

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1925

From the Sands and McDougall Directory for 1925



Sands and McDougall Directory for 1925

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 5 January 1925, page 13

GRASS FIRE AT GLANDORE.

At about a quarter to 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon a grass fire broke out in a 20-acre paddock at Glandore, on the Bay-road, it spread rapidly, and before the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which was summoned, arrived the flames covered a large area. The fire fighters worked energetically, and although the grass was ablaze almost from the Bay-road to the railway line, very little damage was done. Portion of the boxthorn fence was destroyed, and an unused shed was slightly damaged. The premises were unoccupied. The men worked for about two hours before the fire was completely extinguished, and but for their strenuous efforts the fire would have spread over a much greater area. The unoccupied house on the land was at one time in great danger, but a timely save was effected.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 8 January 1925, page 9

LOFT ON FIRE.

Shortly after 7 a.m. on Wednesday an explosion in a gas producer plant, caused a fire in a fuel loft at the rear of the Adelaide Joinery Works, Grote street, Adelaide. The loft, which contained bags of waste wood and shavings for fuel, was quickly a mass of flames. Mr. G. Evans, engineer, and Mr. L. Radloff, a son of the proprietor, were on the premises, and immediately communicated with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. With great celerity four engines proceeded to the fire, under the charge of Deputy Chief Officer G. P. Cooper. By that time the loft had practically been destroyed, and burning wood was dropping on to the timber stack below. Steady streams of water subdued the flames, and the remainder of the premises were saved. The joinery works contained much valuable stock and machinery, and but for the promptness of the brigade extensive loss would have been sustained. The damage is estimated to be about £300. The gas engine and the loft were covered by insurance.



B 5227

State Library of South Australia - Grote Street, near Morphett Street [B 5227], Grote Street, north side, 25 July 1929. Right side of Adelaide Joinery Works adjoins Addie Place and is 38 yards west of Morphett Street. Frontage: 31 1/2 yards. 152-160 Grote Street houses the Adelaide Joinery, door manufacturer. 1929. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 313 Collection.

<i>Morphett st</i>	
144	Stockowners' Co-operative Shearing Co Ltd (workshops)
146	Wicks, W. T, secondhnd dlr
148	England, R. C, mtr engnr
152-160	Radloff, W. H, joinery works
162	Flannigan, J. M, lbr
166	Slow, Oliver, box maker
168	Hele, Alf, bootmaker
<i>Right-of-way—</i>	
	Bartlett, G. H, casemkr
	Berry's stables
<i>Eyron pl—</i>	

Sands and McDougall Directory for 1925 - Grote Street

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 January 1925, page 6

Joinery Works Fire

Mr. C. Evans writes:—Regarding the fire at the Adelaide Joinery Works, I was alone when the explosion occurred, and battled with the flames to prevent the fire spreading to the mill, receiving severe burns on my arms and face. When the flames got beyond me I at once telephoned the fire brigade, which was on the scene in about one and a half minutes. I made no attempt to save by coat and watch, as reported. I lost them, but Mr. Radloff has since replaced my loss.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 9 January 1925, page 10

FIRE AT WHITMORE SQUARE.

On Thursday afternoon the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Gilbert street alarm, and on arrival found that two storage sheds had been gutted. The outbreak started in a wood and iron shed on the property of the Salvation Army Men's Home, facing Whitmore

square, which shed contained a large quantity of old paper. The men's room adjoining suffered slight damage. The flames spread to the premises of Mr. C. T. Knight, trading as W. Baily & Co., aerated water manufacturers, Gilbert street, abutting the army property on the south side. A wood and iron shed containing empty cases and casks was destroyed. A similar structure, used as a storeroom adjoining on the west side was also damaged. Brigadier Rowley, officer in charge of the army home, said that the premises were insured. The damage would not exceed £250.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1925, page 46

FIRE IN A JOINERY WORKS.

EXPLOSION IN A GAS PRODUCER.

Prompt action by the fire brigade under Deputy Chief Officer Cooper, prevented a big fire at the Adelaide Joinery Works, in Grote-street, about 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning. An explosion occurred in the gas producing plant, with the result that the fuel loft at the rear of the works caught fire. The engineer (Mr. C. Evans) and the son of the proprietor (Mr. L. Radloff) were on the premises at the time and attempted to check the outbreak by using chemical extinguishers. The loft was quickly a mass of flames, and the brigade was telephoned for. Four reels were on the spot within a few minutes. The fire was soon subdued. Burning wood dropped from the loft fell on the timber stacks beneath, and these would certainly have caught fire had not the brigade promptly played water on them. All the woodwork of the loft was badly burned, and the fuel was practically destroyed. It is estimated that the damage will not exceed £300 or £400. The extent of the damage to the gas engine has not yet been ascertained. It is insured with the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, and the loft with the Pacific Insurance Company. The premises are of wood and iron, and the loft is situated immediately above the gas engine.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 10 January 1925, page 8

FIRE IN GOODS SHED.

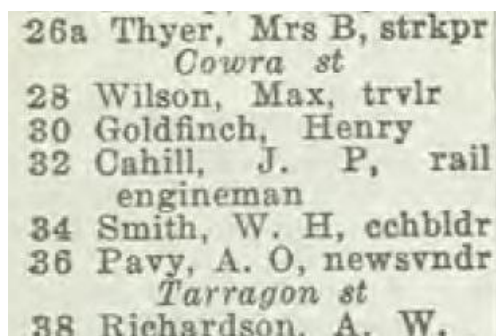
Fire broke out at about 10 o'clock this morning in the old railway goods shed—at one time the railway station—on North terrace. The outbreak was due to the induction coils, used for recharging batteries, running hot and igniting the walls and roof. The brigade arrived promptly, and the blaze was extinguished in about 10 minutes, practically no damage being done.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1925, page 50

FIRE AT MILE-END.

MOTOR CYCLE SHED DESTROYED.

A fire broke out in a shed at the rear of the residence of Mr. Henry Goldfinch, Falcon-avenue, Mile-End, about 7 p.m. on New Year's Day. The Thebarton Fire Brigade, in charge of Station-officer Hopkins, quickly responded to the call, and assistance was given by a contingent from the metropolitan brigade. The shed, which was built of wood and iron, was soon destroyed, with three motor cycles which were stored there. An adjoining shed on the premises of Mr. W. R. Maxwell also caught fire and was destroyed. Mr. Goldfinch's loss is estimated at £240, and he was unprotected by insurance. Mr. Wilson was not at home at the time of the fire, and it is not known whether his loss was covered by insurance.



Sands and McDougall Directory for 1925 - Falcon Avenue

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 10 January 1925, page 8

WICKER WORKER'S PREMISES ABLAZE.

Answering the alarm at the corner of Halifax and Gilbert streets at 9.26 p.m. on Friday, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were directed to an outbreak in sheds near by, occupied by Mr. R. Terry, wicker worker. The cause of the fire is unknown. The sheds were damaged considerably, and the contents destroyed. Among the latter were two traps, a cart, and wicker work. The work of the Brigade was regarded as good, as the flames had attained to a great height, and threatened structures in the vicinity.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 12 January 1925, page 8

FIRE IN THE CITY.

THREE SHOPS GUTTED.

A fire in Ackland-street, Adelaide, early on Sunday morning gutted three shops and did considerable damage in a motor garage.

About 1 o'clock yesterday morning the fire brigade received a telephone message to the effect that there was a fire among a group of buildings with frontages to Flinders-street south and Ackland-street. The whole of the city and suburban brigades turned out, as there is a lot of inflammable material in buildings in that locality, and on arrival at the corner of Ackland and Flinders streets no time was lost in getting to work. It was found that the flames had a strong hold of small shops of wood and iron in Ackland-street, occupied by Mr. J. A. Oliver, mattress-maker; Mr. H. C. Fraser, coach painter; and Messrs. E. C. Burns & Co., shop fitters. As nothing could be done to extinguish the flames there, attention was turned to preserving the adjoining properties. A lane runs at the side of Messrs. Burns & Co.'s shop, and there being no wind there was no danger of the flames spreading in that direction. They had broken through an iron partition into the rear of the O. T. Rodda Motor Co., into which the firemen penetrated. Three motor cars, one a handsome limousine, were alight, and the fire was making headway towards the front of the building. After a hard struggle the flames were conquered, but not until the limousine and another motor car had been destroyed and one more damaged. Part of the roof also fell in. A hose was used successfully in the premises of the Dixie Motor Co., at the corner of Flinders-street, to prevent the fire entering there. Altogether a dozen hoses were in use from standpipes all round the block, from Flinders-street to Wakefield-street. Besides the damage in the O. T. Rodda Motor Co.'s workshop, the three buildings in which the fire was discovered were gutted. The fire brigade worked so well that the fire was under control before 2 o'clock, and the first reel to leave was sent back to its station at that hour.



Sands and McDougall directory of South Australia for 1925.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 12 January 1925, page 10

Burning Rubbish

Burning rubbish in the Mile-End railway yards of Josiah Thomas, fuel merchants, was the cause of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade receiving a call at 5.17 yesterday afternoon. No damage was done. It was stated that the firm had a permit to dispose of rubbish in this way.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 13 January 1925, page 2

FLOUR MILL ALIGHT

DOORS PREVENT SPREAD

Works at Mile-End Damaged

By telephone at 4.10 this morning the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a message that the City Flour Mills, belonging to William Charlick, Limited, London road, Mile-End, were alight. At the same time the Thebarton Brigade received a call by fire alarm. Three appliances and a motor pump were dispatched by the city brigade. Chiefly owing to the fireproof doors which had been placed at each entrance of each section of the building the outbreak was confined to the smutters' room, on the third floor, where it originated. The building, which is the tallest in the district, is of brick, and is four storeys high. The ground floor is separated from the storeroom of the South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union by a brick wall, but the other storeys are built farther away from the adjacent property. To obtain a supply of water the brigade had to bring its pump into play. Although there was a water main near the building, water mains through the building, and hoses on the premises, there was little supply, and water had to be obtained from another main. The mill was working when the fire was discovered. The section of the building that was destroyed was insured in the Insurance Company of Australia for £2,500, and the machinery in that portion of the premises was insured for £9,750. The damage done by fire and water to the building and machinery is not yet known. The work of the firemen was commended by several eye-witnesses.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 19 January 1925, page 8

A CITY FIRE.

BRIGADE SUMMONED TO RICHARDS BUILDING.

What might have proved a disastrous city fire was narrowly averted on Sunday night through the vigilance of a passer-by. Noticing a reflection from Richards' Building, he investigated and saw in the rear of the ground floor, where re-building operations have been in progress, a mass of debris partly alight. Promptly he summoned the brigade, which hastened to the scene, and with the aid of a few lengths of hose extinguished the outbreak before any serious damage had been done. People were making their way home intent on catching last trams or trains to the suburbs shortly after 10 o'clock, when the motor fire equipment was seen speeding along King William-street and turning into Currie-street. Soon the news spread that Richards Building was ablaze. It is said that nothing collects a crowd so quickly as a wedding or a fire, and certainly so far as the latter was concerned there was nothing lacking in the way

of proof of the assertion. Sightseers were doomed to disappointment, for no excitement was provided. In a few minutes the brigade had everything well under control, and the flames were extinguished before many would-be spectators arrived on the scene.

Small Grass Fires.

About 4.15 p.m. the Unley Brigade was summoned to a grass fire in an open paddock in Addison-road, and about an hour previously the services of the Norwood Brigade had been requisitioned for a grass fire in a paddock in William-street. Shortly before 9 p.m. the Metropolitan Brigade received an alarm in connection with a similar outbreak on the south park lands, opposite Palmerston-road and Park-terrace. In none of the three instances was damage caused.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 19 January 1925, page 8

RICHARDS' FIRE AFTERMATH.

On Sunday Richards' Buildings was again the scene of a fire at about 10 o'clock in the evening, when a smouldering heap of paper rubbish on the ground floor, which was a part of the remnants of the destructive fire which caused a sensation there late on the night of November 11 last ignited and started to blaze. A passerby noticed the flames and summoned the Fire Brigade. The reels caused some excitement as they dashed through the city just as large crowds were congregating in King William street to catch last cars, and when it was seen that they turned in the direction of Richards' Buildings, many went to the spot. The firemen directed a hose on the rubbish, and were very soon on their way back to the station.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 27 January 1925, page 7

ANOTHER BRUSH COMPANY FIRE.

The premises of the South Australian Brush Company, Flinders street, Adelaide, were the scene of yet another fire, and on this occasion the flames were checked before much damage had been done. At 5.45 p.m. the heat generated by the burning of a heap of shavings above the boiler room set in operation the automatic Grinnell sprinklers, which at the same time rang an alarm at the fire station. The brigade was soon on the spot, and only slight damage resulted from the outbreak.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 27 January 1925, page 7

GRASS FIRES.

At 4.42 p.m. the Unley Brigade received a call to Aurora terrace, Black Forest, where they found a grass fire burning fiercely in an allotment adjacent to the Glenelg railway line. Before the blaze was extinguished about 30 ft. of paling fencing had been consumed by the flames. The second grass fire occurred at about 6.30 p.m. This was in North terrace. The brigade found smoke issuing from the interior of the partly constructed building at the corner of Tavistock street, the site on which it was years ago proposed to erect "The City Temple." The flames were extinguished before any damage had been done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 30 January 1925, page 5

PREVENTION OF FIRE

Safeguard by Brush Company

With a view to ascertaining whether there were any means of obviating small outbreaks of fire such as had occurred recently, Mr. G. J. Ware, one of the shareholders of the S.A. Brush Co., Limited. questioned the chairman at the annual meeting of the company on Wednesday. Mr. W. E. Hay, who occupied the chair, replied that he was glad that Mr. Ware had raised the point, as it gave him an opportunity of putting the matter clearly before the shareholders and the public. An atmosphere of suspicion had naturally been created. There had been two calls

on the fire brigade. The company was now directly connected with the fire station, and if a Grinnell sprinkler valve began to run the bell at the fire station immediately gave the alarm. On one occasion one of the sprinkler valves started when there was no fire, simply on account of the heat in the generating room exceeding the temperature for which the valves were made. That promptly brought the Fire Brigade. They had gone to great expense in installing the Grinnell sprinkler.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 3 February 1925, page 7

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

Adelaide Takes No Chances.

Public Safely Properly Guarded.

Business houses and places of amusement take every precaution to safeguard their customers and patrons in case of fire. There is no possibility of any frightful disaster occurring such as that recently reported from America, where scores of people were burned to death owing to the absence of exits, fire-fighting appliances, and other such safeguards. It is claimed that every place of amusement in Adelaide can clear a packed house in under two minutes, while business houses bristle with sprinklers, fire extinguishers, hoses, &c.

The huge conflagration which occurred in Melbourne on Sunday night, when the Melbourne Town Hall was burned out, could hardly be repeated at the Adelaide Town Hall. There fire extinguishers of the chemical variety are stationed at very short intervals throughout the building, emergency hoses also abound, and there is a direct call to the Adelaide Fire Brigade Station. The presence of a night watchman further curtails the risk of fire. The other big municipal building — the Jubilee Exhibition Building — is also well protected from the ravages of the fire demon. Fire extinguishers, hoses, and direct communication with the brigade are the main features of the precautions, and there also a watchman patrols the building in the dark hours.

Theatres and Amusement Houses.

Thousands of Adelaide citizens visit picture theatres at nights, and the safety devices utilized in those buildings are therefore of particular interest. Mr. Claude Webb, manager of the York Theatre in Rundle street, on Monday stated that his theatre could be cleared of every patron in a full house in one minute. Every few feet around the walls of both stalls, circle, and staircases are to be found chemical extinguishers and emergency fire hoses, which can be brought to bear in their entirety on any outbreak within a few seconds. The operating box is asbestos lined, and in case of a fire breaking out there the box can be closed, and there is no possibility of the flames breaking through into the main building. The same safeguards apply at the other picture theatres of the city. At the Wondergraph Theatre, Hindley street, practically the whole of the front portion of the theatre can be thrown open to allow people to emerge, and other exits permit a crowded audience to disperse to safety in a minute and a half. The same applies to West's Olympia and other theatres.

Softgoods Houses.

The big drapery stores of the city attract perhaps more patronage, as far as numbers go, than any other city businesses. Every possible appliance for the prevention of fire is utilized in these establishments. Automatic sprinklers, of either the Wormold or Grinnell type, are the first safety device. These sprinklers, on the first indication of fire, shower water on an outbreak. In addition, chemical fire extinguishers bristle on every floor, and hoses supplement the supply of fire-fighting devices. With the large number of exits available five minutes at the outside, should see all customers, even in sale times, outside the shops and in safety in the streets.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 12 February 1925, page 8

CASUALTIES.

A FALSE ALARM.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received an alarm on Wednesday afternoon at 5.45 and proceeded to Appollo place, off King William street. It was ascertained that the call had been given by a constable who saw the smoke, but on further investigation, found that the premises were being fumigated.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 14 February 1925, page 17

A FIRE IN THE CITY.

The Fire Brigade received a call at 10.55 p.m. on Friday to a house in Hanson-place off Gilles-street, occupied by Mr. A. Schmidt. The fire was caused by a kerosine lamp being upset, and a curtain and window blind were slightly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 February 1925, page 14

A GARAGE ON FIRE.

FLAMES PROMPTLY EXTINGUISHED

A fire broke out on the premises of the Adelaide Motor Hire Company in Coglin-place, off Gouger-street, shortly after 8 o'clock on Saturday evening. The fire brigade promptly answered a call, and found a portion of the building well alight. The flames, however, were promptly extinguished.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 17 February 1925, page 9

Small Fire

The fire brigade was called to a fire at the corner of Hanson place and Stephen street, city, this afternoon. A small wood and iron shed containing chaff was burned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 18 February 1925, page 15

A SMALL FIRE.

A fire broke out on the premises of Mr. H. S. Oliver, at the corner of Hanson street and Steven's place, shortly before 3 p.m. on Tuesday. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade turned out and quickly subdued the flames, which had a hold on a small wood and iron shed. Several bags of chaff were destroyed, and the shed was damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 19 February 1925, page 6

FIRE IN CITY.

The Fire Brigade received a call on Wednesday morning from Oakley street (off Gouger street), where a wooden fence had caught fire. Mrs. Florence, of 19 Oakley street, had lit a fire under a copper, and the blaze spread to the fence, which was slightly damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 2 March 1925, page 1

FIRE IN LIGHT SQUARE

Fuel for the heating apparatus in the boiler house of the factory of Sands and McDougall, Light square, caught fire late this afternoon. The Fire Brigade was promptly notified and within 10 minutes of arriving on the scene had extinguished the blaze. No damage was done to the property.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 4 March 1925, page 1

MOTOR PREMISES ABLAZE

Mann's New Building Endangered

BRAVERY OF FIREMEN PREVENTS SERIOUS DESTRUCTION

Damage estimated at more than £5,000 was caused by fire shortly after 6 o'clock this morning at the new headquarters of Mann's Motors Limited, Franklin Street, Adelaide. The firemen made a fine save. Within half an hour of receiving the call they had the flames out. Although there were 46 cars and trucks on the premises only three were damaged by fire and two by water. The flames were confined to the front portion of the premises, which are of brick and two-storeyed. The single-storeyed galvanised iron garage at the rear was practically untouched.

When the brigade arrived at the building dense volumes of smoke were rising and flames were darting from the front and side windows at the western end of the ground floor. Here there were offices divided by wooden partitions, and the flames quickly spread through the combustible material and reached the first floor—a spare parts department. A strong easterly breeze assisted the fire, which worked along the ceiling timbers of the first floor toward King William street. Chief Officer Dickie, who was in charge of the firemen, saw the danger to the surrounding buildings and had lines of hose directed on them from all sides. The two Dennis motor pumps did good work, and with the new high extension ladder water was played on the roof from a height. The whole of the first floor frontage had windows of decorative glass, and as the water from the hoses struck them they collapsed into fragments and fell to the pavement. Firemen climbed to the roof of a two storeyed lodging house next door on the eastern side and attacked the blaze from there, while others dragged their hoses through the garage at the rear and checked the spread in that direction. The firemen took great risks to approach the heart of the blaze, but they were soon rewarded. The flames were subdued before much damage was done to the eastern end of the building. Water from the top storey poured through the floor into the showroom on the ground floor, and two new cars on exhibition there which had their hoods up were drenched. After the fire was out these were covered with canvas salvage sheets, as the water continued for several hours to fall through like heavy rain. The executive offices of the firm were at the rear of the showroom, and the damage done there was caused by water.

Petrol Tank Escapes

In order to supply petrol to motorists a pump was installed at the kerb. The tank supplying this, which was underground inside the premises, was untouched by the flames. In a large one-storeyed galvanised iron building immediately behind the offices were 42 cars, many of them new, but only one of these, which was close to a ramp leading to the first floor, was touched by the flames. The hood and upholstery were burned, but the body itself was damaged only slightly. On the first floor two Chevrolet trucks were also damaged. Upstairs the fire had worked savagely. Sheets of galvanised iron forming the inner ceiling were twisted into fantastic shapes, while the wooden rafters of the roof were blackened and charred. The wooden partitions of the accessories department were almost burned away, but the wooden floor had gone in places only. The indications were that in spite of the inflammable materials on every hand a good save had been made by the brigade. The body of one car was burned off and the wheels were also gone. The fire seemed to have been localised in several portions of the top floor, as a lorry standing not far from the burned car had escaped damage.

Boarding House Threatened

Adjoining the garage on the eastern side is a two-storeyed boarding house named The Pines, and the landlady of this told her story. "There were about 15 people sleeping in my house," she said. "and I was awakened with a great start by some one knocking at the window and calling 'Fire!' We got outside in hurry and saw flames and smoke pouring out from the building next door. I thought the back portion of our premises would catch, but the high brick wall of the garage acted as a protection to the front. All we could do was to stand by helplessly and watch the firemen. "It was only their good work that saved our place, and no damage was

done except that two panes of glass were broken, as the firemen were getting their hoses on to our roof. I have only been five weeks in the house. As they say I have 'the wind up' about fires. Only last Saturday afternoon there was an outbreak in a building next door to us on the east side, at the back, and the firemen took their hoses through our yard. To-day it was the other side, and we had more hoses on our premises. It has been too warm to be comfortable, and I don't know where the next blaze will be." A member of the staff of the firm who lives in the city, said it was only the excellent work of the brigade that prevented a large and costly conflagration. "Those firemen were the gamest men I have ever seen," he said. "Fierce flames were pouring out of the western end of the office, but undaunted they entered through doors and windows nearby in order to ply their hoses. They did not know what fear was. Two others, high up on the extension ladder, seemed to be enveloped in smoke, but they stuck to their posts, while on an adjoining roof others worked in the heat. I felt certain that the whole building, with nearly 50 cars, would be destroyed, but the determination of the fire fighters brought them victory, and they confined the flames to the front portion. They deserve the greatest credit for the fine battle they put up."

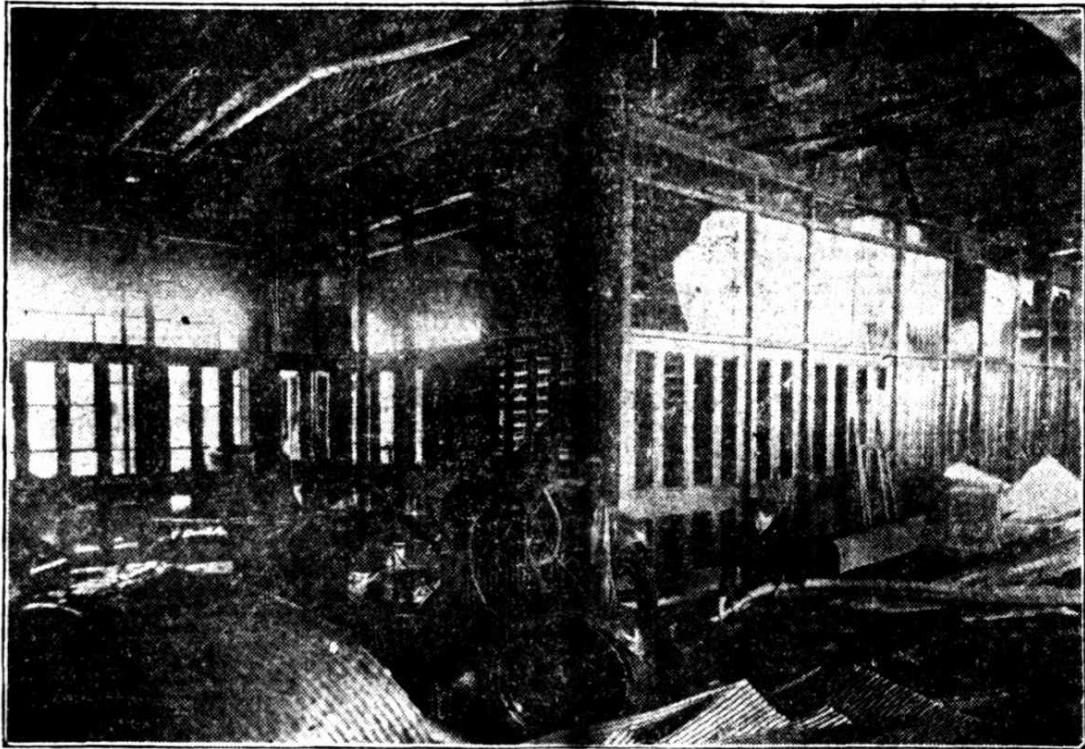
Mr. F. S. Mann (managing director) intimated that business would be conducted at Waymouth street premises, which were occupied by the firm prior to its removal last January, and that no interruption to trade was expected. The garaging of cars would be continued in the undamaged portion of the Franklin street building. Mr. Alfred Arnold, of 178 Gray street, off Franklin street, who broke the alarm, said that he was passing along Franklin street at a little past 6 o'clock, when he saw flames coming out of the western corner of the building. "I rushed to a fire alarm near the Post Office, and broke the glass, and when the brigade came I waved to them to proceed down the street." said Mr. Arnold. "The fire had a fairly strong hold when I saw it first, and it appeared to me to have been going about half an hour."

Business as Usual

At a little after 9 o'clock Mr. F. S. Mann (managing director), braving the water, which fell in showers from the top floor, and accompanied by members of the office staff, entered the building and removed most of the office documents, typewriters, card indices, and other equipment, that was likely to be damaged by water. "Business will not be affected in any way," said Mr. Mann. "If we find any difficulty in carrying on here we will go back to the old premises in Waymouth street." The whole of the premises, and the cars were covered by insurance with the Western Australian Company. During the morning Mr. Lewis, of 78 Franklin street, supplied tea and sandwiches to the firemen, an act of kindness which they much appreciated.

MOTORIST'S LUCK

A motor cyclist, on making a trip to Melbourne, left his cycle at Mann's Motors garage, with instructions to an employe that he could use it if he desired. The employe was in a quandary whether to use it or not. He finally determined to take it. Had it been left in its usual position in the accessories department, the machine would have been destroyed in the fire this morning.



Charred and Stripped by the flames at Mann's Motor Works this morning



State Library of South Australia - Franklin Street, Adelaide, South Side [B 2444]. Acre 264 Franklin Street, Adelaide, south side. Photographed on January 27, 1925, soon after its completion. The confidence expressed by the new Mann's Motors' building reflects the growing popularity of the motor car. The car by the bowsers is a Chevrolet tourer, 21.7 horsepower, registration number 38420, owned by Mann's. The left side of the building is 25 yards east of Young Street. Frontage is 31 yards. For a photo of Mann's staff, see B 24452. Approximately 1925. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 264 Collection.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 6 March 1925, page 6

FIRE BRIGADE EFFECTIVENESS

There is probably no public body which labors so watchfully and, when occasion requires, so heroically for the public weal as the Fire Brigade. Yet it is an institution whose great usefulness and effectiveness are not sufficiently appreciated. Undoubtedly there is unbounded admiration for its gallant efforts in fighting fires, but few people have any knowledge of the incessant vigilance, the high state of physical efficiency, the generalship and courage, which are required to achieve the success which attend the firemen's labors. Outbreaks occur and are promptly subdued, sometimes by acts of great valor which are obscured from the general public in the brief chronicle that there has been a fire which was quickly extinguished. Superb saves are made, but their extent is scarcely realised even when it is stated that the insurances amounted to many thousands of pounds and the damage was restricted to a few hundreds. It is to be expected in these days of motoring, when inflammable oils and spirits are in constant use, that fires must become frequent, although the increase in the number of calls answered by the Fire Brigade last year was only 11 more than in 1923, the figures being 432 and 421—a surprisingly low total. This year in nine weeks there have been 135 fire calls, which equals 15 a week, nearly double the average of the two previous years. Credit must be given to the Brigade that of 163 actual fires only 51 resulted in much damage, and there were 112 in which the damage was only slight. It is a serious complaint of the Brigade that it should be continually harassed by thoughtless people who give false alarms. To what lengths this foolishness has been taken may be gauged from the fact that 21 per cent. of the total number of calls are wanton hoaxes. It might easily happen that the effectiveness of the Brigade's efforts in respect of a large fire would be seriously diminished by these senseless practical jokes. Fortunately this State has been largely free from fires of great magnitude, the most disastrous from a Brigade point of view being that of the City of Singapore last year, when three firemen were killed and 11 injured. That was the outcome of a disastrous explosion on board, though the fire injuries to the hull and cargo were comparatively small and the wharf and shed were saved. Besides the actual fire-fighting force numbering 109, the Fire Brigade employs 41 auxiliary theatre firemen, who are continually on duty at places of amusement, so that in the event of any outbreak skilled assistance will be instantly available. In addition to that, hospitals and other public institutions are constantly inspected, and the preparedness and alertness of the Brigade are maintained at a high standard. Like a celebrated detective agency, it "slumbers not nor sleeps."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 9 March 1925, page 11

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

A FIRE AT GLANDORE.

A peculiar accident occurred at the motor garage of Mr. J. Luss, situated at the corner of Bay-road and Park-street, Glandore, at 12.45 on Sunday morning. An electric light wire, with a voltage of 3,000, snapped and one of the ends fell across the roof of the garage, and the short circuit caused an intermittent flame, which startled people in the vicinity. The fire brigade was called out, and quickly had the current turned off, when it was ascertained that a hole had been burnt through the roof of the garage. As a result of the wire snapping the fuse at the corner of Morphettville and Bay roads blew out, and the electric service to Glenelg was interrupted till 8.30 a.m. The telephone service was faulty all day yesterday.

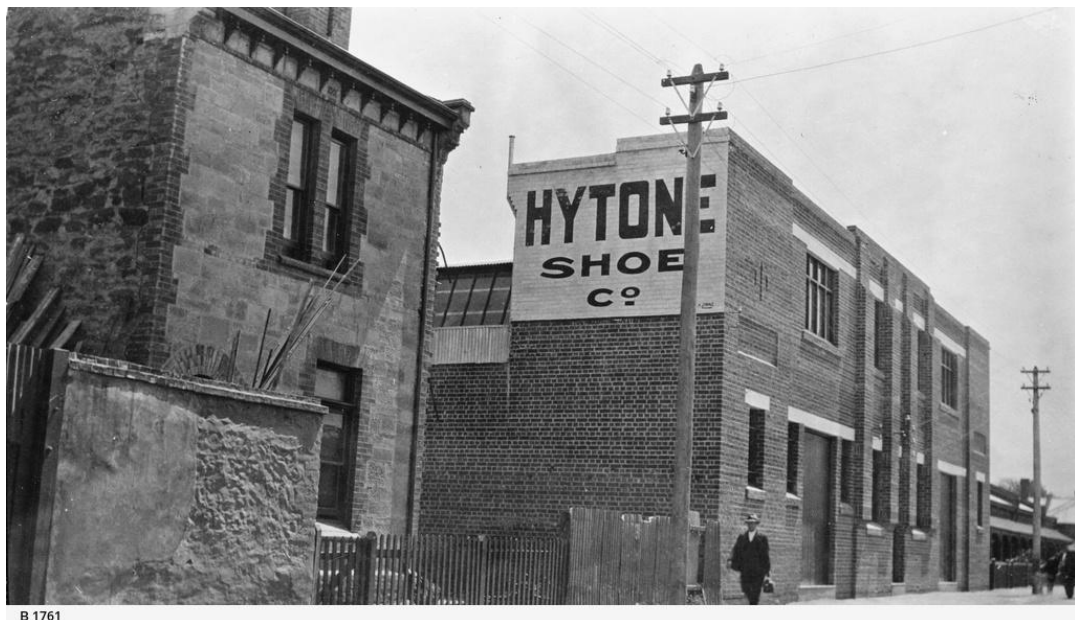
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 14 March 1925, page 19

FIRE IN A BOOT FACTORY.

A GOOD SAVE.

Prompt work on the part of the fire brigade on Friday evening prevented a conflagration in the heart of a thickly populated quarter of the city. About six o'clock residents of Russell-street, a narrow thoroughfare between Sturt and Wright streets, were startled by the arrival of the fire brigade, which had been called to a fire at the Hytone Boot Factory, a brick building with a

considerable frontage to Russell-street. Most of the residents had seen the owner (Mr. W. D. Roberts) leave the building some time previously, when everything appeared to be right. Shortly before six o'clock children playing in the street noticed flames and smoke issuing from the sample-room of the factory, and the alarm was given by a boy C. A. Wallis, who broke the glass of the nearest fire alarm. The brigade arrived in a short time, and an attempt was at once made to find the seat of the fire and to confine it. An entrance was forced into the sample-room, which opens out on the street, and within a few moments the outbreak was under control. The factory had apparently been locked up for the night, and nobody in the vicinity seemed to know where to find Mr. Roberts. He was later called away from the dinner table at his home at Price-crescent, Hawthorn, and informed of the occurrence by a representative of "The Advertiser." He immediately returned to the factory, and there found that, with the exception of several hundred pairs of shoes, nothing of value had been destroyed. It was fortunate that the fire had not spread beyond this small area, for thousands of pounds' worth of valuable machinery must have been ruined had the flames found their way into the workroom. The fire had just broken through into this room when the brigade arrived, but except for slight charring and scorching of the roof beams, no danger had been done. In the sample-room hundreds of pairs of dainty shoes in all the latest styles were lying about the floor, most of them hopelessly burned and twisted. In Mr. Roberts' office, almost directly adjoining, the contrast was startling. Everything was as he had left it, his cushioned chair swung half round from his desk, and two or three sample pairs of shoes lying in open boxes close by. Most of the residents were indoors when the outbreak was first noticed, but they were roused by the cries of Thelma Bray, a school girl, who lives with her parents next door but one to the factory. She ran inside saying there was a fire, and as her father hurried out to break the fire alarm he was told that a lad on a bicycle had already done so. Ronald Matthewson, who lives directly opposite, told his mother that he had seen the flames bursting from the end door of the building. Apart from the charred front door, the building was not damaged. The premises are insured with the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, but Mr. Roberts was not able to give an estimate of the damage done.



Russell Street, Adelaide [B 1761], Russell Street, Adelaide, west side, on October 19th, 1923. The left side of the Hytone building is 43 yards north of Sturt Street and the frontage is 27.5 yards. The Hytone Shoe Company was erected in 1923 on the site formerly occupied by an old cottage which stood well back from the street. 1923. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 533 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 14 March 1925, page 11

T.S.A.S. APPEAL.

Enthusiasm is being manifested in the annual appeal of the Tubercular Soldiers' Aid Society, which will take place on Friday, March 27. Leading firms throughout the metropolitan area have signified their willingness to assist. The special personal appeal launched on Wednesday is returning substantial amounts. In the country towns the appeal is going ahead, orders for badges running into thousands. On every hand there is evidence of sympathy with the work. A concert at Strathalbyn on Tuesday last was most successful, and a similar function is advertised for Victor Harbour on March 18. On March 24 and 23 concerts (arranged by Miss Sylvia Thomas, A.M.U.A., and the officers of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade) will be given at the Brigade Headquarters, concluding with brigade turnouts.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 16 March 1925, page 6

CASUALTIES.

SUMMONING THE FIRE BRIGADE.

About 11.25 on Saturday morning the large concourse of shoppers in the vicinity of New Adelaide and the Central Market were aroused by the sound of the warning gongs of fire engines. Very soon the busy vehicular traffic had drawn aside to make way for two fire reels, which were seen coming at a fast rate from the Metropolitan Brigade, and were proceeding west down Gouger street. Curiosity concerning the whereabouts of the fire, if any, had many people on to the road to watch the engines, and for a while many waited for evidence of a blaze. No sign of fire appeared, so the majority of the spectators dispersed. It appeared that one of the fire reels had left in return for home, and the other was standing outside a lane near the corner of Waymouth and Brown streets. On the roof of one of a number of small houses a fireman was operating on a small round chimney, out of which smoke was issuing. A flue had caught alight, and the occupants, taking every precaution, had summoned the brigade. The work of extinction was easily accomplished. What impressed the spectator was the expeditious way the fire equipment turned out and the risk of accident in driving among the busy market traffic.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 23 March 1925, page 6

Fire Brigade Concert

In connection with the annual appeal of the Tubercular Soldiers' Aid Society, concerts will be given in the Fire Brigade Hall Wakefield street, tomorrow and Wednesday. Arrangements are in the hands of Miss Sylvia Thomas, and officers of the brigade. Full particulars will be found in our advertising columns. A feature of each entertainment will be a demonstration by the Fire Brigade. Tickets may be obtained at the Fire Brigade Station, or from the office of the Tubercular Soldiers' Aid Society, 74 Franklin street.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 30 March 1925, page 6

FIRE AT EXHIBITION

Brigade's Prompt Action

Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning a watchman on duty at the All-Australian Exhibition discovered a fire in the sawdust on top of a refrigerating chamber exhibit. The fire brigade was quickly in attendance, and the blaze was extinguished. It is thought that the fire was started by the fusing of an electrical connection. Two watchmen are on duty at the exhibition, and Mr. Hammond, who discovered the fire, was commended by the management this morning for his prompt action.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 9 April 1925, page 14

FROM THE COUNTRY

Visitors at Exhibition

Two firemen from the Central Fire Brigade Station are on duty at the Exhibition. They are having a difficult task in suppressing smoking. Owing to the highly inflammable nature of many exhibits, there is grave danger of a serious blaze if it goes on. Under the Amusement Act, smoking is strictly prohibited. Firemen state that their requests to visitors to cease smoking are invariably courteously acceded to, but many attendants persist in breaking the rule. So troublesome has the practice become that it has been decided to prosecute offenders. The Act provides for a maximum penalty of £10.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 13 April 1925, page 6

A FENCE ON FIRE.

At 4.28 p.m. on Sunday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to No. 10 Market street, city, where a fence and creeper were ablaze. The flames were quickly extinguished, and little damage resulted.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 15 April 1925, page 11

RUNDLE STREET FIRE.

Smart work by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Tuesday night averted what might have been a serious outbreak in the heart of the city. Responding to a signal from a Rundle street fire alarm at 8.21 p.m., three engines were dispatched. It was found that a blaze had started in 31 Rundle street. Forcing an entry the firemen entered the building and turned their hoses on the flames, with the result that speedily the fire was extinguished. It is surmised that the fire started in the apartment occupied by the W G. Ives Advertising Service; and a partition between the latter portion and the premises occupied by Mr. Macfarlane, men's wear specialist, had become ignited. When the brigade arrived the flames had not secured a good hold, but had it been a few minutes later there would have been a different story to tell, for there was a large quantity of combustible stock near by. Little damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 15 April 1925, page 5

Chimney Fire

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call today to the Launceston Hotel, Waymouth street, City, where a chimney had caught alight. The flames were smothered before any damage resulted.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 24 April 1925, page 13

FIRE IN CURRIE STREET.

Clothing Premises Burnt.

Shortly after midnight an alarm of fire was given to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade by an employe of the tram-ways. The spot where it had broken out was a block of business premises on the south side of Currie street, not far from Light square. Flames were observed through a big window in a corner of the workrooms of Phillipson and Northey, on the upper floor. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade turned out in full force, and speedily got to work. The ladder was run up to get at the blaze in the upper part. In the meantime the fire had worked its way downwards, and, among other premises, attacked those occupied by Messrs. Bagshaw & Hoare, motor engineers. In the garage were cars under-going repair, and, although it could not be ascertained this morning whether they had been damaged by flames, they were certainly soaked by the streams of water which were poured on to them. At half-past 12 the firemen got the blaze under control. They had at that time to deal with the back part of the premises, but the powerful jets were of avail. Calls were sent to Norwood, North Adelaide, and Hindmarsh, and reels from those suburbs turned up, but their services were not needed. Police under the charge of Sgts. Richardson and Kennedy were present. There were not

many onlookers, owing to the lateness of the hour. The work of the brigade must be commended. The men were assisted by a powerful pressure of water.

THE CURRIE STREET FIRE.

(Continued from Page 13)

Mr. Bagshaw, owner of the motor house which formed a portion of this morning's fire, called at 1.25 a.m. and said that his stock had not suffered. The brigade had effected a wonderful save, so much so that only the upper story, which had been constructed entirely of wood, was destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 24 April 1925, page 1

EARLY MORNING BLAZE

Damage Estimated at £5,000 Damage estimated at approximately £5,000 was caused by the fire which occurred in Currie street early this morning. Northey Brothers, Limited, clothing manufacturers, who occupied the top floor, which was entirely gutted, suffered most, their loss being estimated at more than £3,000. Other tenants escaped with minor losses, caused principally through water.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at two minutes past midnight, and in a quarter of an hour had the fire practically extinguished. The whole of the headquarters appliances were requisitioned, and the Norwood and North Adelaide brigades were called out, but their services were not needed. When the brigade arrived the flames had secured a strong hold, and flames were leaping through the windows of the top floor, the glass of which had been shattered. The flames were fed by the materials in the building, which was constructed principally of wood and iron. The firemen poured water into the upper storey, and concentrated upon saving the premises next door, occupied by Mr. C. E. Battye, importer. They had a difficult task as they had to wind their way up a narrow stairway. The heat was intense, and the smoke caused through burning cloth was suffocating. The fortitude of the men, however, was amply rewarded, as they brought off a remarkable save. The flames had just begun to eat their way through a wooden partition, beyond which were stacked a large number of cases, when they attacked the fire. The promptitude with which the brigade was on the scene was demonstrated by the fact that the ceiling separating the two storeys which is composed of wood was showing signs of having been burnt through in one spot only. It was fortunate for the tenants in the lower storey that the fire did not spread, as most of their goods were of an inflammable nature. There were many motor cars and several electrical and vulcanising plants. They were damaged by water. All the occupants of the building praised the fine work done by the brigade.

Covered by Insurance

The business of Northey Brothers, Limited, is insured for £3,000 with the Federal Mutual Insurance Company Limited. The firm had between 60 and 70 sewing machines on the premises, which have been rendered valueless, and there was also a large quantity of cloth. Northey Brothers are manufacturing tailors, and undertake a great deal of work for city firms. They employed from 30 to 40 persons. Today and Monday large orders were to have been delivered. Apart from the loss the firm sustained there were several hundred articles on the premises for which it was not responsible, and it is not known whether these are insured. The floor was entirely gutted, and today the workrooms were simply a charred skeleton. There was no sign of the ceiling, which was constructed of fibrous plaster. Messrs. J. & G. W. Badman owned the building, but they stated today they could not yet form an estimate of the damage. It was covered by insurance.

Ceiling Collapses

Mr. W. L. Hoare, of W. L. Hoare and Co., motor traders, stated that his goods had escaped serious damage. There were six cars in the portion of the building he occupied, which was

used as a showroom. The hoods, upholstery, and paint of the cars had been damaged by water. The ceiling of his office had collapsed, and several papers had been destroyed. However, important documents were contained in a safe which was intact. His goods were covered by insurance. Tom S. Bagshaw & Co., which also had several motor cars on the premises escaped lightly. Several motor car hoods were stained by water, and water had percolated into his office, but had not destroyed anything. "I arrived on the scene at half past twelve, after having received a telephone call, but by then the flames had been conquered," he said, "It was a great piece of work by the brigade." The premises of the Adelaide Vulcanising Company, rubber manufacturers, which is controlled by Messrs. H. R. Part and A. Owens, are at the rear of those occupied by Mr. Bagshaw, but so far as the owners could ascertain today they escaped. "A little water came through," said Mr. Part, "but apparently no damage has been done. We were fortunate, as our plant came from England, and it would be many months before we could secure new machines had they been damaged." Mr. J. K. Peterson, secretary of Klopper and Co., Limited (electrical engineers), whose premises are also at the back of the damaged building, said that his company's plant and goods practically escaped. Mr. C. E. Battye, whose premises are separated from those of Northey Brothers Limited by a wooden partition, suffered loss. The flames broke through the partition and burned the goods which were contained in cases. Many electrical appliances and a quantity of glassware were destroyed. The loss is covered by insurance.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 25 April 1925, page 6

Small City Fire

Receiving a call at half-past 6 this morning the Fire Brigade arrived just in time to extinguish a small fire on the first storey of a shop at 286 Rundle street, occupied by Mr. S. O. Beilby, grocer. Only slight damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 27 April 1925, page 8

A GOOD SAVE.

The East-End markets are considered to be one of the fire danger zones of the city, and in view of this fact more than ordinary interest attached to the call which the fire brigade received at 6.30 a.m. on Saturday to the east-end of Rundle-street, where an outbreak of fire was reported in the rear portion of Mr. S. O. Beilby's store, abutting on the markets. The flooring on the first floor was well alight when the brigade arrived, but through their prompt and efficient efforts the blaze was quickly extinguished; a good save, which in other circumstances, might have had disastrous results. Only slight damage was occasioned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 29 April 1925, page 13

CASUALTIES.

FIRE IN GRENFELL STREET.

Shortly after midnight the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received an alarm from Imperial place, at rear of the Imperial Hotel, Grenfell street. The locality being an important city block a large portion of the plant was turned out. The fire was ascertained to be in a storeroom belonging to the Army and Navy Stores, grocers. Dense volumes of smoke poured forth, but there was no sign of a blaze. Before The Register went to press it was believed that the fire would be extinguished by means of the chemical appliances, without damage to the stock by water.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 30 April 1925, page 10

ALL-AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION.

Musical Competitions Resumed.

Short Circuit and Small Fire.

The short-circuiting of an electric light switchbox in the basement of the Exhibition Building resulted in a small fire breaking out on Wednesday morning. It was speedily extinguished, and practically no damage was done. The musical competitions were resumed during the day, and further judges' awards were announced.

The switchbox at which the fusing occurred is situated on the eastern side of the basement, where the paintings, exhibited under the fine arts section, are hung. An attendant, Mrs. F. Jackson, had her attention drawn to the fire by the lights going out. She raised an alarm, which was answered by Mr. R. Shannon, one of the sub-firemen. He brought a chemical extinguisher into play and put out the flames in a few seconds. The fire was licking the wooden partition and flooring of the main hall. The central brigade was summoned as an extra precaution.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 2 May 1925, page 10

FIRE BRIGADE CALL

The City Fire Station received a call at 8.53 tonight to the Premises of the South Australian Brush Company in Flinders street. A valve on a boiler bursting started a small fire, but the flames were promptly subdued.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 14 May 1925, page 7

Firemen's Log Expires

The log under which South Australian firemen have been working for some time expires today. Mr. P. K. Nieass (secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association) stated that the men would meet at an early date to prepare a new log, which would be submitted to the Fire Brigades Board. At present the minimum wage is £4 4/ a week. In addition to this the members are provided with lodgings, but pay for board. The men are not satisfied with the prevailing rates.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 25 May 1925, page 9

MALICIOUS FIRE ALARMS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received three malicious false alarms at a late hour on Friday. The first was from Grote-street, near the Central Market, at 11.45 p.m., followed by a call to the Franklin-street alarm at 11.59. At 12.50 the third call was received, again from Grote-street. In no case was anyone in attendance at the alarms, and the calls could only be attributed to a malicious prank. A serious view is taken of such occurrences by the Fire Brigades Act, and section 68 provides for the imposition of a fine of £5, or imprisonment for seven days, with or without hard labor, for a first conviction, and six months' imprisonment, with or without hard labor, and without the option of a fine, in the case of a second offence.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 25 May 1925, page 2

Wages of Firemen

Mr. F. K. Nieass (secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association) has received a letter from Mr. H. M. Bristowe (secretary of the Fire Brigades' Board), intimating that the new log of wages and conditions submitted by the association is receiving the consideration of the board.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 1 June 1925, page 9

FIRE AT DELL'S.

Flames Checked Quickly.

Brigade Does Valuable Work.

As a result of prompt work by the Fire Brigade the destruction of a drapery shop in Rundle street was prevented on Sunday night.

At 6.55 p.m. the Fire Brigade was called to the premises of Dell's, Limited, Rundle street, where it was found on arrival that a fire was burning fiercely. There was a bright glare from the front windows and those of the upper story, and small flames were showing above the roof. The neighbourhood is a dangerous one for a fire, for on one side is a picture theatre, with the Arcade next to it, and on the other are small shops, containing highly inflammable material and fittings. It is therefore to the credit of the brigade that the blaze was subdued so quickly. Had there been any delay in getting to work the fire would have gained such a firm hold that to check it would have been extremely difficult. It was decided to work from the front and back portions of the premises, with a view to extinguishing the fire, and a third line of hose was used through a top-story window. The men at the rear of the shop had to clamber over a low roof at the western side of the Pavilion Picture Theatre, and force an entrance through a small window. The chief attack was made in the shop itself to which entrance was gained by breaking in the front door. A few minutes sufficed to put an end to the blaze in the shop, which was confined to the ceiling. No harm was done to the stock in that portion of the premises, except by water dripping on to it from the upper floor. The next step was to take a line of hose through the shop to the upper story, where the fire was burning in three rooms and a passage. It was necessary to break open an iron door, fastened with a staple and padlock, to gain access to the stairway. After that was done, the task was easy, and by 7.30 the fire was extinguished, and guards were being set for the night. So far as could be ascertained the damage was restricted to some cloth in a small workroom destroyed, the floors of a passage way and two rooms much char-red, several rafters charred, and some light galvaniasd iron ceiling buckled. Apparently the fire started between the flooring of the second story and the ceiling beneath it, and it was fortunate that the brigade arrived before it reached any of the material in the shop, which consisted of showcases, counters, clothing material wool, and cotton. Had it gained a hold there in all probability everything would have been destroyed. It was impossible to estimate the cost of repairing the damage on Sunday night. No theory could be formed of the cause of the fire at the time.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 1 June 1925, page 1

RUNDLE STREET FIRE

Business Premises Saved

Disastrous results were averted by the promptitude of the Fire Brigade and the work of the firemen at the outbreak which occurred in Argent Buildings, Rundle street, at 6.55 last night. The principal sufferers were Mr. T. W. Dell-Johnston (proprietor of the establishment known as Dell's) and Mr. Said Khadidad. Other occupants of shops facing Rundle street are Mr. J. Woodhead (boot store), Adelaide Sheet Metal Works Limited, Melbourne Auction Company Limited, Adelaide Cake Company, The Bijou Milliners, and a ham and beef shop. Little damage was done to stock in these premises. Argent Chambers are right opposite the Plough and Harrow Hotel. There are entrances from the rear and by a wooden stairway from Twin street. These are available to all the occupants of the premises and the public. Discovered in the men's lavatory on the upstairs floor was two bottles of whisky, two small bottles of wine, and two bottles of beer, the contents of which had been sampled as well as two tumblers and some partly consumed sandwiches. The tap in the lavatory had been running and the wash basin was overflowing. The fire apparently started in the up stairs passageway. The rooms and contents of Mr. Said Khadidad were burnt out, and the floors were badly charred. The rafters of the roof were badly burned, and a lot of iron on the roof was twisted. The fire burned a hole in the passageway above Dell's and a large quantity of stock in the showrooms below was damaged by water. Dell's factory at the rear is intact, and the 28 girls employed started work there this morning. Mr. Johnston left the premises at 1.15 p.m. on Saturday, when every thing was in order. The extent of the damage is not yet known. Stock and fittings of Dell's were insured in the Scottish Union Insurance Company for approximately £2,000. Dell's have

opened temporary premises in the shop lately occupied by them in Midway Buildings, 84 Rundle street.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 10 June 1925, page 11

A FALSE ALARM.

The clang of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's bell at midday on Tuesday brought a crowd quickly to the Art Gallery, on North terrace. The firemen made preparations in accordance with a summons received from that locality, but no guiding column of smoke could be perceived amid that extremely valuable line of buildings. Just when the query was at its height, word was received that a zealous citizen had seen dense smoke rising behind the buildings and had believed that one of them was on fire. Then it was ascertained that a quantity of rubbish was being burnt at the Jubilee Oval — a legacy from the recent exhibition.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 17 June 1925, page 10

BIG CITY BLAZE.

PENNO'S BAG STORE DESTROYED.

At 12.22 this morning the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Franklin street, where the bag exchange of H. J. Penno & Co. was found to be well alight. From the outset it was apparent that the premises, which comprised a two-story iron structure extending over a frontage of more than 100 ft to Franklin street and half that depth along Crowther street, were doomed, and the efforts of the firemen were directed largely to preventing the spread of the fire to the adjoining properties, in which at time of going to press they appeared likely to achieve success. Penno's factory was wholly demolished. The loss is at present unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 17 June 1925, page 1

TRAPPED IN FLAMES

Watchman and Three Horses Perish

GALLANT ATTEMPTS AT RESCUE IN INFERNO

Walter Mail, single, 54 years of age, was burned to death in the fire which destroyed the premises of H. J. Penno and Co., bag and sack manufacturers, at Franklin street, early this morning. Mr. Mail, who was a marine store collector, lived in the building, of which he was caretaker. Discovered by firemen shortly before 11 o'clock today, his body was buried beneath charred bags and ruins. Circumstances indicated that deceased was on his way from his room above the stable at the rear to liberate the horses when he was overcome by smoke and falling debris. Three horses, stabled in the north-west corner of the building, were trapped by the flames and suffocated. There were no burns on their bodies. The total loss is estimated at between £15,000 and £16,000. Insurances amounted to £13,500.

Mr. Mail was a trusted servant of the firm, with which he had been for 27 years. It was customary for him to arrive at the factory between 5.30 and 6.0 p.m. each evening and make an inspection of the building to see that everything was in order. After having tea between 8 and 9 o'clock he would feed and bed down the horses that were stabled on the premises. Then he usually retired to bed. "The first intimation I received that a fire had occurred," said Mr. H. J. Penno (managing director of the company), "was a telephone message about 1 o'clock this morning. I proceeded to the scene by motor car and made diligent enquiries about Mr. Mail and the horses. I was informed that the night watchman was safe and that the horses had been released. "I later found that the position was not as stated and had grave fears of the safety of Mr. Mail. The horses that had been released belonged to neighboring residents. "While viewing the fire I feared the worst and felt sure that the man had perished in the flames. Upon making my fears known to Mr. G. P. Cooper (deputy-chief officer of the Fire Brigade) and Inspector Mattin, both officers at great personal risk entered the burning building

and did all that was humanly possible to trace the whereabouts of Mr. Mail. I cannot speak too highly of their gallantry." Mr. Mail was a son of Joseph Mail, and was born at Carrington street on April 8, 1871. A brother, Mr. Samuel Mail, resides at Lee terrace, Rosewater. The father of the deceased had a wood-yard at the corner of Carrington and Maud streets many years ago.

Smouldering Ruins

It was a gruesome sight which presented itself to large numbers of people who visited the scene of the fire this morning. What had been a huge wood and iron building of two storeys on a corner block of land measuring about 60 by 120 feet was a mass of smouldering ruins. The whole of the roof had collapsed, and there was not a vestige of the first floor left. Huge uprights which supported the first floor and the roof stood out gaunt and blackened, while below galvanised iron twisted into fantastic shapes littered the floor and the footpaths of the street. That a heavy stock of bags was carried was indicated by the hundreds of badly charred bales stacked on all sides of the building. The centre of the building had been totally burned. It appeared as though the fire had been fiercest there, and the firemen had had an obviously hopeless task. The iron wall at the front of the building remained almost intact. At the rear of the building, where the flames had burned fiercely, firemen had spared no effort to protect the row of tiny cottages which abutted the destroyed building, and their efforts were successful. Clambering courageously over the precarious footholds offered by the damaged wood and ironwork above the stable, they directed a stream of water on to the cottage occupied by two middle-aged men, who stood out in the cold all night and implored the firemen to get down. The flames were kept from that part of the building as much as possible, and with the exception of water no damage was done to the cottage. Residents spoke in terms of admiration of the work of the firemen, who had ignored personal danger in their desire to save adjoining property.

Firemen Work Hard

The Fire Brigade received calls almost simultaneously from alarms in Grote street and Franklin street at 12.22 a.m., and firemen were on the scene of the outbreak within a couple of minutes. All the appliances at the head station were used, together with the two motor pumps. The North Adelaide Brigade also attended.

The flames were found to have a strong hold. Tongues of flame were shooting skyward, and dense volumes of smoke belched from windows and holes in the roof. It was seen that the building could not be saved, and efforts were directed toward stopping the spread of the fire to adjacent houses. Water was played on to the flames from several hoses and the fire was got under control at 2.30 a.m. The contents of the factory consisted of bales of new and secondhand bags, hessian, bagging, string, and twine. There were several sewing, cutting, and other machines on the top floor.

Loss Exceeds Insurance

The contents of the building were insured with the Commonwealth Assurance Company for £10,000, and the building for £3,500. The estimated total loss of plant stock, and building is between £15,000 and £16,000. "I am not so much concerned about the loss and the inconvenience as the death of Mr. Mail." remarked Mr. Penno. "He



INSPECTOR MATTIN who with Mr. G. P. Cooper (deputy chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade) went into the burning building at great personal risk in search of the watchman, whose dead body was found this morning.

was generally known as 'Old Wally,' and was a well known identity in the city. "As far as can be ascertained the factory was all right yesterday afternoon at 5.30, when the foreman left. I do not know the cause of the outbreak. "Many offers of assistance by business firms have been made. For these we are grateful. Arrangements are being made to reconstruct our factory as quickly as possible. There are 14 employes engaged at the factory, and they will be employed in some way or other."

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 18 June 1925, page 9

A DISASTROUS FIRE.

CARETAKER BURNED TO DEATH.

BAG FACTORY DESTROYED.

The fire which destroyed Messrs. H. J. Penno & Company's premises in Franklin-street, early on Wednesday morning was attended by tragic circumstances, as later in the day the charred body of Mr. Walter Mail, a caretaker, who slept on the premises, was found in the debris.

Further particulars in connection with the fire which destroyed Messrs. H. J. Penno's bag factory, at the corner of Franklin and Crowther streets, in the early hours of Wednesday morning show that the outbreak caused the death of the caretaker, Mr. Walter Mail, aged about 53 years, who was accustomed to sleep on the premises. When the managing director of the company (Mr. H. J. Penno) arrived on the scene, he became apprehensive concerning the safety of Mr. Mail, and the fear that he had been caught in the burning building was intensified by the fact, that, three of the horses, which were his first care, were found suffocated in the stables, situated on the western side of the building. Not much could be done in the way of searching for Mr. Mail, until daylight, when the firemen began turning over the debris near the centre of the factory. They found first a portion of a limb, and then the charred body of the missing caretaker. Mr. Mail, who had occupied a room at the north-western corner of the building, had been in the employ of the company for many years, and was regarded as a trustworthy servant. After the closing of the factory at 5.30 p.m. he often went out to secure his tea, and when he returned he attended to the feeding of the horses, usually before 9 p.m., and retired to his room for the night. A peculiar feature of the case is that even if he were cut off in his room by the flames, he had two means of escape without entering the main building, one from another door of the room, and the second by a staircase. Mr. Penno, accompanied by Inspector Mattin, and Station-officer Cooper, of the Fire Brigade, examined Mr. Mail's room some time after the fire was noticed, and everything was then intact, even to the clothes on the dead man's bed. It is thought that on hearing the noise of

the fire Mr. Mail either ran into the factory to fight it, or to make his way to the office, which is situated at the other side of the building from his room, to save the contents, or else that in the excitement of the moment he forgot the other exits and sought to gain the street by the usual method of access. Evidently he was overcome by the fumes, and when the floor of the first storey collapsed his body fell to the ground level. All that remains of the building is portions of the iron walls and smouldering wood and bags. A crowd gathered to watch the firemen at work searching the ruins, but they were kept back by the police, under Inspector Mattin. It was about 11 o'clock before Mr. Mail's remains were found.

It was 12.22 a.m. when the alarm was received at the head fire station in Wakefield-street from Grote and Franklin streets, and all the appliances turned out from the head station, as well as the machine from North Adelaide. The fire had a good hold when the firemen arrived, and owing to the inflammable nature of the contents—bags, twine, and general merchandise—it was seen that the building was doomed. Although water was poured on it from several lines of hose, as well as by two motor pumps, the flames demolished practically the whole of the building. The structure itself, being practically all wood and iron, offered a good hold to the fire, and soon the first floor and the roof fell in. In the circumstances the firefighters did well to prevent the flames spreading to adjacent buildings on the northern and western sides. When the outbreak began to die down, about 2.30 a.m., some of the motors were returned to headquarters, in order to meet any other possible emergency.

Station-Officer Cooper stated on Wednesday that when information was received from Mr. Penno that a man was in the habit of sleeping in the premises a search was made of his room, and, though his bed was found with the bed clothes still on it, there was no trace of him. On visiting the stable he found three horses dead in their stalls, and, though they were slightly scorched, it was evident that their death was caused by suffocation rather than actual burning. Mr. Penno was much distressed over the tragedy on Wednesday. He said as far as he was aware everything was perfectly secure when the premises were locked by the foreman (Mr. J. Cook) at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The first intimation he received was a telephone message at his home at Malvern through the office of Messrs. J. Dennis & Co., timber merchants, of Franklin-street, and he immediately hurried into the city. "My first thought when I arrived," he said, "was to enquire concerning the caretaker and the horses. I was told three horses had been taken out the back way, but knowing there was no possible chance of their having been liberated in that manner, I asked one of the firemen to accompany me to the stables on the western side of the factory. When we reached there we found the three animals dead. I was then apprehensive of the safety of the caretaker, and told my fears to Station Officer Cooper and Inspector Mattin. I was assured that previous to my arrival every possible precaution had been taken to see that no one was trapped in the building, but the search was resumed and the police and firefighters did everything possible to find Mr. Mail, but he could not be located." Mr. Penno added that the other directors of the company were Messrs. W. L. Thomas and G. Vardon, and the secretary was Mr. G. Vardon. The building and contents were insured with the Commonwealth General Assurance Company for £13,500. but he did not think the estimated loss—£15,000—was fully covered by the policies. Both floors were stacked with sacks, loose, and baled, many of which were shortly to be dispatched to farmers for the approaching harvest, in addition to string, twine, and other merchandise. Two International motor lorries, valued at about £500 each, which were on the ground floor, were almost totally destroyed, in addition to two 10-ton trollies. The machinery, which included several electrical motors of varying horse-power, bag presses, and shafting, would be practically a total loss. The staff would not be put off, added Mr. Penno, as Horwood, Bagshaw, Ltd., had arranged to let them have temporary occupation of their premises in Franklin-street, where orders would be fulfilled. Fortunately the books of the concern were kept at the head office in Bentham-street. A single man, Mr. Mail followed the calling of a marine and store collector in his spare time. He was the son of Mr. Joseph Mail, who at one time conducted a wood yard in Carrington-street.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 19 June 1925, page 13

DEALING WITH FIRES

Auxiliary System in Country

Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the Fire Brigades Board) and Mr. J. E. Dickie (chief officer) have returned to Adelaide from Kadina and Moonta, where they finalised the conversion of the fire stations in those towns from permanent brigades to the auxiliary system, which consists of one foreman and three fireman for each station. During the day the men follow their usual occupations. These stations have electric sirens installed, and if the fire station is called either from the street alarms or from any telephone, such instantly sets the siren in motion, which can be heard up to half a mile away. It continues to ring until shut off by one of the firemen. On the siren giving the alarm, the men leave their work and attend the call. At night the men sleep on the station, and are on the spot the same as if they were permanent firemen. The stations are equipped similarly to the suburban fire stations, with motor hose carriage and the necessary gear. The auxiliary system is now installed at Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Renmark, Berri, Tanunda, Balaklava, Kapunda, Burra, Moonta, Kadina, and Mallala, leaving only Wallaroo and Port Augusta to be dealt with. The whole of the country stations will then be under the auxiliary system except Port Pirie and Gawler, which will remain permanent stations. The board is satisfied that the towns mentioned are now provided with an efficient and economical service at less than one-third of the cost of permanent stations.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 22 June 1925, page 6

NURSE INJURED BY BURNING.

Early on Sunday, Miss Agnes Cocks, a trained nurse, who occupied a detached room at premises on South terrace, rose to prepare a cup of coffee. A kerosine lamp was upset in the room, and the contents of the room became alight. The fire brigade had to be summoned to quell the outbreak, and Miss Cocks was taken to the Adelaide Hospital, and there treated for burns on the face and hands.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 23 June 1925, page 1

TRAPPED IN FLAMES

Death of Walter Mail

CAUSE OF FIRE UNKNOWN

That Walter Mail came to his death by being burned in a fire at the factory of H. J. Penno, Limited, on June 17, and that there was nothing to show the cause or origin of the fire was the finding of Mr. C. L. Mathews (assistant city coroner) at the inquest today. Thomas John Baker, railway porter, of Keswick, said that he was riding a bicycle along Franklin street at 12.40 a.m. He saw a red glare in the windows of the factory. He gave the alarm. Dr. A. F. Lynch stated that an examination of the body of Mail showed that it was badly burned. Both arms and feet had been burned from the body, and the superficial skin had been seared away. There were no marks on the body by which it could be identified. George Patrick Cooper, chief officer of the Fire Brigade, stated that when the brigade arrived the building was well alight. During the fire a man came along and said he was Mr. Penno. He asked if any horses had been released, to which he received an affirmative reply. He was told from where they were released, and he stated that they did not belong to his firm. He showed the firemen the stables, and when they opened them they found three horses dead. Mr. Penno told witness that a man usually slept there, but an examination of his quarters showed that he was not there. When the fire was under control they searched the building. He could not say how the fire originated. Albert Edward Abery, fireman, stated that he searched the debris of the fire in company with two other firemen. They found the charred remains of a human foot. After removing rubbish and iron they discovered the charred remains of a man in the centre of the building. The body was lying face downward with the head pointing toward the door.

ATTEMPT AT RESCUE

Alfred Michael Griffin, station officer of the Fire Brigade Station, stated that a boy caught him by the arm and said, "Old Wally is in there. He is the caretaker. He is always there." When Witness learned that Mail slept in the north-western corner of the building he called a fireman and ran to the Franklin street gate. He climbed a ladder and found that the whole of the top floor was raging. He started to search the ground floor, but feeling himself getting choked started to scramble to the door. Portion of the floor collapsed behind him, and he staggered to the street. In answer to Inspector T. O. Mattin, who watched the proceedings on behalf of the police, witness said that he formed the opinion that deceased was burned on the top floor and fell to the ground when it collapsed. He would have been deceased when he searched if he had been on the ground floor. Inspector Mattin stated that when he arrived the fire was in that portion near where the electric light wires entered. Witness said that Fireman Griffin entered the building to search for the caretaker, and he followed. He found no signs of the man. The floor then collapsed. He called to the fireman to come out, and ran back. Fireman Griffin came up to him and partly collapsed in his arms. They went back and pulled out a trolley. Shortly afterward the whole floor collapsed. He saw Mr. Penno later, and he said that the man's name was Walter Mail. The heat in the building was terrific, and it was impossible for anyone to stop in there.

SOBER AND CAREFUL

Henry Joseph Penno, managing director of H. J. Penno & Co., Limited, stated that the building was a two storied wood-and-iron place. The stock was bag and twine. There were electric motors. Walter Mail was employed by the firm as a caretaker. He was single, aged about 53 years. When he arrived at the fire he asked a fireman if the horses and the man were out, and he replied in the affirmative. Witness said that he was in a state of collapse. Inspector Mattin informed him that the man had not been got out. The caretaker was of sober habits. He smoked, but witness had never seen him doing so on the premises. Cross-examined by Inspector Mattin, witness said that when deceased wanted a smoke he always went outside to the street. Joseph Cook, foreman employed by H. J. Penno & Co., Limited, stated he left the building at 5.35 p.m. on June 16. He did not see deceased. When he left everything appeared to be all right. Mrs. Alice Maude Harris, of Franklin street, said that she knew Walter Mail, who got hot water from her. She saw him last at 6.45 p.m. on June 16. The assistant coroner stated that the evidence was that a man named Walter Mail was employed as a caretaker of the factory. He was last seen by Mrs. Harris. A fire destroyed the factory on June 17, and in the debris was found the charred remains of a body. No person had been able to identify it, but he came to the conclusion that it was that of Walter Mail.

Kadina and Wallaroo Times (SA : 1888 - 1954), Wednesday 24 June 1925, page 2

AUXILIARY FIRE BRIGADES.

The Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board (Mr E. Frinsdorf) and the Chief Officer (Mr J. E. Dickie) have returned to Adelaide from Kadina and Moonta says the Register, where they went to finalize the conversion of the fire stations in those towns from permanent brigades to the auxiliary system, which consists of an auxiliary foreman and three auxiliary firemen for each station. During the day the men follow their usual occupations. These stations have electric sirens installed, and if the fire station is called either from the street alarms or from any telephone such call instantly sets up the siren in motion, and this can be heard up to half a mile, and continues to ring till shut off by one of the firemen. On the siren giving the alarm, the men at once leave their work, and attend the call. At night they sleep in the station, and are on the spot, just as though they were permanent firemen. The stations are equipped similarly to the suburban fire stations, with motor hose carriage and the necessary gear. The auxiliary system is now installed at Mount Gambler, Murray Bridge, Renmark, Berri, Tanunda, Balaklava, Kapunda, Burra, Moonta, Kadina, and Mallala, leaving only Wallaroo and Port Augusta to be dealt with. The whole of the country stations will then be under the auxiliary system, excepting Port Pirie and Gawler, which will remain permanent stations. The board are

satisfied that the towns mentioned are now provided with an efficient and economical service, at less than one third the cost of permanent stations.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 29 June 1925, page 13

DEATH FROM BURNING.

Miss Agnes Cocks, the victim of a burning accident at South-terrace on June 21, died at the Adelaide Hospital yesterday morning. Miss Cocks, who was 35 years of age, lived with her two sisters on South-terrace. At 2.25 a.m. on Sunday week a fire started in Miss Cocks's room, and though she was rescued, she was badly burned on the face, hands, and legs.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 30 June 1925, page 5

No Inquest It has been deemed unnecessary to hold an inquest concerning the death of Miss Agnes Cocks aged 35 years, who was burned in a fire at South terrace on June 21, and died in the Adelaide Hospital on Sunday.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 30 June 1925, page 6

Upkeep of Fire Brigades

Insurance companies have to make a larger contribution for the upkeep of the fire brigades in South Australia than in any other State of the Commonwealth. This is the result of the passing of the Fire Brigades Act Amendment Bill by Parliament last session. In Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania the insurance companies, the Government, and the municipalities each contribute one-third toward the cost of maintaining the fire brigades. The contribution by insurance companies in Queensland is three-sevenths and in Western Australia three-eighths, but South Australia now exacts a payment of five-ninths from insurance companies, while the Government pays only one-ninth and the municipalities three ninths. The extra cost to the companies is about £5,000 annually, but this year it will amount to £11,000, owing in part to the purchase of the new fire float for Port Adelaide.

Port Adelaide News (SA :1913 - 1933), Friday 10 July 1925, page 5

FIREMEN WANT HIGHER WAGES.

Firemen in the South Australian Fire Brigades want more money. At present the minimum rate is £4 4/ weekly. They want an increase of 1/ a day to bring that wage to £4 11/ weekly. On Wednesday a largely attended meeting of the men, who belong to the fire brigade section of the Australian Government Workers' Association, was held at the head station in Wakefield Street. Fireman L. A. Fry presided. The general secretary (Mr. F. K. Nieass) submitted a full report of the conference with the board, and stated that the board's reply to their request was a refusal to grant the increase wanted. The meeting resolved to inform the board that the firemen regretted the unsympathetic treatment that had been meted out to their request. They also decided that the log submitted to the board should now be referred to the Industrial Court. It was also resolved that the rate to be asked for the carpenter and tradesman's assistant be referred to the executive. The conference delegates and the general secretary were heartily thanked for their services.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 15 July 1925, page 8

A SMART SAVE.

At 7.37 p.m. on Tuesday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade answered a call to the residence of Mr. E. C. Nenke, at 197 Wright street, City, where a chimney had caught fire. Owing to the prompt arrival of the brigade the blaze was extinguished before much damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 21 July 1925, page 10

MALICIOUS FALSE ALARM.

What was described as a "malicious false alarm" caused a detachment from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to tumble out in the cold at 9.20 o'clock on Monday night. An alarm in Hindley street west had been set in operation by some mischievous person, of whom the firemen could discover no trace.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 1 August 1925, page 9

A SMALL CITY FIRE.

On Friday evening a small fire occurred at 147 Hindley street, Adelaide, at a boarding house, occupied by Mrs. Denegers. The outbreak occurred in a bedroom. The brigade was summoned and quickly extinguished the flames. But little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 3 August 1925, page 9

SPARK CAUSED FIRE.

Shortly before noon on Sunday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the bulk store of R. H. Gambling and Co., Pirie street east. On arrival it was ascertained that a spanner which a workman was using on a petrol tank slipped and struck a nut. The impact produced a spark, which flew on to some inflammable material, causing it to burst into flame. It is understood that the workman, in endeavouring to extinguish the blaze, was temporarily overcome by the fumes. The fire was got under control before any damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 4 August 1925, page 8

CASUALTIES.

MOTOR CAR DESTROYED.

Shortly before noon on Monday Mr. McDonald, mechanic, of 70 O'Connell street, North Adelaide, was trying out a five-seater touring car, which had been undergoing repairs, along Bartels road (a continuation of Pirie street, Adelaide), when he noticed unusual heat about his feet. He stopped the car, jumped out, and raised the bonnet. Flames shot up, and in an instant the car was blazing fiercely. Attempts were made to quench the fire, and at 2.14 p.m. the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was notified. An engine was dispatched, but it was too late for much to be done. The chemical extinguishers were powerless against the great heat, for the whole vehicle was enveloped in flames, and by the time the hoses were in action the case was hopeless. Little was left of the car except the tyres, which remained inflated, and the headlamps. The woodwork and upholstery were consumed, and various aluminium portions of the body were melted. The frame of the body was twisted and blackened. A strong wind, while it fanned the flames, kept them away from the petrol tank, and there was no explosion. The outbreak was probably caused by a spark from a short circuit catching stray petrol vapours. The car belonged to Mr. John Alfred Higgs, motor car proprietor, of New street, Queenstown, and Port Pirie. The driver informed the constable that he could not explain the cause of the fire. The car was insured for £250.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 14 August 1925, page 7

FIRE BRIGADE EMPLOYEES' WAGES.

The Fire Brigades Board was before the Deputy President (Dr. T. Hewitson) in the Industrial Court on Thursday, cited there by the Australian Government Workers' Association, which claimed higher wages for the employes of the respondent. Claims were made also for an alteration of conditions of work. Mr. F. K. Nieass appeared for the union, and Mr. A. W. Piper. K.C., for the board. His Honor adjourned the hearing, so that the parties might confer with a view to settling the matter, or reduce the number of issues.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 17 August 1925, page 13

FIRE AT BOWER BUILDINGS.

TOP FLOOR DESTROYED.

MUCH LOSS SUSTAINED.

A fire which broke out in Bower Buildings, Charles-street, City, between 7 and 8 o'clock on Sunday evening, gutted the offices at the back of the top floor. The cause of the fire is unknown. All the suburban, as well as the metropolitan fire brigades, were in attendance. The actual loss sustained has not yet been ascertained. Bower Buildings is a three-storeyed wooden floored building, standing in Charles-street, between Rundle-street and North-terrace, owned by the Executor, Trustee, and Agency Company. On the outbreak of the fire the police picketed both ends of the street, and the brigade began to attack the fire from the front and from the side, in the lane between Bower Buildings and the residence of Dr. Guy Lendon. From the street, all that could be seen of the fire was smoke coming over the parapet, and a faint glare from occasional flames that came through the galvanized iron roof. From the side lane the window of an office on the top floor could be seen lit up by the flare of the burning contents. From the ground it appeared that the fire was confined to the back of the top floor. A ladder was erected in Charles-street, resting against the parapet, and a hose was carried to the top and played on the fire. Another hose was playing on the blaze at the side, and after a difficult journey over a series of gabled roofs at the back, the men managed to bring a hose to bear on the rear. They were considerably hampered in their work by a number of skylights and iron bars. The fire was obviously well under by about a quarter past nine, and the hoses were turned off half an hour later. The firemen described it as "a straight-out job, but awkward to get at." One man's helmet came in contact with an electric light wire when he was descending the ladder, and he received a shock. The men were quite unhampered in their work by the crowd, which was particularly orderly.

From Hayward's Building.

A view of the fire from the roof of the adjoining building showed that although the roof had not collapsed anywhere all its supports must have been burned away. Flames showed at different points all over the roof, and although no glare had shown through the front windows of the top floor it appeared that none of the front offices had escaped quite unscathed. A group of firemen were manning a hose on the top of Haywards Buildings, which overlooks Bower Buildings by about 15 ft. Dense volumes of smoke rose from the burning roof, sweeping right through Haywards Buildings, which was, however, absolutely untouched by the fire.

Policeman Rings Alarm.

Constable H. Barringer, who was on duty in Rundle-street, was the first to see signs of the fire. He noticed a smell of burning, and, after making a cursory inspection, concluded that it was coming from the back of the Plough and Harrow Hotel. On resuming his beat, however, he noticed that the smell had become stronger and went back. He made his way through to the back of Bower Buildings, and saw the reflection of flames on a wall. He immediately ran to the fire alarm in Rundle-street, and summoned the brigade. The fire at that time, appeared to be in a room at the back of the top floor, near the middle of the building. He hammered with his baton on several of the outside doors, but obtained no response. The brigade had arrived in the shortest possible space of time.

Fire Chief's Statement.

In addition to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, all the suburban brigades were in attendance. When questioned concerning the outbreak, Superintendent J. Dickie, of the Metropolitan Fire Station, said as he had been able to make only a cursory examination of the building, he could not give a definite statement of the extent of the damage. The most affected area was the north-eastern corner of the building. On the arrival of the brigades the flames had a strong hold on the back, or eastern side of the structure. There was no indication of how the outbreak occurred. Part of the roof, as well as portions of the ceiling of the second floor, had collapsed. The flames had been attacked by the fire-fighters from all sides.

Some of the Damage.

The full extent of the damage sustained by the tenants and owners of the building cannot as yet be ascertained, but several merchants, who were at the scene of the fire, had stories of loss. Mr. W. F. LeCornu, who occupies a piano shop, a gramophone shop and two back rooms on the ground floor, stated that he had £2,000 worth of stock in his rooms. Although, unable to state the exact amount of loss sustained, the fact that a good deal of water must have penetrated into the ground floor offices would mean considerable damage to the pianos. Messrs. A. Susman & Co., importers and indent agents, whose office is situated on the second floor, and who occupy the largest floor space in the building, were also greatly affected. Their stock, consisting chiefly of Eastern manufactures, was insured. Messrs. Krelinger & Fernan, who occupied rooms at the rear of the building, in the most affected area, had their big stock of cigarettes destroyed. The goods were insured.

A Pathetic Scene.

The caretaker of the building, Mrs. F. D. Perry, had left home about three o'clock in the afternoon, and after visiting the cemetery at West-terrace, had gone to a friend's place to tea. She returned about 9 o'clock, when the fire was practically at its height. She had left a little dog and two canaries in her fiat on the top floor, and could, with difficulty, be prevented from rushing into the building to see if they were safe. Sobbing hysterically, she kept repeating, "There was no gas or light on; I don't know how it could have happened." Mrs. Perry has been caretaker of Bower Buildings for about three years, and since the death of her husband a year ago, has lived alone in a flat on the top floor. She was taken to a neighboring flat in a state of collapse.

List of Tenants.

A complete list of the tenants of Bower Buildings is as follows:—Ground floor— Mr. F. Jarvis (tailor), Mr. D. J. Cocks (timberware), American Dry Cleaning Company, Mr. W. F. LeCornu (piano and gramophone merchant), Mr. R. Sarre (jeweller). Mr. J. G. Coakes (agent), Mr. A. Glover (agent), Mr. W. James (agent), Messrs. Brooks, McGlashan & Harg (importers). First floor—Messrs. A. Susman and Co. (indent agents), Mr. F. W. Knabe (agent). Messrs. Kreglingnen & Furneau, Mr. W. E. Carlisle, Mr. J. W. McAloney (agent), Inter-State Agencies, Messrs. Harden & Co. (silk merchants), Mr. H. Holsten (agent), Messrs. Doe Bros. (agents). Mr. R. W. Jennings (Michelides, Ltd.), Messrs. J. Rule & Co. (agents), Mr T. W. Tassie (agent). Second floor—Miss M. McCarthy (costumier), Mr. J. A. Rawling (agent), Mr. C. C. Reed (agent), Mr. E. W. Beasley & Co. (agents), Mr. C. S. Goodman (woollen merchants), Mr. J. J. Collier (agent), Messrs. A. Murdock and Co. (agents), Messrs. McLeay Bros. (agents). Messrs. W. J. Jones & Co. (agents), Mr. A. L. Nimmo (tailor), Mr. D. B. Morris (fancy goods), Mr. F. H. Wills (agent), International Pty., Mr. W. Levinson (agent), and Mr. C. C. Creed.

A Light Seen.

Mrs. H. L. Brooks, the wife of the caretaker of Hayward's Buildings, stated that when she and her husband had been about to leave their flat at half-past six, they had seen a light burning in the passage outside Mrs. Perry's flat in Bower Buildings. This light burns customarily all night. The theory was advanced that the fusing of an electric wire may have caused the first outbreak.



State Library of South Australia - Charles Street, Adelaide [B 1191], Bower Buildings, Charles Street, Adelaide, photographed on February 1, 1923. Shop fronts were installed in May, 1923. The left side of the building is 40 yards south of North Terrace. 1923. Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 21 Collection

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 17 August 1925, page 9

FIRE IN CITY.

Bower Building Burnt

Flames Threatened Shopping Area.

Excitement was caused in Adelaide shortly after 8 o'clock on Sunday evening by clouds of smoke which were rolling skyward from the vicinity of John Martin's, Limited. A fire had broken out in the rear of Bower Building, in Charles street, and its proximity to many large buildings made the situation extremely dangerous.

Shortly after 8 o'clock Constable H. Barringer was on duty in Rundle street, when he smelt smoke. He walked down Charles street, and going into a lane which runs between the house occupied by Drs. A. A. Lendon and Bower building, saw a glow in the third top storey. He gave the alarm, and in a few seconds a fire engine had arrived. Other metropolitan engines were soon on the scene, and the alarm was answered from all the suburban stations. The outbreak was apparently in the north-eastern corner of the building, where the flat occupied by the caretaker, Mrs. Perry, is situated, but it is not known how it was caused. When the firemen arrived the flames had secured a firm hold, but the facilities for firefighting were fairly good. Hoses were run into Charles place and along the lane to the north of the building, while the extension ladder was hoisted in Charles street. From the top of it streams of water were played on the burning building, and more hoses were operated from the top of Hayward

Building. The latter building was erected recently, and, as it is concrete throughout, there was little danger of its catching fire.

Roof Partly Collapsed.

The efforts of the firemen to keep the flames under control, and the lane on the north side prevented the fire from spreading to the residence on that side. Abutting at the back are a number of small buildings, in addition to a portion of Clarkson's, Limited, and the stables of the Plough and Harrow Hotel. These were not damaged, so far as can be ascertained. There was little wind, and, once the fire hoses were installed, it was only a question of time before the flames would be extinguished. "Spot lights" were used to pierce the thick clouds of smoke which enveloped the building and eddied up Charles street. Within an hour and a half, the fire had been split up into small sections, which were steadily reduced by the thick stream which poured down from all sides. The roof collapsed in places through the rafters and beams along the rear giving way. By 10 o'clock most of the firemen had left, and it was only a matter of cleaning up. No estimate of the damage can be given.

Lack of Witnesses.

The caretaker, Mrs. F. D. Perry, lived alone at the rear of the top floor. Her husband was formerly caretaker, and since his death, about two years ago, she has resisted all suggestions that she should leave the premises. She was not at the rooms when the fire originated, but had gone to a cemetery. When she returned the fire brigade was at work. She could give no idea of the origin of the fire, and, when questioned on Sunday night, appeared to be under great emotion to the suspected loss of a little black dog which she had left in the building. She was also distressed over the fate of her canary. Several men, in order to relieve her distress, searched for the dog, but there was no sign of it. The caretaker of Hayward's Building (Mr. Brookes), was not at home when the fire broke out, and there appear to have been no witnesses earlier than Constable Barringer.

Fire Chiefs Story.

Chief Officer Dickie, who directed the work of the brigades, inspected the building after the flames had been subdued. He stated that, so far as he was able to ascertain from an inspection in the dark, the damage was confined to the top floor and the ceiling of the first floor. The front portion of the third story had not been seriously affected. The roof had fallen in places. The fire had got a good hold on the back of the building before got under control, and had practically destroyed the rear portion of the top floor, and had worked down to the ceiling of the rooms above. The fire had been attacked from all sides. There was no indication of where it began.

Businesses Affected.

Bower Building was erected in 1911, and was recently renovated. There are three floors, which, apart from a row of shops on the Charles street frontage, are occupied by indenters and manufacturers' agents who had their rooms stocked with all kinds of goods. Built of reinforced concrete, with wooden floors, the building was flanked on the north by a narrow lane, and on the south by Hayward Building. The building is owned by the Executor, Trustee & Agency Company, Limited, for whom Messrs. R. W. Swan & Co., are agents.

The tenants are stated to be: — Ground Floor— F. Jarvis, tailor; D. G. J. Cocks, timber and wickerware; American Dry Cleaning Company; W. F. LeCornu, piano and gramophone warehouse-man; R. & R. Sarre, watchmakers and jewellers; J. C. Coakes, manufacturers' agent; A. Glover, manufacturers' agent; W. James, manufacturers' agent; Brooks, McGlashan, & McHarg, Proprietary, Limited, importers. First Floor— A. Busman & Co., importers and indent agents; F. W. Knabe, manufacturers' agent; J. W. McAloney, manufacturers' agent; Interstate Agency, manufacturers' agents; Harden & Co., manufacturers' agents and silk merchants; H. Holtzen, manufacturers' agent; Doe Brothers, manufacturers' agents; Michelides, Limited; J. Rule, Proprietary, Limited, manufacturers'

agents; T. W. Tassie, manufacturers' agent. Second Floor— Miss M. McCarthy, costumier; J. A. Rawling, manufacturers' agent; C. C. Reed, manufacturers' agent and indenter; P. W. Beasley & Co., manufacturers' agents; C. S. Goodman, woollen merchant; J. J. Collier, manufacturers' agent; A. Murdcoch & Co., manufacturers' agent; McLeay Brothers, manufacturers' agents; W. J. Jones & Co., manufacturers' agents; A. L. Nimmo, tailor; D. B. Morris, fancy goods agent; F. H. Wills, manufacturers' agent; International Proprietary, Limited; W. Levinson, manufacturers' agent; W. E. Carlisle; Kreglinger & Fernau, indenters; F. D. Perry, caretaker. Stocks Damaged. Many of the indent agents who occupied rooms in Bower Building carried heavy stocks. Their goods ranged from silks and cigarettes to opticians' instruments. Textile goods apparently formed much of the matter burned, for the smell of burning cloth spread over the city, and this attracted many of the sightseers. A member of the firm of Kreglinger and Fernau, whose room was in the affected area, stated that they carried a large stock of cigarettes. Their goods were insured. Water soaked right through the building. It is stated that some of the goods stored in the building were not insured.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 August 1925, page 1

Bower Building Destroyed By Fire

FLIMSY NATURE OF PARTITIONS CRITICISED

Severe losses were sustained by some of the traders through the fire at Bower Building, Charles street, Adelaide, last night. It will cost at least £10,000 to repair the premises. Members of the Fire Brigades Board visited the scene today. Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman) criticised the flimsy nature of the partitions.

The building, which is the property of the Executor, Trustee, and Agency Company of South Australia, Limited, was insured for £17,000. When the company was approached this morning the manager of the insurance department stated that an inspection had not been made of the building. In view of the fact that practically the whole of the roof, the ceilings on the second and third floors would have to be replaced in addition to the partitions, the damage should run into at least £10,000. Traders who occupied rooms at the rear of the first and second floors proved the worst off, and those nearer the front of the building and on the ground floor found that their goods had been damaged in varying degrees by water. The Fire Brigades Board, comprising Messrs. J. E. Dickie (Chief Officer) and F. Frinsdorf (chairman) made an inspection of the building this morning. "I consider it was a good save taking everything into consideration," said Mr. Frinsdorf today, commenting on the work of the firefighters last night. "The men must have done excellent work, and I am satisfied that everything possible was done." Mr. Frinsdorf said that what struck him most was the absence of brick or reinforced concrete partition walls. Instead partitions of a flimsy nature had been used which made the spread of a fire a simple matter. "I consider it a disgrace that such places are allowed," he added. Mr. Dickie stated that he considered the owners were lucky to have any of the building left. Once the fire had penetrated the roof there was nothing to stop it from spreading all over the building. Mr. C. C. Reid, who occupies a room on the top floor at the front of the building, stated today that he had suffered damage by water to the extent of about £100, which was not covered by insurance. Mr. D. B. Morris stated that his stock of fancy goods valued at £700 was burned out. It was insured for half its value. Mr. A. L. Nimmo, a tailor, who had no insurance policy, estimated his loss at £120. Mr. John Morrow, of the International Proprietary Company Limited, estimated that his company had lost £2,000 in stock, but this was fully covered. Mr. F. H. Wills, an importer whose stock valued at £1,000 was destroyed, stated that it was only covered for half that amount. Jones & Co., boot merchants, lost their stock. Mr. W. F. Le Cornu occupies four rooms on the first floor of the building. Two rooms containing pianos valued at £1,500 and two with £1,400 worth of gramophones and accessories were damaged by water. Twenty pianos were to have been delivered to him on Saturday morning, but owing to a delay they were left in store until this morning. Mr. R. R. Sarre has put off a number of his hands on account of his work shop having been damaged by water. Kreglinger

& Fernau Limited, it is estimated, lost stock worth £3,000. Other occupants of the building who suffered loss were Messrs. J. J. Collier, J. A. Raylings, W. Levinson, Miss M. McCarthy, McLeay Brothers, Fred Jarvis, T. W. Tassie, Susman & Co., Harden's Proprietary Limited, J. Rule and Co., Arthur Glover, Lyall Wills & Co. Limited, Brooks, McGlashan & McHarg Proprietary Limited, Louis Schlank, T. G. Sadlier, McAloney & Co., and D. G. J. Cocks.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 17 August 1925, page 11

MOTOR CAR ABLAZE.

In response to a summons from the Gilbert street (Adelaide) fire alarm about 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, a reel from the Metropolitan Brigade proceeded to that vicinity, and discovered a motor car, the property of Mr. J. C. Williams to be ablaze. The flames were quickly extinguished, but the vehicle was slightly damaged. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 18 August 1925, page 10

CHARLES STREET FIRE



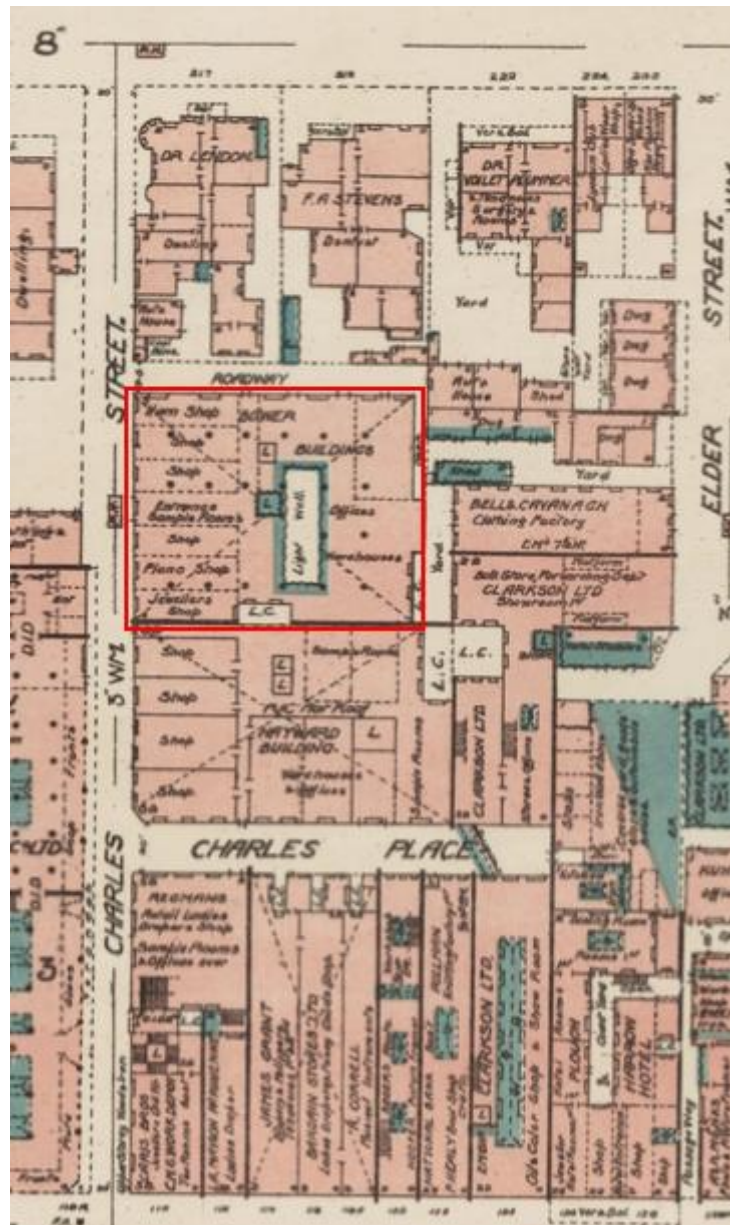
A heap of debris at Bower Building, showing what remained of an indenter's stock after the fire on Sunday night.

CHARLES STREET FIRE.

Extensive Damage at Bower Building.

Daylight revealed more damage to Bower Building, Charles street, Adelaide, than appeared at first to have been caused by the fire which occurred on Sunday night. The rear of the

second floor was gutted, and several rooms at the back of the floor below were severely damaged. A corridor runs across the building about half-way back, and this prevented the flames from spreading to the front rooms. The fire apparently raged fiercest in the north-eastern corner, overlooking Austin place, where all kinds of soft and fancy goods, stored there by indenters and manufacturers' agents, enabled the flames to make quick head-way. Although the roof had not collapsed, most of the woodwork had been burnt and iron sagged dangerously. The wooden floor of the top story was burnt through in places. The building, which is owned by the Executor Trustee and Agency Company, Limited, is insured for about £17,000. The tenants, most of whom are indenters and manufacturers' agents, spent Monday in inspecting their stocks and cleaning up. Apart from the back rooms of the first and second floors, the damage was confined to goods spoilt by water. It is difficult to estimate the extent of the losses sustained until all the goods have been thoroughly examined, but the total loss will probably amount to several thousands of pounds. On the top floor Mr. C. C. Reed estimates the damage done to his stock of millinery and ladies' wear at £100. Water damaged Mr. J. J. Collier's cut samples of cloth, and caused a slight loss otherwise. Mr. J. J. Rawling's stocks of fur goods were soaked. The fancy goods held by Mr. D. B. Morris were totally destroyed. His stock was insured for £300, but was worth twice that amount. Even his books were burned. Mr. W. Levinson's room was also gutted. Mr. A. L. Nimmo lost all his tailoring goods, and the damage, amounting to £120, is not covered by insurance. Although the International Proprietary, Limited, was carrying heavy stocks, worth £2,000, they are fully covered, in connection with the destruction of their goods. Messrs. Jones and Company's stock of boots was demolished, and the damage done to Mr. F. H. Wills's cloths is estimated at £1,000 —partly insured. Messrs. McCleay Brothers' room escaped with a soaking. F. W. Beasley & Company were cleaned out. Miss McCarthy, costumier, was not seriously affected. Mr. C. S. Goodman, woollen merchant, and Messrs. A. Murdoch & Co. also suffered extensive losses, but the room of the caretaker, on the other side of the building, appeared to have escaped the fire and water. The middle rooms, at the rear of the first floor, were also severely burned, and Michelides. Limited, lost the whole of their stock, including a quantity of tobacco goods. Other firms involved on this floor are:— A Susman & Co., F. W. Knabe, T. W. Tassie, Harden's Proprietary, Limited, J. Rule & Co, J. W. McAloney, T. G. Sadlier & Co., and interstate agencies. R. & R. Sarre, jewellers, were the only firm continuing business on Monday, and the other occupants of rooms on the ground floor— Messrs. F. Jarvis, tailor; D. G. J. Cocks, timber broker and wicker worker; American Dry Cleaning Company; F. W. LeCornu, pianos and gramophones; A. Glover, Brooks, McGalshan, and McHarg— engaged their staffs in mopping water that had soaked through the top, and in overlooking their goods. The lack of substantial partition walls was freely commented upon by many who inspected the building. Surprise was expressed at the fact that there were no brick or reinforced concrete walls, and that the only partitions were of fibrous plaster, which does not arrest the progress of a fire. An officer of the fire brigade said that, practically speaking, there were only four walls to the building, and that when a fire reached the roof there was nothing to stop it going all over the building. The tenants praised the work of the brigade, which, in the circumstances, was particularly meritorious.



Adelaide plan. No.2 [cartographic material] / prepared for the Fire Underwriters' Association of South Australia by G. Garrett [C 110].

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 18 August 1925, page 6

Motorist Helps Firemen

At the fire in Bower Building, Charles street, a motorist was requested to drive to brigade headquarters and bring back equipment. On his return he had difficulty to pass the police cordon. Questioned regarding the matter, Mr. J. E. Dickie (chief officer) said that he was unaware of any civilian having been sent to headquarters. Had he dispatched one, he would have detailed a fireman to accompany him, and the motorist would then have had little difficulty in getting through. Mr. Dickie said that the powers of an officer in charge were wide; he was permitted to do almost anything. He referred to an extract from the Act which read:—"He may take and direct any measures which appear to him necessary or expedient for the protection of life and property or for the control or extinguishing of fire." "In the old days," went on Mr. Dickie "it was possible for the officer to take a horse out of a passing cab for the use of the firemen. Anyhow, I do not think anyone would begrudge the use of his car; there is a moral obligation."

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 21 August 1925, page 13

MOTOR BUS IN FLAMES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to the corner of Albert and Anne streets, Edwardstown east, shortly after 11.15 o'clock on Thursday night. A motor bus, owned by Mr. H. Martin, of Tolley street, Torrensville, was found to be in flames. Inspection after the outbreak had been quelled revealed much damage. The driver was unable to throw any light on the cause of the fire. The vehicle, which was insured, had no passengers aboard at the time.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 27 August 1925, page 8

FLUE IGNITED.

About 1.15 p.m. on Wednesday Leonard D. Wilson of the Regal Cafe, Grenfell street, Adelaide, was burning rubbish on top of a stove in a room at the rear of Evans's Buildings when the paint on the flue caught alight, carrying the flames to the roof. The blaze was extinguished with buckets of water. Though the Fire Brigade was summoned and went to the spot its services were not needed. The flooring boards above the flue were slightly burnt.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 September 1925, page 13

ADDITION TO FIRE BRIGADE STATION.

The Fire Brigades' Board is making provision for an up-to-date workshop for the electrician at the Wakefield-street station. The electrician's work has grown to such an extent that it has been found necessary to provide increased facilities for him. Tenders for the work are being invited.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 16 September 1925, page 9

CITY FIRE STATION

Stables to Become Workshop

Horses having disappeared from the fire station at Wakefield street, motors have taken their place. Additions and alterations are now being made to the old stables for housing an up-to-date electrical workshop. Prior to the award of the Industrial Court the firemen had to do carpentry, painting, blacksmithing, and other work, but that has now been stopped. Men who are not firemen are employed in the electrical department and machine shop. There are 38 firemen at the station, and they begin work at 7 a.m. All of them, married and single, live on the station. They have to rise sufficiently early to tidy their rooms and make their beds, before beginning their other daily routine duties. Every morning they are put through a course of fire drill. They receive instruction in the way to rescue persons from burning buildings, handling of the fire engines and appliances, and fire escape ladder work. All of the fittings on the machines are cleaned daily, and the working parts of the engines and other appliances are overhauled and tested. Workshops have to be kept clean and tidy and floors polished until they have the surface and appearance of a mirror. The helmets and other personal equipment receive the same attention.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 16 September 1925, page 11

FIGHTING FIRES

No Extra Pay for Firemen

Replying to the Hon. J. Carr in the Legislative Council today the Hon. J. Jelley (Chief Secretary) said that in connection with the fire on the City of Singapore the Fire Brigade Board's charges for attendance of brigades and appliances amounted to £456 9/6; charges for gear destroyed were £315 10/; making a total of £771 19/6. For attendance at the fire on

the Ayrshire last week the board's charges amounted to £75 10/. Such charges were in accordance with the Fire Brigades Act, 1913. The employes of the board did not receive any extra remuneration for attendance at these fires. Refunds by the Fire Brigades Board to contributing bodies for the year ended December 31, 1924, amounted to £4,363 9/6. The question of wages of Fire Brigade employes was referred to the wages board.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 17 September 1925, page 8

CASUALTIES.

CHAFFMILL BURNT.

The premises of the Medindie Fuel and Chaff Company, No. 3 Main North road, Enfield, were gutted on Wednesday morning. There is a small office on the street frontage, and the mill stands back in the yard. The plant was housed in an old galvanized iron building, and besides the chaff and woodcutting machinery, contained large stocks of hay, chaff, bran, and grains. The mill was operated on Wednesday morning and the manager (Mr. G. Harvey) and the other employe went away on business errands, and only a girl was left in the office. At 11.15 a.m. Mr. H. S. Turner, who works in a carpenter's shop on the same block of land, heard the crackle of flames, and rushing out, saw that the mill was on fire. He ran to the office and summoned the fire brigade. By that time, however, the flames, fanned by a strong breeze, had gained a powerful hold, and when the firefighters arrived it was apparent that there was no hope of saving the premises. When Mr. Turner first noticed the fire it appeared to be centred around the machinery in the middle of the building, and a fuse box attached to the outside far corner of the shed was ablaze, with no other flames nearby. The hay in the shed burned brightly and the heat was intense. The brigade men from headquarters and North Adelaide surrounded the mill, and soon had the flames under control, but the debris smouldered for several hours. The premises were owned by Mr A. E. Puddy, and it is understood that they, and the contents, were insured.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 18 September 1925, page 16

FALSE FIRE ALARMS.

A malicious false alarm was received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade shortly after 9.30 p.m. yesterday from a call station at Hindley-street west. This has followed three false alarms which were given within half an hour from various localities. It is believed that a motor car was being used by the offenders. The police are endeavoring to trace those responsible.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 18 September 1925, page 13

FIRE IN GAWLER PLACE.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Thursday the Fire Brigade was called to 47 Gawler place, between Rundle and Grenfell streets, to premises occupied by Ekins and Robinson, tailors. On arrival they saw smoke issuing from a room on the first floor. They smashed down a door, and found that a big electric pressing iron had apparently been left switched on, and had burnt through the table. The fire was extinguished by throwing a bucket of water over it. The reel was in charge of Station Officer Sayers.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 19 September 1925, page 46

FAMILY RENDERED HOMELESS.

AN EARLY MORNING FIRE.

Shortly after 5 o'clock on the morning of September 11 the shop and dwelling leased by Mr. and Mrs. P. Turner, in High-street, Kensington, was completely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at £1,300. The family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Turner and two young daughters, escaped from the building in their night clothes, and had to be provided with wearing apparel by friends. The shop is a drapery and cool drink store, and is managed by

Mrs. Turner. She was awakened by a crackling noise about 5 a.m. She roused the family, who were unable to rescue anything of value. The Norwood Fire Brigade was summoned by telephone, but on its arrival the place was almost in ruins. A reel from the city station also attended. No cause for the fire could be discovered. Until other arrangements can be made, the unfortunate family intend to live in an iron shed at the back of the building. A new ice chest had just been installed in the shop to cope with the summer trade.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 21 September 1925, page 11

PENSIONS FOR FIREMEN.

Mr. F. K. Kieass (secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association) stated on Saturday that recently a proposal was made by the Fire Brigades Board to members of the metropolitan fire brigades that the men should contribute 2½ per cent. of their weekly wages to form the nucleus of a fund which would make provision for the widows and dependents of members and pensions for retiring firemen. The men had notified the board they were in agreement with the proposal, and were now waiting further information.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 23 September 1925, page 12

FALSE ALARMS

Fire Brigades Called Out

TWO MEN FINED

For some time fire brigades in the metropolitan area have answered many false alarms about midnight. Two men were apprehended in connection with the matter yesterday, and were dealt with at the Goodwood Magistrates' Court to-day by Messrs. A. J. Radford and R. T. Wallman. Harry Lewis, of Goodwood, and Lawrence Jones, of West terrace, pleaded guilty to having maliciously broken a fire alarm and called out the fire brigade at Unley. The maximum penalty of £5 with 15/ costs in default seven days' imprisonment was imposed on each defendant. Mr. H. B. Piper prosecuted on behalf of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' Board. Chief Officer Dickie said that on two occasions people had been killed when a brigade had been called out by a false alarm, and on another occasion four men had been injured. The possibility of a fire occurring while the brigade was out had to be taken into consideration. Mr. E. Frinsdorf (chairman of the board) said that the calling out of brigades by false alarms had assumed serious proportions. He congratulated the police on having caught the offenders. Mr. Radford stated that members of the fire brigades carried their lives in their hands, and it was the duty of magistrates to protect them. He took a serious view of the matter, and if it occurred again he would not have the slightest hesitation in imposing imprisonment.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 24 September 1925, page 16

A SMALL FIRE.

At 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday the Wakefield-street Fire Brigade received a "sprinkler call" to premises occupied by the South Australian Brush Company in Flinders-street. Upon arrival they found that a small fire had broken out, which they extinguished before any great damage had been caused. As the contents of the building are highly inflammable the prompt action of the brigade probably prevented a big outbreak.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 30 September 1925, page 8

FIRE IN FURNITURE FACTORY.

A good save was effected by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade about 8.45 p.m. on Tuesday, when a call was received from an alarm in Flinders street. Answering it, the firemen found a blaze in the centre of the Eclipse Furniture Factory, Flinders street, of which Mr. H. D. Reynolds is manager. A hose was soon directed to the spot and the outbreak was extinguished before much damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 8 October 1925, page 4

FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY.

A large number of persons attended a demonstration given by the firemen and others at the head fire station, Wakefield street, in aid of the Crossman Relief Fund, on Wednesday night. The programme, which was organized by Messrs. F. K. Nieass, L. Fry, and W. Reynolds, was varied and entertaining, and consisted of fire drill, gymnastics, pyramid building, weight lifting, musical, elocutionary, and other items. The display of fire drill embraced work with the hose cart, smoke helmet, smoke jacket, and big ladder, 'insensible' drill, carrying down, rescue line, and jumping sheet. Station Officer Griffin had charge of the items given by the firemen. The weight lifting feats of Fireman Thorpe and several of his associates won most favour from those present. The efforts of these firemen are worthy of high praise, as for some time past they have given up much of their recreation leave to train for the display. The other portion of the entertainment was contributed by Misses R. Snell, K. Patrick, A.L.C.M and Nellie Shiers, and Messrs. Forbes, R. Jones, and E. Hawke. Considerable applause greeted each item. The programme will be repeated to-night at the same place.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 8 October 1925, page 1

Early Morning Fire in Adelaide

BASEMENT OF GRENFELL BUILDINGS DAMAGED.

In the early hours of this morning members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were called to an outbreak at Grenfell Buildings, Grenfell street. Difficulty was encountered in locating the seat of the fire, and in spite of strenuous efforts substantial damage was done to a portion of the building.

The fire was found to have originated in the storeroom of Mr. R. W. Pope, indentor, whose stock was severely damaged, but is covered by insurance. The part of the building affected is the western side of the rear basement and first floor, and the flames burned their way to the roof. Entrance is gained through a lane at the rear of the Commercial Hotel, Gawler place, and down a stairway into a narrow alleyway. The office of Mr. Pope and the first floor also have entrances from the front of the building in Grenfell street. The difficulty of approach hampered the efforts of the firemen, but the scene this morning indicated that they had performed their work well in preventing the fire from spreading. There was plenty of inflammable material to feed it. The portion of the building affected is a solid brick and stone structure, but it is subdivided into offices and storerooms by beaverboard and matchboard partitions. The tenants who have suffered damage are:— R. W. Pope, indentor. D. B. Morris, dealer in toys and fancy goods. A. G. Grieve & Co., fancy goods. A. Weidenhofer, representing John Lysaght (Australia) Limited.

Basement Attacked

Mr. Pope occupies the major portion of the basement. The fire was concentrated mainly in one part of his storeroom, burning through a small stairway, which had not been used for many years. The flames then burned through the ceiling to the first floor, and up to the roof, where seaweed helped to feed the flames. Mr. Pope said that he carried stock valued at about £1,000, consisting of leatherware, footwear, and fancy goods. Most of his stock was of Australian manufacture. He could not give an estimate of the damage, but he was covered by insurance with the United Insurance Company. It was evident that more stock had been affected by water than by fire. The outbreak was confined mainly to the structure. Mr. D. B. Morris was one of the tenants of Bower Building, Charles street, when a fire occurred there a few months ago, and had moved to his present location temporarily. He said that his stock was worth about £400, and he carried a £500 insurance policy with the Western Australian Insurance Company, Limited. The damage he had suffered was by water only. A. G. Grieve & Co., had a small quantity of fancy goods in a corner of Mr. Pope's store away from the fire.

The stock was covered by sheets and suffered slight damage by water. Mr. Weidenhofer occupies an office directly over the basement.

Hampered by Bars

The firemen were forced to climb on the roof to attack the flames from above. Most of the windows of the building were protected by iron bars and some had to be shattered. The office of Mr. Weidenhofer was flooded with water and broken glass was scattered all over the building. Mr. Weidenhofer's office furniture was insured with the Royal Insurance Company. At the rear of the building a large number of packing cases were stacked and the brigade deserves great credit for having prevented the fire from spreading to the rear in which case the warehouse of Goode, Durant & Co. Limited would have been in danger, or to the front of the building where there are numerous offices now being reconstructed. Mr. Bayfield Moulden (managing director of Grenfell Buildings, Limited), proprietors of the building, said that he had congratulated Chief Officer Dickie on the remarkably fine save the firemen had effected. Although there had been substantial damage to the rear portion of the building it was fully covered with the Insurance Office of Australia Limited, a tenant of the building, and the Victoria Insurance Company.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 14 October 1925, page 12

OUTHOUSE IN FLAMES.

Receiving a summons by telephone on Tuesday morning, a reel from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade station proceeded to a private residence in Flinders street, Adelaide, owned by a Mr. A. Menzel, at the rear of which a wood-and-iron outhouse was in flames. The outbreak, which was soon extinguished by the firemen, was said to have been caused by a spark from a copper nearby. The shed contained boxes. Considerable damage was done to the contents and the shed, which was covered by insurance.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 15 October 1925, page 10

FIRE AT HOLDEN'S.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 4.55 p.m. yesterday to the Woodville premises of Holden's Motor Body Builders. The outbreak, which was in the transport section, was quickly extinguished. A small quantity of hair and other material was destroyed, but no other damage was done. In addition to the headquarters brigade, the Woodville Volunteer Brigade attended.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 October 1925, page 1

GROTE STREET FIRE

Hundred Suits Burned

FORTY EMPLOYEES IDLE

Mr. A. E. Whiting (secretary of W. H. Bruce, Limited), stated today that the fire which occurred last night in the Grote street premises was confined practically to one large room, measuring, roughly, 60 ft. by 20 ft. About 100 suits made up and in course of manufacture had been destroyed, but they were covered by insurance. Forty hands (mostly girls) would be out of employment for several days, but would probably be working again next week. Mr. A. T. Sibby (manager of the retail departments), which occupy the down-stairs section of the building, said that he estimated the damage by water in his department at £200. The floors were flooded, and he had been obliged to call in his staff much earlier than usual this morning to prepare for business. "There will be no hitch," he said. "Business will be conducted as usual. I consider the officers of the Fire Brigade effected a fine save. Another 10 minutes and the whole business would have been wiped out." Broken glass and the clank of loose galvanised iron sheets were outward signs of the fire this morning. Upstairs in the tailoring department,

where the fire originated, everything was in a chaotic condition. Rows of machines and the tables supporting them were charred beyond the point of further usefulness. Little bundles of cloth lay about. These were intended to have been made up into suits. A charred beam and a row of hooks also told a significant tale. On those hooks had hung a large number of completed suits. Mr. W. H. Bruce was early on the scene. The damage is covered by insurance, but Mr. Bruce stated that he could not risk giving a rough estimate of his loss until he had made a complete survey. One of the officers stated that some of the machines might be brought into commission again.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 16 October 1925, page 11

FIRE IN GROTE STREET.

W. H. Bruce's Premises Damaged.

As a result of a fire which broke out in the tailoring department in the upper portion of the premises owned by W. H. Bruce, Limited, general merchants, Grote street, Adelaide, early on Thursday evening, everything contained in that department was either destroyed or considerably damaged. Owing to the prompt action of firemen from the Metropolitan Brigade, the flames were soon under way, and the damage was confined to the one department, which was insured.

At about 15 minutes past 7 p.m., Messrs. F. H. Curnow and A. G. Clift were standing in front of the Trades Hall, which is opposite to Bruce's Stores, when they noticed a flicker of light in a window of the tailoring department, just above the fish shop. It appeared to be flashing, like an electric light. Suddenly there came what appeared to be an explosion, and flames burst out of the window. The two men thereupon telephoned to the Metropolitan Brigade. About the same time the secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Trades Union (Mr. G. A. Carter) observed the burst of flames from the window, and he immediately broke the fire alarm. The firemen lost no time in coming to the scene. Four reels turned out, in charge of Deputy-Superintendent G. P. Cooper. They had to force an entry, and were soon fighting the flames. Several hundreds of people gathered.

Where the Fire Originated.

The clothing department of W. H. Bruce, Limited, consists of a long and spacious room, in which all the suits are made. There are about 30 or so machines, in addition to electric presses and other equipment necessary for making up suits. When the manager of the department (Mr. F. J. Old) left the room at a little after 5.30 p.m., the irons were turned off, and everything appeared to be in good order. Starting in the western end of the room the fire soon spread, carrying practically everything as it went. The tables on which the machines were placed were burnt, and the machines themselves were bent and damaged. The flames rose to the rafters across the ceiling, which is of galvanized iron, and broke through the roof, shooting up a short distance to the sky, and at times the roof was in danger of collapsing. Half of the iron ceiling was torn and twisted, and portion of it fell. However, the fire-fighters soon had the hoses up on to the first floor and began playing them. They were aided by a good pressure of water, and about an hour after the outbreak was noticed, the flames were subdued. A large amount of water was directed at the fire, and this naturally went through to the ground floor. Underneath the tailoring department are smallgoods, meat, cake, and fish, and poultry shops, and streams of water poured through into them, doing considerable damage. Cash registers and anything else that could be quickly attended to were covered by canvas, thus saving some of the property.

Many Suits Destroyed.

Mr. W. H. Bruce was quickly on the scene. He stated that everything in the room had suffered. About 150 made-up suits had been hanging in the room, and they were all burned. Pressing gear, tables, machines, and so on had been either destroyed or considerably damaged. The suitings represented about a fortnight's work of between 30 or 40 employees,

who would have to be temporarily suspended. He expected that the room would soon be reconditioned. Mr. Bruce feared that the greatest damage would be to the shops underneath the tailoring department. He could not estimate the damage. The most curious part of the fire is how it originated. As the irons had been turned off more than an hour earlier, it seems unlikely that they could have been responsible. The electric light was also in order. The presses were worked by motor, and there appears to be nothing else that could have caused the outbreak, the cause of which is therefore unknown.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 23 October 1925, page 1

ARREST FOLLOWS MYSTERIOUS FIRE

Alleged Embezzlement by Factories Officer

Following a fire at the office of the Factories Department, Government Buildings, Victoria square east, early yesterday morning, Cecil Vivian Backhouse, aged about 30 years, official receiver of the department, who lives at Dudley avenue, Prospect, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement.

A cashbook and ledger which were at first thought to have been burned, were discovered this morning by Detectives Ferguson and Correll behind some petrol tins in a garage in a lane at the rear of Flinders street. Mr. J. P. Burnside, head of the department, stated that no papers of importance were destroyed. The principal official documents, which include records of the Factories, Steam Boilers, Lifts, Early Closing, and Scaffolding Departments, were filed in an office separated by a passage from the room in which the fire occurred. At 4 o'clock yesterday morning Constable Palmer saw smoke issuing from the offices of the department. He summoned the Fire Brigade, which found that the outbreak had started in the main office. A desk containing a number of books and stationery and the main counter had been destroyed. Little damage had been done to the remainder of the building. But for the timely arrival of the brigade the western wing of the Government Buildings might have been destroyed. The detectives, in company with Plainclothes Constable Kennedy (Coroner's constable), interviewed Backhouse, and examined the ruins. It is alleged that Backhouse told the police that he left the cashbook and ledger on his desk when he went home at 5 o'clock the previous night, and that they must have been burned. Enquiries prosecuted by the detectives last night, and this morning led to the recovery of the books. Mr. C. L. Mathews (Assistant Coroner), to whom the facts of the fire were reported, has decided that an inquest is unnecessary.

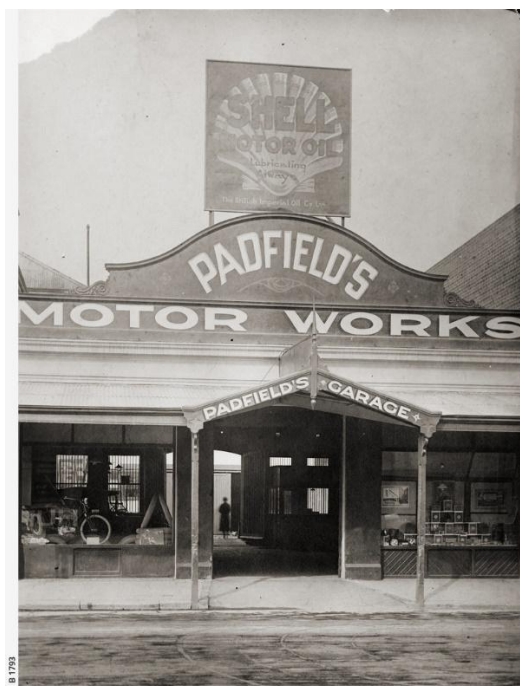
Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 24 October 1925, page 7

EXTRAORDINARY FIRE.

PICK THROUGH HIGH TENSION WIRE.

A series of sharp explosions issuing from the footpath immediately east of the Salvation Army Citadel, Pirie street, on Friday afternoon, at about 2 o'clock, attracted a large crowd of spectators. It was ascertained that workmen were engaged in excavating a trench for a pipe leading to a Bowser petrol tank in the Padfield motor works, when one of them inserted the point of a pick into a wooden channel carrying a return lead from the tramway line in King William street to the depot at Hackney. The metal point of the pick caused a "short circuit," and a large crackling blue flame quickly set fire to pitch and tar in the wooden channelling. This burst into flame, and as the gas in the channelling caught fire, it exploded on several occasions, sending up clouds of yellow smoke, thus causing a scatter among the onlookers. No. 1 fire engine, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Wakefield street, was quickly brought to the scene, but the firemen were able to quell the flames by heaping dirt on them. No damage was done beyond that to the Tramway Trust's property. Padfield's garage had about 20 motor cars standing in it at the time, but they were quickly wheeled into a lane at the rear of the premises. Beneath this footpath are electric light mains, telephone lines, water and gas mains, and the high tension wire of the Tramways Trust that was damaged. It was at first

thought that the gas main had been similarly damaged, and that the explosions were of escaped gas.



State Library of South Australia - Padfield's Garage, Pirie Street, Adelaide [B 1793], A large sign bearing the Shell Motor Oil logo is displayed above the Padfield's Garage and Motor Works, on the south east corner of Pirie Street and Wyatt Street, Adelaide. A motorcycle can be seen in the window. This photo was taken in June 1922. Photographer, Francis Gabriel, Part of Acre 207 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 26 October 1925, page 8

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At 7.53 p.m. on Sunday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Stephens place fire alarm. Three engines were dispatched under the charge of Deputy Chief Officer Cooper, and it was found that a fire was burning in a workroom on the first floor of Bank of Commerce Chambers, 33 Rundle street, occupied by Murrell's, opticians. The firemen worked from Union lane, and within a short time had the fire under control. The cause of the outbreak is unknown, but it occurred in the workroom, whence the flames worked their way into an adjoining consulting room. The heat caused a small hole in the ceiling, and the fibrous plaster lining of the workroom was burnt through. The contents of the workroom was almost completely destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 5 November 1925, page 2

Fire Brigade Concert

An excellent programme has been arranged by Mr. Sable Grivell for the entertainment at the Fire Station Hall this evening. The programme will conclude with a full turnout of the brigade, which is always an attraction. The assisting artists are Misses Enid Besanke, L.A.B., Hilda Hammond, Dorothy Reed, and Messrs. Athol Lykke, Mostyn Skinner, Gordon Gibbs, George Horton, and A. Causby. Miss Doris Cocks, A.L.C.M., will be the accompanist. Friday night's programme will be given by Messrs. Walter Wood, Sable Grivell, and D. Fraser, Misses Ada Wordie, and Elsie Woolley.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 10 November 1925, page 14

FIRE AT SOUTHWARK.

SA Country Fire Service Promotions Unit
www.fire-brigade.asn.au
25 April 2026

DAMAGE TO FLOCK MILL.

At 12.24 o'clock this morning the Thebarton Fire Brigade received a call to Stirling street, Southwark, where they found Messrs. Inverarity's flock mills ablaze. A reel was also dispatched from the metropolitan station, and the firemen had the blaze under control before much damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 November 1925, page 4

FLOCK ON FIRE

Portion of Mill Destroyed

At 12.24 o'clock this morning the Thebarton and Metropolitan Fire Brigades were called to an outbreak of fire at the flock mill of Mr. J. Inverarity, Stirling street, Southwark. Three streams of water were played on the burning building, but the front portion was badly damaged. The machinery and stock were almost completely destroyed. The full extent of the damage is not yet known, but it is believed that it is covered by insurance. The building, it is understood, was insured for £400, the stock for £400, and the machinery for £600. The motor pump from head station arrived at the mill about six minutes after receipt of the alarm. The debris is still smouldering and a fireman is on duty. The fusing of an electric light wire is thought to have caused the outbreak.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 10 November 1925, page 1

BUILDING IN FLAMES.

Four Motors Destroyed

Three motor cars, a motor lorry, several sewing machines, and a quantity of goods stored in a wood and iron building in Coglin street, Adelaide, were damaged by fire early this morning. The damage is estimated at £1,700. The outbreak started in the southern end of the premises occupied by the Adelaide Hire Company. It traversed the whole of the floor space and burned through the wooden partition to the portion of the building occupied by W. G. Coombe, sewing machine repairer. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned at 1.45 o'clock this morning and quickly extinguished the flames. However, much damage was done. It is understood that some of the motor vehicle were insured. One of the motors burned was the machine used by Mr. P. R. A. Irons on his record run from Brisbane to Adelaide.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 November 1925, page 11

HEAT CAUSES FIRE ALARM.

At 1.40 p.m. on Saturday the fire brigade received a call to Messrs. A. M. Bickford's cordial factory in Waymouth-street, but on their arrival it was found that the heat had set the automatic fire alarm in motion.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 16 November 1925, page 10

A FIRE IN THE CITY.

ENGINEERING SHOP DAMAGED.

A fire, which broke out in engineering works in Gilbert-street shortly after 2 p.m. on Sunday, caused considerable damage to stock and plant.

At 2.10 p.m. on Sunday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Gilbert-street alarm. It was found that a fire had a firm hold on the back portion of Whittingslowe's engineering works, in Gilbert-street, near West-terrace. The establishment adjoins a number of private properties, and is only separated by a narrow thoroughfare, Vinrace-street from the Waverley Vinegar Works, and Pengelley's bulk store on West-terrace, where about £5,000 worth of made-up furniture is stored. On the east side of the property there is the high

pressure gas plant in the "booster" house, belonging to the South Australian Gas Company. The plant takes in gas by a 12-inch pipe from a 24 inch main on West-terrace, and sends it out to the suburbs at high pressure through an 8-inch pipe. Mr. G. E. Whaites, the engine driver, who lives in a cottage adjoining, stated that when he locked up the engine-house at 1.30 p.m. everything in the engineering works next door appeared in order, but when the firemen arrived the roof and a portion of the wall at the back of Whittingslowe's had caved in, and most of the woodwork in the shop was alight. Seven hoses were connected to hydrants in Sturt and Gilbert streets and South-terrace. It was thus possible to surround the blaze completely and prevent it from spreading. The firemen worked at considerable risk, as the structure was a wood and iron one, and the charred wooden posts and rafters were liable to collapse at any moment. All the engines from the Central Fire Station were turned out, also the engine from the Unley station. Twenty-two men were employed, excluding officers, and over 3,000 ft. of hose was used. About an hour after the brigade reached the spot the blaze had been extinguished. The building was practically gutted, the back part being almost entirely destroyed. The contents had also suffered considerably. A motor truck in front of the building was practically uninjured. There was nothing to indicate the cause of the outbreak. The Whittingslowe Engineering Company is a limited liability company, of which Mr. W. T. Whittingslowe, of "West-ward Ho," South-terrace, is the manager and principal shareholder. The back of his private residence adjoins the factory, but he knew nothing of the outbreak until he was summoned. He stated that there was about £18,000 worth of stock and machinery in the building, and although he could not say exactly for what sum the building was insured, he believed the insurance would cover the damage done. The contents were mostly bow sockets for Holden's Motor Body Builders, the other stock including machinery for repetition work, and some machines specially designed and built by Mr. Whittingslowe, who stated that at full production the factory would employ 115 men, but now about 80 or 90 men worked there. Although it was possible that a certain amount of the stock might be salvaged, it was difficult to say just what damage had been done by the heat to which it had been subjected, and the water.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 17 November 1925, page 11

LEIGH STREET FIRE

Premises Not Seriously Damaged

BRIGADE COMMENDED

Little damage was done to the printing premises of H. Lee, Rule & Co., Limited, in Leigh street, by the fire which occurred just after midnight this morning. The property belongs to the Church of England authorities, but is sublet to H. Lee, Rule & Co., Limited, by A. M. Bickford & Co., Limited. Mr. G. P. Hooper (Deputy Chief Fire Officer) stated that the fire started in the south-west corner of the top floor of the building. A call was registered at 12.12 a.m., and when the brigade arrived flames were coming through the roof and upper front windows. At 12.35 the first was practically quenched. Firemen placed tarpaulins over goods on the next floor, thus saving paper stocks. Mr. H. Rule, one of the members of the company, stated this morning that he had not been able to estimate the extent of the damage, but it was not particularly serious, and the losses would be covered by insurance. He had made an arrangement with another printing house to execute the orders of clients, so that business would go on as usual. Some members of the staff might be asked to stand off for a few days until the plant could be put in order. Several of the printing machines had been badly damaged, but some of them might not be beyond repair. The only damage that had been done to the building was in the roof, where about 20 sheets of fluted galvanised iron were warped and some of the rafters were charred. "The brigade must have been prompt," said Mr. J. F. Bennett (secretary to A. M. Bickford & Co., Limited), when he inspected the building this morning. He expressed pleasure at the little damage that had been done.

Bickford buildings—
26 Lee, Rule & Co Ltd
Pennington, F. A. and
Co
New System Wireless
Tel Prop Ltd
Inter - Communication
Telephones
American Stl Expt Co
28 Sherring, J. H. & Co,
prntrs, lithographers,
and stationers

Sands and McDougall Directory for 1926 - Leigh Street



State Library of South Australia - Bickfords Building, Leigh Street [B 49793], Rear of the Bickfords Building, east side of Leigh Street. This part of the building contained William Detmold and Alex Cowan, both wholesale stationers, on the ground floor, with Bickfords laboratory above. Approximately 1903. Part of Acre 111 Collection.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 17 November 1925, page 17

A MIDNIGHT FIRE.

OUTBREAK IN LEIGH-STREET.

Shortly after midnight on Monday the City Fire Brigade received a call to premises in Leigh-street, off Hindley-street, occupied by Messrs. Lee, Rule & Co., general printers. The premises form a portion of a three-storey building known as Bickford's Buildings. Half of the building is occupied by Messrs. A. M. Bickford & Sons. The other half, separated by an archway giving access to the side entrance of the premises, is rented by private firms, just north of the archway is a block occupied by Messrs. J. H. Sherring & Co., printers, and next to it are the premises in which the fire originated. Messrs. Lee, Rule, & Co., only recently took

over the business from Messrs. Atkinson & Co. The brigade was summonsed by Constable Bubner, who, noticing the reflection of the flames on the wall of the building opposite, ran to the Bank-street alarm. Two reels turned out in charge of Deputy-Officer Cooper, and subsequently a third arrived on the scene. Mr. R. G. Lee, one of the three partners (the other two being Messrs. A. J. Lee and H. Rule), was staying at the Eagle Hotel, and heard the brigade. He hurried to the scene, and was surprised to find the fire was in the premises of his firm. The building contained extensive printing plant. Although a considerable amount of smoke issued from the top storey, no flames could be seen from the ground, and the firemen had a difficult task in locating the seat of the outbreak. The deputy officer stated that so far as he could see not a great deal of damage had been done to the building, the ceiling having been partly destroyed. It was not possible, owing to the lateness of the hour, to ascertain whether much damage had resulted to the plant.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 18 November 1925, page 11

FIRE AT PRINTERY.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £2,000.

Additional proof of the efficiency of the members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade is presented on each occasion on which they fight the flames, but their work at the fire which occurred at midnight on Monday at the premises of Messrs. Lee, Rule, & Company, general printers, Leigh street, Adelaide, is deserving of the highest commendation. The fire was confined to the third (top) floor of the premises, which is closely surrounded by other buildings. Had the firemen not been assisted by a strong pressure of water, and had a north wind been blowing, the result would have been different, in which case the whole block of buildings would have been in grave danger of being demolished. The manager of the company (Mr. H. Rule) on Tuesday stated that the damage would probably be in the vicinity of £2,000. The destruction is covered by insurance. He added that it was thought the fire was caused by the fusing of an electric light wire attached to the ceiling. Business, stated the manager, would be carried on as usual, as comparatively little damage had been done to the stock room on the second storey and the office, on the ground floor. The machine room, where the fire occurred, presented a chaotic appearance on Tuesday. The iron roofing was twisted, the machinery was blackened, and broken glass and charred woodwork and paper were strewn about the floor. The heat of the fire before the window burst must have been terrific as the lead type and blocks in the machines and stored at various places was melted, and penetrating the floor of that storey, fell on to the floor of the second storey and formed into fantastic shapes. There was a remarkable coincidence attached to the fire. Deputy Superintendent Cooper, who was in charge, also had charge of the fire on the City of Singapore at Port Adelaide, and his photograph was being reproduced on some buttons which had been ordered from Messrs. Lee, Rule, & Company, the money from the sale of which was intended to augment the funds for the memorial to the firemen who were killed by the explosion on the City of Singapore. The photograph from which the reproduction was taken and several of those buttons were among the few things left intact after the flames had been extinguished. A clock attached to the wall where it is believed the fire originated showed the time to be 12.25, the hour at which the flames were extinguished. The heat of the fire may be gauged from the fact that the seat of a chair lying on a shelf at the other end of the room, and a dozen feet from where the flames spread, was charred, and that the paint on the roof above that spot was burnt off. It is probable that new machinery will be installed, so that it may be some time before the firm's own plant is working again. This will not interfere with business, however, which will proceed as usual.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 18 November 1925, page 13

A FALSE ALARM.

At 12.30 o'clock this morning Constable Hawkins noticed smoke issuing from a shop at the corner of Wakefield street and Gawler place, occupied by Messrs. Vawser, butchers. He gave

the alarm to the Metropolitan Fire Station, but on the arrival of the brigade it was found that the smoke had been caused by some fat which had been heating boiling over on to the stove.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 28 November 1925, page 4

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY

Suburban Outbreaks

Officers from the fire brigades had a busy day today, and several grass fires claimed their attention. At 7.30 o'clock this morning a call was received from Mr. H. T. Brady's woodyard at Bull Creek road, Lower Mitcham, where the explosion of a lamp on an engine had caused an outbreak in a wood and iron shed. It was outside the metropolitan area. The shed was destroyed and adjoining hedges severely damaged.

Early in the afternoon the Metropolitan Brigade was called to J. H. Horwood & Co's premises in Grote street, where a fire in the back yard was quickly subdued. Fencing and timber were slightly damaged.

Shortly before 5 o'clock the Unley Brigade was summoned to the premises of Chittleborough, Limited, on Unley road, where a blaze had broken out among some shavings and wood outside the shop. Little damage resulted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 30 November 1925, page 11

SMALL FIRES.

Shortly before 9.30 on Sunday night the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call from the Adelaide Arcade, Grenfell-street on arrival it was found that some packing cases were alight at the rear of the premises of the Wyatt Motoria, a portion of which was also slightly damaged.

The Fire Brigade were summoned to Franklin-street about 3 p.m. on Saturday, where some timber was alight at Mr. E. S. Horwood's workshop. Some fencing was also slightly damaged. About 20 hours later there was a recurrence of the fire, and a quantity of fibre was destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 2 December 1925, page 10

MOTOR CAR IN FLAMES

Burned in Botanic Park

Constables Williams and Curyer found a motor car burning fiercely in the Botanic Park at 11 o'clock last night. As it was almost totally destroyed they did not summon the Fire Brigade. The motor car was in charge of Mr. Robert Robins, of 5 Torrens street, College Park. He informed the police that when he was driving along 10 minutes previously he heard a grating noise. He stopped the machine and an explosion followed. The motor car then burst into flames. He held the car under a hire-purchase agreement, and believed that it was insured.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 9 December 1925, page 4

FIRE CALL RECORD

Brigades Turned Out 582 Times

The number of calls received at the fire stations throughout the State to December 8 this year was 582, compared with 432 for the year ended December 31, 1924. The number of calls made this year is a record. Grass fires have been more numerous than in other years. False alarms averaged about 13 per cent, of the genuine calls. "Cause unknown" was the finding in the majority of fires. Some of the known causes of the fires this year were hot ashes, sparks from ovens, coppers, and other fires, short circuits, overheating of exhaust pipe, naked lights, spontaneous combustion, explosion of lamp, electric irons, explosions of gas, gas jet left

alight, petrol igniting, backfiring of engine (mostly motor buses), and fusing of electric wires. Fires were caused in two cases by children playing with matches.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 December 1925, page 2

Fire in Lift

Shortly after 9 o'clock this morning Constable Schultz noticed smoke issuing from a studio on the roof of Central Chambers, Charles street, Adelaide. In response to his summons, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade quickly arrived, and the fire was extinguished. It was found that the top of the lift had caught alight and the smoke had travelled through the studio which was unoccupied. Little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 14 December 1925, page 11

MOTOR CAR DESTROYED.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call on Sunday afternoon from Somerton-avenue, Edwardstown, where a motor car owned by Mr. E. C. Dennis, of Cross roads, was in flames. The vehicle, which it is understood, was insured, was destroyed. The fire is said to have been caused by the fusing of a starting wire.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 14 December 1925, page 4

Several Grass Fires

Three calls to grass fires were received by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade this morning. Apart from the destruction of grass, no other damage was suffered. At 10.5 the firemen were called to attend an outbreak in the west parklands opposite the New Market Hotel. A few minutes later they were notified of another case at the South road crossing, where seven acres of grass were burned on the property of Mr. V. R. Edwards.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 15 December 1925, page 12

A FIRE IN THE ARCADE.

Just as he was on the point of leaving his premises, the Catholic Repository, in the Rundle Street Arcade, shortly before 6.30 p.m. on Monday, the owner, Mr. J. P. Hanson, went upstairs for something he had forgotten. There he found that a fire had just begun among some papers and oils in a room. He put it out with a bucket of water, thus effecting a very fortunate save. The services of the fire brigade, which had been summoned, were not needed. The damage was practically nil.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 15 December 1925, page 12

A TIMELY SAVE.

Dense smoke pouring from the roof of the Central Chambers Building in Charles street, opposite to John Martin & Co., Limited's stores, attracted hundreds of spectators in that direction, shortly after 9 o'clock, on Monday morning. They were treated to a spectacular display of fire fighting by the men of the city brigade. The outbreak began in the lift engineroom, at the top of the building, and could be approached only by a narrow, winding wooden stairway. The firemen found it extremely difficult to get anywhere near the seat of the outbreak, and the big fire escape ladder was requisitioned. One of the firemen quickly mounted it, and brought a line of hose to bear upon the blaze. By this means the flames were quickly under control. The fire was confined to the lift engineroom, the woodwork of which was considerably charred, and the engine almost destroyed, and to a surrounding portion of the woodwork of the roof. It was a very effective save. Only slight damage was done to the tenants' property by the water used in extinguishing the blaze. Those who suffered most were the Economic Dressmaking Company, and Mr. J. H. Turner, manufacturers' agent, but a few pounds would cover their loss. The building is held on long lease by the Executor Trustee and

Agency Company, of Grenfell street, from Messrs. F. W. Bullock & Co., who are the owners' representatives. The amount of damage had not been computed on Monday, and no estimate could be given. The whole premises are covered by insurance with the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 21 December 1925, page 12

GRASS FIRES.

Grass fires occupied the attention of the metropolitan fire brigades on Sunday. The North Adelaide Brigade subdued a small outbreak at Mackinnon parade at 1.45 p.m. A much larger affair kept headquarters busy for about three hours in the afternoon. They were called to near the Forest Inn, on the corner of the Bay road and South road, at 2.4 p.m. Several acres of grass and some fences were burned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 31 December 1925, page 8

LADDER AND HOSE.

Firefighters' Record Year.

Adelaide's Distinguished Service.

When Chief Officer E. J. Dickie was asked on Wednesday for a general survey of the activities of the fire brigade for the year he replied, "I never look back. When once a fire is over I forget all about it." But with characteristic efficiency the records of the principal fires and other data proved of extreme interest, and showed conclusively that South Australia has every reason to be justly proud of its firefighting service. The outstanding fact that a reporter from The Register gleaned was that the brigade had answered more than over 200 calls more than the previous record number for any one year. Last year the calls totalled 432, which was the highest on record up to that time. This year, however, no fewer than 638 calls were received.

Losses and Saves.

The calls included those to quite a number of fires of considerable magnitude, or sinister importance, among which were the following: — An early morning blaze in Ackland street on January 11, when a number of small shops were destroyed, and a good save of the surrounding buildings



CHIEF OFFICER J. E. DICKIE.

was effected; on February 18, a block of wood-and-iron buildings fronting Commercial road, Dale street, and Marryat street, Port Adelaide, were burned, and a fireman and two civilians sustained injuries; a smart save effected by the brigade's promptness at an outbreak in Mann's Motor House in Franklin street on March 4; on April 24 when Northy Brothers, Limited, clothing manufacturers, of Currie street, might have lost a good deal more than the estimated damage of £5,000 but for the splendid work of the brigade; on May 31 at Dell's, Limited, Rundle street, when further valuable work was done in checking considerable destruction; the disastrous conflagration which destroyed H. J. Penno & Co.'s bag factory in Franklin street on June 17, when Walter Mail, the night watchman, and three horses were burnt to death, and £15,000 damages were suffered; on June 21 when Miss A. Cox sustained burns from an upset kerosine lamp, and later succumbed to her injuries; and on August 16 when the shopping centre in Charles street, was imperilled by the conflagration in Bower Buildings.

Behind the Scenes.

When people see the brigade at work on such big jobs they are filled with admiration for the splendid efficiency of the fire service, but the daily discipline which such a high standard of excellence demands is not so frequently realized. A stroll around the head station in Wakefield street, however, is a veritable eye opener. Faultless organization, scrupulous cleanliness and neatness, and an ever-ready alertness are elements which impress the visitors. As Mr. Dickie showed the pressman around on Wednesday he could not disguise, nor did he attempt to disguise, his warm appreciation of his staff, each member of which, he said, had seen service the length of which varied from 20 to 35 years, with the brigade. One felt, too, that the feeling of confidence between the chief and his men was mutual, and meant much in maintaining general efficiency.

Automatic Alarms.

Improvements are constantly being effected at the station, the latest being the installation of an electrical workshop which will enable the brigade to do its own battery charging and repairs to instruments. There is, too, a continuous and steady increase in the automatic alarms, detectors, and sprinkler installations, and it is anticipated that a still further advance will be recorded next year.

Visitor's High Praise.

A flattering recognition of the high standard of the Adelaide Brigade emanated from no less an authority than Mr. John M'Gregor, ex-senior superintendent of the Glasgow Fire Brigade, who recently passed through Adelaide. Mr. M'Gregor said it was one of the finest systems he had seen anywhere, and it was as complete as it could possibly be.

Shipping Fires.

The tragic and memorable fire that occurred last year on the oil steamer the City of Singapore was vividly recalled by the fire which occurred on September 5 of this year on the Scottish Shire Line steamer Ayrshire at Port Adelaide. It was fortunate, on that occasion, the vessel suffered but little harm, although the cargo was extensively damaged. The occasion served, however, to emphasize the urgent need for a fire float at Port Adelaide, a need which will happily soon be supplied.

New Fire Float.

A vessel is under construction— the engines have already arrived— which should be ready for service within the next three or four months. The float will be fitted with two petrol-driven engines, each of 160 horsepower; and the pumps will have a capacity of 2,500 gallons a minute. This is 500 gallons more than the capacity of the latest firefloat installed on the Thames in London, a picture of which is shown in this issue. While not by any means the largest of its kind, the Port Adelaide float will be one of the most up to date in the world, and there seems but little doubt that much could have been done with such a craft had it been

available at the disaster which befell the City of Singapore. The float will be manned by three men from the Port Adelaide Fire Brigade, and it should be a most valuable acquisition to the Port Adelaide service.

The "Fire Queen."

The need for such a unit has existed ever since the time of the old "Fire Queen," an antiquated unit which served for many years there, and which was condemned more than 20 years ago. Referring to this vessel Mr. Dickie remarked with a twinkle, "She did good service, but she was what you might call a half an hour late machine.

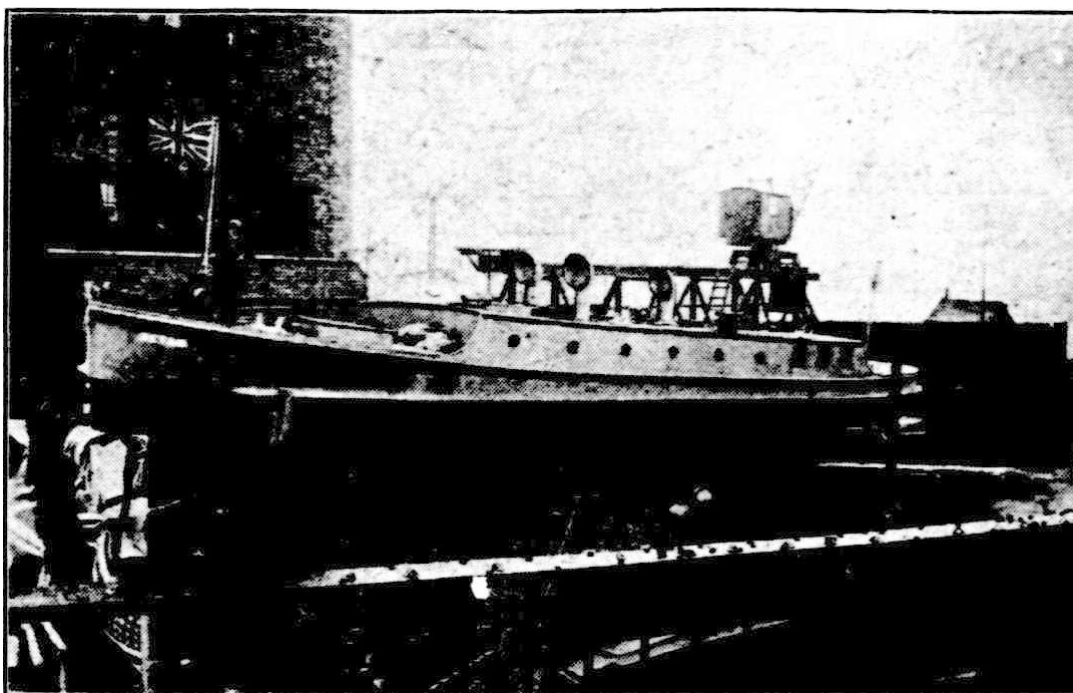
Other Improvements.

Considerable additions have been effected at the Port Adelaide Fire Brigade during the year just ended. The stables have been converted into single men's quarters, and the former single men's rooms have been made over into quarters for married men. The whole of the country service has been subjected to a reorganization scheme whereby new stations have been completed at Murray Bridge, Renmark, and Berri. Each of these is now fully equipped with motor appliances and manned by an officer and three firemen. There are now 13 stations in all outside the metropolitan area, which are under an auxiliary, or partially paid system. The firemen at these stations have employment in the vicinity of the brigade, and calls are made by means of sirens which may be operated by telephone, by an alarm at the station, or from the telephone exchange direct. Only two other stations in the country are fully manned by permanent officers — Port Pirie and Gawler.

The Man Behind.

The visitor to the head station cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that the whole service bears a strong imprint of the Chief Officer's personality. Mr. Dickie claims to be the oldest permanent officer on any fire brigade in Australia or New Zealand. He began his career as a fire fighter in the London Brigade in June, 1883, and joined the Adelaide Metropolitan Brigade two years later as a fireman under Superintendent H. Salter. Appointments to the charge of Port Pirie and as district officer at Port Adelaide followed, and he was subsequently promoted to the position of Deputy Superintendent. Later he became Deputy Chief and then Chief Officer.

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The Fire Brigades Board has under construction for Port Adelaide a fire float which will be one of the most up-to-date of its kind in the world. Our illustration shows a similar craft recently installed on the Thames with a capacity of 2,000 gallons a minute. The one at Port Adelaide will pump 2,500 gallons a minute.