

Adelaide Fire Brigade 1926

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 1 January 1926, page 1

FIRE AT EAST-END MARKET

Sleeping Man Rescued from Burning Building

TWO THOUSAND SPECTATORS CHEER FEARLESS FIREMEN

Light was thrown on the New Year by a fire at the East-End Market. Revellers who had seen the old year out had their paths lit by flames that shot hundreds of feet into the air. About 1.30 o'clock the alarm was given. Damage to the extent of £1,000 was done to the buildings. Firemen were cheered for their bravery by 2,000 spectators. Mr. J. Hart, tenant of one of the stalls that were damaged, was asleep on the premises at the time. But for a fireman waking him he would probably have been suffocated.

The shops and stalls of seven tenants of that corner of the market to the south of the Botanic Hotel were gutted. Owing to the holiday the extent of damage to stock and fittings could not be ascertained. An excellent save of adjoining buildings was made by the firemen, who were cheered repeatedly by the spectators. While the fire was at its height it presented an awe-inspiring spectacle. Flames literally swallowed the woodwork of the buildings. They shot high into the air and were seen in the suburbs five miles away. Dense columns of smoke belched forth from every aperture and enveloped the surrounding buildings. Before the fire brigade had been on the scene many minutes a large crowd assembled. A steady stream of New Year revellers, including men and women in evening dress returning from dances, arrived until about 2.45, by which time there were approximately 2,000 persons present. They gave the police little trouble because of the terrific heat, which kept the onlookers back and allowed the firemen to perform their difficult work unhampered. It was apparent early that the building between the Botanic and East-End Market Hotels could not be saved, and the fire-men concentrated their attention on the latter place to prevent the flames gaining a hold there. Otherwise there is little doubt that the whole of that frontage would have been demolished.

Terrific Heat

People rushed from nearby buildings in their night attire, but most of those in the East-End Market Hotel did not attempt to move, although the flames were menacing the northern side of the building. They would have remained were it not for the fact that the bystanders urged them to leave. It was only then that they appeared to realise the great danger they were in and they quickly left the hotel. Hungry flames which were gathering ground and sending out terrific heat drove the by-standers into the parklands. When the heat was at its worst three firemen climbed the verandah posts, and standing on the roofs of the burning buildings played a hose on to the fiercest flames. Theirs was a hazardous task, and the bystanders realising it cheered them repeatedly for their bravery. For nearly 10 minutes those men remained steadfast at their posts until it was apparent that they could do little good by remaining longer. Someone in the crowd shouted that there was a man still in the hotel. Two policemen and Mr. W. A. Melville, of Norwood, climbed verandah posts, and rushing through the building searched every room and called out, but no one could be found. Tramway employes leaving the depot at Hackney were among the first to reach the fire, and they were prominent among those who dragged furniture from the burning buildings. A vocalion, piano, and bedding were stacked in the roadway. Firemen heedless of their danger went into the market with the fire burning furiously round them. They had a narrow escape from injury when the roof clattered to the ground. There were shouts from the bystanders that one fireman had been killed. There was a rush to render assistance, but the police held the crowd in check and the fireman was seen to emerge apparently un-harmed.

Women Faint

By that time the flames were being checked, and there was little likelihood of further damage being done. The crowd gradually dispersed, leaving a scene of tangled iron and charred uprights. Women fainted as they saw the flames leap into the air and cross the passage-ways in the market and a gain a firm hold on a further portion. They were carried into the parklands and received attention from other womenfolk. Falling glass and galvanised iron added to the terror of the spectacle. Several times firemen were seen to leave positions which shortly afterward gave way. Sparks were sent flying dangerously over the buildings in the vicinity, but fortunately they did not take effect. The burning portion resembled a raging furnace, but the firemen, undeterred, stuck to their tasks, and from close range kept the water running on the flames. The first hose used did not give much pressure owing to a large leakage. The stream would scarcely reach the top of the buildings. However, additional hoses and appliances were quickly brought into play. The tall and small ladders arrived, but their services were not required. The vivid flames lit up the area for hundreds of yards round clearly as day.

Value of Building

Mr. H. Hammer (secretary of the East-End Market Company) said that the portion of the market destroyed was insured for £1,000, and the tenants were also probably insured. Owing to the holiday it was impossible to ascertain the extent of their losses of stock and fittings. Stocks of fruit and vegetables would be very low. The burned building had been up for about 42 years and was chiefly of wood and galvanised iron. The shops that were completely gutted were occupied by Messrs. E . F. Trenorden, T. J. Price, and W. H. Hall and Co., wholesale fruiterers; H. Smith, fruit and drinks; the Producers' Commission Agency; and Mrs. Catton, secondhand dealer. The fruit and vegetable shop of Mr. J. Hart was not much damaged.

All Appliances Out

Notification of the fire was received by the Central Station at 1.58 o'clock by telephone, and a few seconds later switch-board shutters were released from four or five street alarms situated near the market. Chief Officer E. J. Dickie ordered out all appliances and suburban stations were called on duty. When the firemen arrived the flames were leaping high from the heart of the building between the two hotels, and the fire was seen to be working westward. Eight lines of hose were run out and the blaze was attacked from all sides. As it looked as if the structure burning was doomed, efforts were concentrated on saving surrounding property, and wonderful work was done in this direction. The fire was mastered in an hour. When the opinion of spectators regarding the work of the brigade was mentioned to an officer he merely commented, "We are satisfied." Two firemen remained on fire watch duty today, and occasionally played water on the still smouldering embers. Many people inspected the scene of desolation during the day.

WOMAN DETECTS FIRE

Could Not Raise "Central"

MOTORIST GIVES ALARM

Mrs. J. Goodfellow, whose husband is licensee of the East End Market Hotel, was the first person to notice the outbreak. She told a thrilling story. "We sleep on the balcony overlooking East Terrace," she said. "I was awakened shortly after 1.30 o'clock by my husband retiring. I noticed a smell like that of a rag burning, and called Mrs. Holmes, who was staying with us. I could see smoke rising from the market to the north of our hotel. It seemed to come from the north-eastern corner close to East terrace. "We tried to raise Central to give the alarm to the brigade, but could not get an answer from the exchange. For more than 10 minutes we rattled at the hook of the instrument, but could get no reply. It was terrible. We could hear the crackling of the flames in the next-door building. A man rushed to a nearby public telephone, but he could not raise the exchange, so in desperation he went into the street and stopped some passing motorists. A young man on a motor cycle went to the fire station in Wakefield street to give the alarm, and we went indoors to try to save some of our things.

Tramwaymen Praised

"The flames had burst through the roof, and people were starting to arrive on the scene. Several tramwaymen who had just come on duty did the work in getting the piano, vocalion and wireless set out of the hotel. I don't know how they got the piano downstairs. We stopped a passing yellow cab and bundled our clothes, cash, and other small belongings into it. Our children were also seated in the vehicle. "Fully 20 minutes after I first tried to ring up the brigade arrived, and the whole section of the market between our place and the Botanic Hotel was alight. "The brigade did wonderful work. Our hotel was in danger. Efforts of the firemen were centred on saving it, and practically no damage was done by the flames. The northern end of the balcony has been slightly scorched. We were able to return to the hotel about 4 o'clock, but got no sleep afterward." An inspection of the interior of the hotel by daylight revealed damage done by water in the dining room and kitchen. The former is a one-story building with a gable roof, immediately to the south of the seat of the fire and water played on the roof had come through the ceiling. The floor was awash, and the tables, all ready set for breakfast, bore sodden cloths. Each plate was brimming with water.

Junction Box Burned

When enquiries were made at the Telephone Department regarding the inability of Mrs. Goodfellow to raise "Central," it was explained that a cable junction box in close proximity to the fire was burned, resulting in the cutting off of communication with the Exchange. Men were dispatched to repair the damage this morning.

GUESTS IN STREET

Botanic Hotel Emptied

Miss Vina Opie, who is in charge of the Botanic Hotel, in the absence of her sister, Mrs. Killicoat, who has gone for a holiday to the eastern States, said:—"I was at the house of a friend in Unley seeing the old year out when a taxi-driver, whom I had engaged to take me home, told me breathlessly that the market was on fire with grave danger to our hotel. The driver took me home in break-neck time. "Fortunately when I arrived the fire had been nearly extinguished. All the guests of the hotel were in the street in night attire, but there was no alarm. Fortunately the wind was light, and in the right quarter. Had it been in an other direction it is probable that our hotel and the adjoining block would have been seriously damaged. One of our guests had his motor car in the lane which divides the hotel from the burned shops. Awakened by the crackling of burning timber, he rushed down the lane and drove his car into the street. No damage has been done to the hotel." Mrs. Vivienne Powis-Stuart, teacher of dramatic art and elocution, occupies a house next to the Botanic Hotel. Laughingly she described her awakening early this morning, and, seeing flames darting from premises at the back of her place, she rushed into her salon to gather together valuable costumes and theatrical accessories, to put them, if necessary, in the street. "Fortunately," said Mrs. Powis-Stuart, "there was no need for this. It seemed to me as if the shops burned like match-boxes. Perhaps I am sentimental, but I could not help admiring the efficiency of the brigade. There was no fuss. The men went about their work calmly, and with a discipline that was admirable."

AWAKENED BY FIREMAN

Narrow Escape of Tenant

Mr. J. Hart, who has a stall for the sale of fruit and vegetables in the section of the market burned, lives on the premises, and was asleep when a fireman broke in and by the light of the nearby flames saw him lying there. Mr Hart was hastily aroused. His stall was only partly damaged by the flames, but when he was discovered smoke was thick, and probably he would have been suffocated if not awakened. "I was fast asleep," he said, "and seemed to hear a noise like wind and rain, but did not rouse myself. Then I was shaken, and saw a fireman standing beside the bed. There was a bright glare from flames that seemed to sur-

round us, and the smoke was stifling. I got out into the adjoining lane as fast as I could, and the fireman rescued my bedding." This morning he was congratulating himself on his escape, and showed his quarters to a reporter. With pride he pointed to electric fan, radiator, and cooker, and said, "You can see I am up-to-date and comfortable. My place is insured for £100, and what is not damaged by fire is affected by water."

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 2 January 1926, page 5

EAST-END FIRE

Shopkeepers Inspect Ruins

ESTIMATED DAMAGE, £1,000

Damage to the contents of the premises destroyed as a result of the fire in the East End Market early yesterday morning is believed to exceed £1,000. In some instances the stock was not insured. Occupiers of shops in the market were loud in their praise of the effective work of the firemen. Mr. T. R. Symonds, of A. E. Pitt and Sons, said that owing to the fine work of the brigade the loss sustained by his firm was small. The fire caught the corner of the premises only, and beside that a few packing cases were burned. The premises and contents were insured. Mr. J. Porter, of W. H. Hall & Co. (wholesale fruiterers), said that the premises of the firm were gutted. The contents were insured for about £280, but that would not cover the loss sustained. He was not in a position to give an estimate of the damage. Mr. T. J. Price said that he was not insured and he estimated his loss at £300. Mr. J. Hart, who was rescued from his sleeping apartment, conducted business as a retail fruiterer, and although he suffered damage to his premises and contents the latter were insured for £100 which amount is expected to cover the loss. Mr. H. Hammer (secretary of the East End Market Company) said that the damage to the contents of the premises destroyed would amount to more than £1,000. A steady stream of persons visited the scene this morning. A policeman and a fireman were on duty and the occupiers of the shops which came within the reach of the flames made cursory inspections of the ruins.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Saturday 2 January 1926, page 2

NEW YEAR BLAZE

EAST END MARKET

Awe-Inspiring Sight

FIREMEN'S EFFORTS CHEERED

Light was thrown on the New Year by a fire in the East End market. Revellers who had just seen the old year out had their paths lit by the flames, which shot hundreds of feet into the air. It was about 1.30 o'clock when the alarm was given. Damage to the extent of £1000 was done to the buildings. The firemen were cheered for their bravery by 2000 spectators.

Mr. J. Hart, a tenant of one of the stalls damaged, was asleep on the premises at the time, and but for the firemen waking him he would probably have been suffocated.

The shops and stalls of seven tenants at that corner of the market, to the South Botanic Hotel were gutted. Owing to today being a holiday, the extent of damage to stock and fittings could not be ascertained. An excellent save of the adjoining building was made by the firemen. While the fire was at its height, it present an awe-inspiring spectacle. Flames literally swallowed wood work in the buildings, and shot high into the air. They were seen in the suburbs five miles away. Dense columns of smoke belched forth, from every aperture, enveloping the surrounding buildings.

It was apparent early that the buildings between the Botanic and East End Market Hotels could not be saved, and the firemen concentrated their attention on the latter place, to prevent

the flames from gaining a hold there. Otherwise, there is little doubt that the whole of that frontage would have been demolished.

Mr. H. Hammer (secretary of the East End Market Company) said to-day that the portion of the market destroyed was insured for £1000, and the tenants were also probably covered by insurance. Owing to the holiday it was impossible to ascertain the extent of their losses to stock and fittings. Stock's of fruit and vegetables would be very low.

The burned building had been up for about 42 years, and was chiefly of wood and galvanised iron. The shops completely gutted were occupied by E. T. Trenorden, T. J. Price, W. H. Hall Co. (wholesale fruiterers), H. Smith (fruit and drinks), Producers' Commission Agency, Mrs. Catton (second-hand dealer). The fruit and vegetable shop of Mr. J. Hart was not much damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 2 January 1926, page 9

BLAZE NEAR MOUNTAIN HUT.

Fruit Gardens Damaged.

A grass fire which occurred on Friday, near the Mountain Hut Hotel, Mount Barker road, Glen Osmond, caused no little anxiety to the local residents, who turned out in large numbers to arrest its progress. The wife of the licensee of the hotel (Mrs. A. E. Castle), noticing the serious possibilities of the fire, informed the City Watchhouse by telephone. The Parkside and Burnside police were sent to give their assistance in keeping down the fire. Their help was greatly appreciated, and after a hard fight, the blaze was subdued. The chief sufferers were Mr. H. H. Smith, an orchardist, whose property adjoins the hotel, and Mr. Anderson, of Anderson & Co., builders, Queen street, Norwood, who recently purchased "Leewood Gardens" for a summer residence. Mr. Smith had a portion of his fences and a number of fruit trees burnt. The fire invaded the fruit garden at Leewood Gardens and spoilt a few fruit-trees, but it was subdued before severe damage occurred. The fire was first noticed about 1 p.m. coming from the direction of Waterfall Gully, which is about half a mile east of the Mountain Hut. Aided by a hot north wind, it spread rapidly towards the hotel and adjoining properties, and the safety of the houses in the vicinity was endangered. The residents turned out quickly with green boughs, wet bags, and other fire-fighting weapons, and a vigorous onslaught was made to keep it back. About 3 o'clock the wind abated somewhat, and there was a better chance to do effective work. By about 4.15 the fire was subdued. It is estimated that the fire traversed about 80 acres of land, and local residents stated that it was the fiercest blaze which had occurred in the district for many years.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Monday 4 January 1926, page 1

SECOND FIRE ATTACK

EAST END MARKET

Sunday Morning Excitement

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £8000

ADELAIDE, Sunday.

Damage assessed at £8000 was done by a second outbreak of fire in the East End Market this morning. There were several wonderful escapes from serious injury, or perhaps death.

Following the blaze at the East End Market on Friday morning, which resulted in the portion of the markets facing East Terrace, being destroyed, another outbreak occurred early this morning, immediately at the rear of the previous conflagration, and almost in the middle of the markets, in premises occupied by A. E. Pitt and Sons, fruit packers and general distributors.

Splendid work was again performed by the firemen, in preventing the flames from spreading to other parts of the market, but they were unable to save Pitt and Sons' premises and the adjoining store rooms, which were completely damaged by fire and water. The damage has been assessed at nearly £8000.

The fire was first seen by two constables, in different parts of Pitt's buildings, and, when the brigade arrived, the flames had established a good hold. Some of the firemen had miraculous escapes from injury, through a nine-inch brick wall falling and bringing down the roof, following an explosion in the fire. The firemen were hurled in all directions after the crash of nearly 100 tons of bricks, iron, and timber, and Fireman George Taylor was taken to the Adelaide Hospital with severe internal injuries, caused through being struck on the chest and stomach with flying timber. Four others also received treatment at the hospital, but returned to duty.

The cause of the fire is at present unknown. One theory is that portion of a fruit case in a loft which caught alight on Friday morning, had been smouldering unknown to the fire-fighters. The latter, however, declare that when the firemen were withdrawn on Saturday morning there was no sign of any smouldering.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 4 January 1926, page 1

GALLANT FIREMEN

Several Have Narrow Escapes

Lucky escapes from serious injury were experienced by several members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade at the second fire which broke out early yesterday morning. A building occupied by A. E. Pitt and Sons, fruit merchants, was destroyed. Following the fire an explosion is thought to have occurred, hurling the men into the air, and burying them under a mass of ruins. None was seriously injured. The men who were injured in the fire are:—Station Officer H. T. Sayers (slight shock), Firemen P. Taylor (cuts and bruises), J. J. Arnold (burns on a foot and cuts on the hands), W. Reynolds (cuts on arms, neck, and feet), H. Kendall, and J. Lee (minor injuries).



FIREMAN J. LEE who made a brave attempt to rescue a comrade at the East-End Market fire, but collapsed and fell into the ruins.

Firemen Taylor and Reynolds are still on the sick list. The others are doing light duty in the station.

FLUNG INTO AIR

"We were on the first floor of the building," said Fireman Arnold. "We were playing the hose on the northern side of the wall. I did not hear an explosion, but I was suddenly flung two or three feet into the air. We dropped through the roof, and timber, ironwork, and other debris came down on top of us." Fireman Carr stated that he was working along a section of the wall. He had not been there long when he was blown into the air, and came down amid falling pieces of wood and iron. The firemen had no warning of the explosion. He and another fireman scrambled to their feet, but the hose knocked them down a couple of times. Fireman Lee got to the top of the wall, and tried to catch hold of him. However, Fireman Carr freed himself from the timber that surrounded him, and climbed out. When Fireman Taylor was rescued he fell into the arms of his rescuer and gasped, "Lee is in there!" Lee, unsuccessful in helping his comrade, had collapsed and fallen off the wall into the wreckage. Several other fire men clambered in and got him out. He was dazed, but after treatment at the Adelaide Hospital reported back for duty. Fireman H. Kendall was saved from serious injury by a piece of timber that fell over him and rested on the adjoining wall. On top of this fell many twisted pieces of galvanised iron. "We were all lucky to get out so light," he said.

TRIBUTE TO MEN

Two hours afterward the fire was under control, and half an hour afterward the flames died down. A large pump was brought to the cellars, which were flooded to a depth of about four feet, and by the afternoon most of the water had been sucked away. In the morning an escape of gas had been noticed. A fireman pluckily jumped into the flooded cellar, in practically pitch darkness, found his way to the main, and cut off the gas, saving what might have been another explosion.

Station Officer Sayers stated yesterday afternoon, that it was a separate fire from the one which occurred on New Year's Day. Men had been stationed in the markets for 30 hours, and had left everything in order. The amount of damage had not yet been ascertained. "The work of the firemen was wonderful," he said. The firemen stated that Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Goodfellow, of the East-End Market Hotel had rendered useful service, at much trouble to themselves in providing tea and refreshments, while they were working on the fire. Their action was greatly appreciated.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 5 January 1926, page 6

"Central" and East-End Fire

J. Mason, Deputy Postmaster-General, Adelaide:—With reference to the report in your paper of the serious fire at the East-End Market early on New Year's Day I think it only fair, in order to remove any misapprehension insofar as the Central Telephone Exchange is concerned, to inform you that the first indication of any trouble received at the Exchange, was the simultaneous and permanent glowing of about 25 subscribers' calling lamps, indicating to the attendants that one of the cables had broken down. This occurred some minutes prior to the fact of a fire being notified to the Exchange. The fire is stated to have started on the corner of the building to which the cable serving the 25 subscribers is attached. Consequently all these lines were almost immediately rendered useless. Among the group of subscribers' lines so affected was the East-End Market Hotel, and in the circumstances the call made by Mrs. Goodfellow obviously did not reach the Exchange. An officer of this department inter-viewed Mrs. Goodfellow yesterday morning and discussed the matter fully with her. From the explanation made and investigation of Exchange journals it is clear that the Exchange attendants on duty at the time were in no way to blame for not answering her ineffective call. In fact, the staff did everything possible under difficult conditions to assist the brigade and all concerned. The first intimation of the fire to reach the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was by telephone and fire alarm from Rundle street at 1.58 a.m., the calls being made simultaneously.

(Included in the report of the fire was a paragraph stating that the reason for the delay in raising "Central" was that a cable junction box had been burned out, and that communication with the Exchange was thus cut off. This information was given by the Telephone Department expressly at the invitation of "The News."—Ed.)

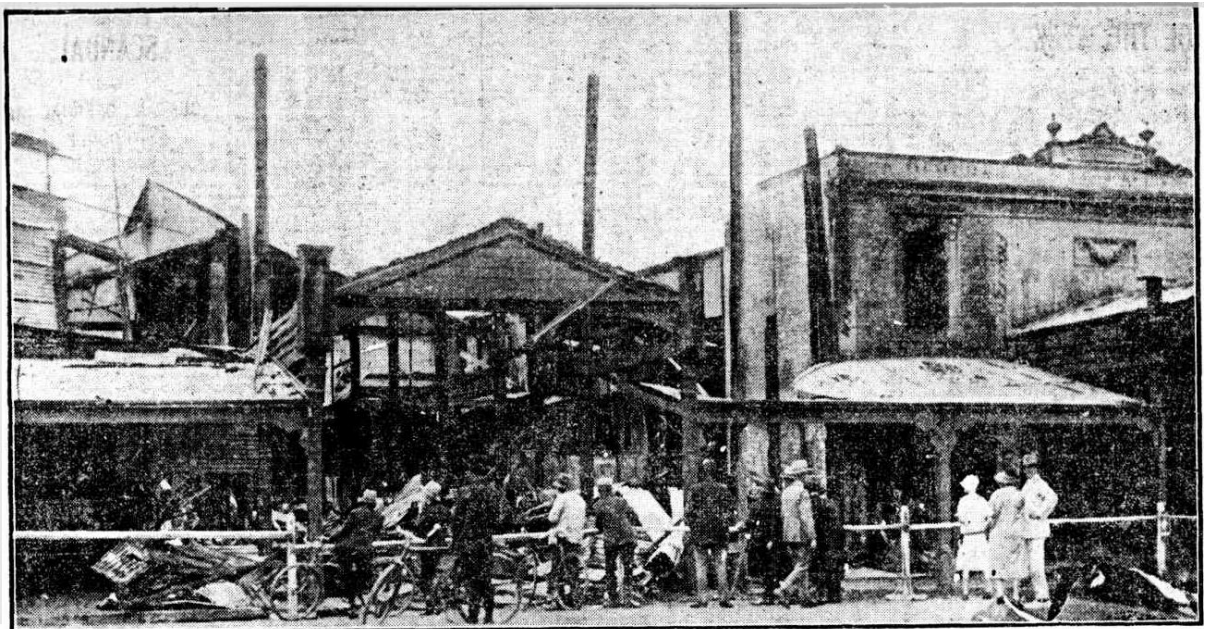
Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 8 January 1926, page 8

WORK OF THE FIREMEN.

The fireman's work does not end when a fire has been put out. On the contrary, it may be said, that it has only begun. Striking illustrations of this fact were provided by the two fires at the East-End Market. The Adelaide Brigade was still busily engaged upon "cleaning up" after the Friday morning blaze, when it was called out in the small hours of Sunday morning to extinguish the second outbreak. In all, 6,600 feet of hose were used on the two fires—3,000 on the first and 3,600 on the second— and there was entirely fresh hose on the second occasion. The following facts will dispel the more or less prevalent idea that in between fires, the fire man has a life of comparative idleness. As soon as the machines return to the station from a fire, all hands, no matter how tired, wet, or grimy they may be, set to work on discharging all hose which had been in use, and replacing it with fresh hose, of which there is always a huge stock in reserve, so that the brigade may be ready again for a call. As soon as that duty has been performed, the men turn their attention to scrubbing, drying, and hydraulically testing the used hose. Any necessary repair work is carried out on the premises. Motor engines and pumps are also thoroughly overhauled. After this, if there are no more alarms— false or other wise — the fireman may seek a bath and his disturbed rest. Suburban stations also possess double hose equipment, so that they, too, are always ready for an emergency at a moment's notice, irrespective of whether their "gear" has been under strain a few moments, or a few days, previously.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 9 January 1926, page 47

THE EAST-END MARKET FIRE.



This picture shows a portion of the damage done by the fires at the East-End Market on Friday and Sunday mornings. The total loss caused by the two fires is estimated at nearly £11,000. Through a brick wall collapsing inside the building, five firemen had remarkable escapes from serious injury. Krischock, photo.

A DAY OF FIRES.

Big Blaze at East-End Market

Soon after the new year had been ushered in by large throngs of people, who, following established custom, had congregated in King William-street in the vicinity of the Town Hall, a sensation was provided for the few stragglers who were making their way to the eastern suburbs, by the outbreak of a fire in the East-End Market. It is believed that it had its origin in the eastern portion of the block, but when once started it spread with remarkable rapidity towards the centre of the property, and it was only as the result of the strenuous and well-directed efforts of the men of the fire brigades that the flames were confined to a comparatively small area. A breeze from the north-east fanned the flames and drove them towards the centre of the market block, and at one time it appeared almost impossible to arrest their spread. The East-End Market Hotel was in danger, and the reconstructed portion of the market block, part of which is occupied by Messrs. Marks & Symonds, and Messrs. A. E. Pitt & Sons and other produce and fruit merchants, was saved by the unflagging efforts of the fire-fighters. A good deal of the paint on these structures was scorched and blistered. A large crowd soon assembled on East-terrace, for the fire was seen from some distance away, the flames shooting high into the air. So intense was the heat at one time that many of the spectators were unable to remain in the street, and when they made for the park lands the wire fencing had become so hot that they were unable to handle it. Good Work by the Brigades. A representative of "The Advertiser" was quickly on the spot and obtained a view of the fire while it was at its height. Dense volumes of smoke arising from the northern corner of the markets adjoining the Botanic Hotel gave the first indication of the blaze, but within a few minutes the whole of the front of the premises were a burning mass. Long tongues of flame shot up, and the building was well alight by the time the brigade arrived. The premises were mainly composed of iron and wood, and as the wood was very dry the fire spread rapidly. Realising the futility of attempting to put the flames out in the shops that were alight, the firemen turned their attention to the task of preventing extension to the adjoining buildings. Three lines of hose were quickly playing on to the front of the buildings, and four were taken in through the markets and the flames attacked from the rear through Frearson's hardware store and the East-End Market Hotel. Other hoses were taken in through the Botanic Hotel premises from East-terrace. Fortunately the wind at the time was not strong, although it was sufficient to feed and spread the flames, and before the fire-men got control considerable damage had been done to the premises adjoining those of A. E. Pitt & Sons, containing a quantity of empty fruit cases, many of which were thrown out of the loft to the floor before being touched by fire, and a hose played on the burning mass. Some damage was done to the framework of the loft. Splendid work was done by the brigade in preventing the flames from spreading to the Botanic Hotel, but they were not so successful with the East-End Market Hotel, the rear portions of which were badly damaged, mostly by water. The brigade found it necessary to place a ladder against the back wall and play a hose continuously into the little courtyard. As the outskirts of the blaze were put out the firemen were able to work gradually towards the main seat of the fire, and it was not long before the outbreak was completely under control, but that portion of the market between the two hotels to a depth of about 150 feet was a mass of smouldering ruins.

Sensational Escapes.

There were sensational escapes from injury. A colored man who has a little room in the fire-affected area was asleep in bed, and was awakened by the crackle of burning and an acrid smell. It did not take him long to find the cause, and in less than two minutes he was out in the street with his clothes and a few other belongings. He had no sooner reached the roadway than the whole section, including his own abode, was a mass of flame. Two of the firemen had fortunate escapes from injury. They were directing a hose from the footpath on to the shop immediately adjoining the East-End Market Hotel, when the verandah and the front portion of the shop fell with a crash. The debris, which fortunately formed a sort of bridge over the men, struck two of them, but beyond one or two minor burns no injury was sustained. They dropped the hose and scrambled for safety, and the hose was dragged clear. Falling debris also caused the men working from inside the markets to be cautious, and on several

occasions they just avoided injury. A series of short, muffled explosions from inside the markets also caused some alarm. These occurred when the flames had been beaten to a smouldering mass, but it was only the gas main at the rear of Frearson's shop, the heat having caused the pipes to melt, and as the gas ignited the explosions occurred. Later the opening in the pipe became much larger, and the ignited gas was used for a while by the firemen to illuminate the vicinity. The light was subsequently put out and the end of the pipe stuffed to prevent further leakage. Telephone and electric wires were destroyed, and a few hours later workmen were busy effecting repairs. Amongst the work being carried out, it is understood, were repairs to a junction telephone cable.

When the Fire was First Seen.

Mrs. J. Goodfellow, wife of the licensee of the East-End Market Hotel, said she and her husband had spent an anxious time, as it appeared almost inevitable that the hotel would be destroyed. The stout brick wall, however, formed a strong barrier against the approaching fire, and the brigade saved the property. Considerable damage, however, was done by water, especially in the kitchen and dining-room. In the latter the paper came off the ceiling in large sheets. "I want to say," continued Mrs. Goodfellow, "that we are very grateful to four tramway employes who came to the rescue, and, with difficulty, removed the piano from the drawing-room into the street. They also took the wireless set and a valuable talking machine from the premises. The task was not an easy one, but they worked hard and success-fully. Asked if she and other persons on the premises had been in any real danger, Mrs. Goodfellow replied, "Yes; I was on the balcony when I first discovered that a fire had broken out. At that time there were no visible flames, but there was a strong smell of burning, and I could see smoke rising from the right-of-way at the eastern boundary of the market property. If I could have got a prompt reply from the telephone exchange I don't think much damage would have been done. I rang and rang, but could not 'raise' Central. I must have tried for not less than ten minutes— it seemed to be longer — and then I gave it up. By this time the flames were shooting up, and I called to motorists on the terrace, told them that there was a fire, and I could not 'raise' Central. I asked if they would go for the brigade. Four men with cars and one young man with a motor cycle immediately replied that they would go, but before they had time to get there the flames were attracting attention. Someone, I do not know whether it was Mr. Goodfellow or a police man, had given the call from one of the street alarms. The brigade lost no time in getting here, and were quickly at work. Later on the police informed me that I had better get outside for safety." It appeared later that a cable junction box, near the scene of the fire had been burnt, and had cut off communication with the exchange. Mr L. H. Griffiths, of the Telephone Exchange, stated that quite a large number of lines were put out of order by the fire.

Value of Property.

Mr. J. E. Rowell (chairman of directors of the East-End Market Company), and Mr. H. R. Hammer (secretary of the company) were interviewed together by a re-presentative of "The Advertiser." They were unable to say where or how the fire originated. Asked if they could give an indication of the extent of the damage, Mr. Rowell replied:— "No; the wreckage shows that several places have been completely destroyed, but the damage is not so great as might be thought at first glance." He pointed out that the buildings which had been gutted were, for the most part, constructed by galvanized iron and wood. The wood was very dry and inflammable. "But," he added, "you can get some idea of the actual value of the places from the amount for which they were insured." Mr. Hammer said, "It is a fortunate circumstance that I renewed the insurance on Tuesday afternoon. Last year's policy expired at 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 31. If I had not taken the precaution to renew it promptly we should have been uncovered. As it is we were insured for another year." Asked what was the amount of the insurance on the property. Mr. Hammer explained that there was one large galvanized iron roof covering the whole of the market. That, he said, was insured separately in the National Fire Insurance Company of New Zealand for £1,000. The buildings which were erected under, and independently of, the roof were insured in the same company for £1,000,

and in the Colonial Mutual Company for £500. With the exception of a small section on East-terrace, the buildings were of iron and wood, and had been standing for a long period of years. The business proprietors of the places gutted were: — Mr. H. Smith, retail fruiterer, East-terrace; Mrs. Catton, secondhand dealer; Messrs. W. H. Hall and Co., packers and produce merchants; Mr. Frank Trenorden, wholesale produce merchant; Mr. T. J. Price, wholesale produce merchant; The Producers' Commission Agency. Mr. J. Hart, retail fruit and cool drink shop; Mr. G. Leversha, retail fruit shop. Mr. Hammer said he believed some of the proprietors' stocks were uninsured, but he understood that Messrs. Hall and Company were insured for about £300. Fortunately the losses sustained will not be so heavy as they would have been if the fire had occurred just prior to the holiday season. "Sales," said Mr. Rowell, "have been very large during the last few weeks, and stocks have been reduced. Probably most of the people would have been restocking in a few days." It was mentioned that a very large quantity of packing cases, boxes, and bags had been destroyed. Hotel Guests in the Street. Naturally the guests and staff of the East-End Market Hotel and the Botanic Hotel lost no time in quitting the endangered buildings. Those who were already asleep were awakened either by the noise of the fire or by some person who realised the danger, and they left the two houses in haste.

The Work of the Brigade.

An officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade stated that the call was received at about 1.58 a.m., and the Metropolitan, Unley, Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton stations immediately dispatched appliances. Altogether there were five machines from the head station, and one each from the four other stations mentioned. About 30 men worked splendidly under the direction of Superintendent Dickie, who took command of all operations. When the reels arrived the north-east portion of the market was in flames. They got the motor pump and nine lines of hose to work— three from the front; two from the northern side to protect the Botanic Hotel, and four in the market to save the East-End Market Hotel. In an hour they had the flames under control. They concentrated largely on the endeavor to prevent the flames from spreading to adjacent property, and they were successful in their efforts. The crews from the outer stations left at 4.30 a.m., and those from the city station at 5 o'clock. "The most sensational incident in connection with our work," he said, "was the sudden collapse of the verandah on East-terrace. Some firemen were under it at the time and they had a narrow escape. But somehow the falling debris formed a sort of rough arch over them, and they had time to make their escape before it all finally fell to the ground." The Police Report. Constable Arthurton reported that at about 1.50 a.m. on Friday he noticed a fire at the East-End Market. He immediately broke the alarm and called the brigade, which arrived shortly afterwards. The fire spread rapidly. It appeared to have started near the rear of Mr. H. Smith's fruiterer's shop, East-terrace. Inspector Mattin took charge of the police arrangements. There were three sergeants and 14 constables in attendance. Messrs. W. H. Hall & Co., whose business premises were destroyed by the fire, notify their clients by advertisement that business will be carried on by them as usual at the East-End Market.

SECOND OUTBREAK ON SUNDAY MORNING.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £8,000.

Following the outbreak of fire at the East-End Market on New Year's morning, and which resulted in a portion of the markets facing East-terrace being destroyed, another conflagration occurred early on Sunday morning immediately behind the East-End Market Hotel, and towards the centre of the market, in premises occupied by Messrs. A. E. Pitt & Sons, fruit packers and distributors. The firemen prevented the flames from spreading to other parts of the building, but were unable to save Messrs. Pitt & Sons's store, and attached storerooms, which were completely gutted. Several adjacent properties were badly damaged both by fire and water. The damage has been assessed at £8,000.

Sunday's outbreak was first reported by Mr. P. Miller, an employe of Messrs. Pitt and Sons, who gave the alarm from Rundle-street east at 1.25. About half an hour before this

Constables Atherton and Trelvelion made a round of the market, and did not see any trace of fire. When walking down, Rundle-street about 1.20 Constable Atherton saw smoke coming through the roof of the market, and on investigating with Constable Trelvelion and Mr. Miller, found a small shoot of flame issuing from a loft containing fruit cases at the north-east corner of Messrs. Pitt's premises. Simultaneously, Constable Trelvelion and Mr. Miller, on the south side of the store, also saw smoke and small flames reflected in a small window near the roof. Half a minute later, the whole place burst into flame. The brigade from the metropolitan station arrived smartly, and in five minutes of the alarm being given were playing hoses on to the flames. Realising the serious nature of the outbreak, Chief-Officer J. E. Dickie brought all the appliances from the head station, and called the Unley, Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton brigades in, with the result that nine hoses were directing water into the fire in a short time.

A Spectacular Blaze.

Messrs. Pitt & Sons's store was the main building of the section, being about 150 feet long by 50 feet wide. It was built of brick and stone with a gable roof, and comprised two stories. The bottom floor was used for fruit packing and the upper floor as a storeroom for produce. Adjoining the main building on the north side was a two-storey building of about the same dimensions, used principally as storerooms by different firms. It was built of oregon and galvanized iron. The first two sections were used by Messrs. Pitt & Sons as a storeroom for fruit cases, and adjoining to the west along the alley-way were Storerooms used by the Adelaide Chemical Works, and Mr. W. C. James (fruiterer), Messrs. H. Wells and Co. (grain merchants), Mr. F. Townsend (hardware), Mr. O. Gilles (fruiterer), and Shueard & Stacey (boxmakers) had store rooms on the other side of the alleyway facing south. On Friday morning, the loft containing the fruit cases belonging to Messrs. Pitt & Sons was attacked by the flames, but by throwing out many of the cases, the firemen arrested the progress of the fire, with only slight damage done. When the outbreak occurred in this section on Sunday morning, the flames rapidly spread along the top of the loft, assisted greatly by the dryness of the timber, and the highly inflammable nature of the contents of the storerooms. When the rooms on the ground floor caught fire, the flames reached almost to the level of those from inside the main building, the roof of which was practically eaten through in a short time. The sight was a spectacular one, but the heat was terrific, and sections of the main market roof caught alight on many occasions, and the firefighters were compelled to direct their attention to those outbreaks, to prevent further extension.

Ironwork Badly Twisted.

Through the fire and pressure of water from the hoses, much debris fell from the market roof. Only quick action saved those nearby from being struck by flying pieces of iron. Inside the main store, the supports were iron pillars and steel girders, but the ceiling and flooring and roof were of Oregon and jar-rah, and these were quickly consumed, as were the stocks of merchandise on the floor, and the iron and steel under the influence of the tremendous heat, twisted into all shapes. Flames shot out of the windows on the first floor rendering it impossible for some time, for the firemen to use ladders to get at the interior with their hoses. After nearly three hours the fire on the upper floor was confined to a small section over a garage at the south-western corner of the store, where it smouldered for some hours with occasional small out breaks in the rubbish on Sunday.

Falling Wall Injures Firemen.

There were thrilling scenes on the northern side, where the small storerooms were. In order more effectively to direct their hoses, Firemen Lee, Taylor, Kendall, Arnold, Reynolds, and Munro (Norwood), working under Station-Officer H. T. Sayers, distributed themselves along the first floor of the loft over the storerooms. The sound of a sharp explosion was heard underneath the firemen, and the northern wall of the main store, beginning about ten feet up from the level of the floor, began to bulge. Without further warning it fell outward with a crash in the direction of the men, bringing down with it the roof over the loft. Eight by four oregon

crossbeams were splintered to matchwood, and the firemen who were half-way between the edge of the loft and the main wall found themselves in the midst of a whirling mass of brick, iron, and wood. They fell through to the lower rooms, and those on the edge of the first floor were hurled across the lane, banging the doors of the storerooms. Those who were caught inside the loft had remarkable escapes from serious injury. Fireman Arnold got caught in the midst of the debris, and on trying to get clear found one of his boots jammed. He was forced to leave it there, and later it was found necessary to lever away huge pieces of joists to recover the boot. He was not hurt beyond receiving a few cuts and bruises. Fireman Taylor was struck on the chest and stomach by a large piece of timber, and thrown to the ground, a distance of about thirty feet. Fireman Lee fell inside, and was left on the loft, but was quickly rescued. Fireman Reynolds had the top of his helmet badly dented with a large piece of timber. Other firemen on the ground were sent flying backwards from the storerooms with the force of the crash. Five men were taken to the Adelaide Hospital, but all, with the exception of Fireman Taylor, immediately returned to duty. Chimney Stack Stands Firm. Fireman Taylor remained at the institution for a time, but returned to duty in the afternoon. Police-Inspector Mattin rendered good service to the injured men, and several motorists generously loaned their cars. The wall was nine inches thick, and it is estimated that nearly 100 tons of brick, timber, and iron fell round the firemen. It is thought that the expansion, through the heat of the iron girders, caused the wall to collapse. Other falling debris, composed mostly of iron roofing sheets, took a toll of other firefighters, who have bruises and flesh wounds to remind them of their experience. A tall chimney, which was left standing in the middle of the main store after the roof had caved in, appeared to be in danger of falling at any time. Three or four hoses directed at it, however, failed to shake it, and at daybreak it was standing alone like a lofty monument in the middle of huge piles of burnt rubbish and timber.

Extent of the Damage.

The main block, comprising Messrs Pitt & Sons' store, and the structure attached to the walls, was completely gutted. The Austral Gardens Theatre, at the rear of Messrs. Pitt & Sons' store, suffered slightly from heat and water, and on the opposite side of the lane all the storerooms were badly damaged, and the bulk of the stock of the whole block, it is thought, will not be fit for further use. An exception is a quantity of bananas in the cellar of Messrs. Pitt and Sons' store. This was flooded, but when the water was pumped out on Sun-day morning it was found that the bananas had suffered little damage. Owing to the mass of debris the extent of the stocks and their damage could not be gauged. In one of the storerooms was a Ford one-ton truck, and this suffered severely. Its tank contained petrol, and it is thought that the bursting of this was the explosion heard. In Messrs. Pitt & Sons' garage, on the southern side, a big motor truck was pulled out of danger by Constables Atherton, Trelvelion, and Thomas, who then assisted firemen in moving ten cases of petrol from the danger zone. There was no petrol on the first floor. A large iron safe withstood the heat and flames, but water got inside and slightly damaged the contents. Sergeant McCabe rescued two horses belonging to a Mr. H. Low, a market gardener, which were in the immediate vicinity of the outbreak. The animals were nearly mad with terror.

"Lucky 13."

A remarkable feature of the outbreak was the slight damage done to a store-room underneath the dividing wall of the Austral Gardens Theatre. This was numbered 13, and was used by the market authorities as a storeroom for various articles used in connection with the market. Except for a slight drenching, no damage was done, and even the falling wall missed this room. When the alarm was first given, the occupants of the East-End Market Hotel, who were rudely disturbed on New Year's morning, wasted little time in getting out into East-terrace with their personal belongings, and other people in the vicinity also made hurried preparations to quit their homes if necessary. It did not take long for the news of the outbreak to become known, and shortly after 2 o'clock motors and pedestrians were coming from every direction, necessitating the mustering of a large number of foot police. Cause of Fire Unknown. No reason could be advanced for the beginning of the fire, and the statements of the two foot

constables, who said they saw the fire from two different positions, have caused the authorities to be some what suspicious. The suggestion has been made that the whole of the previous out-break had not been extinguished, but the fire brigade officials point out that the firemen were withdrawn on Saturday morning from the markets, only after a thorough examination had been made to see whether any further outbreak was possible Everything appeared to be in order on Saturday, and at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, when the two constables made an examination of the markets and premises, nothing appeared to be wrong. Statement by Mr. Pitt. Mr. A. E. Pitt, the founder of the firm of A. E. Pitt & Sons, was summoned from his home at Felixstowe by telephone. He is a member of the directorate of the East-End Markets. He was at a loss, he told a representative of "The Advertiser," to account for the fire, because everything appeared to be in order when he was in the store on Saturday. The building was insured for about £1,500, but he could give no indication of the extent of the insurances on the stock. In the absence of his son, who was at Mount Gambier, and who now controls the business.

There was little petrol on the place, there being only a few tins in the garage. Most of the firm's accounts and cheques for monthly accounts were on a table in the office, and these were destroyed. He estimated the loss at nearly £4,000, but until an examination was made it would be impossible to give anything like an accurate statement. Included in the stock lost were goods ordered by sufferers in the fire on New Year's morning to assist them to meet market requirements this morning. The loss of these would be a handicap. He was making arrangements for the business to be carried on at the grenfell-street market.

Good Work by Firemen.

Chief Officer Dickie, of the metropolitan station, who directed operations, expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the firemen did their work. They showed great courage in difficult circumstances. The call, he said, was received from the Rundle-street east fire alarm at 1.25 a.m., and the whole of the brigade was turned out. The suburban staffs at North Adelaide, Norwood, Unley, and Thebarton were called in to assist the men from the central station. Nine jets of water were soon playing on the seat of the conflagration, and 3,500 ft. of hose were run out. By 4 o'clock the fire was almost subdued, and the suburban staffs and most of the Adelaide men returned to their stations. When the fire was at its height Station Officer H. T. Sayers and six men were detailed for work at the northern end of the burning building, and without warning there was a loud explosion, and the firefighters were thrown to the ground. The assembly was sounded and assistance was speedily forthcoming and the injured were hurried to the Adelaide Hospital. With the exception of Firemen Taylor and Reynolds none had sustained more than slight injuries, and they reported back for duty at the fire. The men were ordered back to their quarters. Fireman Taylor remained at the hospital until Sunday afternoon, he having sustained cuts and abrasions. The injured men had been placed on light duties. Firemen remained on duty all the evening and would continue to do so until all danger of a further outbreak had passed. Yesterday's fire was a fresh outbreak and had no connection with that of the previous Friday. The firemen greatly appreciated the action of Mr. Maurice Beckman, a returned soldier, resident in Rundle-street, who kept them supplied with hot tea, and also the manner in which the proprietors of the East-End Market had looked after them.

Yellow Cabs to the Rescue.

Several yellow cabs were in the vicinity of the East-End Market when the outbreak was noticed, and a number of drivers lent valuable assistance to the police and firemen on the scene. At first it was feared that the East-End Market Hotel was in danger, and Driver Fawcett, an athletic man, climbed up a verandah pole on to the hotel balcony and warned the occupants. He carried one woman from the premises in a fainting condition. All spectators were ordered from the scene, but several yellow cab men, in uniform, were employed as sentries, some even lending a hand to the firefighters. Mr. H.R. Hammer, the secretary of the East-End Market Company, was busy on Sunday afternoon preparing for the holding of the

market this morning. He said a conservative estimate of the damage was £8,000, but until the actual extent of the stocks of the storerooms was known it would not be possible to give an accurate figure. He had not been able to get in touch with all the occupants, all of whom, however, had visited the scene of the fire during the day. The main store building was insured for £1,500, and the market building with the Colonial Mutual Company. A meeting of the directors of the market company would be held on Tuesday to discuss the position, and rebuilding plans.

NO INQUEST.

The ruined northern section of the East-End Market was the object of much interest on Monday, and, as on Sun-day, many hundreds of people viewed the scene. Although the premises of Messrs. A. E. Pitt & Sons and several other market stores were completely gutted by the fires which occurred early on Friday and on Sunday morning, no serious inconvenience was caused in the market arrangements. Messrs. Pitt & Sons. conducted their packing operations from their reserve store on East-terrace, Messrs. W. H. Hall & Co. made arrangement with Mr. H. Eitzen for carrying on business there, and Mr. T. J. Price was provided with temporary accommodation to enable him to get his orders away to Broken Hill. The Railway Department facilitated those who had suffered through the fire by allowing them a little extra time for loading fruit and vegetables consigned to country towns and to Broken Hill, and this was greatly appreciated. The origin of the fire, which appears to have started in the premises of Messrs. Pitt & Sons on Sunday morning, is a mystery, and is likely to remain so, as the police, after making exhaustive enquiries, have been unable to secure any evidence that the blaze was started deliberately. In view of this nature of the report received from the police the City Coroner has decided not to hold an inquest. Insurance officials were at work on Monday, and Alderman I. Isaacs acted as adjuster in respect to the greater portion of the losses. Fireman Taylor, who remained in the Adelaide Hospital, where he was admitted on Sunday morning as the result of injuries received through an explosion among the debris, was able to leave that institution on Monday.



B 3279

State Library of South Australia - East Terrace [B 3279], [General description] East Terrace Fruit and Vegetable Market shortly after the fire in 1926. The buckled roof and blackened buildings are visible. Four men are standing next to a parked car outside the market and two women and a child are walking by. [On back of photograph] Acre 31. East Terrace. Showing portion of the Market. Feb. 1, 1926. Taken a few weeks after the fire. Compare with B 4808. Left side of open space is 67 yards south of North Terrace. Far side of the building to the right

*of this space is 36 yards south of North Terrace. 1926. State Library of South Australia
Collection, Part of Acre 31 Collection.*

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 9 January 1926, page 48

BUSH FIRES IN THE HILLS.

COVERS ABOUT 100 ACRES. FIRE-FIGHTERS WORK GAMELY.

Shortly after 1 p.m., yesterday, a bush fire was noticed to be raging in the hills near the Mountain Hut Hotel, about three miles from Glen Osmond, on the Mount Barker-road. The fire came from the direction of Waterfall Gully, where it started earlier in the day. It appeared for a while that it would make a clean sweep of everything before it. The flames ate into the trunks of gum trees, and the grass and blackberry hedges burnt like tinder. The fences also provided fuel for the fire. With each puff of wind the fire would break out in a fresh place, and much trouble was caused by flying sparks. The task of the fire-fighters was rendered more difficult by the fact that the fire was burning on the sides of a steep hill, on which only a precarious foothold could be obtained. The flames first attacked Leawood Gardens, the property of Mr. E. Anderson. Carried by a strong easterly breeze, and aided by the dry grass, they quickly approached the homestead. Bags and green boughs were secured, and a determined effort was made to check the flames, and prevent them from spreading to the home and orchard. To this end, everyone worked with a will, including Mr. Anderson's three daughters. Many neighbors gave their services, and the valiant band of firefighters waged a battle with the flames. The varying wind rendered their task difficult, but after several hours' work, they succeeded in beating out the fire before the orchard or house was damaged. From Leawood Gardens the fire spread to the adjoining property, Lower Leawood, which is owned by Mr. H. A. Smith, who has been confined to his bed for the past year. With the exception of his wife, and one son, the family were spending the day at Glenelg, and the property would therefore have been at the mercy of the flames had not Mr. Smith's neighbors rendered assistance. The fire approached the house, but the neighbors quickly burnt a break, and so prevented the flames from spreading in that direction. Lower Leawood consists of 80 acres of which a great part is under cultivation. However, little damage was done to the orchard, with the exception that several apple trees were burnt. These trees, with many chains of fencing, constituted the chief loss. As a result of there having been few grazing cattle placed on the property this summer, much of the ground was covered with dry grass, a good deal of which was destroyed. Mrs. E. A. Castle (proprietor of the Mountain Hut Hotel), upon noticing the fire, communicated with the City Watchhouse. Inspector Nation instructed the Parkside, Burnside, and Stirling West stations to render what assistance they could, and Superintendent Birt, of the police barracks, dispatched a car load of mounted men to the scene of the fire. Mr. Anderson stated that he estimated the damage to Leawood Gardens at between £100 and £200. Fortunately, a break had been burnt round his house the previous week, otherwise a greater amount of damage might have been done. It was the first fire that had threatened the property for 14 years, and, in his opinion, had been caused by a careless picnic party. Neither his property nor that of Mr. Smith was insured. Beyond the fact that Mr. F. Asset had his hair singed, and Mr. E. A. Castle received burns on the left arm, the fire-fighters escaped injury. Although the fire appeared to be out when an inspection was made at 5.30 p.m. yesterday, it was realised that more trouble might be caused if a breeze sprang up and fanned the embers into life. During the afternoon the flames spread to the Eagle-on-the-Hill, and firefighters were still working there at a late hour last night. However, the damage in that locality was comparatively slight as was also the case at Waterfall Gully.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Wednesday 20 January 1926, page 17

FIRE AT THE RUBBISH DESTRUCTOR.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 6.5 a.m. yesterday to the rubbish destructor in Halifax-street, City. Upon arrival they found that a vat of bitumen was on fire. The flames were extinguished before any great damage was done.

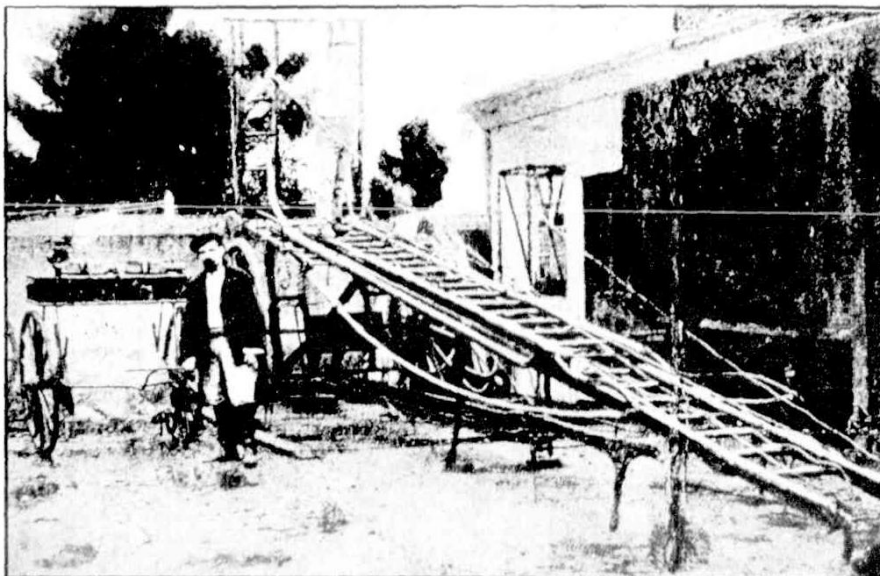
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 21 January 1926, page 11

A SMALL FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call about 7.28 p.m. on Wednesday to the premises of Mr. A. M. Myers, hatter and mercer, in Victoria-square. It was found that a small fire had occurred in the workshop at the rear of the premises, caused by a fused electric iron wire coming into contact with a tin of petrol. The workshop was slightly damaged, but was covered by insurance.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 January 1926, page 38

ADELAIDE'S FIRST FIRE BRIGADE.



THE HEAD STATION IN FLINDERS-STREET IN 1885.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 January 1926, page 53

MODERN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT.

(subject of illustrations.)

In every large city efficient fire fighting appliances are essential. In this respect Adelaide is in no way behind the leading centres of the world, for the South Australian Fire Brigade, with headquarters in Wakefield-street, has a splendid record. Excellently and centrally situated in one of the widest of the city streets, where there is, as a rule, very little traffic, there has never at any time been any difficulty in manoeuvring the large engines and extension ladders. In the early days of Adelaide a large number of buildings were put up of highly inflammable material. Timber was much used, and after a hot summer it became dry. One of the earliest fire recorded was in a public building, in which were stored a large number of exceedingly important public documents, and two cases belonging to Colonel Light, the Surveyor-General, which contained the journal of his eventful life. It was this severe loss to the community which brought forcibly home to the Adelaide Corporation, the necessity of maintaining an up-to-date equipment for coping with any outbreaks of fire. In 1857 the corporation ordered the construction of a small portable fire engine. It consisted of a corrugated iron tank and cistern mounted on a cart body, with a force pump at the side, to which was attached a leather hose. A ladder was strapped to the cart, "to secure access to verandahs." The legal foundation of the present fire brigade system was laid by an Act passed in 1882.

The city headquarters were first established in Flinders-street, in 1885. It was only a small equipment, but was the first advance upon the old-time volunteer bucket brigades. The staff

consisted of a superintendent and eight firemen. An auxiliary station, was in Morphett-street, with a deputy superintendent, and three men— a total for the whole city of 12 men. The equipment at each station consisted of one single-horse reel. From time to time, as the city expanded, additional plant was obtained, and under the control of Fire Brigades Board the city kept well in the forefront as regards modern appliances. In 1885 the cost of maintaining the brigade was £3,226. Last year the cost was £38,173. The total number of calls received in 1885 was 103. Last year the brigade was called out on 630 occasions, which constitutes a record for the city.

Changing Conditions.

With the onward march of progress conditions of fire-fighting have materially altered. The almost universal use of motor cars means that there are comparatively few houses in the metropolis where stocks of petrol are not kept, and with such highly inflammable material kept in close proximity to dwelling houses there is always the possibility of a small fire developing into a big blaze. Moreover, the height of buildings is now much greater than was the case in former years. Included in the equipment at Wakefield street is one of the tallest portable extension ladders in the world. Operated entirely by the motor which drives the vehicle, this ladder can be shot up into the air to a height of 93 feet. A turntable on the bed of the chassis on which the ladder is mounted enables the ladder canted at any desired angle, to be swung round to the most suitable position, and when a hose is carried up, water can be played down upon any blaze without the need of any supporting wall. Most modern buildings are being equipped with automatic fire alarms. These instruments are extremely sensitive. As soon as the temperature in a room in which the instrument is placed reached a certain degree of heat, bells start ringing at the fire brigade headquarters, and a metal flap in a panel falls down, exposing to view a white tablet on which is inscribed the name of the building whence the alarm came and the telephone numbers of adjacent buildings. Simultaneously a powerful siren is set going to warn the firemen for duty. In less than two minutes the engines and ladder vehicles are manned and all is in readiness to proceed to the scene of the fire. As soon as the siren gives the alarm a man is posted at the top of the lofty watch tower, which commands a view of the entire city, and he is thus enabled with the aid of glasses to discern exactly where the outbreak is and can form some idea of its extent.

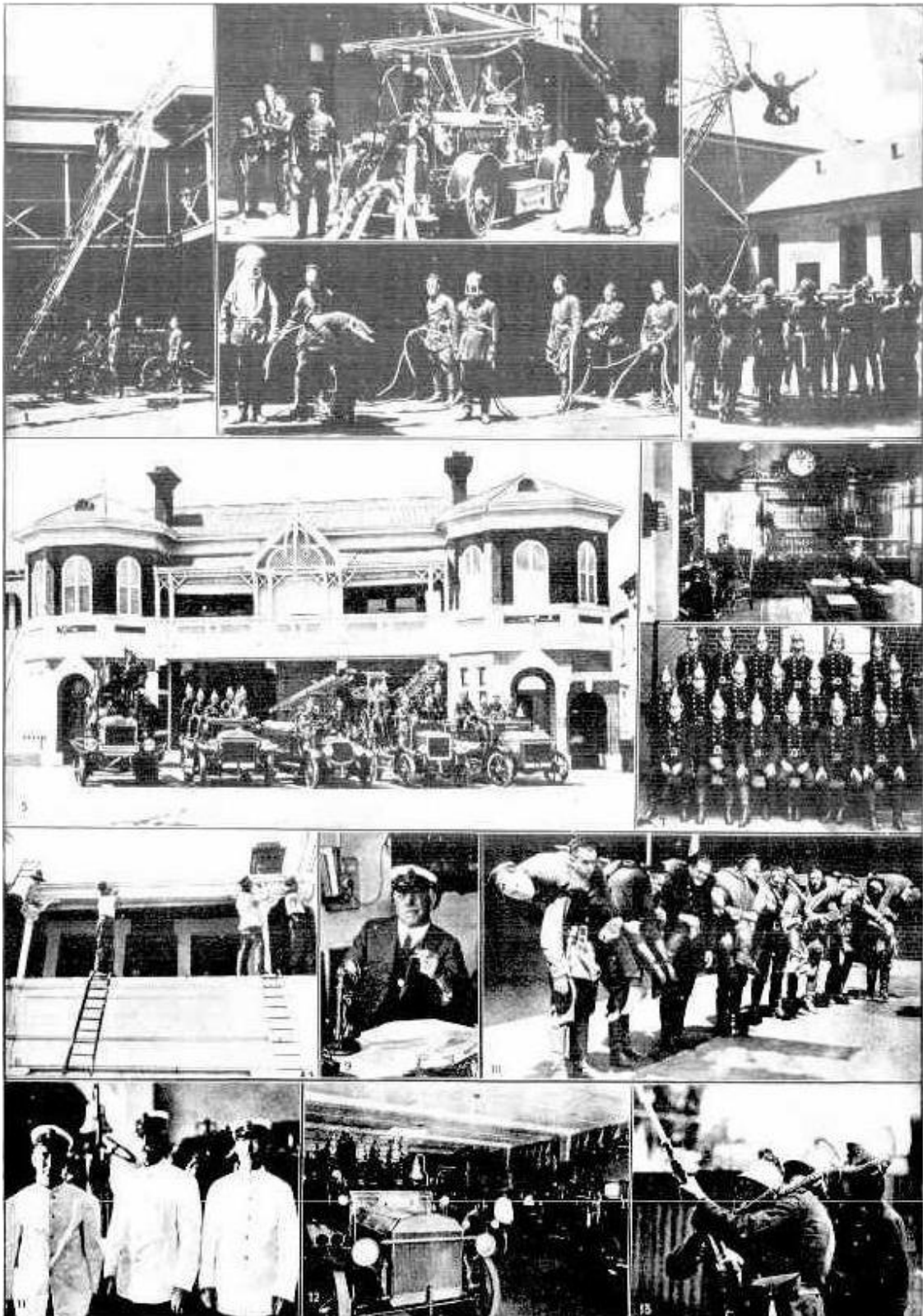
Thoroughness is insisted on at headquarters and nothing is left to chance. A panel in the main building bears the names of individual firemen, and indicate the exact position they are to take up in the event of an alarm. The positions on the fire engines and other vehicles are numbered, and every man is kept fully posted daily in regard to his exact post. Confusion is entirely done away with, and the fire chief is enabled to get the best use out of his men. In work of such paramount importance as fire-fighting, demanding as it does individual effort as well as team work, it is important that physically the men should be tuned up to concert pitch. The headquarters are therefore fitted up with every conceivable physical culture appliance. A fine gymnasium is fitted up with trapeze, hobby horses, punching balls, horizontal bars, boxing gloves, and fencing foils. The comfort of the men is also a vital consideration, and an excellent tennis court enables them to keep in splendid fettle. In the recreation hall there is also a well appointed billiard-room and a small but compact library. Another duty devolving upon headquarters is the testing of chemical extinguishers and hoses owned by private firms and individuals. These chemical extinguishers are in almost universal use, and they have to be tested twice yearly. Last year more than 5,060 tests were carried out at headquarters. An exhibit at Wakefield-street, which instantly excites the curiosity of visitors is the case of a large metal ammonia cylinder. This cylinder exploded at the fire at Gambling & McDonald's building on May 31, 1917, and so great was the force of the explosion that the heavy cast steel container weighing over one hundred-weight was ripped open and thrown a distance of 370-feet, where it was found firmly embedded in the roof of a dwelling house.

A Powerful New Float.

The equipment of the South Australian Fire Brigade will shortly be augmented by a new and super-powerful fire float. The vessel is under construction, and the engines have already arrived. Fitted with two petrol-driven engines of 160 horse-power, the pumps will have a capacity of 2,500 gallons a minute. This is much greater than that of the latest fire float installed on the Thames in London. Although there are larger fire floats in other parts of the world, that at Port Adelaide will be the last word in efficiency. When one realises the appalling damage caused by fires in steamers and the great personal risk entailed in extinguishing them, it will readily be seen that an up-to-date appliance at an important port of call is of the utmost importance. The chief fire brigade officer (Mr. J. E. Dickie) is proud of his headquarters, which are always the picture of neatness. He is also proud of his staff, many of whom are veterans, and of the fine modern equipment under his charge. The utmost good will prevails between the chief and his staff with whom he associates freely. He is always on the look-out for something that will improve the service or add to the comfort of his men. The men are encouraged to submit any ideas they may have for the better performance of their work, and many minor suggestions have been put into practice with benefit to the brigade and the community. Mr. Dickie claims to be the oldest permanent officer on any fire brigade in Australia. He began his career as a fireman in London in June 1883, and joined the Adelaide brigade two years later as a fireman under Superintendent H. Salter. Later he was given charge of the Port Pirie district, and his appointment as district officer at Port Adelaide followed. He was subsequently promoted to be Deputy-Superintendent, and later became deputy-chief and then chief. Although there have been marked changes in the fighting gear of firemen, there has been practically no alteration in their head dress. The brass helmet has been in vogue for well over a century, and the same design is universally adhered to. There are, however, specially constructed smoke helmets and jackets which enable the men to penetrate thick, foul-smelling smoke without grave danger.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 23 January 1926, page 39

ADELAIDE'S FIREFIGHTERS.



THE METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE. Krischock, photos. The high standard of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade has been demonstrated on many occasions, and the efficiency of the personnel and adequacy of the equipment were never greater than at present. 1. On the telescopic ladder fire escape. 2. One of the fire engines. Water is taken from three hydrants and ejected from two outlets at greatly increased pressure. 3. A party of firemen showing the pat-terns of smoke helmets used and the system of life lines. 4. Jumping from the look-out tower into the landing sheet. 5. The fire station premises in Wakefield-street. The brigade

turned out in full dress. 6. In the telephone room. 7. A group of firemen.— Front row (left to right) — F. Hailey, A. McCallum, G. Arnold. W. Lee, A. Abery, J. Coates. Second row— F. Giles, L. Whitbread, J. Holloway, H. Kendall, J. Lee, J. Carr, G. Jones. Top row— H. Patton, E. Lewis, T. Holmes, E. E. Godfrey, E. Reid, W. Brown. 8. Firemen are all handymen. A party of painters at work. 9. Chief Officer J. E. Dickie. 10. Exhibition of rescue drill. 11. (left to right), Station Officer A. M. Griffin, Deputy Chief Officer G. P. Cooper, Station-Officer L. W. Robinson. 12. Interior of the station, showing members of the brigade in full equipment ready to answer a call. 13. A hose in play. See descriptive article on Page 53.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 25 January 1926, page 13

PACKING CASES ALIGHT.

Packing cases at the rear of premises occupied by Messrs. W. Darby & Sons, monumental masons, Wakefield-street, were discovered to be on fire about 4.42 p.m. on Saturday. The Fire Brigade extinguished the flames. Little damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 25 January 1926, page 4

GREATER ADELAIDE

Fires in Parklands

MYSTERIOUS FIRES.

Attention was drawn to the occurrence of grass fires in the park lands surrounding the city. It was stated that the impression was erroneous that the fires were started by officers in the employ of the council. It was not known how they originated. Patrol men on bicycles were employed on Saturday afternoons and Sundays to keep a lookout for fires. They were successful in extinguishing several out-breaks, but on two occasions had to telephone the Fire Brigade for assistance. There was more grass and less cattle in the park lands this year than during recent years.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 29 January 1926, page 15

A SMALL FIRE.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on Thursday the fire brigade was summoned to the premises of Messrs. A. A. Brice. produce merchants, of the New Market. It was found that the heat from a boiler chimney had scorched the floor, a portion of which was alight. The fire was quickly extinguished.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 29 January 1926, page 11

CASUALTIES.

TWO SMALL FIRES.

Two small fires engaged the attention of the Fire Brigade late on Thursday afternoon. At 8 o'clock a call was received from Chartres Building, Waymouth street, where a blaze was discovered among some refuse. It was extinguished with chemicals in a few minutes. A fire was reported on the premises of A. A. Brice & Co., Limited, Rundle street east, about 7 o'clock. The brigade found that the flames were confined to some cases on the ground floor, and extinguished them before much damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 4 February 1926, page 8

PACKING CASES ON FIRE.

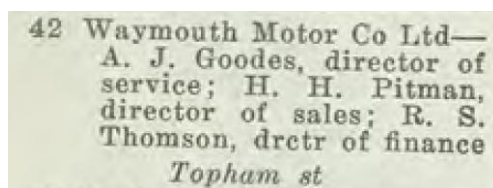
The metropolitan fire brigade received a call shortly after 10.30 on Wednesday night to Porter's lane at the rear of Ruthven Mansions, Pulteney street. Packing cases and rubbish were found to be in flames. The doors and windows of Metters, Limited, were severely

scorched, and the doors and windows of Dimond's factory, and of a branch of the National Bank, nearby, were also damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 5 February 1926, page 17

A FIRE IN WAYMOUTH-STREET.

About 3.15 p.m. yesterday a fire broke out in a show window in the premises occupied by the Waymouth Motor Company, at the corner of Waymouth and Topham-streets. The brigade was quickly on the scene, but the flames had been extinguished by a sprinkler before its arrival. The window in which the outbreak occurred in on the Topham-street side of the building, and the contents, which consisted chiefly of sun spectacles, were destroyed. The plateglass window, measuring about nine feet square, was broken, but little other damage was done. The fire is believed to have been caused by the rays of the sun igniting the celluloid frame of the spectacles in the window.



Sands and McDougall Directory of SA for 1926

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 6 February 1926, page 1

SPECTACULAR NORTH TERRACE FIRE TONIGHT

CAMERON'S SHOE FACTORY DESTROYED

Damage Approximately £25,000

FINE SAVE BY BRIGADE

HORSE BURNED TO DEATH.

Quick to rise, and spectacular while it lasted was a fire, which broke out on North terrace about 8 o'clock tonight between Cresco Building and Trinity Church. A building occupied by the Cameron Shoe Company as a factory was completely gutted and only determined work by united suburban and metropolitan fire brigades saved the adjacent buildings from destruction. At an early stage a horse was burned to death.

Shortly after eight o'clock North terrace was suddenly lit up by flames which suddenly sprung into activity in the building occupied by the Cameron Shoe Company. In a surprisingly short space of time the flames were raging fiercely, and when the first firemen arrived at 10 minutes past eight the building was already in a hopeless condition. People gathered quickly in thousands. Seeing that the flames were licking the walls of the Travellers' Home and the lodging houses on the eastern side of the burning building volunteers began to remove furniture from the houses in danger. At the rear of the burning building G. A. Prevost & Company's skin store was in danger, and firemen quickly had hoses playing on this building. Fortunately at the immediate rear of the burning building is a vacant block used by G. Wood, Son, and Co., as a horse paddock. The firemen, led by Superintendent J. E. Dickie, concentrated upon the adjoining buildings. and in about a quarter of an hour packed with exciting incidents they gained the upper hand. At 8.45 the fire was well under control. The fire was remarkable for its intensity and the shortness of its duration. The fight was practically over in less than an hour, but while it lasted the battle was keen. Before the brigades arrived on the scene men had burst into the stables of G. Wood, Son. & Co., situated close by and quickly horses were released and trollies, motor lorries, and other vehicles were also wheeled to safety. Other men shed coats and dashed into the apartment house, rushing past hurrying boarders who were vacating their rooms in a panic, and in a few minutes beds, and all sorts

of furniture was being hurled from a balcony, sometimes to the danger of inquisitive spectators below. It was afterwards ascertained that some of these well-intentioned helpers were a trifle hasty in their efforts. Mr. A. Green, who rents the two centre compartment houses, stated after the fire had died down that his damage from fire was nothing, but that most of his furniture had been smashed, and a fence separating his house from the house nearest the fire had been knocked down.

Excited Spectators

Before the fire brigade had reached the scene of the outbreak a large crowd had gathered. A steady stream of people, including men and women in evening dress, lined the northern side of the road, which was brilliantly lit by the fire. They gave the police little trouble because of the terrific heat. This kept on-lookers back, and allowed the firemen to perform their work unhampered. Portion of the rear stables of G. Wood, Son, & Co., was gutted. An excellent save of the lodging houses was made by the firemen, who were repeatedly cheered. Mrs. E. Haigh occupies the house on the right of the building, and quickly warned the boarders, who hurriedly left with their personal belongings. Mr. A. Green resides in the two centre houses, and Mrs. M. Archibald, who was in bed at the time, lives in the end house. All in turn hastily left before the arrival of the brigade.

AWE INSPIRING SPECTACLE

Flames Seen Miles Away

While the fire was at its height it presented an awe-inspiring spectacle. flames literally swallowed the woodwork of the building. They shot high into the air and were seen in the suburbs five miles away. Dense columns of smoke belched forth from every aperture and enveloped the surrounding buildings. Angry flames, which were gathering round the adjoining buildings in the rear adjacent to Wood, Son & Co.'s stables were sending out terrific heat, and drove the bystanders on to North terrace. Three hoses were played on to the front of the building. The firemen remained steadfast to their post at this part until it became apparent that they could do little good, and all attention was concentrated on the surrounding buildings.

Help for Horses

Someone early in the fire shouted that the horses in G. Wood, Son and Co,'s stables were in danger. Mr. L. F. Tozer of William street, Hilton, rushed down the side lane, and opening the doors released nine horses. The animals terrified by the cracking of the wood-work and falling iron, bolted out, and along North Terrace. Willing hands soon after joined in the fight and assisted in getting the motor vehicles and carts out of danger. Someone in the crowd shouted out that someone was still in one of the boarding houses. Two firemen rushed through the buildings, searched every room and called out, but found no one. All the suburban fire stations were brought on the scene, and appliances were quickly brought into play. Both tall and short ladders were brought along, but their services were not required. An hour after the alarm had been given the flames were being checked, and there appeared little likelihood of further damage being done. The crowd gradually dispersed, leaving a scene of tangled iron and charred uprights. One woman fainted as she became jostled in the crowd. She was carried on to the fringe of the crowd and there received attention. Falling glass and galvanized iron added to the excitement. Several firemen were compelled to leave positions which shortly after gave way. Sparks flew dangerously over the adjoining buildings.

Buildings Affected

Cameron's factory was the centre of the fire. On the western side is the travellers' Aid Society's home, a large and substantial two-storey dwelling house. This was touched by the flames, but not seriously damaged. East of the factory are four lodging houses. They had a narrow escape. Some damage was done to the back part of these buildings. Behind these buildings are Prevost's wool and skin stores, and G. Wood, Son, and Co.'s garage and stables. The fire found its way well into Prevost's, but was checked. It touched Wood, Son, &

Co.'s premises slightly. Further to the west are Trinity Church buildings. They were not reached. And further east is the H. V. McKay Pty. agricultural implements showroom and offices. These were not reached.

CAMERON'S LOSSES

Establishment Worth £25,000

Mr. G. Cameron, managing director of the Cameron Shoe Company, was in a Parkside picture theatre when he was in-formed that the building owned by his company was on fire. Mr. Cameron stated that about 80 men and women would be thrown out of work temporarily through the destruction of the building, but he hoped that the firm would be able to carry on in temporary premises. He added that approximately the building contained stock valued at between seven and eight thousand pounds. The machinery and plant was valued at £12,000, and the building at £5,000. Mr. Cameron could not state definitely how his company was protected by insurance against fire, but thought that the building was insured for something like £3,000, and that the plant and stock was covered for £18,000 with the Queensland Insurance Company.

Story of Neighbor

About 8 o'clock Mrs. Haigh, occupant of the house next to the shoe store, was sitting on the North terrace footpath in company with her twelve-year-old daughter Melba and boarders at her house. Melba saw a large red light in the front of the factory. Thinking the staff were working overtime she did not comment till she heard a crackling sound, and noticed a red light expanding across the front of the building. She then screamed "Fire," and a man set out to give the alarm to the fire brigade.

Tram Services Suspended

While the fire was at its height tram traffic along North terrace was suspended and a special staff of police, under Sub-Inspector W. Nation, handled the crowd. Traffic was also diverted from Hindley street, where a section of the brigade operated four hoses through a vacant block to the back of the fire.

HORSE BURNED TO DEATH

Pie Cart Puller

Mr. George Beale, proprietor of the pie stall that stands at night time in front of the railway station, is in the habit of stabling his horse in the lane at the rear of the Cameron Shoe Factory. Mr. A. J. Wilson stabled the horse there tonight about ten minutes to eight and walked to the pie cart in front of the railway station. Almost as soon as he arrived he noticed flames emerging from the front portion of the shoe factory. He immediately ran to free "Old Peter," as Mr. Beale's horse was called. When Mr. Wilson arrived at the entrance to the lane in which the horse was tied the flames were already leaping, up around the horse, which was rearing. In frantic efforts to free itself. Mr. Wilson was powerless to assist the horse, and in a few minutes it succumbed to the terrific heat.

TRAVELLERS' HOME SAVED

Firemen Just in Time

Seven minutes after 8 o'clock the Cameron Shoe Store was a raging inferno, as was the eastern side of Prevost's skin store, and the flames had already set alight to the balcony of the Travellers' Aid Society Building, which is on the western side of Cameron's factory. The first of the brigade arrived on the scene at 10 minutes past eight, and immediately got to work. Spectators shouted to the firemen to direct the hoses on the flaming lattice work on the Travellers' Aid Society Building. The men responded to the call, and the spread of the flames in this direction was stayed. Miss C. E. Dickson, organising secretary of the Travellers' Aid

Society, was not in the building when the flames were first noticed. She left the building with a friend a few minutes before 8 o'clock and walked to the post-office as the clock was striking eight. A few minutes later her attention was drawn to the flames on North Terrace, and Miss Dickson hurried back.

Smelt Fire

In a statement Miss Dickson said that when she left the building she remarked to her friend that she could smell something burning. She also drew attention to the stifling heat. There were about 30 women boarders in the home, and one baby, none of whom suffered any injury.

Too Willing Helpers

When spectators saw that some of the buildings adjacent to the Cameron Shoe Company premises were in danger excitement reigned. Men dashed into the buildings and rescued furniture irrespective of the proximity of the flames. One man threw his coat to a neighbor, saying: "Hold this," and mounting the stairs of the lodging houses began throwing bedsteads, bedding, and all classes of furniture on to the footpath beneath. When Miss C. E. Dickson, organising secretary of The Travellers' Aid Society, returned to the building, many of the upstairs bedrooms had been ransacked. Miss Dickson stopped a man on the stairway, who was staggering down stairs with a bundle of clothing and jewellery, and forced him to drop the goods. Miss Dickson noticed a bulge in the man's shirt, and made him disgorge more articles. Policemen were called and interrogated the man, who advanced the story that he thought he was saving articles that were in danger of being burned. Early in the evening chairs were removed from the boarding house adjoining the shoe company's building, and placed on the edge of the footpath. The heat was so intense that the chairs began to smoulder, and had to be moved farther away. It was not until the fire was nearly under control that the beds, bedding, washstands and mirrors were removed from the house. However, some of the furniture was re-stored to the rooms about 9.10.

Official Statement

Supt. Dickie, who had charge of the operations, in an official statement tonight said:—"Shortly after 8 o'clock we received a call from the alarm opposite the Railway Station. Immediately afterward a call was received from a Morphett street alarm. All the appliances from the head and suburban stations were turned out. Three lines of hose were run out along North terrace in addition to three motor pumps, and more hose was brought into operation from Hindley street. The main building was destroyed, and several outbuildings at the rear were gutted. Prevost's skin store at the rear of the burning building was also slightly damaged. Soon after 10 o'clock the flames were subdued."

EARLY SPECTATOR'S STORY

Among the first arrivals at the fire was Mr. William Thompson, farmer of Orroroo, who is spending a holiday in Adelaide. He was near Trinity Church at the corner of Morphett street, when he noticed volumes of smoke shooting from the centre of the roof of the Cameron factory. He hurried to the front of the building. By that time flames were issuing through the roof over the footpath and through the front windows, which face North terrace. "A cloud of smoke then burst into the Women's Travellers' Aid Home. I ran into the home," said Mr. Thomson, but could not see anybody. With the aid of a limited candle I searched each room, but nobody could be found. Three rooms were locked. By this time two other men had come on the scene, and we burst the doors open but nobody was there. Then a man rushed into the building and said that a 15-months' old child was left in a room which was full of smoke. We again searched each room, but no child was found. "Before the arrival of the brigade," he continued "the flames had caught the woodwork of the eastern side of the building.



State Library of South Australia - Cameron Shoe Company [B 2386, Cameron Shoe Company premises on North Terrace; left side is 121 yards east of Morphett Street. Frontage is 21 yards. Demolished in 1928. 1924, Photographer, State Library of South Australia. Part of Acre 10 Collection.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 8 February 1926, page 7

FIRES IN CITY AND COUNTRY.

BIG BLAZE ON NORTH TERRACE.

CAMERON SHOE FACTORY GUTTED.

The new year, which began with two serious conflagrations at the East-End Market, and has since been marked by dangerous outbreaks in the Mount Lofty Ranges, is living up to its promise of being a bad year for fires. On Saturday night thousands of people witnessed the complete demolition of the Cameron Shoe Company's factory at 96 North terrace. Strenuous work enabled the firemen to save dwelling houses and the Travellers' Aid Society headquarters, which adjoined the burning building.

Apart from the notable work of the firemen, and the grim aspect of the leaping flames, the outstanding feature was the tremendous crowd which gathered in a marvellously short space of time. Theatre and picture patrons, who crammed city-bound trams, saw the glow and sparks of the fire long before they had reached their destination, and all thoughts of reserved seats and good music left their heads in favour of the more thrilling spectacle of a big city fire. When firemen and machines from Adelaide, Unley, Thebarton, Norwood, and North Adelaide reached the scene in response to calls which they received shortly before 8 o'clock, the large wood and-iron structure, fronted by a massive high stone wall, was a raging furnace, and the pressure of the quickly growing crowd for a few minutes hampered the attempts of the firemen to get hoses and appliances into position. The imperative clanging of firebells, the shouting of the brass helmeted firemen, and the surging of the excited onlookers in the red glare of the blaze made a strange scene. All hope of saving the shoe factory was obviously long past, and the firemen sought points of vantage from which to combat the flames from four sides, the object being to prevent them from spreading to the adjoining premises, from which eager—some of them too eager—hands were already carrying away furniture, bedding, and other effects.

Converging Crowds.

Meanwhile the crowd continued to grow until it assumed huge proportions. Many pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, believing that the fire was at the Morphett street end of Hindley street, con-verged at that point, and soon there was an indescribable muddle of vehicles and people at the intersection, the glare of many motor headlights lighting up the scene of confusion. A number of bolting horses hastily liberated from stalls at the rear of the burning factory, cut a swathe through the scurrying people as they dashed into Light square. A foot policeman stationed himself at the Hindley-Morphett streets crossing, and made heroic attempts to control the traffic, but temporarily had to abandon his task as hopeless. The tall span of Morphett Street Bridge and approaching stairways made an incomparable grandstand from which to view the scene, and soon the bridge, jammed with motors and people, became impassable. A veteran police officer described the crowd as the biggest he had seen in one street since Armistice night. Vehicles rescued from premises at the rear of the fire were towed across North terrace and left on the other side, where they were immediately covered with onlookers scrambling to gain a better view over the heads of those in front. Even fire appliances on that side of the road were covered by swarms of spectators, including women with babies. It was a weird and unreal scene of heat, mud, water, and clouds of swirling dust, and, over all, was the pungent smell of burning leather. Foot police performed splendid work in keeping the crowds out of the fire area, but it was not until the arrival of the mounted men and sundry jets from a hose had damped the ardour of too inquisitive onlookers that proper order prevailed.

A Splendid Save

Although a good pressure of water was available, it was the brigade's powerful motor pump which provided the force so necessary to prevent the flames gaining a hold on the immediately adjoining buildings, which were filled with smoke, and soon emptied of occupants. Once the fire was confined it began to burn itself out within its walls. Sections of the roof crashed downwards at quick intervals, and the thudding of water on the twisted iron added to the din. The motor pump was attached to the main in front of the building, and the scream of the hard driven engine, rising above the clamour of the struggle between fire and man, indicated the greatly increased volume of water that was being directed through the now glassless windows in front of the ruined structure. The clouds of smoke and sparks grew less, the scene grew darker as the tongues of flame became smaller, and firemen, wearing respirators, advanced into the centre of the blackened and roofless building. A small tongue of fire which kindled in the latticework on the balcony of the Travellers' Aid Society caused momentary excitement on the part of the spectators, but a powerful jet quickly puffed it out, and soon the scene was in darkness, lit only by street lamps and the electric spotlights of the fire officers, as they made a survey of the ruins preparatory to sending the appliances homewards. Locality of the Fire. The structure was a single-story one, the front wall being of brick and stone, with a large window on either side, and a central doorway. The side walls were of galvanized iron with a high pitched roof. On the east side there adjoins a group of three attached two-story boarding houses. The Travellers' Aid Society Lodge, separated by a small iron structure and a pathway leading to the side entrance, is on the western side. A right-of-way between the boarding house, and Mr. H. V. McKay's harvester establishment leads to a large stables and vehicle shed used by Messrs. G. Wood, Son, and Co., Limited, and Prevost's wool and skin store at the back. Witness's Stories. The Rev. R. M. Fulford (rector of Holy Trinity Church) and his wife were on the lawn in front of the rectory, when they observed smoke issuing through the roof in the centre of Cameron's establishment. Almost immediately afterwards wreaths of smoke ascended, followed by shooting flames. Mr. Fulford rushed in side and rang up the Central Fire Station, and he and his wife then went out to assist their neighbours. Mrs. B. Haigh, who resides in the first house east of the shoe establishment, was seated on a chair on the footpath and noticed a light in the front portion of the building. No sooner had she passed a remark to her little daughter, Melva, to the effect that somebody might be working on the premises, than flames lit up the windows, and both instinctively called out "Fire!" There were very few people in the vicinity at the time, but a

passer-by heard their cry and hurried off to the Adelaide Railway Station and rang the alarm bell on the terrace.

Premises Saved.

So far as could be ascertained, the adjoining boarding houses escaped serious damage by the fire, although they were more or less damaged by the water. A number of bystanders, as a precautionary measure, entered two of the houses and dragged wardrobes, chairs, machines, and other contents on to the footpath. Mr. Green, who conducts two of the places as boarding houses, was absent from home when the fire broke out, and on hurrying home was confronted with tongues of flame shooting from the rear portion of the burning building, into his back yard and extending up the passageway between the fence and one of the houses. A dividing fence in the yards had been chopped down to enable the firemen to stem the flames. Perplexed Lady Boarders. Miss C. E. Dixon, who is in charge of the Travellers' Aid Society Lodge, had gone up the street to do some shopping, leaving Nurse Reade, a voluntary worker, in charge. Upon returning she discovered a number of men in the building, removing outside some of the contents from different apartments. Most of the lady boarders were out at the time. The first duty of the nurse had been to remove a baby left in her charge, to a place of safety, after which she placed the cash and other valuables from the office in safe keeping. An inspection of the building subsequently disclosed the good work accomplished by Fireman A. E. Avery. The flames had burnt the fascia boards and several of the uprights supporting the eastern balcony, on the upper story, while the French windows had also been reached by the flames, the woodwork was charred and the glass broken. Sheets of flame were mounting as high as the roof. The fireman was also instrumental in preventing a group of small iron rooms below, used for the accommodation of baggage, from being destroyed. As it was, a number of dress baskets and other receptacles were damaged by smoke and water. Miss Dixon was loud in her praise of this effort. A number of the lady guests, upon returning to their quarters, were almost dumbfounded to find the condition of things, but accepted the inevitable in a philosophic spirit and set about looking hither and thither for their transferred belongings. Many of the girls were from overseas, and one of them remarked: — "What sort of a place have I landed in? I have only been in Adelaide two days."

Efficient Police Supervision.

The task of diverting traffic and controlling the movements of many hundreds of people devolved upon Inspector Nation, who was in charge of a dozen or more constables. He was assisted by Sgts. Gurry, Crowe, Naylor, and Rowley. A number of mounted men, under M.C. Claxton, helped in maintaining a clear line for the firemen. Inspector Mattin subsequently relieved his colleague, and expressed satisfaction at the behaviour of the crowd. As some of the hoses were stretched across almost the whole width of the terrace, tram and other vehicular traffic was held up for a while. In their endeavours to divert road traffic into Currie street from the intersection of Morphett and Hindley streets, the police were assisted by Mr. F. Everett, a Boy Scout official. Continued on page 9.

FIRES IN CITY AND COUNTRY Continued from page 7.

Horse Roasted.

Mr. Charles Harris, of Hamley street, City, who was in charge of Mr. G. Beale's piestall, opposite the railway station, had the misfortune to lose a bay horse which drew the stall. For some time it had been his practice to tie the animal to a post in a right-of-way at the rear of the shoe establishment, and he followed that course on Saturday evening. As soon as he and his assistant, Mr. A. J. Wilson, noticed the flames, the latter said, I had better get Peter out. He thereupon ran down to the spot, and endeavoured to get down the right-of-way. However, the flames drove him back, and the unfortunate animal was roasted to death. It was removed by an Abattoirs' van on Sunday. When the flames threatened to menace the stables of Wood, Son, & Co., the care-taker, Mr. W. Wilson, and a number of other willing helpers, released nine horses, which cantered out on to the terrace. Three bay trolly horses are still missing.

The voluntary workers then set to and removed six motor cars, four trollies, a lorry, and other vehicles to a place of safety. Building Insured for £21,000.

The managing director of the Cameron Shoe Company (Mr. G. Cameron) was at a picture theatre at Parkside when he was informed that the factory was on fire. He subsequently stated that about 80 men and women employees would be thrown out of work for a time, but hoped that the company would be able to carry on in temporary premises. The machinery and plant was valued at £12,000, and the building at £5,000. The stock was worth about £7,000 or £8,000. Mr. Cameron was unable to state definitely to what extent the establishment was insured, but believed that the building was covered for something like £3,000, and the plant and stock was insured for £18,000 with the Queensland Insurance Company.

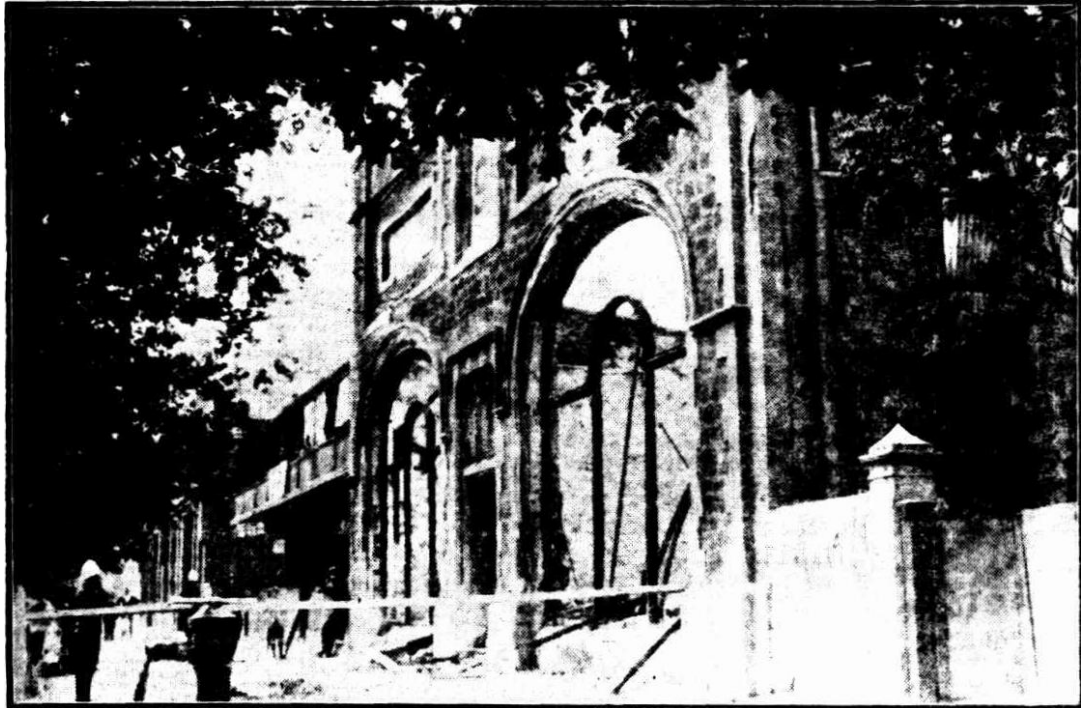
Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 8 February 1926, page 12

A SCENE OF DESOLATION.



The above photograph, taken looking towards North-terrace, shows the extent of the damage done by the fire at the Cameron Shoe Company's Factory on Saturday night.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S FIRE.



VIEW OF THE EXTERIOR. E. Tassell, photo.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 8 February 1926, page 9

SPECTACULAR FIRE ON NORTH-TERRACE.

CAMERON SHOE COMPANY'S FACTORY DESTROYED.

NARROW ESCAPE OF ADJOINING BUILDINGS.

A fire which broke out in the Cameron Shoe Company's factory, on North-terrace on Saturday evening, quickly gutted the building. The Travellers' Aid Society's lodge on one side, and a terrace of buildings on the other, had a narrow escape from being destroyed. The blaze attracted thousands of spectators, and the congestion in the streets became so great that traffic had to be suspended for some time. The Cameron Shoe Company's factory and store, a little to the east of Morphett-street bridge, on North-terrace, was completely gutted by a fire which was discovered about 8 o'clock on Saturday evening. The fire, however, must have been burning for some considerable time before, for when the alarm was given it had complete control of the building, and the efforts of the firemen to stem the flames proved unavailing. All that could be done was to confine the blaze to the premises where it originated, and save the adjoining buildings, which were in grave danger. On the west side is the building occupied by the Travellers' Aid Society, and on the other is a terrace of boarding houses. The latter, in particular, were seriously threatened, and the heat from the burning building next door must have been terrific. The occupants lost no time in removing their furniture to a place of safety on the footpath. In this work ready assistance was given by persons who happened to be in the vicinity. Fortunately there was not much wind to fan the flames. If there had been it would have seen impossible to prevent the building on the side in which the wind was blowing being also destroyed.

A Picturesque Spectacle.

When the fire brigade arrived it was at once realised that nothing could be done to save the building in which the outbreak occurred. The firemen, however, played streams of water upon the flames from the water mains in North-terrace, but by that time irreparable damage had been done, and the task of subduing the fire was practically hopeless. The blaze provided a most picturesque spectacle from all parts of the city, and was plainly visible from distant

suburbs. "The Advertiser" office was constantly engaged answering queries on the tele-phone regarding the locality of the fire and the damage done. The city itself was in a state of excitement. Thousands of people hastened to the scene, being attracted thither by a tall column of flame, smoke, and sparks, which lit up the north-western portion of Adelaide. Hundreds of motor cars were driven post-haste to the spot, and the traffic congestion at times became dangerous. Contingents of mounted and foot police, however, were quickly mustered, and they were kept busy in an endeavor to control the traffic, and keep the crowd from obstructing the work of the firemen. On one occasion, when the fire had done the most of its damage, a body of people surged forward to get a closer view, and it required strenuous efforts on the part of the police to keep them back. As it was, it was little short of a miracle that no serious accident occurred in consequence of the folly of some of the people who had to be forcibly restrained from rushing into the danger zone. Possibly the best and safest view of the blazing building was provided from the Morphett-street bridge, which was crammed with people. The bridge, of course, became impassable for traffic. The spectacle did not last long, for within an hour from the time the fire was first noticed, little was left of Cameron's building beyond the walls and the smouldering remains.

A Horse Killed.

Shortly after the fire began a man rushed to the rear of the building in an endeavor to release a horse belonging to Mr. G. Beale, pie-stall proprietor, which had been tethered in a lane at the back of the factory. The heat was intense and the attempt to rescue the horse proved futile. Its corpse was found later by one of the firemen, who said he was of the opinion the horse had, in its terror, run right into the burning building.

Seen From Fire Station.

Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade Station, who was in charge of the firemen, said that shortly after 8 o'clock they received a call from the alarm on North-terrace, opposite the railway-station. Immediately afterwards a further call came from the Morphett-street alarm. Mr. Dickie said the smoke and glow and even the flames of the fire could be seen from the station in Wake-field-street. All the appliances from city and suburban stations were hastened to the scene. Three lines of hose were run out along North-terrace, and another hose was brought into play on the southern side of the building by linking up with a hydrant in Hindley-street. The factory itself, said Mr. Dickie, was doomed before the brigade left the station. On the arrival of the firemen it was alight from end to end and the efforts of the firemen were concentrated upon saving the property adjoining the factory on either side. The most damage done to the other buildings was to the fascia boards, which caught alight. The factory was completely destroyed and several outbuildings at the rear were gutted. Prevost's skin store at the rear was slightly damaged as a result of the flames igniting a portion of the building. The fire was practically out by 10 o'clock and no further outbreak occurred.

Work of the Police.

Constable Bruer was one of the first to notice the fire, and at that time he states the place was well alight. The police had a strenuous time and the absence of accidents from falling iron and timber was largely due to their efforts in keeping the crowd outside the danger zone. The policemen were under the control of Inspector Nation and Sergeants Naylor, Curry, and Crow.

Traffic Held Up.

The running of hoses across Hindley-street by the brigade necessitated the suspension of traffic in that thoroughfare during the fire. The tram service along North-terrace was also diverted for an hour or so until the fire was under control.

Would-be "Helpers" stopped.

The actions of a number of men who, during the fire, entered the Travellers' Aid Lodge, situated next door to Cameron's shoe factory, and removed quantities of clothing and valuables, has aroused much indignation. Although the building had not actually caught fire, the men forced a door of the hostel, made their way into the various rooms, and rummaged through the drawers of dressing tables and cupboards in the bedrooms of the lodgers. In one instance a man was caught in the act of turning over the contents of a drawer, and another man who was also in the room advised him to "take the lot," and this was done. Yet another man was found descending the stairs with his shirt stuffed full with jewellery and valuables, including a Travellers' Aid Society badge belonging to the matron of the hostel (Miss C. E. Dixon). Entrance was also gained by some men by climbing through the laundry or kitchen window. Locking the door on the inside, articles were handed through the window to other men outside who, in turn, handed them over the fence to additional "helpers." The matron, who was absent from the premises at the commencement of the fire, was astounded to find the rooms filled by strangers when they returned, and, as Miss Dixon stated yesterday, much valuable time was spent in persuading the men that their "assistance" was not needed, and that it could have been employed in extinguishing small out-breaks which occurred on the eastern side of the premises. Finally the police were called in, and upon their arrival the men departed. Yesterday Miss Dixon reported that there were many articles of value still missing, although a considerable quantity had been returned. Some jewellery and a number of dresses and articles of clothing had not been recovered. It is understood that charges have been preferred against at least one of the men in connection with this matter. An inspection of the rooms situated on the eastern side of the hostel showed that considerable damage by fire and water had occurred. A balcony which projects on that side of the hostel had been so badly burnt that the wooden trellis work surrounding it fell away on being touched, and the floor was not strong enough to support any great weight. The nurses and Miss Dixon had the bath full of water, and with jugs and buckets kept the balcony and doors and windows wet, and no doubt did much to prevent the spread of the fire to the hostel. The girl lodgers and nurses supplied the firemen with tea and light refreshment. "They were wonderful —those firemen," said Miss Dixon. "They would play the hose on themselves to prevent their clothes from igniting, and the steam would rise in clouds from them, so great was the heat." During yesterday morning the ruins were still smouldering, but later in the afternoon no sign of smoke or fire could be seen.

Horses Missing.

Messrs. G. Wood, Son & Company's stable, in which there were 10 horses, is situated near the scene of the fire. They were released when the stable appeared to be endangered, and they ran in different directions. Seven of the animals have been recovered, but three bay trolley horses are still missing.

THE FIRM'S LOSSES.

The building, which was completely destroyed, only the front and portions of the side and rear walls remaining, was valued, it is understood, at about £5,000, the stock was worth nearly £8,000, and the machinery and plant £12,000. What was once the boot and shoe making plant is now a crumpled mass of twisted metal. So far as can be ascertained the plant and stock were insured for £18,000, and the building for about £3,000 with the Queensland Insurance Company.

Employees Suffer.

Although it is hoped that the firm will be able to carry on in temporary premises, about 80 employees will be thrown out of work as the result of the fire at the factory.

FIRE BRIGADE CHIEF.



Superintendent Dickie, of the Adelaide Fire Brigade.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 10 February 1926, page 9

PENSION AT SIXTY-FIVE

Providing for Firefighters

Regulations providing for a pension scheme under the Fire Brigade Act 1913 to 1924 were approved by Executive Council this morning. The scale of contributions is as follows:—Salary or wages rate equal to a rate a year of £225, a fortnightly contribution of 3/10; not exceeding £275, 4/10; £325, 5/9; £375, 6/9; £425, 7/8; £475, 8/8. The board will have power to retain contributions due out of wages payable. A contributor reaching the age of 65 years will not afterward be liable for any contribution, and will upon attaining that age while a contributor, become entitled to receive a pension from the board.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 February 1926, page 1

BIG CANDLES

Eighteen Light Poles Burn

DRIZZLE CAUSES TROUBLE

A Martian gazing down upon Adelaide at 2 o'clock last Monday morning might have been excused for thinking that the city was celebrating its eighteenth birthday. Scattered over the city and suburbs 18 electric light poles were burning like lighted tapers on a child's birthday cake. A combination of circumstances, unique in the history of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, caused this phenomenon. The long dry spell without rain had resulted in a thick coating of dust accumulating upon electric light insulators. The light rain on Monday morning was not heavy enough to wash this dust away, but slowly converted it into a sticky mud paste. Through that paste the current in the wires leaked over the insulators and set the poles on fire. The fires began at 2 o'clock on Monday morning, and, in several instances, the help of a fire brigade had to be requisitioned to put them out. Employees of the Electric Light Company subdued others and, in most instances, only the tops of the poles were destroyed. Brighton, Semaphore, Unley, and North Walkerville, were suburbs which had their big candles. Mr. J. R. Brookman, mains superintendent of the Adelaide Electric Light Company, stated that the occurrence was remarkable. Nothing at all like it had ever happened before, and might never happen again. In most instances, when the insulators were carrying heavy coatings of dust heavy thunderstorms were experienced, which washed away the dust and removed all danger of leaking current. The fires were confined to poles and private property was not endangered. Mr. Brookman stated that the material damage done by the 18 fires was small, but the fact that workmen would have to replace the burnt poles and effect other repairs would mean a fairly substantial loss to the company.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 February 1926, page 2

AFTER THE BLAZE

Firemen Clean Up

When the alarm bells begin ringing at the Metropolitan Fire Station in Wakefield street the firemen as they spring to their respective stations face two jobs—first to put the fire out and secondly to get ready for the next fire. As soon as one fire is out and the brigades return to the station the work of preparing for the next fire begins. Fires have no respect for time or persons, and for that reason smoke-begrimed firemen, fresh from a sharp set-to with their natural enemy, cannot tear themselves out of sodden and uncomfortable uniforms and forget past exertions and hazards in sleep. No! Before they can sleep the brigades must be made up so that if another fire breaks out they will be ready to do battle for the public generally and property owners and insurance companies in particular. Making up the brigades does not necessarily mean that every piece of brass work must be furbished and polished immediately, but all appliances must be in their proper places, and the emergency hoses hanging on the walls must be taken down to replace the hoses which have been recently in commission before the firemen can seek their beds.

ALL HOSES TESTED

If the firemen return to the station late at night the work of cleaning up may be delayed until next morning. Then the station yard generally presents an animated appearance. Helmets, belts, boots, and uniforms have to be polished and cleaned, and often uniforms have to be washed and dried before they are fit to bear the scrutiny of inspection, which is set down for 1 o'clock each Saturday. There is one detail in the cleaning-up operations at the metropolitan fire headquarters which is never missed after a serious fire. Before the hoses used in the just past fire are placed on the station walls as the emergency set, they are scrubbed, hung out to dry, and tested with a high water pressure to ascertain whether they have suffered damage in their recent use and are still fit to do service in that fire which is just around the corner, and which Superintendent J. E. Dickie and his men always have in mind. Superintendent Dickie, by the way, does not consider that cleaning-up operations after a fire are anything out of the way. "It is just the ordinary routine work of a fire station," he explained, "Cleanliness enhances service."

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 13 February 1926, page 10

FIRES IN CITY AND COUNTRY.

BIG BLAZE ON NORTH TERRACE

CAMERON SHOE FACTORY GUTTED.

The new year, which began with two serious conflagrations at the East-End Market, and has since been marked by dangerous outbreaks in the Mount Lofty Ranges, is living up to its promise of being a bad year for fires. Last Saturday night thousands of people witnessed the complete demolition of the Cameron Shoe Company's factory at 96 North terrace. Strenuous work enabled the firemen to save dwelling houses and the Travellers' Aid Society headquarters, which adjoined the burning building.

Apart from the notable work of the firemen, and the grim aspect of the leaping flames, the outstanding feature was the tremendous crowd which gathered in a marvellously short space of time. Theatre and picture patrons, who crammed city-bound trams, saw the glow and sparks of the fire long before they had reached their destination, and all thoughts of reserved seats and good music left their heads in favour of the more thrilling spectacle of a big city fire. When firemen and machines from Adelaide, Unley, Thebarton, Norwood, and North Adelaide reached the scene in response to calls which they received shortly before 8 o'clock, the large wood-and-iron structure, fronted by a massive high stone wall, was a raging furnace, and the pressure of the quickly growing crowd for a few minutes hampered the attempts of the

firemen to get hoses and appliances into position. The imperative clanging of firebells, the shouting of the brass helmeted firemen, and the surging of the excited onlookers in the red glare of the blaze made a strange scene. All hope of saving the shoe factory was obviously long past, and the firemen sought points of vantage from which to combat the flames from four sides, the object being to prevent them from spreading to the adjoining premises, from which eager—some of them too eager—hands were already carrying away furniture, bedding, and other effects.

Converging Crowds.

Meanwhile the crowd continued to grow until it assumed huge proportions. Many pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, believing that the fire was at the Morphett street end of Hindley street, converged at that point, and soon there was an indescribable muddle of vehicles and people at the intersection, the glare of many motor headlights lighting up the scene of confusion. A number of bolting horses hastily liberated from stalls at the rear of the burning factory, cut a swathe through the scurrying people as they dashed into Light square. A foot policeman stationed himself at the Hindley-Morphett streets crossing, and made heroic attempts to control the traffic, but temporarily had to abandon his task as hopeless. The tall span of Morphett Street Bridge and approaching stairways made an incomparable grandstand from which to view the scene, and soon the bridge, jammed with motors and people, became impassable. A veteran police officer described the crowd as "the biggest he had seen in one street since Armistice night." Vehicles rescued from premises at the rear of the fire were towed across North terrace and left on the other side, where they were immediately covered with onlookers scrambling to gain a better view over the heads of those in front. Even fire appliances on that side of the road were covered by swarms of spectators, including women with babies. It was a weird and unreal scene of heat, mud, water, and clouds of swirling dust, and, over all, was the pungent smell of burning leather. Foot police performed splendid work in keeping the crowds out of the fire area, but it was not until the arrival of the mounted men and sundry jets from a hose had damped the ardour of too inquisitive onlookers that proper order prevailed.

A Splendid Save.

Although a good pressure of water was available, it was the brigade's powerful motor pump which provided the force so necessary to prevent the flames gaining a hold on the immediately adjoining buildings, which were filled with smoke, and soon emptied of occupants. Once the fire was confined it began to burn itself out within its walls. Sections of the roof crashed downwards at quick intervals, and the thudding of water on the twisted iron added to the din. The motor pump was attached to the main in front of the building, and the scream of the hard-driven engine, rising above the clamour of the struggle between fire and man, indicated the greatly increased volume of water that was being directed through the now glassless windows in front of the ruined structure. The clouds of smoke and sparks grew less, the scene grew darker as the tongues of flame became smaller, and firemen, wearing respirators, advanced into the centre of the blackened and roofless building. A small tongue of fire which kindled in the latticework on the balcony of the Travellers' Aid Society caused momentary excitement on the part of the spectators, but a powerful jet quickly puffed it out, and soon the scene was in darkness, lit only by street lamps and the electric spotlights of the fire officers as they made a survey of the ruins preparatory to sending the appliances homewards.

Locality of the Fire.

The structure was a single-story one, the front wall being of brick and stone, with a large window on either side, and a central doorway. The side walls were of galvanized iron with a high pitched roof. On the east side there adjoins a group of three attached two-story boarding houses. The Travellers' Aid Society Lodge, separated by a small iron structure and a pathway leading to the side entrance, is on the western side. A right-of-way between the boarding house and Mr. H. V. McKay's harvester establishment leads to a large stables and vehicle

shed used by Messrs. G. Wood, Son, and Co., Limited, and Prevost's wool and skin store at the back.

Witness's Stories.

The Rev. R. M. Fulford (rector of Holy Trinity Church) and his wife were on the lawn in front of the rectory, when they observed smoke issuing through the roof in the centre of Cameron's establishment. Almost immediately afterwards wreaths of smoke ascended, followed by shooting flames. Mr. Fulford rushed inside and rang up the Central Fire Station, and he and his wife then went out to assist their neighbours.

Mrs. E. Haigh, who resides in the first house east of the shoe establishment, was seated on a chair on the footpath and noticed a light in the front portion of the building. No sooner had she passed a remark to her little daughter, Melva, to the effect that somebody might be working on the premises, than flames lit up the windows, and both instinctively called out "Fire!" There were very few people in the vicinity at the time, but a passer-by heard their cry and hurried off to the Adelaide Railway Station and rang the alarm bell on the terrace.

Premises Saved.

So far as could be ascertained, the adjoining boarding houses escaped serious damage by the fire, although they were more or less damaged by the water. A number of bystanders, as a precautionary measure, entered two of the houses and dragged wardrobes, chairs, machines, and other contents on to the footpath. Mr. Green, who conducts two of the places as boarding houses, was absent from home when the fire broke out, and on hurrying home was confronted with tongues of flame shooting from the rear portion of the burning building, into his back yard and extending up the passageway between the fence and one of the houses. A dividing fence in the yards had been chopped down to enable the firemen to stem the flames.

Perplexed Lady Boarders.

Miss C. E. Dixon, who is in charge of the Travellers' Aid Society Lodge, had gone up the street to do some shopping, leaving Nurse Reade, a voluntary worker, in charge. Upon returning she discovered a number of men in the building, removing outside some of the contents from different apartments. Most of the lady boarders were out at the time. The first duty of the nurse had been to remove a baby left in her charge, to a place of safety, after which she placed the cash and other valuables from the office in safe keeping. An inspection of the building subsequently disclosed the good work accomplished by Fireman A. E. Avery. The flames had burnt the fascia boards and several of the uprights supporting the eastern balcony on the upper story, while the French windows had also been reached by the flames, the woodwork was charred and the glass broken. Sheets of flame were mounting as high as the roof. The fireman was also instrumental in preventing a group of small iron rooms below, used for the accommodation of baggage, from being destroyed. At it was, a number of dress baskets and other receptacles were damaged by smoke and water. Miss Dixon was loud in her praise of this effort. A number of the lady guests, upon returning to their quarters, were almost dumbfounded to find the condition of things, but accepted the inevitable in a philosophic spirit and set about looking hither and thither for their transferred belongings. Many of the girls were from overseas, and one of them remarked:—"What sort of a place have I landed in? I have only been in Adelaide two days."

Efficient Police Supervision.

The task of diverting traffic and controlling the movements of many hundreds of people devolved upon Inspector Nation, who was in charge of a dozen or more constables. He was assisted by Sgts. Gurry, Crowe, Naylor, and Rowley. A number of mounted men, under M.C. Claxton, helped in maintaining a clear line for the firemen. Inspector Mattin subsequently relieved his colleague, and expressed satisfaction at the behaviour of the crowd. As some of the hoses were stretched across almost the whole width of the terrace, tram and other

vehicular traffic was held up for a while. In their endeavours to divert road traffic into Currie street from the intersection of Morphett and Hindley streets, the police were assisted by Mr. F. Everett, a Boy Scout official.

Horse Roasted.

Mr. Charles Harris, of Hamley street, City, who was in charge of Mr. G. Beale's piestall, opposite the railway station, had the misfortune to lose a bay horse which drew the stall. For some time it had been his practice to tie the animal to a post in a right-of-way at the rear of the shoe establishment, and he followed that course on Saturday evening. As soon as he and his assistant, Mr. A. J. Wilson, noticed the flames, the latter said, "I had better get Peter out." He thereupon ran down to the spot, and endeavoured to get down the right-of-way. However, the flames drove him back, and the unfortunate animal was roasted to death. It was removed by an Abattoirs' van on Sunday.

When the flames threatened to menace the stables of Wood, Son, & Co., the caretaker, Mr. W. Wilson, and a number of other willing helpers, released nine horses, which cantered out on to the terrace. Three bay trolly horses are still missing. The voluntary workers then set to and removed six motor cars, four trollies, a lorry, and other vehicles to a place of safety.

Building Insured for £21,000.

The managing director of the Cameron Shoe Company (Mr. G. Cameron) was at a picture theatre at Parkside when he was informed that the factory was on fire. He subsequently stated that about 80 men and women employes would be thrown out of work for a time, but hoped that the company would be able to carry on in temporary premises. The machinery and plant was valued at £12,000, and the building at £5,000. The stock was worth about £7,000 or £8,000. Mr. Cameron was unable to state definitely to what extent the establishment was insured, but believed that the building was covered for something like £3,000, and the plant and stock was insured for £18,000 with the Queensland Insurance Company.

AT THE TRAVELLERS' AID LODGE.

Every one had been rightly thankful that the Travellers' Aid Society's Lodge, 92 North terrace, which stands next to the site of the fire, had apparently escaped unharmed, but a closer view proved that it had been "a near thing." The cheery "home from home" for travellers and new arrivals was by no means its calm, tranquil self, and little wonder. The flames had licked in through two windows on the upper floor. In one room only a pane was broken and a brown scorch marked the white muslin curtains, and the bathroom, where the window looked towards the back of the building, seemed to be untouched. But in one of the bedrooms the glass of the window appeared to be blistered and burst, while the frame and windowsill were charred, and the blind scorched. How the damage did not go further it was hard to understand.

It seemed at first sight that there was room only for thankfulness for a wonderful escape. Presently, however, another aspect of the affair made itself felt. Disorder reigned everywhere. Drawers had been dragged from chests, and wardrobes lay empty. Small possessions lay scattered about—especially touching were toys and pictures evidently belonging to some little child—but most of the clothes seemed to be missing. Miss C. E. Dixon, organizing secretary, acting in place of the matron who was away on a holiday, was much distressed. "I don't mind for my self," she said, "but it is terrible for other people." Practically everything seemed to have been removed from the room she was occupying. The same confusion reigned in other parts of the building. In the sitting room sat a quiet figure in black—one of the boarders who seemed to be taking things quietly, if not hopefully. She was dressed as if ready to start for a train, had her luggage about her, and spoke in a particularly gentle voice, "I don't seem to be able to do anything but just sit here. You feel rather as if anything might happen next," she remarked. "Yes. There was confusion—people rushed in from outside. People do rush about at a fire—they seemed to think they were saving things. When there is a fire people do run about so. I suppose they mean well—but I feel I must sit here awhile." The acrid smell of

burnt wood came in through the window and now and then a vicious hiss as the water from a hose found a pocket of unquenched fire—but the valiant slight lady in black sat quietly there as if it was a quite normal condition of things—what one might expect at any time.

First Aid—or Self Help.

At the gate stood the Rev. R. M. Fulford, of Holy Trinity Church, who must have had a strenuous and anxious time. He it was who, while resting on the lawn of the rectory, noticed the blaze and telephoned to the Fire Station. "Cool customers they are there," he said reflectively. "I had got Central to put me through and spoke as quickly as I could, 'Fire—North terrace,' I said. 'Yes—now could you tell us just exactly where it is?' said the voice that answered me, as if there was endless time, the calm of the trained man in emergency."

"And did you see anything of this raid on the rooms?" he was asked. "Well—I couldn't say anything definite. Some men rushed in—it is quite likely that they really believed that they were saving things," he said. "But," he added, "I would have liked it better if they had not gathered everything together, rolled it up, and carried it away. Still it may be all discovered later. Most trying for Miss Dixon, of course. I was delighted to find that a parishioner of mine in the house on the other side of the burning building was quite safe—not even a scorch so far as I could see. No one is hurt at any rate."

SCENE OF NORTH TERRACE FIRE



The above photograph, taken on Sunday morning, gives a comprehensive view of the interior of the gutted factory of the Cameron Shoe Company. Charred wooden beams and sheets of twisted galvanized iron almost completely obliterated the valuable machinery and plant which the premises contained. In the background may be seen shed's and stables from which horses and vehicles were rescued.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 15 February 1926, page 13

SUBURBAN STATIONS BUSY.

NO SERIOUS OUTBREAK.

The Unley and North Adelaide Fire Brigades had a busy time on Sunday. Fortunately, the outbreaks which they were called upon to extinguish were not of serious character. The

Adelaide station also received a call— from Gaza. It proved to be only a woodheap burning at the rear of the O.G. Hotel, and was easily subdued.

At 10.30 a.m. the Unley Brigade was summoned to a grass fire in the backyard of premises in Dartmouth street, Goodwood, which were occupied by Mr. Robert Clarke. He had been burning rubbish, and the strong wind carried sparks into adjacent grass. The firemen extinguished the blaze before any damage had been done. Hardly had the brigade returned to the station, when it was again called out, this time to Robsart street, Parkside, where dry grass and road sweepings were alight in a vacant allotment. The fire was quickly subdued. It is stated that the rubbish had been smouldering for a week, and that the wind on Sunday fanned it into flames.

At 6.23 p.m. the North Adelaide Brigade received a call to 20 Marion place, where a wood-and-iron outhouse, apparently used as a bathroom, was on fire. The occupant of the premises, Mr. H. Bonner, was absent from home, but children were present. Little damage was done before the firemen subdued the outbreak.

In the afternoon the Hindmarsh Volunteer Brigade was summoned to a fire at Monmouth street, Ridleyton. On arrival, they found that reeds in a pughole were burning.

A small grass fire, which occurred in the park lands near the South Terrace Railway Station on Sunday afternoon, caused excitement in that locality. A tramcar was pulled up in King William road, and the motorman and conductor hastened to the fire, and succeeded in extinguishing it. The outbreak was stated to have resulted from "pranks of children."

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 22 February 1926, page 6

SMALL FIRES.

The Metropolitan and Unley Fire Brigades were called to Rose terrace, Wayville, about 3 p.m. on Saturday to a rubbish fire in the premises of Mrs. K. O'Shea. Fences belonging to Messrs. Ward, G. Matson, and J. Wright, Park terrace, and Mrs. O'Shea, Rose terrace, were damaged. The headquarters staff subdued a small grass fire on Montefiore Hill on Saturday afternoon.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 5 March 1926, page 17

A SMALL FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Halifax-street about 11.15 p.m. on Thursday and found that a small fire had occurred in a motor car owned by Mr. Roach. The engine and body of the car were damaged.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 13 March 1926, page 1

LINDEN PARK FIRE

Serious Damage to House

Serious damage was done by fire last night to a house owned by Mrs. Marguerite Hewitt, in Portrush road, Linden Park. The property was not insured. The kitchen and contents, including furniture and cutlery, were destroyed. The washhouse was also burned. The flames penetrated the ceiling. The window frame in another room and the back door were badly damaged. The Unley Brigade received a call at 9.20, and on arrival found that the flames had obtained a strong hold. The flames were soon subdued as a reel was also sent from the head station.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 16 March 1926, page 8

OBJECTION TO VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

Industrial unions are to be written to by the Fire Brigade section of the Australian Government Workers' Association urging them to prevent their members from acting as volunteer firemen. The regular firemen have for some time past contended that the action of men acting as voluntary firemen is detrimental to their (the permanent firemen's) interests. The decision was made at a meeting of the union on Sunday morning, which was presided over by Mr. E. W. Slavin, who said he understood that the permanent men had a grievance against volunteers helping at fires. Several men spoke of the feeling existing, and said they thought the time had come for definite action, otherwise serious complications would arise. Already one of the permanent men had got into trouble through a volunteer. Owing to the wet nature of the road on the night of the Sugar Company's fire, the big Adelaide pumps would not travel as fast as light cars, and when passing the big pump the men on the volunteer reel passed insulting remarks, which they would not have dared to have made had the permanent men been in a position to have dealt with them personally.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 19 March 1926, page 8

CASUALTIES.

A CITY BLAZE.

DAMAGE TO FURNITURE STORE.,

An iron building situated on the corner of Gawler place and Flinders street, and opposite to the Education Building, was the scene of a blaze on Thursday evening, and a fair amount of damage was done to the contents of the store of Mr. F. C. Segar, furniture dealer. The alarm was given shortly after 6.30 p.m., and, in addition to the city reels, the Unley, Norwood, North Adelaide, and Thebarton Brigades were summoned. When the brigades reached the building, which is not far from the city station, it was found that flames had a good hold on the interior, and naturally they were well fed by the furniture stored in the building. Although the blaze had a good hold, it was considered that there was no danger of it spreading, and the suburban brigades were allowed to return. The building is a two-story one, and the fire is believed to have started on the ground floor near an entrance in Gawler place. From there it spread to a portion of the upper floor. The firemen soon had the fire well in control, and the flames were extinguished in about a quarter of an hour. The origin is not known. Mr. Segar stated last night that everything was in order when he left the premises a few minutes after 6 p.m. Some of the furniture was new, and the remainder was secondhand. He valued the stock at about £600. The furniture on the ground floor was badly damaged by the flames, but the actual extent of the loss is not known.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 March 1926, page 4

FIERCE SUBURBAN FIRE

Beaumont Residence Destroyed

LANDMARK OF FOOTHILLS

A large unfurnished house at Devereaux road, Beaumont, which until recently was occupied by Mr. C. C. Ferguson, was completely gutted by fire this evening. Situated at the foot of the hills near the Salvation Army Aged Men's Retreat, the property was a well-known landmark. The outbreak was first noticed shortly after 8 o'clock, and when the Fire Brigade arrived on the scene the fire had secured a complete hold of the building. The glare of the leaping flames lighted up the district for hundreds of yards around, and a large number of people were attracted from the surrounding suburbs by the blaze. The Norwood and Adelaide Fire Stations operated on the outbreak, which was not subdued until well after 10 o'clock.

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 20 March 1926, page 6

BUSH FIRES AND TELEPHONES.

Included among the thousand-and-one benefits that an adequate and efficient telephone service confers upon residents in rural districts particularly, and which were demonstrated in a practical manner on the occasion of an outbreak of fire (writes our Laura correspondent), is the aid it renders in mobilizing to the scene of action, volunteer fire fighters. It is not as widely known, as its value warrants, that the following instructions have been issued to all postmasters in the Commonwealth:—"In the event of a bush fire occurring, postmasters in the districts concerned are to assist the bush fire brigade, or any local organization undertaking to promptly extinguish bush fires, by giving information by telephone, or telegraph wherever possible." On the occasion of the outbreak of a fire which swept down through the property of Mr. Uriah Smith, west of Laura, and which, had effective fire fighting not been so strongly in evidence, would probably have swept through to Gladstone, the telephone played a most important part. The local postmaster (Mr. C. A. Donnelly) promptly on receipt of the information that this fire was raging, got into touch, by telephone, with a number of farmers and settlers whose homesteads are connected with the local exchange. As it is becoming the exception that there is one or more motor cars on every farm in the district, a fine body of willing workers were soon on the scene. Several district councils in the areas adjacent to Laura following the good example of the District Council of Port Germein, headquarters of which is at Melrose, have appointed under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act, "fire controllers," who are vested with similar powers to fire brigade superintendents. It is a proposal worthy of consideration by these local government bodies, that an officially supplied list of all gazetted "fire controllers," in the areas under their jurisdiction, should be supplied to the post offices in the districts, so that on news reaching the post office that there has been an outbreak, these officially appointed fire controllers should be immediately informed. An additional factor that would materially assist in the control of fire, would be that every farmer or settler should have his home linked with the nearest telephone exchange. The claim made that the telephone service, supplied by the Commonwealth, is the cheapest public utility offered, is one that contains a great deal of truth, and the time is probably not far distant, when it will be recognised by an increasing number of rural residents that telephonic service is as essential to the comfort and the efficiency of life as an adequate water service for the home. Adequate telephone communication, combined with quick transport, and effective fire fighting organization, will confer a priceless boon upon the community.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 22 March 1926, page 6

Volunteer Firemen

W. Wood, Alderman of the Hindmarsh Council:—Apparently the metropolitan firemen are making the trouble which occurred between the Woodville Fire Brigade and themselves on the night of the Colonial Sugar Refinery fire the starting point for still another attempt to abolish volunteer brigades. I do not offer any excuse for the conduct of the Woodville men in taunting the Metropolitan Brigade for its lack of speed on the Port road, nor do I think that the city men added to their prestige by the treatment which they accorded to the Woodville firemen for their offer of help. But why this sudden outbreak and the threatened attempt to put good and worthy men in bad odor in their unions? I have been told frequently that volunteers are preventing permanent men getting work and so keeping wives and families on the wages obtained. Taking Hindmarsh as an example this is not so, for if we had a permanent brigade to-morrow I can prove to any reasonable man that the cost and upkeep to our ratepayers would be such that the same amount of money would employ easily double the number of men on corporation work. Strictly analysed, therefore, the proposal of our metropolitan friends is that Hindmarsh unionists are to be asked to agree to a proposal that they shall discharge a certain number of corporation unionists in order to employ half the same number of fire brigade unionists. No one with the interest of the workers at heart would agree to volunteers preventing unionists obtaining a living, but when such a restricted and selfish view of a subject is taken I fancy that the metropolitan men will find that unionists at Hindmarsh, Woodville, and other places will quickly ask why they should sacrifice their comrades to gratify the desires of a small section of men who evidently have not given the matter sufficient

thought to arrive at the actual truth. I trust that in future the metropolitan men will act with that dignity which will cause all other brigades to look to them for help and advice.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Saturday 27 March 1926, page 1

Fires in Adelaide

AN INCREASE REPORTED.

ADELAIDE, Friday.

There was an increase in the numbers of fires in Adelaide last year. According to the annual report of Superintendent J. E. Dickie (chief officer), 642 calls were received during 1925. This was an increase of 216 as compared with 1924. At the end of December the authorised strength of the brigade was 106 permanent firemen, 45 auxiliary firemen, and 42 auxiliary theatre firemen.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 3 April 1926, page 8

CASUALTIES.

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At 3.30 p.m. on Friday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were notified of a fire in West terrace. A heap of rubbish at rear of the wood-and-iron shop occupied by Mr. C. W. Blamchard, motor body painter, had become ignited, and the flames had reached the shop. A stream of water quickly removed all danger, and the damage was slight, confined to the rear of the shop.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 3 April 1926, page 9

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

RUBBISH ON FIRE.

At 3.30 p.m. on Friday the Fire Brigade was called to West-terrace, where it was found that a quantity of rubbish at the rear of Mr. C. H. Blanchard's motor painting shop was on fire. The fire, which was burning in Rose-street, off West-terrace, was quickly extinguished, and with the exception that a small portion of the wood and iron structure near the rubbish, was charred, little damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 6 April 1926, page 9

FIRE ON A SWITCHBOARD.

Shortly after 8.10 p.m. on Monday the Fire Brigade received a call to the Victoria Hotel, Hindley-street, where an electric switchboard had caught alight. Only slight damage was done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 14 April 1926, page 1

Bitumen Alight

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 4.30 o'clock this morning to the Adelaide Corporation yards in Halifax street, where it was found that a small quantity of bitumen was alight.

Sport (Adelaide, SA : 1911 - 1948), Friday 23 April 1926, page 16

A COURSING EXPERT

Mr. Richard Moore (Dick) who was observation officer to the Adelaide Plumpton Coursing Club, is an expert man among greyhounds, who holds the high position in that sport which means stipendiary steward. Dick was born in the old Fire Brigade Station at Oliver's Corner,

Flinders Street, where his dad, an old London fireman, was superintendent, and the present head of the Brigade. Superintendent Dickie, worked under him.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 24 April 1926, page 16

SMALL FIRE IN CITY.

At 8.15 p.m. on Friday the Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to the premises of Mr. Daniel O'Brien, battery expert, of Grenfell street east. The cause of the fire was a short circuit in some of the batteries. Only slight damage was done to the workshop and its contents, but a wooden partition in the premises was partly burnt.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 27 April 1926, page 10

House of Richards

The substantial new structure in Currie street, which is being built for H. C. Richards, Limited, South Australian and Broken Hill distributor for the Oakland and Rugby cars, contains many new features. Ample provision has been made for lighting. Access to the upper floors is gained by two high-speed lifts and a wide staircase. There are two electric installations. These have been installed at great expense to prevent dislocation, consequent upon the failure of the service. A feature is the number of fireproof doors which close automatically at a certain temperature. Special fire alarms connect with the Adelaide Fire Station. Water system for hydrants is interchangeable with the appliances of the Adelaide Fire Brigade. In addition, there are between 40 and 50 chemical fire extinguishers. The offices are well ventilated and fitted with strongrooms, while on each floor a large strongroom is under the control of the caretaker.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 4 May 1926, page 16

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Through the engine backfiring, a single seater Ford motor car, the property of Mr. Henry Black, of Gouger-street, caught fire about 8 p.m. on Monday on Montefiore-road. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade extinguished the flames, but the car was practically destroyed. It was insured for £150.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 6 May 1926, page 8

CASUALTIES.

FIRE ON PAYNEHAM ROAD.

Early on Wednesday evening a fire broke out in a motor garage, situated next to the Payneham road factory of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society. The Norwood Fire Brigade, under Officer W. Tyson, was soon on the scene, but not before the flames had gained a good hold on the garage. As the blaze developed, another reel was dispatched from the city brigade. By this time the flames had spread to the adjoining jam factory, the eastern portion of which caught alight. Through the efforts of the firemen, however, extensive damage to the factory was prevented. The garage was completely destroyed.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Thursday 6 May 1926, page 14

GARAGE BURNT

Two Motor Cars Destroyed

A fire destroyed the motor garage of Mr. R. W. Forbes, at Payneham road, East Adelaide, last night. Mr. Forbes, who lives at Livingston road, Thebarton, locked the premises at 7 o'clock, when everything was all right. About half an hour later the building, which was constructed of wood and iron, was a mass of flames. When the Norwood and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades

arrived on the scene the garage and its contents, including two secondhand motor cars, had been destroyed, and the firemen turned their attention to saving the adjoining building of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Society, Limited. The garage, which was owned by Mr. James Magher, 135 Payneham road, St. Peters, was uninsured. The contents were insured with the Federal Mutual Fire Insurance Company for £300.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 10 May 1926, page 4

GREATER ADELAIDE

Application has been made by the Fire Brigades Board for permission to erect fire alarm standards on the kerb or footways as near as possible to the existing positions of alarms on telegraph posts. This position was brought about owing to the removal of telegraph posts to which the alarms had been affixed. Consideration of the matter has been held over pending the receipt of a further report from Mr. R. M. Scott (City Engineer).

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 12 May 1926, page 8

CASUALTIES.

A CITY FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call at 6.10 p.m. on Tuesday from the alarm at the Supreme Court, and ascertained that a fire had broken out in the shop of Mr. H. V. Cottrel, tailor and outfitter, King William street South, next to the Local Court. The fire, which had a good hold, was checked by the brigade, but not before the shop and the contents had been damaged severely.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Wednesday 12 May 1926, page 4

Fire in Tailor's Shop.

£500 DAMAGE DONE.

ADELAIDE, Tuesday

A fire broke out in King William Street, City, at 6.15 tonight, in the premises occupied by Arthur Victor Cottrel, tailor and mercer, and, although the brigade were quickly on the scene, considerable damage was done to the shop and stock by fire and water. The damage is estimated at £800.

The origin of the fire is not known, but the flames were first seen in front of the shop, and had secured a good hold, before the alarm was given.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 13 May 1926, page 18

A SMALL FIRE.

About 6.24 p.m. the Fire Brigade received a call to the East-End Market, where a heap of packing cases had caught alight. The fire was extinguished with little difficulty.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 17 May 1926, page 1

FIRE AT HENLEY

Damage Estimated at £1,000

BEACH GAMES DESTROYED

Damage estimated at £1,000 was caused by fire at 4 o'clock this morning, when the rabbit and bagatelle games on the Henley Beach foreshore were destroyed. The rabbit game was the property of Messrs. H. H. Hannam and J. W. Wyett, and Mr. J. H. Scarce owned the bagatelle game. It was reported that the Thebarton Fire Brigade was communicated with, and

that it refused to go to the scene of the fire. The city brigade was unable to send a reel. Eventually the police got in touch with the Woodville District Volunteer Brigade, which turned out, and was instrumental in saving some of the other structures on the beach. The Fairy Floss stall was slightly damaged, and several of the buildings belonging to the Amusements Devices Company, Limited, were blistered and scorched. The damage caused to the property of Messrs. Hannam and Wyatt is estimated at £900. It was insured for £750. The property of Mr. Scarce, on which the fire is said to have originated, was uninsured, and his loss is about £100. The matter was reported to the coroner, who considered that an inquest was unnecessary.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 24 May 1926, page 18

A SIGNAL CABIN DESTROYED.

Shortly before 6 p.m. on Sunday, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned to the Mile-End running sheds, where the Scissors Point signal cabin was burning. The cabin was totally destroyed.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 15 June 1926, page 17

A SMALL FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call about 3 p.m. on Monday to the Imperial Hotel, King William-street, where a small fire had occurred in a store-room on the third floor. Damage was done to a portion of the floor and some crockery.

Recorder (Port Pirie, SA : 1919 - 1954), Tuesday 15 June 1926, page 1

Small Fire in Hotel.

ADELAIDE, Monday

A small fire occurred this afternoon in a store room on the top floor of Flannagan's Imperial Hotel, on the corner of King William and Grenfell streets. The damage done amounted to about £150. The brigade promptly extinguished the flames.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Saturday 19 June 1926, page 1

SOUTHWARK FACTORY DESTROYED

Fire Sweeps Paper Works of Wigg & Son

THOUSANDS OF POUNDS WORTH OF DAMAGE

Shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon a fire was discovered in the factory of E. S. Wigg & Son, Limited, at the corner of Phillips street and Port road, Southwark. The brick wall facing Port road bulged dangerously owing to the excessive heat. Mr. H. L. Davidson (managing director) said that the chief loss occurred in the ruling and envelope plants. He estimated that £20,000 worth of stock had been irreparably damaged, and that of the machinery valued at £45,000, a third had been put out of action. There were about 150 employes at the works.

Mr. Davidson said that when the factory was closed at noon today everything was in order. He had no idea of the origin of the outbreak. Although the factory and plant were insured he could not say to what extent. The bulk of the machinery was saved, although the machine room was a sea of water. It was one of the oldest established factories in Southwark, and a large portion was burned out. About 2.45 o'clock Mr. S. Searson, who resides next door to the factory, noticed flames issuing from the roof. Almost simultaneously the fire brigades arrived. Reels from Adelaide and Thebarton were in attendance. The fire apparently broke out at the south-eastern corner of the building among huge stocks of paper and rapidly spread northward. The firemen concentrated their attention at this point, where huge flames were leaping many feet into the air. The roof of the building is of the saw-tooth variety. The flames rapidly

licked their way along the wooden rafters. By concentrated effort firemen managed to confine the outbreak to the front portion of the building, but some thousands of pounds worth of valuable paper and machinery, which was stored in the old portion of the building at the rear suffered severely through being soaked with water. The foremen had hard work to get under control the flames which ran along the rafters above the machinery. The galvanised iron roof which covered the south-eastern portion of the building collapse and that section was flooded with water. A proper estimate of the damage could not be obtained Mr. J. Clements (manager of the factory) was not present nor had any directors of E. S. Wigg & Son, Limited, arrived up till 4 o'clock. About 150 men, women, and girls are employed in the premises, in which the whole of the manufacturing business of the firm is conducted. The premises extend for about 150 feet along Port road by the same depth along Phillip street. Good work was done by the members of the brigades present. Although the flames had a good hold when the firemen arrived, it was soon under control, and although there were no dividing walls to stop its progress through the stacks of paper and other inflammable material, it was confined to the south-eastern corner of the building. Although the damage by water must also have been great, every care was taken to keep it within the narrowest possible limits.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 22 June 1926, page 17

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

OXYWELDING CYLINDER FIRE.

The Fire Brigade received a call on Monday afternoon from the Madge Motor and Breakdown Service, Grote-street. A cylinder of gas used in oxywelding had been turned on and the gas had ignited, causing a tall flame. The brigade quickly rectified the trouble. Little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 22 June 1926, page 9

CASUALTIES.

EXPLOSION OF WELDING PLANT.

Excitement was caused at the works of the Madge Motor and Breakdown Service, Grote street, early on Monday afternoon, when a welding plant exploded and flames shot high into the air. The Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned, and subdued the flames. Mr. A. Haddrick, who was working on the welder at the time, was singed by the flames which shot out of the apparatus. Three workmen lost their coats and vests which were hanging nearby.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 6 July 1926, page 11

CITY FIRE.

At 10.21 p.m. on Monday the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to New Ackland street, city, where the premises of the Wyley Manufacturing Company were found to be alight. The brigade was successful in extinguishing the blaze before much damage had been done. The fittings and contents of the premises, however, were slightly affected. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 July 1926, page 10

Motor Car on Fire

The Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call at 3.40, o'clock this afternoon to Rundle street east, where the firemen found a motor car, the property of Mr. H. Dunhill, in flames. It had been caused, it was thought, by backfiring. The prompt arrival of the brigade enabled the fire to be quickly put out, and as a consequence little damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 10 July 1926, page 10

STRANGE FIRES

Reeds and Tree Alight

Unley and metropolitan fire stations received unusual calls this evening. In spite of the nippy nature of the night both brigades were called upon to extinguish what might be termed miniature bush fires. About 6.30 the metropolitan station received a call to extinguish some reeds which were blazing alongside the Torrens west of Morphett Street Bridge. Firemen were soon on the spot, and the fire was easily mastered. An hour later the Unley fire station received a call to extinguish a tree which was burning at Cross roads. This second fire took only a few minutes to extinguish. In the summer with the thermometer hovering around the century it is not uncommon for grass fires to break out in the day time. After dusk, however, even in the summer, there are not many grass fires.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 12 July 1926, page 19

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FIRES.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called to Rundle-street east about 3.40 p.m. on Saturday. They found a motor car belonging to Mr. H. Daniels had caught alight from a backfire. The engine was slightly damaged. At 6.35 a fire was discovered on the bank of the River Torrens in the park lands, among some reeds, which had apparently been alight for some time. More good than harm was done. The Unley Fire Brigade received a call to the Cross-roads, Unley, where they found a tree on fire on the roadside. Little damage was done. The same brigade were called to a fire at the grocery shop of Mr. Horace Candy, in Duthy-street, Parkside, at 11.6 p.m. The end of a counter and a window were severely damaged by fire, and the stock and fittings were slightly damaged by heat and smoke. The brigade quelled the outbreak in about an hour. The contents of the shop were insured for £250 in the Northern Insurance Company. The property is owned by Mr. R. H. Curnow, of Swaine-avenue Rose Park.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 16 July 1926, page 1

HEROIC EMPLOYEE

Warned Brigade of Fire

BURNED ON ARMS

An heroic attempt to call the Fire Brigade to the premises of his employer was made by Mr. E. W. Bannister, when the shed used by Mr. Max Leo Marks caught fire this morning. Mr. Bannister tried to reach the telephone to warn the brigade, and hung on as long as he could, but was forced to retire owing to smoke and flames. He sustained burns on the arms, and was given first aid treatment by the firemen when they arrived. Just after 8 o'clock this morning the brigade was called to Queen's Court, off Currie street, where the upholstery works of Mr. Marks were alight. The flames were promptly subdued. A great amount of damage was done to the iron shed and its contents.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 17 July 1926, page 17

A SMALL FIRE.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call about 10.53 p.m. on Friday to the premises of the Adelaide Joinery Works at the corner of Brown and Grote streets, where a small outbreak had occurred amongst shavings in the boiler house. The fire was extinguished without any damage being done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 17 July 1926, page 17

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

AN UPHOLSTERING SHED FIRE.

A fire broke out in the upholstering shed of Mr. M. L. Marks, Queen's-court, Currie-street at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. E. Bannister was at work when he noticed volumes of smoke in the shed. The smoke burst into flames, and he telephoned for the fire brigade, members of which were prompt in arriving. In the meantime Mr. Bannister succeeded in removing a quantity of goods from the shed, and the fire-men soon put the fire out. Stock to the value of £110 was destroyed, and Mr. Marks was insured for £200. He had sufficient work in hand to last him three months. He lost a number of valuable papers, but was fortunate in saving his ledger book, in which his customers' names and other details are recorded. Mr. Bannister's arm was rather badly burned in his efforts to save the stock, and he had to be medically attended. It is not known how the fire started.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 26 July 1926, page 12

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

A FIRE IN UNLEY.

The Unley Fire Brigade was called out at 10.22 on Saturday evening to put out a fire on the premises of Mr. H. J. Robertson, Unley-road. Mr. Robertson, who is a chaff and grain merchant, resides at Young-street, Parkside. The fire was in a shed at the rear of the premises, containing a number of bales of straw, bags of lucern chaff, and pollard, and a quantity of empty sacks. The place was well alight when the fire brigade arrived, and it took the men half an hour to get the fire under. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade also turned out, but its services were not required. The shed and its contents were seriously damaged.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 30 July 1926, page 11

CASUALTIES.

FIRE AT MILLSWOOD.

A fire, the cause of which is unknown, broke out on the property of Mrs. A. A. Hittman, at Elm street, Millswood, about 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, in a wood-and-iron structure that had been the stables and coachhouse. The Metropolitan and Unley Fire Brigades were called, but the flames had too great a hold on the building, which was destroyed. The building is insured for £150 in the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 9 August 1926, page 10

FALSE ALARM

Thought "The News" Was Alight

When an automatic alarm connected with the office of "The News" rang at Fire Brigade headquarters, Wakefield street, about 8.30 o'clock on Saturday night the engines arrived and firemen were inside the building within two and a half minutes. The commendable promptitude was unnecessary. It was a false alarm. "The News" building has the Grinnell sprinkler system. Owing to a leaky valve, it is thought, the alarm was given. Mr. J. H. Edwards (staff engineer) heard the bell, which is also connected outside the building, and on ascertaining that the alarm had been given accidentally tried to ring the brigade on the telephone. Before he had established connection with the station, however, the brigade had arrived on the scene.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Friday 27 August 1926, page 1

Fire at Southwark

Adelaide Fire Brigade was summoned to the residence of Mr. James Inverarity, Stirling street, Southwark, at 1 o'clock today. The brigade arrived before much damage had been done, and extinguished the flames.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 8 September 1926, page 2

Railway Bus on Fire

While motorman Harold L. Cole was driving railway bus No. 26 along King William street, near North terrace, Adelaide, at 7.10 this morning, Mr. J. Dennison (conductor) noticed flames issuing from the rear of the vehicle. He poured the contents of the extinguisher on the seat of the fire and checked the outbreak. The Fire Brigade was also summoned. Little damage was done to the bus, but it was necessary to return it to the garage for attention. The fire is believed to have started in the petrol tank.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 9 September 1926, page 10

CASUALTIES.

RAILWAYS BUS ON FIRE.

Shortly after 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning a railways motor bus on the Adelaide-Glenelg run took fire (from a cause unknown) at the corner of King William street and North terrace, City. The flames were located near to the petrol tank, which contained 46 gallons of benzine. Efforts to extinguish the blaze with chemicals proving unavailing, the fire brigade, which arrived subsequently, put out the fire with water.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Monday 13 September 1926, page 5

Reid Fund

A display will be given tomorrow night by Metropolitan Fire Brigade at Wakefield street Station in aid of the Reid fund.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 18 September 1926, page 10

FIRE IN JOINERY.

At 10 o'clock on Friday night the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call and proceeded to a fire at the Adelaide Joinery Works, 152 Grote street, Adelaide, the owner of which is Mr. W. H. Radloff. On arrival it was found that a quantity of shavings in the boiler room had caught alight and the wooden flooring around the boiler was burning. The firemen quelled the outbreak in a short time. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 18 September 1926, page 17

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Early Friday afternoon, a motor car, driven by Mr. Charles Wright, farmer, of Salisbury, caught fire when proceeding in a westerly direction along Flinders-street. Mr. Wright, upon noticing smoke issuing from the bonnet, turned into King William-street and stopped. The fire brigade was summoned, but its services were not required, for a chemical fire extinguisher was obtained from a passing tram and the fire subdued. Mr. Wright estimated the damage at £5. The motor car was insured.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 18 September 1926, page 10

GENERAL NEWS.

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

A motor car, owned by Mr. Charles Wright, farmer, of Salisbury, was being driven along Flinders street on Friday afternoon, and when near the intersection of King William street the engine burst into flame. The car was stopped and the fire put out with a chemical fire extinguisher carried by one of the electric cars. Constable Slater communicated with the Fire Brigade, but the flames were extinguished before the firemen arrived— with the fire escape.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Tuesday 19 October 1926, page 16

A SMALL CITY FIRE.

Shortly after 6 p.m. yesterday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to a small fire in premises occupied by the Atomol Dust Company, off Gilles-street. The flames were extinguished before any great damage had been done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 19 October 1926, page 9

SMALL FIRE IN CITY.

At 6.2 p.m. on Monday the Adelaide Fire Brigade was called to the premises of the Atomol Dust Company, in a lane off Gilles street, where a drying chamber had caught alight. The fire was quickly extinguished without much damage being done.

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Tuesday 19 October 1926, page 1

STRONG MEN WEEP

Hurried Exit from Hotel

Shortly after noon today patrons of the saloon bar of Oriental Hotel, Rundle street, Adelaide, were seen rushing into the street. Some of them were in too great a hurry to finish the drinks they had ordered. Strong men wept copiously. A call was dispatched to the Fire Brigade. A crowd gathered, and seethed with excitement and unsatisfied curiosity. The victims were plied with questions. Then the brigade dashed up. Donning their respirators, the firemen descended into the basement of the hotel. A leaking valve in a cylinder of ammonia was responsible for the tears and the excitement. By turning off a tap the escape of further fumes was prevented. The ammonia was used for refrigerating purposes. Investigation revealed that no damage had been done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 22 October 1926, page 17

A MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

Mr. A. S. Cox, of South-terrace was driving his car out of his garage on Thursday morning, when the vehicle burst into flames. The Fire Brigade was summoned and extinguished the outbreak before serious damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 23 October 1926, page 17

A SMALL FIRE.

About 7.30 p.m. on Friday the Fire Brigade was summoned to Morphett-street, where a bench in the rear portion of a wood and iron building, occupied by Messrs Atkinson & Co., was alight. The fire was quickly extinguished, and little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 23 October 1926, page 13

CASUALTIES.

SMALL CITY FIRE.

At 7.59 on Friday evening the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call, and a reel proceeded to the premises of Messrs. Atkinson & Co., engineers and brass founders, 21 Morphett street, Adelaide. It was found that a small fire had broken out in the rear portion of the buildings. Gaining admittance through a window, the firemen soon had the flames under control. The discovery of the fire was due to the occupants of the next house seeing the reflections in their windows. Only slight damage was done.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 1 November 1926, page 13

A TOILET SALOON ON FIRE.

A fire broke out on Saturday night at the toilet saloon of Miss Finn, in the upper storey of a building near the Red Lion Hotel, Rundle-street. The Fire Brigade was summoned and found the premises well alight. Considerable damage was done to the walls, doors, and furnishings.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 13 November 1926, page 4

FIRE IN PARKLANDS

A grass fire broke out in the West parklands near the Observatory early this evening, but was promptly subdued by members of the Adelaide Fire Brigade. Only a small area was burned by the flames.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 November 1926, page 10

FIRE IN CURRIE STREET

Warehouse Endangered

Shortly before 10.30 tonight the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Colton, Palmer & Preston, Limited, at the corner of Currie and Topham streets, and the full force of the brigade was quickly in attendance. On arrival smoke was found to be issuing from the second story of the building, and an inspection disclosed that a fire had broken out in the office. The sprinklers had been set in operation and extinguished the fire. Some of the office fittings were burnt.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 22 November 1926, page 9

SUNDAY MORNING FIRE.

Mitchell's Building Guttled.

The old three-storied building of Richard Mitchell & Co., carriers, on South terrace, near Hanson street, was the scene of an early morning blaze on Sunday.

At about 3.20 a.m. the alarm was given by Mr. J. W. Phillips, a railway porter, who was returning home, and noticed flames issuing from the window of the second story. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade turned out in full force, and had the fire under control by about 4.10 a.m. The building is an old landmark, which was formerly a brewery. It was in the back portion on Delhi street, where the outbreak occurred, and the place was used for storing furniture and household effects. Most of the contents of the second floor were damaged, and the goods on the third floor were entirely destroyed. Only the walls are left standing. The ground floor, and the basement was saved, the only damage being done by water.

Statement by Mr. Mitchell.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. R. Mitchell was busily engaged clearing some of the things put of the danger zone. He said he would sooner anything else had happened, as although the building was partly covered by insurance, the goods stored there belonged to other people who might not have insured them. He had no idea of the origin of the fire. Fortunately there was no wind blowing at the time, and the firemen were able to effect a fine save. They managed to confine it to the smallest possible area, and none of the buildings adjoining were damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 22 November 1926, page 9

CITY FIRES.

MITCHELL'S STOREROOM DAMAGED.

AN EARLY MORNING BLAZE.

On his way home at 3.15 on Sunday morning Mr. James Wesley Phillips, a railway porter, who resides in Gilles-street, city, noticed flames from the windows of the second floor of the large storerooms of Messrs. Richard Mitchell and Co., adjoining the Green Dragon Hotel, which is at the corner of Hanson street and South-terrace. Mr. Phillips promptly notified the Fire Brigade from a public telephone in Hurtle-square. When the brigade reached the scene the fire had secured a hold on the second and third floors, and was blazing furiously. Fortunately the strong wind which had been blowing earlier in the night had died down, and at the time there was little or no breeze. The structure, which was formerly Chambers & Blade's brewery. Is a well known landmark in that portion of the city. It has a frontage to South-terrace, and extends north to Delhi-street. Where the building abuts the latter street it is three storeys high, an old solidly built stone structure with high gabled iron roof. The floors are of wood, and wide wooden staircases lead from floor to floor. The building covers a large area, and contained a huge quantity of miscellaneous goods, chiefly household furniture and effects neatly and systematically stored there by the firm for its clients. Adjoining the main building on the eastern side is another large shed used as a garage for the firm's furniture vans and equipment. Why the whole block of buildings and the contents of furniture and other stores were not destroyed must be attributed largely to the good work of the fire brigade, which turned out in full force. As far as could be gathered the fire was first seen burning on the second floor, and it destroyed a large portion of the contents of that and the top floors, but the large quantity of goods on the ground floor and in the basement was only damaged by the water used by the brigade. The adjoining premises and the houses on the north side of Delhi-street (which is a narrow thoroughfare) were untouched. "I would sooner anything happened than this," said Mr. Mitchell on Sunday afternoon, as he worked hard with his staff clearing goods from the areas where the water had lodged, and placing them in dry places. The goods destroyed were owned by a large number of people, some of whom are no doubt temporarily out of the State. The building is partly covered by insurance, but it is understood the goods are stored at owners' risks, and unless insured by them would probably not be covered. Mr. Mitchell said he had no idea how the fire originated. One theory advanced was that the building had been struck by lightning, but the storm which passed over the city occurred hours before the fire broke out. The building did not have electric light installed, and so far the cause of the conflagration is a mystery, and the actual damage, having regard to the peculiar nature of the goods stored, cannot be computed.



State Library of South Australia - South Terrace, Adelaide [B 1838], South Terrace, west corner of Hanson Street, Adelaide, on the 1st November, 1923. The Green Dragon Hotel was first opened in 1858 and was licensed at the time of this photo to W. Roberts. The near side of the premises for Richard Mitchell's furniture packers and carriers is 36 yards west of Hanson Street. See B 8595 for a balcony which was erected on the south and east sides in 1924. Note the tram lines on South Terrace. Approximately 1923. Photographer, State Library of South Australia, Part of Acre 677 Collection

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 29 November 1926, page 11

FOUR GRASS FIRES.

Four grass fires occupied the attention of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on Sunday. The hot dry winds of the weekend made the grass in the parklands and in vacant suburban allotments susceptible to ignition. The headquarters staff had two calls to the west parklands. Shortly after 10 a.m., they were summoned to a fire near the Observatory, and two hours later to another outbreak in the part adjoining the playground. The Thebarton Brigade was called to a fire in a paddock at Cowandilla about 2.30 p.m., and the Norwood firefighters, about an hour later, had to beat out a grass fire on a vacant block at the corner of Walkerville-road and Sixth-avenue, St. Peters. In each instance strenuous work confined the flames to grass, and no other damage resulted.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 3 December 1926, page 15

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS.

GRASS FIRE AT GALWAY GARDENS.

A grass fire, covering several acres, broke out at Galway Gardens off the South-road on Thursday night, but, as the result of the efforts of the Metropolitan and Thebarton fire brigades, a serious outbreak was prevented. The Thebarton brigade was called out about 8.45, and sent one reel to the scene. Another reel was in attendance from the Metropolitan station. The fire spread rapidly in the thick undergrowth, and several soldiers' homes were seriously threatened. Breaks were burnt, and after 2½ hours work by the firemen and volunteer fire fighters, the outbreak was got under control. There was no damage to property.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 3 December 1926, page 9

SPECTACULAR BLAZE.

Glandore Property Alight.

A spectacular red glare in the sky to the south-west of the city attracted hundreds of motorists to Glandore Extension on Thursday night. Near the South road a dense maze of dry Scotch thistles and grass war on fire in a vacant paddock which runs the length of several blocks of streets. Flames, in many places, rose from 20 to 30 ft. in the air, and the blaze presented a wonderful sight, which was watched by crowds of people. The Adelaide fire station received an alarm about 9.25 o'clock, and reels were immediately dispatched to the scene of the outbreak. Many houses were dangerously near the flames, but the firemen were able to prevent the fire from spreading. Local residents state that the fire has become an annual occurrence. Last year a blaze broke out in the same property on December 3. It is considered that something should be done to prevent another such outbreak, as new houses are continually being built around the property. It is understood that the owner is a Wallaroo resident. So bright was the fire, and to such an extent did it spread, that it could be seen distinctly by residents in the hills. Many people living in the Belair district made anxious enquiries as to the position of the outbreak.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Friday 10 December 1926, page 11

FIRE CALLS.

Eleven on Thursday.

During Thursday metropolitan fire brigades received 11 calls to various suburbs, but eight of them were to put out grass fires. Little damage was done, the outbreaks being characterized as minor. A grass fire at Kensington Gardens on a vacant allotment between East terrace and Koorra avenue damaged the fences of adjoining houses, while damage was done to the fence at the rear of the factory of E. S. Wigg & Son., Limited, Walsh street, Southwark, through a grass fire. At 11.50 a.m. the Adelaide Brigade received a call to a four-roomed house in Brown street, occupied by Mr. J. Sanders. The fire which originated from burning rubbish in the back yard, had secured a good hold on the two back rooms and the back verandah by the time the brigade arrived, and it was only with difficulty that the two front rooms were saved.

The back part of the premises was destroyed. During the lunch hour the City Brigade also received a call to Sister Wood's private hospital in Hutt street, City, where a chimney had caught alight. The Norwood Brigade were called to Bakewell road, where a fire had started in the kitchen of a house of Mr. A. Basheer. The blaze was started by an electric iron having been left on. The contents of the room were badly damaged.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Saturday 11 December 1926, page 19

SMALL FIRE IN THE CITY.

About 11.25 p.m. yesterday, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was called to a building in King William-street, adjoining the Supreme Court buildings. The firemen found that some linen in a back room was alight. The flames were extinguished before much damage was done.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 11 December 1926, page 10

GRASS FIRES

Necessity arose for the Fire Brigade to attend grass fires this afternoon. Two calls were received. At 3.39 a call came notifying an outbreak at Ethel street, Forestville. The Unley Fire Brigade attended, and extinguished the fire before any serious damage was done. At 3.38 a call was received to a fire in the west parklands, but it was only a small outbreak. In each case the cause of the fire was unknown.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 16 December 1926, page 15

ENGINEERING WORKS ON FIRE.

SMART WORK BY FIREMEN

POOR WATER PRESSURE.

But for the promptness of the Thebarton Volunteer Fire Brigade and men from the Wakefield-street station, a fire which broke out in the Engineering works of Vrai, Ltd., at Torrensville, last evening, would have resulted in serious damage to stock and buildings. The origin of the fire is not definitely known.

About 6.15 p.m. yesterday, smoke was seen issuing from the engineering works of Messrs. A. J. and P. A. McBride, of Wainhouse-street, Torrensville, who trade under the name of Vrai, Ltd. The Thebarton Volunteer Fire Brigade was called, and found that the fire had a strong hold of the building, which is of wood and iron. Water was directed on the flames but owing to the poor pressure the stream would not reach the burning roof. The fire continued to make headway, and realising the danger, Senior Fireman Kelly who was in charge of the Thebarton Brigade, communicated with the head station. A reel and Dennis pump were sent from Adelaide, and after half an hour's work, the firemen had the outbreak under control. Station-Officer Sayers, of Adelaide, who directed operations, stated that but for the use of the Dennis pump, the low pressure would probably have resulted in the loss of the building and contents. It is believed that the fire broke out in the store, near the front of the building, possibly as a result of the fusing of an electric wire. There was no one on the premises after 5.30 p.m. Considering the extent of the blaze, the damage was comparatively light. The firm had on hand a large quantity of spare parts for Holt tractors, for which implement the company holds the South Australian agency. The stock, which was valued at £30,000 was practically undamaged. In several places the roof was badly damaged, and the shelves, containing the stock were charred. Several tractors and other machinery escaped the efforts of the fire. Mr. P. A. McBride (junior partner) said the fire had occurred at a particularly inopportune time, owing to the approach of the harvest, and the anxiety of farmers to obtain spare parts. However, as the stock was intact, the service would be continued as usual. Mr. C. A. V. Dover (works manager) stated that on the benches in the store were several drums of oil, which were intact after the fire. There were also two tins of petrol on the premises. The building had been extended recently, since when the license permitted them to keep only four tins of petrol

on the works. The petrol was not near the seat of the fire. A tube of oxygen and another of acetylene were at the rear of the shop, but fortunately they were not reached by the fire. Mr. McBride stated that he could not give an estimate of the damage.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 16 December 1926, page 9

NUMEROUS SMALL FIRES.

City and suburban brigades experienced a particularly busy time on Wednesday afternoon and evening. In addition to the big blaze at Torrensville, the Adelaide station shortly afterwards had to send a machine to a grass fire at the East park lands. The flames were quickly subdued, and no damage was done. At 7.45 p.m. a call was received from Simpson & Son's factory, in Wakefield street. An appliance was soon on the spot, where a carpenter's bench and pile of timber decking were alight. The outbreak was speedily under control. The cause is unknown. At 9.16 p.m. a machine was despatched to a grass fire on the Victoria Park Racecourse. No damage was done. A more serious outbreak occurred at the West park lands, opposite Waymouth street, at about the same time. Two appliances were sent, and on arrival the firemen found an area of grass and a football dressing shed well alight. The shed was destroyed. At 8.22 p.m. the Unley brigade received a call to Cumberland avenue, Clarence Park, where grass was burning on a property owned by Mr. A. J. Crawford, residing at the corner of Monmouth avenue and Goodwood road. The blaze was extinguished before any damage was done. The Norwood brigade received a call at 4.55 p.m. to 23 Charles street, Norwood, where a heap of rubbish was on fire in the yard of premises occupied by Mrs. N. Gill. Portion of a fence was also burned. About 11 o'clock on Wednesday night the Norwood Fire Brigade was called to a grass fire which had broken out in a paddock at the top of Greenhill road, near Tusmore. After extinguishing this they were called to two successive outbreaks in paddocks at intervening distances of about a quarter of a mile.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 16 December 1926, page 15

A SMALL CITY FIRE.

At 7.45 p.m. yesterday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call to Messes. A. Simpson & Son's premises in Wakefield street, where a work bench and a small portion of decking were damaged by fire.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 16 December 1926, page 15

GRASS FIRES,

The Unley Fire Brigade was called to Cumberland-avenue, Cumberland, at 8.22 p.m. on Wednesday to attend a grass fire which had broken out on a block of land owned by Mr. A. J. Crawford, of Monmouth-avenue, Westbourne Park. The flames were extinguished before any damage was done. In response to a call received at 9.16 p.m. yesterday, men from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade went to the Victoria Park Racecourse, where they subdued a grass fire.

Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 18 December 1926, page 5

FIRE IN CITY

Woman Severely Burned

At 9.40 tonight the Metropolitan Fire Brigade received a call by telephone to 71 Field street, off Gouger street, to a residence occupied by Mrs. Lewis. The cause of the outbreak was unknown. Bedding in the residence was damaged, and a woman named Mrs. Shaw was severely burned.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Monday 20 December 1926, page 10

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

TWO MALICIOUS CALLS.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade turned out three times on Saturday night, only once for a genuine call. Bedding caught fire at the residence of Mrs. Lewis, Field-street, at about 9.45. Little damage to property was done, but Mrs. Shaw, who was sleeping in the bed, was severely burned and might have been more seriously injured but for the prompt action of Mrs. E. J. O'Brien, who dragged her out of the burning mass. Mrs. Shaw was taken to the Adelaide Hospital. At 10.52 the equipment turned out for a malicious false alarm from the Botanic Park alarm, and at 11.20 a false sprinkler alarm brought them out again. The Norwood Fire Brigade had a malicious false alarm from Rundle-street, Kent Town, at 11.18. On Sunday about noon a grass fire broke out on the property of Mrs. T. Bates, Henley Beach-road, Torrensville, caused by a rubbish fire getting away. The brigade was summoned and the blaze extinguished, little damage being done. Another grass fire in Cohen-avenue, between South-terrace and Park-terrace, was also dealt with at about 1.10.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Monday 20 December 1926, page 9

FATALITIES AND FIRES.

Exciting Week-end.

The week-end was marked by an unusual number of untoward incidents, including several fires. City and suburban fire brigades experienced a particularly busy time, being called out, not only to numerous genuine small fires, but also by malicious false alarms. A fire which resulted in the death of Miss Ava Lewis occurred in a house at 17 Field street, off Gouger street, city, to which the Adelaide station received a call at 9.45 p.m. on Saturday. On arrival there they found bedding alight in a room, and the occupant, Mrs. Eva Lewis, aged 66, badly burned. She had been found lying on the floor by a Mr. E. Orien. The flames were extinguished before further damage was done, and Mrs. Lewis was conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital. She was found to be suffering from shock as well as burns. The injuries were so serious that Mrs. Lewis died at the Hospital at 9 o'clock last night.

OTHER FIRES.

The first call which the Adelaide Brigade received was at 3.37 p.m. on Saturday, when an appliance was summoned to a grass fire, on the property of Mr. Robert Sabey, Ashley street, Torrensville, No damage was done. The city brigade also answered a call at 10.52 p.m. from the Botanic alarm at the corner of North and East terraces, but on arrival found it to be a malicious false alarm. At 11.18 the Norwood Brigade was similarly hoaxed by a malicious false alarm from the fire alarm in Rundle street, Kent Town. An appliance from the head station proceeded to the West-End Brewery, Hindley street, at 11.20 p.m., but it was found on arrival that the Grinnell sprinkler system, which had automatically given the alarm, had been set in operation by a fluctuation in the water pressure, and not by fire. Sunday's activities began at 12.3 p.m., when, in response to a telephone call, the Thebarton Brigade proceeded to the property of Mr. T. Bates, on the Henley Beach road, Torrensville, where burning rubbish had started a grass fire. No damage was done. At 1.10 p.m. the city brigade was called by telephone to a grass fire in the park lands between Park terrace and South terrace, near Cohen avenue. At 5.39 p.m. the Adelaide brigade received a call to a grass fire in the Botanic Park, near Frome Road Bridge. No damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Wednesday 22 December 1926, page 10

CASUALTIES.

PETROL TANK ALIGHT.

About 10. o'clock last night, the City Fire Brigade received a call to the corner of Grote and Brown streets, City, where it was found that a petrol tank on the rear of a motor car, owned by Mr. W. White, the licensee of the Sportsman's Hotel, Grote street, had burst into flame while being filled. A quantity of petrol spilt on the ground, which had also caught alight, was put out

with a chemical extinguisher. The fire in the petrol tank was extinguished by Mr. White placing his hand over the filling hole, and preventing the fire from getting to the petrol. Both outbreaks were out when the brigade arrived.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Thursday 23 December 1926, page 14

GRASS FIRES.

Several small grass fires occurred yesterday. The fire brigade was called at 2.52 p.m. to the corner of West and North terraces, where a small outbreak was extinguished. A grass fire occurred in a paddock in Park-terrace, Gilberton, shortly after 3 p.m., and was attended by the North Adelaide Brigade. At 3.45 p.m. the Thebarton Fire Brigade received a call to the premises of Mr. R. Tasker, tobacconist, of Hunter-street, Torrensville, where a fire had broken out in the grass in the backyard. The flames were extinguished before any damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 25 December 1926, page 10

MOTOR CAR ON FIRE.

At 8 a.m. on Friday, the Adelaide Fire Brigade received a call to Bank street, where a motor car was on fire. The outbreak was due to an explosion of petrol. Little damage was done.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Saturday 25 December 1926, page 8

FIRE BRIGADES BUSY.

Some excitement was caused among the Christmas Eve merrymakers in the vicinity of Grenfell street about 10.45 p.m., when a blaze was noticed in premises in Chesser street. The Gawler place and Arcade Grenfell street alarms were broken, and a couple of fire reels were soon on the scene. A first it looked as if the fire had taken a strong hold; but, on investigating, the firemen found that some old boxes had caught alight and were burning vigorously. A line of hose was played on the flames, which were rapidly extinguished. Only a small hand cart was burned.

The North Adelaide Brigade was called about 10.30 p.m. to Mill terrace, where a grass fire was extinguished without any danger to property being occasioned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 30 December 1926, page 7

FIRE IN MILLINERY SHOP.

At 10 p.m. on Wednesday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was summoned to a fire in a millinery shop in Page street, off Grote street. The premises, which were owned by Messrs. Gibson & Rogers, and leased by Mr. W. A. Hippersley, were severely damaged, and the contents burned.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Thursday 30 December 1926, page 8

FIRE PERIL.

More Troublesome this Year.

Brigades Answer 701 Calls.

"Fire!" The dread call has been heard with increasing frequency this year, and the efficiency of the State's fire fighting service has been before the notice of the public to an unusual degree during the 12 months now drawing to a close.

The fireman is primarily a protector of other people's property, but he is also prepared to risk his life to save other lives. Fortunately, however, the necessity for this has not arisen in 1926, and when a representative of The Register called upon Chief Officer J. E. Dickie, at the Adelaide Station on Wednesday, he learned that one of the busiest years in the history of the

service had been passed through, without any untoward incident. One can never enter the imposing red-and-white building in Wakefield street without being impressed by the smartness of everything. There is an atmosphere of alertness which lends colour to Mr. Dickie's quiet but proud boast that it is "one of the most efficient services south of the line." And Mr. Dickie ought to know. He joined up with the London brigade in 1883, and two years later was a fireman in the Adelaide Station. Those were the days when powerful horses thundered through the streets with steam engines belching flame and smoke in a most awe-inspiring manner. Even in 1914, when Mr. Dickie assumed the highest position in the service, horses still held sway, and the only motor appliances comprised two at the head station, one at North Adelaide, and one at Gawler, which were objects of the greatest interests.

Valuable Additions.

To-day the service contains 35 motor appliances, and, in addition, there are at the head station six powerful new motor pump appliances. These are to be equipped with bodies and will then be placed at the following stations to replace present motor hose carriages: — Adelaide, Norwood, Unley, Glenelg, Thebarton, and Semaphore. These machines are capable of pumping 250 gallons a minute and supplying two good jets. Their value lies not so much in the volume of water produced, as in the fact that the utmost water available is sucked from the mains, and a possibly low pressure converted into a tremendously strong stream, thereby allowing the firemen to play the jets at a greater height or distance and with much more force, which is a patent factor, particularly in dealing with burning petrol or oil, the flames having to be literally beaten out, and overwhelmed, otherwise the burning liquid floating on the surface of the water only causes the flames to spread. Such equipment will place the suburban stations mentioned in a much better position to deal with difficult situations, and will in many cases relieve the head station of the necessity for sending one of its own pump appliances, and thus depleting its ranks against a possible city emergency. The Adelaide brigade possesses three of these machines, one throwing 450 gallons a minute, and the other two delivering 600 gallons a minute. The year has also seen the much-needed new firefloat put into commission at Port Adelaide, and 15,000 feet of new rubber-lined hosed has been added to the existing equipment.

Serious Conflagrations.

It is a difficult matter to persuade a fireman to talk of his past work— he is always looking ahead. This spirit of preparedness is typified in Mr. Dickie, and were it not for the comprehensive and thorough records kept by the station, it would be hard to review the work of the year almost gone by. The fact, however, that in 1925 the brigades in the protected areas answered 642 calls, and this year attended 701, tells its own tale. November and December have been particularly strenuous months. There were 82 calls last month, and this month, up to yesterday, there have been 149, making a total of 231, as against 216 for November and December last year. In spite of this, however, it is probable that the actual amount of damage has not been quite as great as that of 1925, when the amount of insurance on properties actually affected — and not including adjoining properties — was, according to the annual report of the brigade, only £440 short of £1,000,000. Among the conflagrations this year which the matter-of-fact fireman would class as serious, were those at the East-End Market, which ushered in the new year on January 1 and January 3, the outbreak at Thomas & Co.'s mill at Port Augusta on February 2; the destruction of the Cameron Boot Factory on North terrace on February 6; the big blaze at the Colonial Sugar Refinery at Glanville on February 24; and that at Wigg & Co.'s premises at Southwark on June 19. Grass fires have been more prevalent this year than last, largely, it is considered, on account of people's carelessness, particularly in throwing away matches, tobacco ashes, and cigarette stubs when smoking. The advent of the warmer months was again attended by numerous small fires, and on one day— Wednesday, December 15— the brigades answered no fewer than 13 calls between 1.3 a.m. and 10.40 p.m.

Malicious False Alarms.

No matter where it is, or how alert a fire station may be, its operations are inseparable from the annoyance, and even danger, of wilful false alarms — the work of members of the community whose perverted sense of humour may easily be attended by serious consequence, and certainly cost to the taxpayer. During the year the local brigades received 93 of these calls. In years gone by most of these false calls were made through the "break-the-glass-and-turn-the-handle" alarm system, but recently those who practise this form of law-breaking have resorted to the use of public telephones, the manner in which many of the statements are given to the station indicating that practised tongues and minds are at work. The danger of such a procedure cannot be over-estimated, especially in the case of a suburban station equipped with only one appliance which may be absent on a false call when a real alarm for a serious outbreak is given. A circumstance, however, which gives rise to satisfaction on the part of the firefighting authorities — and also, probably, to the insurance companies— is that an increasing number of business people are equipping their premises with automatic alarm and sprinkler system. Owners of large properties are realizing that money for such installations is well spent, and as time goes on there is little doubt that more and more will be brought into use. "The whole secret of tackling a fire," states Mr. Dickie, "is to get in early. All fires begin in a small way, and if more people would realize that, and notify the brigade at the outset, it would be a big help." In regard to telephone calls, Mr. Dickie pays a tribute to the Exchange. "Take it on the whole," he states, "the telephone service is good and compares more than favourably with that of the other States.

Men Work Well.

The firemen, Mr. Dickie states, have worked well, and their health has been good. None have been seriously hurt, although there have been the usual minor accidents, including slight injuries to the men caught by the collapse of a wall at the East-End Market fire last January. The authorized staff of all the brigades is 106 permanent firemen, 45 auxiliary firemen, and 42 theatre firemen, making a total of 193 officers and men. Of this number, about 40 are at the head station.



CHIEF OFFICER J. E. DICKIE.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 31 December 1926, page 11

FIRE IN PARK LANDS.

The fire brigade was summoned to a small grass fire in the west park lands at the end of Franklin-street at 1 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. They beat it out without having to bring the hoses into action.