattered by the action of heat and cold water, and pieces flew about at all angles. When the blaze was at its worst, at about 9.45 p.m., the eastern side of the building presented a dangerous spectacle, with tongues of flame licking the edges of the roof, and writhing in and out of gaps in the iron wall, which was red hot.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 19 March 1921, page 38

CITY FIRES.

GAWLER-PLACE BLAZE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades had a busy time on Saturday when three calls were made on their services. The second was by far the most important, and the work of the firemen resulted in the saving of much valuable property. The call was sent to the central station at 6.34 p.m., from the fire alarm near the Oriental Hotel, and also by telephone message. All the appliances of the station were dispatched to Gawler-place, where it was discovered that the flames had a strong hold upon the electrical supply store, of which Messrs. Unbehaun & Johnstone are the proprietors. The seat of the fire was a storeroom at the rear of the shop proper, from which a dense smoke was pouring out. Chief Officer Cooper concentrated his attack here, and succeeded in confining the fire to the one store. When the flames were extinguished it was found that the contents of the storeroom had been completely destroyed, and that the goods in the showroom had been damaged considerably. The fight occupied the best part of an hour, during which time thousands of people congregated. The traffic was much hindered, and the crowding did not tend to assist the firemen in their work. One of the best features of the fight was that only superficial damage was done to the premises of Messrs. Varcoe & Co., wicker workers, whose premises are next door. Had the fire got a hold there the inflammable nature of the raw material and finished goods would have led to a much more serious blaze. The cause of the outbreak is not known.

At 10.45 a.m. the Metropolitan station received a call to a fire at Rosetta-terrace, Walkerville, where the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Gray was on fire. The North Adelaide appliances were sent to the house, and after some little trouble succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The rear premises of the house and their contents were destroyed. It is believed that the fire was caused by sparks flying from a burning rubbish heap in an adjacent yard. Mrs. Gray was badly burned in this fire.

The third call was the least serious. The brigade turned out at 8.19 p.m. to a house occupied by Mrs. E. V. Smith, at Robert-street, City, where a fire in the kitchen charred portion of a ceiling before it was controlled.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 19 March 1921, page 2

CURRIE STREET FIRE.

The City Fire Station received a call at 10.30 this evening to an outbreak of fire on the premises of Messrs. Thomas Hardy & Sons, wine merchants, Currie Street. The fire originated in the back portion of the building. The prompt response of the brigade resulted in the flames being soon under control.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Saturday 9 April 1921, page 4

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At 8.20 p.m. on Friday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to a court yard in Twin street, at the rear of Ezywalkin's boot shop and Dell's blouse factory. The brigade reached the yard within three minutes of the call and discovered a pile of rubbish ablaze against a wood and iron shed containing goods belonging to the Colonial Rubber Co., whose store is an Twin street. The flames were quickly subdued. Investigation gave rise to a suspicion that an

endeavor had been made to burn the shed down. There were a number of packing cases in the court yard and a quantity of straw. One of the cases and some straw had been dragged across the court yard and placed against the shed. But for the prompt arrival of the brigade the consequences might have been serious, as the spot where the fire occurred is the centre of a busy block.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 21 April 1921, page 5

FIRE IN THE CITY.

About 12.45 p.m. on Wednesday a fire occurred in a two storey wood and iron building in Mocatta place, off Churchill street, City occupied by Mr. Silas Wilson, an agent for chemical goods. The fire brigade quickly arrived on the scene, but despite their good work, the building and contents were destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is unknown, but it is supposed to have started in the lower portion of the building. Mr. Wilson was on the second storey at the time. It is believed that the building, which was owned by Mr. Higgins, of West terrace, was insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 22 April 1921, page 12

FIRE IN A SHED.

The fire brigade were called at about 11.20 p.m. on Thursday to the residence of Mr. A. Stevens. Whitmore-square, where a fire had broken out in a woodshed. The shed and contents were slightly damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 22 April 1921, page 7

SMALL CITY BLAZE.

Shortly after 11 o'clock on Thursday night the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called to a blaze which had broken out in a shed utilized by Mr. A. Stephens in the south-eastern corner of Whitmore square. Owing to the smart response of the firemen the flames were extinguished before much damage resulted. The shed is the property of Mr. A. Byrne, who resides at 72 Whitmore square.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Friday 22 April 1921, page 1

MOTOR WORKS ABLAZE

Estimated Damage, £1,000.

As the result of a fire which broke out early this morning in the Sampson motor and cycle works, it is estimated that damage to the extent of £1,000 was incurred. The brigade received a call to the premises, situated on the corner of Pulteney and Pirie streets at 3.5 a.m. and quickly had the flames under control. The outbreak was confined chiefly to the up-stairs workshop, where a number of motor engines and push cycles were stored. The cause of the conflagration is unknown. The stock was insured with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Limited.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 26 April 1921, page 8

SMALL CITY FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 5.45 p.m. on Monday to a fire at 150 Rundle street. They found dense volumes of smoke issuing from the Lewis boot store. The firemen effected an entrance by forcing the front door, but were driven back temporarily by the overpowering smoke. They located the fire in the basement, in which was a large and valuable stock. The outbreak was soon under control. The extent of the damage could not be ascertained on Monday night.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 5 May 1921, page 7

SMALL FIRE.

Shortly after 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening, a small fire broke out at No. 6, Landrowna terrace, Victoria square, Adelaide, occupied by Mrs. M. Donovan. Little damage resulted to the property, only the curtains, a blind, and a chair having been burnt. The Adelaide Fire Brigade were summoned, but the flames were extinguished before they reached the scene.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 7 May 1921, page 3

PIECART DESTROYED.

In the early hours of this morning a piecart owned by Mr. Donohue, and stabled in the yard of Mr. J. W. Brooks, baker, of Angas Street, Adelaide, was gutted by fire. The Metropolitan Brigade was summoned and extinguished the flames, but the vehicle was destroyed except the wheels.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 17 May 1921, page 7

IMPROVEMENTS AT FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

For many weeks alterations to the central station of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade have been in progress, and they are now nearly completed. The appliances of the brigade are mainly motor-propelled, and horses are used only for the ladder and steam engines. Therefore, as the hose carriers and one pump, which have to travel to a fire with the utmost speed, required more room in the main hall, the stables, a relic of the days when pure-bred horses were relied upon for the quick transit of firemen and appliances, have been removed, and the floor space has been increased by 730 square feet, giving a total area of 2,760 ft. The columns supporting the upper floors have also been replaced by steel girders. While the alterations have been in progress the motor reels and engine have been accommodated in the workshops at the rear, and the brigade has not been in any way hampered in responding to alarms. In connection with the alterations, a new "strip board" with 200 pairs of wires has been installed, and later it is proposed to extend the watchroom. More than 100 alarms are linked up to the head station, and the outstations are also connected. Further, the central station can speak to outstations from every alarm.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Saturday 21 May 1921, page 19

FIRE IN GRENFELL STREET.

About 2.50 a.m on Saturday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the rooms of M. Maurice Byrn, situated above the Queen's Hall, Grenfell street. The outbreak was extinguished, but not before the rooms and their contents had been severely damaged.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Monday 23 May 1921, page 2

Fire Destroys a House

ADELAIDE, Sunday.

A wood and malthoid residence of five rooms, owned by N. Scott, Marion road, South Plympton, was completely destroyed by a fire which broke out shortly after six o'clock last night. The dwelling was unoccupied at the time. Mr. Scott was removing from it, and had taken one load of furniture away during the morning. The remainder of it was destroyed. How the outbreak originated is not known. The property was valued at about £500.

Two fire brigade stations were communicated with, but no assistance was sent.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 13 June 1921, page 10

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

FIRE IN MORPHETT-STREET.

The presence of mind of two children saved a big blaze in a vacant shop in Morphett-street, opposite the Overway Hotel, on Friday, about 6 p.m. There were some papers in the shop, which in some unknown way ignited. The children rushed in and extinguished the fire. In the meantime the fire brigade was called, but the blaze was out when they arrived.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 9 July 1921, page 37

A WAVE OF CRIME.

CAUSED BY FOUR YOUTHS.

A SHOP SET ON FIRE.

When Councillor Cain recently asked questions at a meeting of the Adelaide City Council regarding the police supervision of Adelaide, it was not generally known that a serious wave of crime had swept over the city. The frequency with which reports of shopbreaking cases reached the police caused considerable alarm. The robberies were committed in such a daring manner that it appeared as though a well-seasoned gang of criminals was at work. Within six weeks over 40 business houses had been entered and money and goods to the value of close on £300 stolen. At the premises of the Lewis Shoe Company, in Rundle-street, the intruders deliberately lit a fire in the basement after pouring kerosine over a stack of goods. The damage caused by the blaze was estimated at £500. The mystery, for that is what it had developed into, was not solved until some weeks later, and the credit of clearing up the crimes is due to Plainclothes-Constable Harrell. As the result of his observations, three lads, who had been employed at the Adelaide Co-operative Stores, were arrested and goods found in their possession were discovered to be the property of the Stores. This led to the apprehension of a fourth boy, and then the "cat was out of the bag." The operations of the quartet within the past month or so were searchingly enquired into by the constable, to whom they admitted having been responsible for nearly all of the cases reported. At first they denied having been concerned in the affair at the Lewis boot shop, but eventually the full story was obtained from them. Two of the lads were 15 years old, and the others were 17 and 16 respectively. They lived in different localities, and used to meet near the Government offices in Victoria-square in the evenings, usually at week-ends and on holidays. Arming themselves with points bars stolen from trains or tramway emergency boxes, they would go to the rear of a shop and prise the door open with their "jemmies." From some places they made good hauls, principally cash, but from others they took nothing. The Lewis Boot Company's shop was visited by two of the lads on Sunday, April 24. They were the youngest of the party, and one had formerly been employed at the shop. He knew his way about the place, and when the back door had been forced open he secured a key to unlock a door which barred their way. A till was forced open and £1 in cash removed and several pairs of boots and a kitbag were also taken. The former employe had a "set on the boss," so he said, and on the following day (Anzac Day) he and his mate returned to the shop with the object of setting it on fire. A box of matches was purchased at the Lone Hand refreshment shop, nearby, and some kerosine was obtained from a storeroom at the rear of the boot company's premises. In the basement a large quantity of footwear and broken cases were piled into a heap, and the kerosine poured over them. After a match had been thrown on the pile the lads went away and waited. As the fire had not made as much headway as they desired, they went back to the basement and poured more kerosine on the flames.

Then they rushed out, and proceeding into Rundle-street, mingled with the crowd which watched the Fire Brigade at work. Those two young criminals are now in the reformatory, and the other two have been bound over to be of good behaviour for 12 months. The record of the four is a formidable one. They admit having broken into the premises of Messrs. Cain & Co., Arcade; Messrs. Unbehau & Johnstone, Gawler-place; Messrs. W. T. Matthews and Co., Grenfell-street; Mr. A. J. Rowe, King William-street; Mr. H. Tassie, off Rundle-street; Messrs. J. V. Lawton and Co., off Rundle-street; Messrs. W. R. Mendham & Co., off Rundle-street; Messrs. A. A. Cox & Co., off Rundle-street; Mr. C. W. Gosling, Rundle-street; Messrs. J. Bullock & Co., Rundle-street; Messrs. J. N. Taylor & Co., Grenfell-street; Messrs. Copping &

Macfarlane, Rundle-street; Messrs. E. Wallis & Co., Hindmarsh-square; Messrs. Craven & Co., Rundle-street; Mr. E. T. Collins, Grenfell-street; Messrs. Silbert, Sharp & Bishop, Rundle-street; Messrs. Johnson & Sons, Grenfell-street; Andrew's Photo Store, Arcade; the Military Drill Shed, South-terrace; Ezywalkin, Ltd., Rundle-street; State Supply Stores, Rundle-street; National Clothing Co., James-place; Harrington's, Ltd., Rundle-street; Allan's, Ltd., Rundle-street; John Evans, Ltd., Rundle-street; Ellis, Ltd., King William-street; Birks, Ltd., Rundle-street (three times); Balfour, Bricknell, Ltd., Rundle-street; South Australian Fruit Co., Grenfell-street; Saunders' Motor School, Hindmarsh-square; the C. J. Young Shoe Store, Rundle-street; and W. H. Bruce, Ltd., Grote-street. They also attempted to break into the premises of Mr. N. Whillas, in Gouger-street, and the Public Service Stores, in Flinders-street. Three of the party, while employed at the Adelaide Co-operative Society stole goods, about £25 worth of which have been recovered.

Constable Harrell has received honorable mention in the "Police Gazette" for his efforts in clearing up these crimes.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 2 August 1921, page 8

A FIRE IN KING WILLIAM-STREET.

The Metropolitan Brigade received a call to the premises of Mr. Anderson Potter, in King William-street, at about 11.25 p.m. on Monday, and found a small fire in the basement, which contained various bags and packets of seeds. Only slight damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 2 August 1921, page 5

SMALL CITY BLAZE.

At about 11.25 o'clock on Monday night the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called to the premises occupied by Mr. J. Anderson Potter, florists, at 49 King William street, where a fire had started in the basement of the shop. It is thought that the blaze may have been caused through a lighted cigarette having been dropped through a hole in the prism light on the footpath. Little damage resulted.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 10 August 1921, page 9

A SMALL CITY FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Comley's ham shop in King William street, Adelaide, at about 4.45 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. On arrival it was found that a small fire had broken out, and had been caused by fat which had boiled over on a stove. The flames were quickly extinguished, and no damage was done to the property.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 19 September 1921, page 4

CASUALTIES.

A CITY FIRE.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Ackland street, city. A fire had begun in a bedroom of a seven-roomed house opposite Hill and Co.'s stable. Nobody was in the house at the time, and the outbreak would have been serious but for the prompt work of the brigade. Little damage was done. The origin of the fire is not known.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 24 September 1921, page 39

A CITY FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call on Saturday at 6 p.m. to a fire which had broken out in a seven-roomed house in Ackland-street. A good save was made by the brigade, which had the blaze under control in a few minutes. The house is owned by Mr. Lillecrapp, and occupied by Mrs. Livikki. It is supposed that smoking in bed was the cause of the fire.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 20 October 1921, page 8

CASUALTIES.

A SMALL BLAZE.

At about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a telephone call to proceed to a blaze at Messrs. Bollen & Martin's motor school and electricians' premises at Hindmarsh square, Adelaide. It was believed that the fire was caused by an electric heater coming into contact with a wooden bench. The brigade arrived in time to prevent what would probably have been a considerable blaze. Only minor damage resulted.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Monday 31 October 1921, page 1

Nurse Dies from Burns

ANOTHER NURSE INJURED SEVERELY.

ADELAIDE, Sunday.

A shocking burning fatality occurred last evening at the rear of Narma Nursing Home, South terrace. As a result Miss Isabel Lunas (a probationer nurse,) aged 18 years, has died at the Adelaide Hospital, and Sister E. R. Uren, R.R.C. (matron of the private hospital, is suffering from shock and severe burns.

Miss Lunas was conveyed to the hospital, where it was seen that her condition was precarious. She remained unconscious from the time of her admission until she died, shortly before midnight. All her clothing was burnt. She had been injured by fire all over the body. The limbs and hands of Sister Uren were severely burnt.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. The metropolitan fire brigade received a call to the home at 7.15 p.m., and discovered a fire in a long wood and iron shed at the rear of the hospital, utilised as a storehouse for furniture and wood.

Nurse Lunas apparently had occasion to visit the shed, but owing to her unconscious condition and the collapse of Sister Uren, it was impossible to ascertain what started the fire. Miss Lunas became completely enveloped in flames. Members of the fire brigade rendered first aid to the victims, and did everything possible to relieve their suffering.

Mr L. W. Lawrence, who was passing at the time of the occurrence, stated that he heard a noise which resembled an explosion. Then he saw a flame and heard a piercing scream. He ran through a lane leading to the back of the home. He was horrified to see Miss Lunas wrapped in flames a few yards from the burning building. She fell unconscious. Snatching some clothing, which was on a line near by, Mr Lawrence threw it over the body of the girl. At the same time another man rushed out of the hospital with two blankets, and placed those on the nurse. Sister Uren was quickly on the scene, and it was during her efforts to rescue the nurse that she was burnt.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 31 October 1921, page 7

BURNT TO DEATH.

Tragedy at a Nursing Home.

Distressing circumstances were associated with the death of Miss Isobel Lunniss, aged 18, a probationer nurse at the Narma Nursing Home, South terrace, on Saturday night. She had been at the home for 10 or 12 months. At about 7.15 o'clock she went to a shed in which were stored furniture and various other articles, to secure some kerosine to fill the night lamps. The shed is about 30 paces from the rear of the hospital, and abuts on to Delhi street. Before going out Miss Lunniss obtained some matches from the maid. Shortly afterwards an explosion was heard, followed by a scream, and the nurse rushed out of the shed enveloped

in flames. She had proceeded only about 10 paces when she collapsed. Sister E. R. Uren made an attempt to save the girl, and was followed into the yard by about half a dozen other people. Bedclothing was secured, and Miss Lunnis, whose clothes had been entirely burnt off was wrapped in them. Her injuries extended all over her body and limbs and she was unconscious. Sister Uren sustained burns on the hands and arms. The shed was burning fiercely and the Fire Brigade had to be summoned to extinguish the flames. Dr. Gunson was called and ordered the girl's immediate removal to the Adelaide Hospital whither she was taken on a fire engine. She died at about 10 p.m. without having regained consciousness. The shed was gutted. A kerosine tin was found in the shed with the bottom blown out. Mr. A. W. Campbell told Constable Gehert that he was in his back yard in the vicinity of the hospital where he saw the nurse in a sheet of flame in the middle of the yard. Blankets were procured, and the girl enveloped in them. Sister Uren had fainted, and was lying close to Nurse Lunniss. Sister Uren was suffering from burns and shock on Sunday, but her condition had very much improved. The deceased girl was a daughter of Mrs. S. Stringer, who lives at Torquay street, New Glenelg. The City Coroner has been informed.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 31 October 1921, page 4

HOSPITAL TRAGEDY

NURSE BURNED TO DEATH

MATRON SUSTAINS INJURIES

A fatal burning accident occurred at the Narma Nursing Hospital, South terrace, on Saturday evening, the victim being Nurse Isobel Lunnis (18) of Torquay street, New Glenelg. The nurse, who is employed on the staff of the institution, went to the storeroom for something when an explosion occurred and her clothing was set on fire. Serious burns resulted, and the victim was removed to the Adelaide Hospital, where she died at 10 p.m.

Constable Gebert, in a report to the city watchhouse, stated that the fire occurred in a shed used for storing furniture and wood adjoining Delhi street. When he arrived on the scene, the Fire Brigade, under Officers Griffin and Sayers, had the outbreak under control. The constable was informed by Mr. A. W. Campbell that he was standing in a backyard in the vicinity of the home between 7 and 7.30 p.m., when he heard a scream, and saw a glare of fire in the hospital yard. He then noticed something burning in the middle of the yard. He investigated and found a young probationer nurse standing in flames. He cried "For God's sake get some blankets and help her out of this." Blankets were obtained, and the fire subdued, but the unfortunate young woman had been almost completely denuded of her clothes.

The matron of the private hospital, Sister E. R. Uren, R.R.C., had her hands and arms severely burned in attempting a rescue, and is also suffering from shock. She was found in a fainting condition lying near the young nurse.

Nurse Lunnis was taken to the hospital in an unconscious condition, an improvised bed being placed on a fire brigade vehicle, as no ambulance was readily available. The unfortunate young woman never regained consciousness.

The origin of the fire remains a mystery, the hospital staff being ignorant of the cause. The shed, which was gutted is some distance from the main portion of the hospital, and the inmates were never in danger. So far as known no inflammable materials were kept in it. At the present time brick additions are being made to the rear of the premises, and contractors' materials are lying in the vicinity.

To extinguish the fire the services of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were requisitioned. The call was received about .15 p.m., and the fire in the wood and iron building at the rear was quickly extinguished. First aid was given to the victims until the arrival of Dr. Gunson, who

ordered the removal of Nurse Lunnis to the Adelaide Hospital. The mother of the deceased is Mrs. Stringer, of Torquay street, New Glenelg.

Describing the fatality, Mr. L. W. Lawrence, who was passing at the time, said he heard a noise resembling an explosion, saw a flame, and heard a scream. He saw the nurse in flames and helped to throw some clothing over her when she collapsed. Sister Uren and others assisted, and it was during these operations that the matron sustained her injuries. Only on Wednesday last Matron Uren was decorated at Government House by the Governor with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for services rendered at the war.

The coroner has been informed. It has been ascertained that the deceased shortly before the tragedy went to fill a night light, and asked a maid for a box of matches. It is believed that vapors from a nearby empty kerosene tin might have ignited as the bottom was blown out of a tin.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 31 October 1921, page 7

A BURNING ACCIDENT

SENSATION AT A PRIVATE HOSPITAL

SAD DEATH OF A YOUNG NURSE

A dreadful burning accident occurred on Saturday evening at Narma Nursing Home, South-terrace, and resulted in the death of Miss Lunnis (18), a probationer nurse, and in injuries to Matron E. R. Uren, who pluckily went to the young lady's assistance. Miss Lunnis who had been on the staff of the institution about a year, was on duty at 7.15 and it is supposed that she was going to prepare a small hand lamp, or lamps, for use during the night. She asked a maid in the kitchen for a box of matches, and then went to a large iron shed, about 30 paces at the rear of the main hospital building. The shed, which abuts on to Delhi street, was used for storing furniture, wood, &c., and the portion which Miss Lunnis entered is known to have contained a quantity of kerosine in a tin standing on the floor. A few moments after she went to the shed there was a fierce burst of flame through the open doorway, and agonised screams were heard. Miss Lunnis with her clothing on fire from head to feet, ran out of the blazing structure, but had gone only about 10 paces in the direction of the main building when she collapsed. Efforts were made to smother the flames with blankets and wraps hurriedly obtained, and it was in doing all she could to succor the unfortunate girl that Matron Uren herself sustained severe burns on the hands and arms. The glare of the fire and the calls for help created a sensation in the locality, and a number of the residents rushed into the grounds of the nursing home to give their assistance. The Fire Brigade responded promptly to a call and extinguished the fire in the shed in about five minutes. Most of the contents, however, were destroyed. Miss Lunnis, who had been terribly burned, was attended by Dr. Gunson, who ordered her immediate removal to the Adelaide Hospital, whither she was taken on a bed placed on one of the fire appliances. She remained unconscious from the time of her admission, and died shortly before midnight. All her clothing was burned, and the injuries extended all over her body and limbs. Miss Lunnis was a daughter of Mrs. Stringer, of Torquay-street, New Glenelg. She was bright and active, and very popular with members of the Narma staff and patients, to whom the deplorable circumstances of her death caused much distress. Matron Uren was reported on Sunday to be a good deal better, but, apart from the painful burns she sustained, she was suffering severely from shock. Only on Wednesday last at the Government House investiture, she received the insignia of a serving sister of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in recognition of her valuable service during the war. It was stated on Sunday that only a small quantity of kerosine was in the shed where the accident occurred and as far as was known, there was no other combustible fluid. The theory has been advanced that the intense heat of the day and the oppressive conditions inside the shed caused an explosive vapor to be thrown off by the kerosine, and that a match lighted by Miss Lunnis possibly came into contact with it. The bottom of the kerosine tin appeared to have been blown out.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 1 November 1921, page 8

FIRE AT HINDMARSH-SQUARE.

Shortly after 10 p.m. on Monday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were called to a small fire at the premises of Mr. J. W. Jones, plumber, at Hindmarsh-square east. The cause is unknown. A few bags of coal were damaged.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Wednesday 2 November 1921, page 1

A NURSE'S TRAGIC END.

EVIDENCE AT THE INQUEST.

In the quiet dusk of the evening, with a blazing building behind her. Probationer-Nurse Isobel Florence Edith Lunniss, whose clothes were on fire from head to foot, walked calmly across the yard of the Narma Nursing Home, South-terrace, towards the bungalow she had left only a short time before in the full health of her 18 years. She died a few hours afterwards in the Adelaide Hospital.

An enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the accident was held by the City Coroner, Dr. Ramsay Smith, on Wednesday morning, when all the witnesses, with the exception of Matron E. R. Uren, R.R.C., were examined. The matron, who is still in bed suffering from burns and shock sustained in her effort to save the life of Miss. Lunniss, will give her evidence at the adjourned inquest to be held on Wednesday next. Her interests on Wednesday morning were watched by Mr. E. Phillips.

Mrs. Emily Stringer, widow, living at 82, Torquay-street, New Glenelg, deposed that the deceased was her daughter. She was 18 years old, and was employed as a nurse at Narma Hospital, South-terrace. She was usually in good health.

Dr. James Edmund Mahon, qualified medical practitioner and resident medical officer at the Adelaide Hospital, deposed that the deceased was admitted to the institution shortly after 8 o'clock on the evening of October 29. She died the same evening. Death was due to shock. He did not admit the patient, and could not swear that death was due to burns. He did not see the body, as it was covered over and he did not like to disturb it.

Alfred Michael Griffin, station officer at the Adelaide Fire Brigade, deposed that a call was received at 7.15 on Saturday evening, October 29. The call came from the Narma Nursing Home. A store shed in the yard at the rear of the hospital was on fire. It was a structure of wood and iron. The brigade put out the fire. The whole shed was ablaze when the brigade arrived. The deceased was lying on a bed in the yard, and was being attended to by nurses. The only thing noticeable in the shed after the fire was extinguished was a strong smell of kerosine, but there were no remains of any kerosine. There was an ordinary tin that may have contained kerosine. At that time it was empty. He could not say what condition the tin had been in before the fire started. The jet would knock things to pieces there. It was not possible to form any opinion where or how the fire started.

Edith Mundy, single woman, and cook at the hospital, deposed that the deceased lived on the premises. The witness saw her about 7.15 on the evening of October 29. She came to the witness at the nurses' quarters, in the bungalow behind the hospital. The deceased asked for matches, and the witness asked what she wanted them for. She said, "To see to fill the lamps." The witness replied that it was rather late to be filling lamps. The witness gave her a full box of ordinary safety matches, and she went away. About five minutes later the witness heard an explosion, and rushed out. She saw the deceased alone in the yard. All her clothing on every part of the body was ablaze. The witness screamed and the matron came. The night was just getting dark, and the deceased was walking towards her. It was a quiet evening. She said nothing to the witness as to what had happened. It was, so far as witness knew, part of the deceased's duties to fill the lamps. They were small lamps, with ordinary flat, single wicks, and the tops had to be removed for filling. The deceased was accustomed to fill these lamps.

It was a custom to fill the lamps during the day time. The witness remarked about the lateness on this occasion, because it was unusual. They were shorthanded at the hospital. The kerosine for the lamps was kept in the storage shed, where the fire occurred. It was kept in an ordinary kerosine tin, and was poured out of a hole in the top, and not pumped out. It was poured into a small tin, and the lamps were filled from that. She did not know whether there was a lamp or a candle there that the deceased could have lighted in order to see to fill the others. There were small night lights, and three large lamps.

At this stage the Coroner adjourned the inquest for a week in order to allow of the attendance of the matron, Miss Uren.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Tuesday 15 November 1921, page 2

MOTOR VEHICLES TAX.

Question of Exemptions.

Further consideration was given in the Assembly on Tuesday to amendments made to the Motor Vehicles Tax Bill, by the Legislative Council, which struck out exemptions contained in the measure when it was passed by the Assembly. The Treasurer said he did not see why there should be any exemption from taxation on vehicles used by public bodies. For instance, the Abattoirs Board had 20 large motor vehicles.

Mr. Moseley—Road destroyers.

Mr. Crosby was opposed to exemptions, except for the Fire Brigade and the ambulance.

Mr. Hill believed the Abattoirs delivery Vans did more damage to the roads than any other vehicles. He was prepared to exempt the fire brigade, ambulances, and charitable institutions.

Mr. Reidy favored the exemption of charities.

The amendment by the Council was negatived, with the object of coming to an agreement in conference in regard to exemption.

Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), Thursday 17 November 1921, page 1

SMALL FIRES.

Shortly before noon on Thursday the fire brigade received a call to a workshop occupied by Mr. H. W. Langford, French polisher and enameller, Burnett-street, off Currie-street, but the services of the firemen were not required. The shop contained a quantity of furniture ready for polishing, and one article caught fire, and was thrown into the street, where the flames were promptly extinguished.

At about midday on Thursday the Thebarton fire brigade attended a fire that broke out in a heavily grassed paddock near the Adelaide Chemical and Fertiliser Company's works, Torrensville. Some fencing and a shed, besides the grass, were destroyed.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 18 November 1921, page 9

CASUALTIES.

FIVE ALARMS OF FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade usually looks for a rush of business whenever the mercury soars high. On Thursday it received five "orders" in the way of alarms, and turned out promptly. In no case, however, did the fires result in much damage. The two first calls, at 11.30 and 11.45 a.m. were to grass fires respectively on the south parklands and at Bellingham street, Thebarton. At the last mentioned time another call from Currie street took a unit of the brigade to the premises of a French polisher, Mr. H. W. Langford, where slight damage had resulted to some furniture through a blaze consequent on the upsetting of a

methylated spirit stove. At 1.12 p.m. a loud explosion and suspicious vapours caused an alarm at the premises of Mr. E. A. Saunders, Arcade, Rundle street. The firemen found on arrival that nothing worse than the bursting of a cylinder of a soda fountain had occurred—a fire-extinguisher itself had there been a blaze that needed attention. A message from Glenelg soon afterwards reported a somewhat similar occurrence at 12.33 p.m. at the chemist's shop of Mr. W. Patterson, Jetty road. In this instance the explosion of some liquids in bottles started a small fire which slightly damaged the dispensary.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 29 November 1921, page 9

A SMALL FIRE.

At about 4.45 p.m. on Monday smoke was noticed issuing from the premises in Pirie-street occupied by the Commonwealth Tent Factory. The fire brigade was notified, and upon arrival discovered that a fire had broken out under a counter in the front of the shop. The flames were quickly extinguished. Only slight damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 29 November 1921, page 6

SMALL FIRE IN PIRIE STREET.

Constable Arnold reported to the City Watchhouse authorities on Monday, that at 4.45 p.m. that day, he noticed smoke issuing from premises in Pirie street, occupied by the Commonwealth Tent Factory. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was notified, and upon arrival found that a fire had begun under a counter in the front portion of the shop. The flames were quickly extinguished. Only slight damage resulted.

Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923), Wednesday 30 November 1921, page 1

CITY FIRE.

AT AUSTRAL GARDENS

At about 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday a fire broke out at the Garden Theatre, Austral Gardens. The conflagration was first noticed by a young lady employed at the headquarters of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League. With the assistance of kind friends, she endeavoured to extinguish the flames by the use of a garden hose. Their efforts, however, were unavailing, and by the time the Metropolitan Fire Brigade arrived the fire had done much damage. The flames were then soon mastered, but not before the stage, stage settings, and orchestral instruments were almost entirely demolished. It was a spectacular sight as the flames leapt right to the roof. The orchestral piano was reduced nearly to ashes, and a grand piano, which was on the stage, suffered little less. The various instruments belonging to the jazz drummer suffered a like fate. The management of the English Pierrots is endeavouring to secure temporary premises for the entertainment.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Thursday 1 December 1921, page 3

STAGE BURNT OUT

PIERROT COMPANY'S LOSS.

Owing to the unfortunate destruction by fire of almost the entire stage at Austral Gardens shortly after 1 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, the English Pierrots have been forced to discontinue temporarily.

The fire which broke out apparently in the orchestral stall, was first noticed by some members of the adjoining Returned Soldiers' Club, who immediately phoned for the fire brigade. The flames then had a good hold, and most of the inside part of the stage, the scenery, curtains, furniture, dressings, and the piano were rapidly being consumed. The firemen, however, were remarkably punctual. The directors of the company expressed their gratitude at the expeditious work of the firemen who extinguished the fire in about ten minute.

—The Cause.—

It is supposed that the fire was caused by an electric fuse exploding in the orchestral stall. The main structure of the stage is not badly damaged, only the drapings, costumes, and equipment being burned. All the orchestral effects, including the piano, were destroyed, and another grand piano was slightly damaged.

The premises, which are owned by the Austral Gardens Theatre Company, and leased by the English Pierrot Company, are insured, but the loss to the Pierrot Company will be about £600. The directors, however, state that they will be able to recommence the show next Saturday.



State Library of South Australia - Austral Gardens open air theatre [B 68328], Austral Gardens open air theatre, operated from 1915 to 1931 located behind Ayers House [Was known as Austral House] showing facade, stage and seating area. Approximately 1920. Part of Acre 30 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 3 December 1921, page 9

A CITY FIRE

COLD STORE DESTROYED

HARD FIGHT BY THE BRIGADE

Wyatt-street, a commercial thoroughfare between Pirie and Flinders streets, was the scene on Friday evening of a destructive fire involving a substantial brick building of three stories and basement, mainly occupied as a cold store by Messrs. O. Heysen & Son, wholesale produce merchants. A portion of the basement was leased to Messrs. A. E. Hall & Co., produce merchants, and was used by them for storing hams, bacon, cheese, and goods of a like nature. The outbreak was discovered about half-past 6 by an engineer in the employ of Messrs. Heysen & Son, who, after he had made unsuccessful efforts to extinguish it by means of a small hose, sought the help of the fire brigade.

There was a complete and prompt turn-out from headquarters in Wakefield-street, but by the time the appliances had reached the threatened building only a few hundred yards distant the flames had secured a strong hold on all three stories, and were leaping from the top windows overlooking Wyatt-street, as well as from the roof. A tremendous volume of smoke was carried over adjacent parts of the city by a strong wind, which was accompanied at intervals

by driving showers. Ladders and hoses were speedily brought into operation, and the fire was attacked with great vigor on the floor, rear, and southern sides. The northern side was a long blank wall, but the work of the brigade was facilitated on the south by a lane, which also gave access to the back portion of the premises. Much of the internal fittings of the cold store consisted of highly inflammable material, and on the top floor was a large quantity of empty wooden boxes, which burned like tinder. After a hard fight for an hour or more the fire was got under control, but it was considerably longer before the flames were entirely quenched. By that time the building was practically gutted, though some parts of the floors and roof were kept from falling by timber which, though badly charred, was strong enough to carry the weight. The fire started on the ground floor at the rear, near the engine room, where a gas-producer engine was at work on the refrigerating plant. At the time Mr. E. C. Redfern, the engineer, was having his tea. He expressed the opinion that the fire was caused by a bearing of the engine having run hot. Being unable to cope with it with a small hose he ran to the Fire Brigade Station. The seat of the fire in the first place was the refrigerating-room for egg pulp and butter, the insulation, being 16 in. wooden walls packed with shavings. From there the flames spread to the floor above, used as chilling rooms for cheese, butter, eggs, poultry, and meat, stored with Heysen & Son by various retailers. On the top floor, which was also soon ablaze, there were in addition to the empty boxes a margarine plant and other machinery. The high wind blowing fanned the flames and to some extent accounted for the rapid spread. The principals of the firm are Mr. Otto Heysen, of Fifth-avenue, East Adelaide, and his son, Mr. Eric Heysen. Both left the premises about 6 p.m., and Mr. Heysen, sen. was at his home when he received information by telephone that smoke was issuing from the building. He at once hurried to Wyatt-street, where he expressed astonishment at the rapidity with which the flames had apparently spread from the ground floor to the roof, and from back to front. The building was erected only five years ago. Although the internal havoc was so great, the solid brick walls withstood the fire and they appeared to be little damaged. Mr. Heysen said during the height of the fire he was afraid of the flames finding their way to the condensing apparatus, because the ammonia under the action of heat would have given off fumes highly dangerous to the firemen, who would have been driven away. The efforts of the brigade were successfully concentrated on the protection of the threatened plant. Although the fire was so distinctive in the building it is probable that a quantity of the stock valued at many thousands of pounds in the refrigerating chambers will be salvaged. The contents of the portion occupied by Messrs. A. E. Hall & Co., as well as of other parts of the basement, were thought to have been little damaged by fire, but the tremendous volume of water poured upon the flames in the upper stories soaked through to the underground rooms and detrimentally affected the stock. On the northern side of the building is a large galvanized iron structure, occupied by Messrs. A. C. Burchell & Co., farriers and veterinary-surgeons from which 12 horses were removed by Mr. L. W. Anderson. Some of the animals were with difficulty led out, as they had become terrified by the smoke and the sound of the fire. On the premises of Mr. J. T. Nestor, oxywelder, a large generator had a narrow escape from destruction. Water was played on it with hoses, as there was a danger of the combustion of 200 cubic ft. of acetylene gas. The building in which the fire occurred was owned by Messrs. Heysen & Son, and with its contents, was insured with the Western Assurance Company. Mr. Heysen said he did not think the full extent of his loss would be covered. Mr. Heysen states that business will be carried on as usual, except for the cold storage.



State Library of South Australia - Wyatt Street [B 36851], Wyatt Street, east side, right side of building is 41 yards north of Flinders Street and frontage is 18 yards. 1979. Photographer, State Library of South Australia, Part of Acre 231 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 5 December 1921, page 5

PRAISE FOR THE FIRE BRIGADE.

From W. A. WATSON:— I wish to place on record an appreciation of the work done by the Fire Brigade on Friday night at Wyatt street. This is the first occasion on which I have been near enough to see the energy and fine disregard of personal danger that go to the making of a fireman. It is hard to connect the laughing fellows we see lounging around the station with the men who fight the fire; and I should like them to have heard the remarks of the crowd, when one young man was seen standing on a narrow wall, outlined against the smoke and flames, hacking at a sheet of iron. I heard one man say, "I wouldn't take it on for £100;" and another, "They couldn't do more if they owned the bally place." To the uninitiated it seemed that all the buildings in the neighbourhood must be burnt, and it is wonderful to find that the damage has been confined to one establishment.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Monday 12 December 1921, page 4

A SMALL FIRE.

F.C. Patten reported to the City Watchhouse at 8.20 p.m. on Saturday that the Fire Brigade had been called about 6.50 p.m. to Ezywalkin's shop, Rundle street. Some packing cases were afire, and were quickly put out. The doorways of Ezywalkin's and Messrs. Gooden's were badly charred. No other damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 14 December 1921, page 12

FIRE IN THE CITY.

At an early hour on Tuesday morning, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Percy Court, off Gilles-street to a house, owned by Mr. H. Madge, of Jetty-road, Glenelg. The

building was used as storehouse for furniture, and the contents were destroyed. The damage is estimated at £200.

Daily Herald (Adelaide, SA : 1910 - 1924), Tuesday 20 December 1921, page 2

FIRE BRIGADE CALL.

On Monday night, at 10.57 o'clock, the fire brigade received a call from Hindley street to an outbreak in a house occupied by Miss Gertie Stone, a blouse maker and owned by Mr. A. H. Harris, agent, of Kent Town. The brigade soon had the fire under control. Slight damage was done to some bedding. The cause of the fire was unknown.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 30 December 1921, page 5

FIGHTING THE FLAMES.

A Successful Year's Work.

The success of a fire brigade is gauged, not only by the number of fires it puts out, but by the conflagrations it prevents, and, judging it from this standpoint, the Adelaide Brigade has had a most successful year. From several aspects Adelaide is better off than many others, in so far as coping with outbreaks is concerned, for to most of the big blocks there is splendid access from both front and rear; there is an excellent water supply available; the mains are, as a rule, of a satisfactory size, and, up to now, the buildings have not come within the category of "sky scrapers." Then, again, there are not in Adelaide many of what are technically known as "block risks," and those that do exist are always given special surveillance and care. During the year there has been practically no reduction in the number of calls to the stations, for the total up to date is just over 400, compared with 412 last year. Where the improvement is noticeable, however, is in the few bad fires which have occurred. Of the calls a large number have been "fake," and as many more have been of a minor character. Several caused anxiety to the officials, but, luckily, in each case it was possible to restrict the fire to the portion of the building where it started, and adjoining blocks, which were in jeopardy, were saved. There were really only two outbreaks of major importance in the City of Adelaide, the first being at Commercial Buildings, French street, off Pirie street, and the second the recent blaze at Heysen's cold storage works, in Wyatt street. Either of these might have caused a great deal of damage.

—Pirie Fire.—

All the brigades of the State come under the Central Board, and the reports furnished to that body from time to time show that by far the most destructive fire of the year was that which occurred at the Port Pirie smelters, which were totally destroyed at very great cost, both in buildings and plant; and also because it meant the throwing out of employment of a large number of men. The fire at Cowell Brothers' timber mill at Port Adelaide caused a loss of over £10,000, while the other two conflagrations of note were those at the Waverley Brewery, and at the flour mill at Tanunda. The fire at Torrens Island involved a cost of about £7,000, but the brigade had no chance of stopping it, as it could not arrive at the scene until after all the damage had been done. It is computed by the authorities that during the year there were 15 serious fires, and 33 at which considerable damage was done.

—Progress of Plant—

As in every other branch of life, progress in fire-fighting appliances is made by gradual evolution. In the first instance there was the bucket, then came the garden hose, subsequently the hand pumping machine, next the steam pumping engine, and, finally, the motor pumping machine. Hand propulsion of the machine from the brigade headquarters to the scene of a fire was the original method, then came horses, and now nothing but motor power is considered for a moment. Although the lastnamed provides nothing like the delightful thrill that was experienced in the past by the spectators seeing fire engines drawn by beautiful horses at full gallop, the difference in utility is enormous, for the rapidity of the motor machine is such that

now there is no spot within the city that cannot be reached by the brigade within from two to three minutes after the giving of the alarm. At the Adelaide station there are still four horses left, but it will not be long before they, too, will be dispensed with. They are too slow to be put in the engines which go out in immediate response to a call, but are used for the "backing up" appliances and for what are colloquially known as "half hour late" machines. The motor service is being installed right through the state, and there are at present 22 motor engines under the control of head-quarters. Of them seven are at the Adelaide station, and the balance are distributed throughout the State. Three more are about to be procured for large, country districts. The last word in engines is the motor fire engine, the particular virtue of which is that from it water can be pumped from the moment it reaches a fire, and there is no delay caused by getting up steam, as is the case with the older type. The latter are now considered to be obsolete, and the ambition of every superintendent is to have nothing but the motor machines in his station. At present there is one of this variety at headquarters, but it is considered very necessary that big and important districts like Port Adelaide and Port Pirie should be equally well equipped. The steam pumping plant takes from 15 to 20 minutes before it is ready for use, and in this time irreparable damage might easily be done. The cost of a motor fire engine is something like £3,000, and in these penurious days that is a large item, but it should not be forgotten that such an engine might save its cost 10 times over in one year. Up to the present this year fires which might have caused intense damage have been restricted to the four walls of the buildings where they originated, but this cannot always be the case, and the more prepared the brigade is to cope with a bad outbreak the less will be the destruction.

— Danger of High Buildings.—

High buildings are a source of constant anxiety to the professional fire fighter, for it is in connection there with that most danger exists, both to the inmates and to the members of the brigade. The trouble is accentuated when, as so often happens, the top storeys are occupied by male and female artisans, for there is the difficulty of getting many excited people out of a burning building. To meet such cases there are now in use at most of the big brigades very long telescopic ladders, which are able to reach to the top of the highest buildings. These are motor driven, and are elevated by the same power, so that the work of rescue can be started a few moments after the outbreak has occurred. The Adelaide Brigade much needs one of these appliances. It will be a surprise to many people to learn that in the city, there are now no fewer than 52 buildings of four and more storeys in height. In many of them the top floor is used for workrooms, and yet there is not in Adelaide a telescopic ladder which will reach above the third floor. This appliance is taken to the fire by horses, and on arrival much time has to be spent in elevating it by hand power. It can readily be conceived, therefore, the loss of life might occur which would be prevented if an up-to-date machine were at the disposal of the brigade. There is one other direction in which there is room for improvement, and that is in the provision at the Port of something better than the pre-historic type of float which now is to be utilised when outbreaks occur in the vicinity of the wharfs or on board a ship. It is of the old steam variety, and improvised at that, and it can safely be asserted that with the best intentions and efforts it cannot be ready for work at a blaze in less than half an hour. By that time most of the damage would have been done. Motor power is the greatest improvement that has ever been devised in connection with rapid dealing with conflagrations, and the quicker all other kinds are deemed obsolete the more effective will be the efforts of the brigades to nip outbreaks in the bud. Apart from the matters referred to, the Adelaide Brigade is well equipped. It has a most efficient staff, a thoroughly well-organised scheme of operations, and all the energy and eagerness which count for so much when it comes to a matter of saving life and property.